

DHAKA FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2018 FALGUN 4, 1424 BS

Together for Change

An event with heroes who became each other's visions!



Assistance for Blind Children (ABC), participated in the camp. Each child from ABC is paired up with a camp counsellor and played sports as a team.

Kids from different districts of

Bangladeshi cricketers Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Mohammad Mushfiqur Rahim visit the camp.

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Ensuring access to sports for people, from different spheres, is one of the ways of building a society with equality. Since physical activities and sports are great tools that help young people work on their confidence, visually impaired people can benefit to a great extent from them and contribute more to the society.

Bearing this in mind, for the first time in Bangladesh, Camp Abilities Bangladesh, an initiative by Heroes For All, began a two-day sports camp for the visually impaired children. Heroes For All, founded in 2016, is a nonprofit organisation to shape the youth's future through various activities. It gives young people a platform to discover

PHOTO: COURTESY

their strengths and make a difference. This year, from January 19-20, volunteers from different universities came forward to help the kids from Assistance for Blind Children. The event took place at Sultana Kamal Mahila Complex in Dhanmondi.

Kids from different districts of Assistance for Blind Children (ABC), participated in the camp. Each child

from ABC is paired up with a camp counsellor and played sports as a team. Dr Lieberman, chief guest of the event, and her two team members from USA trained the camp counsellors. While training she found out that among 34 counsellors, no one has ever met someone who is visually impaired.

Dr Lieberman says, "That is a shame. We should let these kids be out in the

community and play sports, so that people can see what they can do." She has also found that these kids are great runners and counsellors, who never met anybody with impaired vision, are very surprised by what these kids can do. Therefore, she hopes for a weeklong sports camp in the future.

She also adds, "In my country and probably here too, kids with visual impairment do not have the opportunity to play sports like their peers. The other issue is that most teachers do not know how to teach kids with visual impairment. They are oftentimes pushed off to the side and they do not generally participate in most sports. Hence, when I started the camp, I wanted to provide them with the opportunity to play, so they can learn to improve and achieve."

running by themselves, playing cricket and throwing balls. Not only the visually impaired, but also the volunteers experienced things they never did before. Laiza Lamyea, a student from American International University of Bangladesh, who is a counsellor herself, says, "From a campaign by Heroes For All, at our university, I came to know about the initiative. The most important part that I noticed is how they inspire people. We interacted with new people, learned about their experiences and tried new things."

At the camp, kids were not afraid of

These two days, therefore, were filled with mutual trust and appreciation. The kids and their counsellors were divided into different teams --- Lions, Tigers, Elephants, Eagles and

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**এক্সিম ব্যাংকের সকল হিসাব শরীয়াহ্ মোতাবেক পরিচালিত হওয়ায় মুনাফার হার কম/বেশি হতে পারে

N K অব বাংলা দেশে লি মি টি ডে শরীয়াহ্ ভিত্তিক ইসলামী ব্যাংক

এক্সপোর্ট ইমপোর্ট ব্যাংক