

Rohit punishes

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The right-hander made no mistake to capitalise on his life as he celebrated it with a four, six and then again a four -- the last courtesy of misfielding from Al-Amin -- to release his side from the early pressure. The classy right-hander then started to lash the balls to and over the fence in style as the setback also saw the hosts serving up loose deliveries. Rohit however deserved credit for the way he paced his 83, which came from 55 deliveries and with the help of seven four and three sixes, in trying conditions. Hardik Pandya joined him to hammer 31 from 18 balls which helped India plunder 69 runs from the last five overs and set a challenging 167-run target for Bangladesh.

There was however no one from the Bangladesh team who could follow in the footsteps of Rohit. Once again in chase of a demanding target Bangladesh's batting showed that they were yet to learn how to pace an innings. Their fate was written on the wall when they were reduced to 82 for five inside 15 overs.

Earlier, Al-Amin Hossain gave the first breakthrough removing Shikhar Dhawan who left a big gap to an incoming delivery, after Taskin set the tone. Mustafizur Rahman, who was the centre of attraction, was brought into the attack in the fourth over and the left-arm pacer also made a good start giving away only three runs in his first over. Captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza claimed the prized wicket of Virat Kohli as the right-hander mistimed a lofted drive to mid-off and the near capacity crowd erupted like the early afternoon thunder.

Spin was introduced in the eighth over when Mahmudullah Riyad picked up Suresh Raina and Shakib also did a good job. The stage was thus set for the home side but India made the dramatic comeback courtesy of Sharma and Shakib.

While Soumya Sarkar took a brilliant catch in the deep to send Rohit Sharma back in the last over, by then it was too late and ultimately it once again turned out that Bangladesh's batting lacked the nuances for T20 cricket.

Unexpected

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Manager of Annesha Prokashon, Razu Ahmed, said rain occurred every year during February. "Therefore, we've taken protective measures beforehand. But, the polythene could not withstand the heavy storm...Our loss will be around Tk 3 lakh," he added.

The book fair was closed at 6:30pm as there was no power supply. "Water even went inside the bulb holders. There were possibilities of accidents. That's why we did not run power supply," said Ahmed, also the acting director of Bangla Academy.

The stalls of Bangla Academy were also battered by yesterday's storm. Staffs were seen removing wet books and dictionaries from the stalls.

Ahmed said they have learnt lessons from this year's Granthamela. "We'll find out the faults and take necessary measures from next year," he added.

Regarding the loss, he said they have sold the wet books for around Tk 17,000.

Manager of Ekushey Bangla Prokashon Sazzad Ahmed Sagor urged the authority to extend the hours of the fair so publishers could cope up with the loss.

Ahmed said they do not have any plans in this regard. The month-long book fair will remain open from 3:00pm to 8:00pm today.

Two Bangladeshi

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Footage from a nearby store shows the Camry cut across the front of the Skyline as the driver lost control. He then overcorrected the skided and slammed into the pole.

Police and emergency services rushed to the scene, where 10 men worked to free the three men trapped inside the vehicle.

Superintendent Stuart Smith, from the Traffic and Highway Patrol Command, said speed was a factor in the crash, reports abc.net.au.

"The vehicle basically disintegrated when it hit the power pole," a police official said.

Bangladeshi journalist Fazlul Bari, who is in Australia, wrote in his facebook post that Utsha wrote to him a few days back that he needed a job.

"I had already arranged a job, but he is no more!" He said he called Utsha's number but it went to voice mail. "But, my Utsha would never respond to me. Tears rolled down my eyes as I talked to his father," he wrote.

Auniki's cousin Javed Sultan Pias told The Daily Star his family has contacted the Bangladesh High Commission in Australia and was making arrangements to bring back his body after the autopsy.

Nazma Akhter, first secretary at the Bangladesh High Commission in Australia, told The Daily Star over the phone that they were in contact with the relatives of the deceased and were working on the formalities to send the bodies home.

BAY OF BENGAL, ANDAMAN SEA

370 died last year, says UN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 370 people, believed to be Rohingyas of Myanmar and Bangladeshis, are estimated to have died in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea in 2015, says the UN Refugee Agency.

"The deaths were caused not from drowning but from mistreatment and disease brought about by smugglers who abused and in many cases killed passengers with impunity," it said in a statement on UN News Centre on Tuesday.

