

Look out for the formidable roller scaters at Chandrima.

A Walk Down Chandrima

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It was 5:30 am, a Friday morning. I rubbed my eyes while staring at the dark sky of dawn. I fumbled with blood shot, sleepy eyes, searching for my cell phone, which was vigorously ringing to the alarm I had set the previous day. It has been a long time since I woke this early in the morning, but amidst my numbness I knew that today was special and I could not miss it for the world. My dad's persistence and my lazy routine that I had recently acquired, pushed me further to go on a morning walk. I quickly got up and soon without wasting any time, made my way to the Chandrima Uddyan.

The cold breeze gave me the shivers as I jogged along Bijoy Sarani, the path behind Sangshad Bhaban. Within moments I could see other fellow joggers, running without a care for the world, quite unlike the usual times when people stare at you for no reason at all. I struggled to keep up with the senior joggers, who were almost double my age, and this made me realise how unfit I was and what I had missed all this time. As I went further, more people accumulated, quite like the gathering of Gazelles as they migrate to new locations. The empty streets of Dhaka, the pollution free air and the morning dew on the leaves, was quite unreal and made me ponder how beautiful Dhaka really is. In my view, I could notice the magnificent structures of Zia Uddyan and the artistic bridge that is built in front of it grow large with every step I took. The sun by this time, started peering from its hideout, making the glistening grass shine even more. It was unbelievable - the number of people at this place. From age 10 to 80, Chandrima was buzzing with activity. Everyone was engaged in numerous activities, be it roller-skating or strenuous exercises or karate along with the slow, silent and peaceful walks of the elderly.

I roamed around the place, familiarising myself. I gradually learned about the various groups. The first thing that caught my attention was a big banner which