

DOERS TODAY, NATION BUILDERS TOMORROW



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A visually impaired participant hits the ball in a game of cricket.

PHOTOS: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA



The fundraising dinner and closing ceremony of Camp Abilities Bangladesh took place at North South University.

Together for Change ...

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Cheetahs. Both males and females participated in the games. They played cricket, football, basketball, ran while holding a rope and raced independently. In between, the children performed too, some of them sang beautifully while the others played.

The independent running was a particular favourite among the visually impaired children. Nusrat Zahan Kakoli, from ABC, shares her experience. She says, "I never ran. This was the first time I ran independently. I had the most fun."

Like Kakoli, the camp was quite freeing for other participants as well.

Abu Fayaz, another participant from ABC says, "I think I played High Jump, which I never played before. I do not even know the proper name of the game. Today, I am happy and excited to play these new games."

Mahbuba Yasmin, from Gazipur, ABC, says, "I never imagined I could build myself like this. Cricket has been the most exciting for me. When I took the bat and ball, I was treated like a usual player." The sense of confidence they have gained from participating in these sports and discovering new things they are capable of doing, add to the success of the camp.

On the second day of the camp, Bangladeshi cricketers Mashrafe Bin

Mortaza and Mohammad Mushfiqur Rahim visited the camp. The kids were delighted by their presence and played cricket with them. Even Mashrafe got bowled out while trying to play blindfolded. The camp was an eye-opener for the cricketers as well.

The fundraising dinner and closing ceremony of Camp Abilities Bangladesh took place at North South University. Pro-Vice-Chancellor, North South University, Professor G U Ahsan, stated that this is an excellent initiative that can change the children's lives. Mr. Md Shajahan, Chairman, Board of Trustees, North South University, hopes that with the changes of technology and development of resources, the kids

will be allowed to have access to higher education. He gives Heroes For All his assurance that the university will provide future assistance to these kids.

A new pathway, thus, has been shown to these kids through this event by Heroes For All. This non-profit organisation has trained the volunteers two days prior to the event. After four days of persistent hard-work, they managed to give these kids a unique escapade.

President and founder of Heroes For All, Dr Rehnema Karim says, "When you put a plane on a ground for a long time, it becomes rusty, because a plane is supposed to fly. Similarly, we cannot let the children who are born to fly,

stay on the ground. Differently-abled children are gifted with hidden talents. This is a matter Heroes For All wants to address, so that we can bring out their talents to the forefront."

Proper opportunities must be provided to these children so that they can nurture their talents. They can achieve more, if we believe in them.

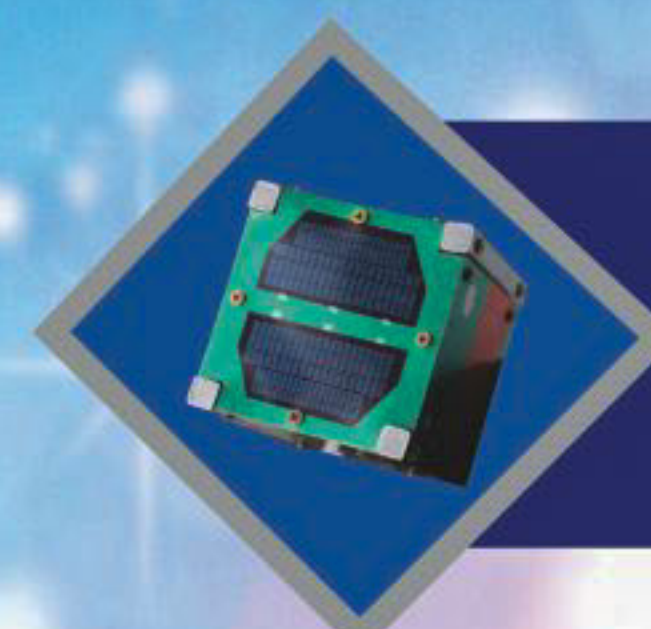
A fund-raising auction of cricket balls signed by Mashrafe Bin Mortaza took place at the end of the event. The donations from this auction will be utilised for the development of the visually impaired community. With the hope of more such camps, the event drew to a close on a positive note.



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- A former Bangladesh Bank governor
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Professor Firdous Azim

- Professor of English
- Chair of the Department of English and Humanities
- One of 50 most distinguished alumni and academics at University of Sussex



Professor Ainun Nishat

- Professor Emeritus
- Pioneering expert on water resource management and climate change in Bangladesh
- Engaged with the Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research



Professor Adnan Zillur Morshed, PhD

- Chairperson of the Department of Architecture
- PhD from MIT
- Architect, Architectural Historian, Urbanist, and Columnist
- Author of multiple books, including Impossible Heights (2015), DAC/Dhaka in 25 Buildings (2017)



Professor Shah M Faruque, PhD

- Professor at the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
- Coordinator of Life Sciences programs
- TWAS Fellow
- Fellow, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences
- Recipient of TWAS Prize-2005 in Medical Sciences



Dr Saira Rahman Khan

- Professor of Law
- PhD in Socio-legal studies from the University of Kent, Canterbury.
- British Chevening Scholar
- Former Human Rights Adviser for CIDA-PSU, columnist and researcher



Professor Malabika Sarker

- Professor and Research Director at the BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health
- Master's Degree in Public Health from Harvard University
- PhD in Public Health from University of Heidelberg



Dr Md Khalilur Rhaman

- Associate Professor of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering
- Principal Investigator of BRAC ONNESHA Nano-Satellite Project

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS



Success in A2i Competition

- BRAC Business School student Ivana Murtaza Asfara won the A2i competition on 16 January 2018
- Her project on low cost biodegradable sanitary napkins was adjudged one of the top 5



International Conference on Business & Management

- One of the first major international initiatives in Bangladesh of recent times
- Academic participants were from prominent universities such as those of Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and the USA



Building a River Museum

- Work ongoing to build a museum of rivers and canals in Chittagong city along the Karnaphuli river
- An exhibition titled River Rhapsody already organised featuring museum's architectural designs