The toll also includes those killed in a fight over diminishing supplies on a boat that had been prevented from anchoring on two occasions (in May-June). Some of these deaths could have been prevented with prompt disembarkation, it said.

The deaths of the refugees and migrants crossing the seas of Southeast Asia are three times higher than those in the Mediterranean last year, according to the report "Mixed Maritime Movements in South-East Asia".

Across the region, an estimated 33,600 refugees and migrants of various nationalities had taken to smugglers' boats, including 32,600 in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, where the bulk of the passengers had been Rohingya and Bangladeshi, it said.

"The first half of 2015 had seen the highest-ever estimated departures --

31,000 -- while the number was 1,600 in the second half," the UNHCR said.

Combined, the full-year departures in the Bay of Bengal were just over half of the record-setting previous year, it said.

This decrease can be attributed to the discovery of mass graves along the Thailand-Malaysia land border with the remains of over 200 presumed earlier arrivals, government crack-downs on smuggling networks, and scrutiny of traditional departure and arrival points, it said.

In a statement, UNHCR spokesperson Andreas Needham said the agency believes unless the root causes of displacement are addressed, people will continue risking their lives on smugglers' boats to seek safety and stability elsewhere.

"There remains an urgent need for affected states to take concrete action to coordinate procedures for rescue at sea, predictable places to disembark passengers safely, as well as adequate reception and screening systems on arrival," he said.

A lifting of existing restrictions on freedom of movement and access to services throughout Rakhine state in Myanmar would allow thousands of people to live more normal lives and be less likely to risk dangerous sea journeys, he said.

Nearly 1,70,000 Rohingya and Bangladeshis are estimated to have made the dangerous journey from the Bay of Bengal since 2012.

Don't recruit

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make any interference in this regard.

"But it's the duty and responsibility of the police force to look into the matter so that those engaged in terrorist and militant acts and arson attacks, especially during the mayhem unleashed by the BNP-Jamaat-Shibir in 2013, 2014 and 2015, could not be recruited in the police."

The PM suggested the lawmakers provide information about recruitment of Jamaat-Shibir activists in the police to the intelligence agencies. "Surely they would scrutinise those information and take proper steps."

Hasina recalled that the common people including the drivers of buses, CNG-run three-wheelers and other vehicles and even policemen could not escape deaths from the petrol bomb attacks by the BNP-Jamaat-Shibir men before and after the January 5, 2015 polls and again during January-March last year.

She said there is a certain policy with guidelines for recruitment of manpower in the police department and the police officials concerned are in charge of it. "They [police officials] should keep in mind that the BNP-Jamaat-Shibir men killed 19 cops."

Earlier, replying to a question from independent lawmaker Md Abul Kalam Azad (Gaibandha-4), the premier informed the House that a proposal for creating 50,000 new posts in the police force as part of enhancing its capacity got approval in principle on January 11.

Archaeologist

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was held at Kalabagan playground after Asar prayers yesterday. He would be buried today at his village Dariakandi in Brahmanbaria's Banchhampur upazila, said his son Maruf Shamsur Zakaria.

Despite being ill, Zakaria had been working on multiple books at his home on Panthapath for the last three years, added the son.

The archaeologist was a former president of the editorial board of a committee to publish books on the architectural sites in Dhaka.

The body was an initiative of a group of young researchers. They worked on the documentation of Mughal era architectural sites and discovering old inscriptions and translating them into Bangla.

Zakaria has also translated many literary work of the middle age into Bangla.

Many famous books like Gupi Chandrer Sonyas, Gazi Kalu O Champabati, Bangladesher Nreetotyta and Comilla Zelar Itihash were edited by him.

He was one of the few scholars in Bangladesh who mastered Persian language and translated many Persian books into Bangla.

They include Tabaqat-i Nasiri, written by Minhaz-e-Siraz who had come to Bengal along with Ikhtiar Uddin Bakhtiyar Khilji hundreds of years ago. Abul Kalam Muhammed Zakaria, who is well known as AKM Zakaria, won Ekushey Padak last year for his contribution to the field of research. He had earlier received Bangla Academy award and Asiatic Society

Man of the Year gold medal. Born in 1918, the scholar did his graduation in English Literature from Dhaka University. He started his career as a teacher at Azizul Haq College, Bogra in 1946. Two years later, he joined the civil service.

