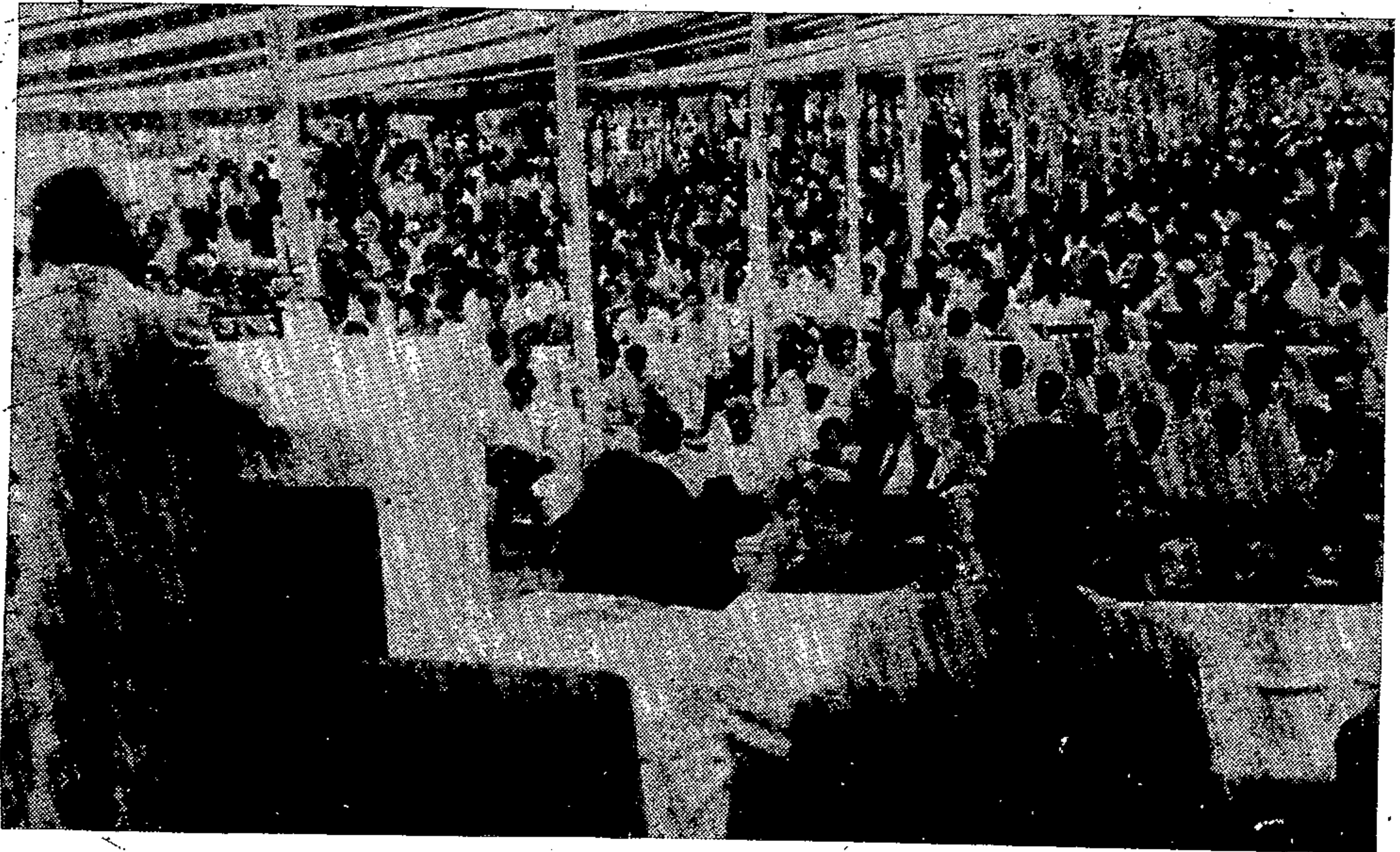


DU Day

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Amid enthusiasm and with special significance and importance, the "Dhaka University Day" was celebrated on March 31 last. It was the sixth such celebration.

Tens of thousands of DU lovers including old and present students, teachers, officers, employees, guardians and many members of public enjoyed the day-long colourful programmes chalked out in a befitting manner by DU authority in collaboration with DUCSU and other political student organisations.

Such observation of "DU Day" was first introduced in 1983 by the then DUCSU replacing the traditional rowdy "Rag Day" which used to cause resentment and annoyance among DU community and the people due to its unruliness.

However, those immoral and unexpected practices were put to an end half an era back. Now those bitter experiences have been replaced by better feelings, hopes and aspirations through observing a day each year that is "Dhaka University Day."

The day was open to all. It means that all departments halls, institutions, libraries, book centres, laboratories, scien-

tific instruments, sports equipments, gymnasium, cafeterias and all other important spots and centres would remain open to the interested people from dawn to dusk.

The day's programmes began with a combined parade by DU BNCC, Rovers and Rangers at 8-35 a.m. People from all walks of life began to reach the vast DU campus early in the dawn. By 8-o clock of the cool morning, the parade ground just in between Arts Building and Administrative Building was turned into a large gathering.

As DU VC Prof. Dr Abdul Mannan arrived at the beautifully decorated dais after inspecting the guard of honour presented by BNCC, Rovers and Rangers and took salute of their parade, then a handful youths rushed to back side of the dais chanting slogans against DU VC. Even they waved black flags to him demanding his removal from the campus.

However, the Honourable VC paid no heed to them at this stage and went on with extreme tolerance. When VC Mannan after conclusion of the parade approached towards the main dais for

formal inauguration of the day, the unruly youths also followed him with black flags.

Meanwhile, their number increased but not enough to foil the session. They continued their practices of waving flags and chanting slogans until VC concluded his warmly long speech and left the dais.

Here is the other chapter of the day. As the day was Friday, so people from all spheres of life took the rare opportunity to pass a few hours on the oldest and largest seat of learning of the country to enrich the memory once again.

Even many high ranking govt. officials who were once students of DU, did not miss the chance to enjoy the day. They tried to regain their good old days.

A fun-fair atmosphere prevailed throughout the day. The visitors moved round the clock around the campus. They went on following department to department, cafeteria to halls dining, stall to stalls and on the way they meet with many uncommon mobile festivities presented by funny guys.

Many small groups of students numbering not more than 5/6 were always on the campus

with satirical slogans chanting when they met opposite sex. However, what they did, was not what was in 'Rag-Day.'

The day-long cultural programmes which included open staged drama, charity songs, chorus, emotional break dances and even sweet comment-pass etc were full of what is meant for the day.

Exhibition of posters, photos, paintings, books, periodicals and rare manuscripts were the attractive features of the day.

Many political personalities including Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina are found on the campus holding freely talks with many known and unknown people. Sheikh Hasina along with her followers went to her Bengali Department, DUCSU Bhaban, Rokeya Hall and many other places and exchanged goodwill with the day's customers. She also enjoyed the cultural function in the evening which was participated by many distinguished literary and cultural personalities of the country.

Improved food were offered at all hall canteens and cafeterias of the University on the occasion.