Wherever he was posted, he always looked for archaeological sites. In 1968, he convinced the government to excavate a site in Dinajpur from where Sintakote Vihar of the fifth century was discovered.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Nur and Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University AAMS Arefin Siddique sent messages of condolence to the family of the deceased.

Students fall

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The South had earlier announced the suspension of its operations at the complex in response to North Korea's rocket launch and nuclear test.

One clothing company tells The Korea Times that it left behind more than 80,000 school uniforms, and that several other manufacturers had to do the same.

Suppliers are now working overtime to catch up, the paper says.

South Korea's education ministry acknowledges that there are likely to be delays, and has told schools to relax their dress codes until there are enough uniforms to go around.

But while an extended non-uniform day might please some students, it seems parents aren't happy.

One tells the paper that new clothes are an important part of the new school year, adding: "This nonsense is negatively affecting children."

Hailstorm, rain

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Six of the victims died after a sand-laden vessel collided with a trawler and sank in the Dhaleshwari river in Naryanganj with 28 labourers on board during the nor'wester around 12:30pm, said Deputy Assistant Director Dino Moni Sharma of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Fire Service divers recovered six bodies as of midnight yesterday.

The victims were identified as Taleb, Nizam, Sujan, Sabuj, Shahin and Shariful -- all from Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj district. They were aged between 18 and 45.

Some of the labourers managed to swim ashore, said the Fire Service official. "We do not know if anyone else is missing."

The deputy commissioner's office in Narayanganj allocated Tk 20,000 for the families of each of the deceased for burials, Sharma added.

In another incident, nine-year-old Bithi and her sister Chumki, 7, died as a wall collapsed on them after the storm blew away the roof of their house at Noapara village in Narsingdi Sadar upazila, confirmed Iqbal Hossain, in-charge of Madhabdi police camp.

Earlier in the morning, a 40-year farmer named Abbas Mir was killed by a thunderbolt in Taterkathi village of Bauphal upazila in Patuakhali.

Seeing the dark clouds, he had come out of his house to cover a stake of paddy to protect it from rain when the lightning struck him.

In Munshiganj, at least 25 students of Kazishal Hazigaon Humayun High School at Sirajdikhan suffered injuries as a portion of the roof of the tin-shed school building collapsed during the storm.

Critically injured, some of them were rushed to Mitford Medical College Hospital and National Institute of Traumatology & Orthopaedic Rehabilitation in the capital.

Meanwhile in the capital, nearly 20 people were injured by the hailstorm. Fourteen of them were employees of community healthcare services. They were staging a hunger strike at the Central Shahid Minar.

They all took treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said hospital sources.

The storm that lasted for about 15 minutes forced the Bangla Academy authorities to shut the ongoing Ekushey Book Fair for the day as the hailstorm wrecked some book stalls and the rainwater formed puddles on the fair ground.

A section of the boundary wall of the Supreme Court collapsed and some trees were damaged by storm.

Those living in the Barisal city suffered power outage for about 12 hours after, according to Executive Engineer Amjad Hossain of Power Development Board, strong winds in the early morning uprooted five electricity poles.

A number of trees were also uprooted, which partially damaged some 15 roadside houses partially.

CITY CAUGHT OFF-GUARD
The morning in the capital was hot and sunny until around noon when pitch-black clouds formed over the city and enveloped it with darkness, so much so that vehicles had to turn the headlights on to see the road.

As the strong winds started to rattle the windows of the houses, many on the streets were found running for shelters and cars parking on the roadsides immediately.

Within minutes, the rain -- coupled with hailstones -- started pelting down. Snow-white layers of hailstones covered the city roads.

The storm struck the roadside vendors, who run their businesses mostly under the open sky, very hard. "We were overwhelmed by the sudden storm. It was very difficult to move to a shelter with all our goods," said Zakir Hossain, who sells fruits on Bangabandhu Avenue in Gulistan.

The Kalbaishakhi (nor'wester) swept through only some parts of the capital and the country.

It was an early Kalbaishakhi already forecast, said the duty forecasting officer at Dhaka Met Office, adding it was "not really that unusual" since they had recorded 43 such storms in February over the past 15 years.

Japan renews

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Ltd and a biogas power generation project at JB Bio Gas, Bangladesh, said Mirza Shawkat Ali, director (climate change and international convention) DoE, and added that Japan has already subsidised a project for establishing energy efficient centrifugal chillers at a sugar mill in the country.

The first projects will get 50 per cent subsidy, the second 40 per cent and the subsequent projects will get 30 per cent subsidy, Kazuhisa said.

"Through this provision, Bangladeshi companies can bring world's leading low carbon advanced Japanese technologies, products and systems to Bangladesh," said Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmad, secretary of ministry of environment and forests.

'More money stolen

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also swipe cards and then provide cash to the cardholders instead of any goods or services. In this case, fraudsters make duplicate cards with skimmed off data and then go to the collusive merchants to get cash and share the sum with bankers and merchants.

Generally, foreigners use their cards to buy goods and services. Fraudsters steal data of these cards in collaboration with the merchants from where foreigners had bought their goods or services, said Abul Kashem Mohammad Shirin, deputy managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank.

"The POS terminals are vulnerable because these are not EMV-equipped," he said.

EMV, which stands for Europay, MasterCard, and Visa, is a global standard for inter-operation of integrated chip cards which are used at POS terminals and ATMs for authenticating credit and debit card transactions.

Even though many ATMs are EMV-equipped, most of the POS terminals are not.

So frauds, like Thomas, who went by the name Piotr Szczepan Mazurek and was arrested this week in connection with for ATM frauds, target POS terminals for making unauthorised transactions.

The ATM frauds that took place between February 6 and February 12 shocked people as it was first of its kind in Bangladesh. So far, the investigations found that fraudsters took away over Tk 25 lakh using around 40 cards.

The gang used data skimmed off

cards at four ATMs in the capital and the central bank investigation detected that the gang had stolen data of over 1,200 cards.

But investigators found Thomas (aka Piotr) and his accomplices committed far more frauds at POS terminals than at ATMs.

"The use of clone cards at merchants is on the rise. Foreign cards that are used for buying goods or services are very vulnerable to frauds," said Kazi Saifuddin Munir, managing director of IT Consultants that run Q-Cash, the largest private payment switch in Bangladesh.

Compromise between merchants and bankers make the frauds easier, he said.

Munir claimed that he had received a lot of complaints from VISA, a global payment technology company, about foreign card frauds but the banks did not pay heed to these complaints.

ICT wants

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Razakar of Sathkhira and the incumbent Ameer of Sathkhira Jamaat-e-Islami, was shown arrested in the war crimes case on August 25 last year following the prosecution's petition.

Investigation against Khaleq started on June 16 the same year that had "found evidence" of his involvement in crimes, including murder and rape, committed during the war, according to the prosecution.

According to the investigation agency, Khaleq was involved in Islami Chhatra Sangha, erstwhile student wing of Jamaat, before the war and he joined Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army, in 1971.

Media, critical of govt

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A parliamentary standing committee in November recommended that the anti-corruption NGO Transparency International should be deregistered in Bangladesh for criticising parliament, said Amnesty.

The rights watchdog said the authorities blocked social media messaging and other communications applications that month, in what constituted restrictions on freedom of expression.

The report said bloggers expressing secular views were attacked, reportedly by Islamist groups. At least nine secularist bloggers and publishers were attacked, five of whom died from their injuries.

"Government authorities, including the prime minister, accused the bloggers and publishers of offending religious feelings in their writings."

Amnesty pointed out violation of human rights through enforced disappearances, torture and other ill-treatment and violence against women.

Mentioning that over 40 people were subjected to enforced disappearance, the report said plainclothes members of security forces arrested dozens of people and later denied knowledge of their whereabouts.

Citing a survey of human rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra, Amnesty put the number of incidents of enforced disappearance at 43, including two women, between January and September.

Of the 43, six were later found dead, four released after abduction, and five found in police custody. The fate and whereabouts of the 28 others was unknown.

Trials continued against three Rapid Action Battalion officials charged with abduction and killing of seven people in April 2014, said the report adding, "No members of security forces or officials implicated in other cases of enforced disappearance were brought to justice."

Amnesty found there had been widespread torture and other ill-treatment in police custody in Bangladesh and said the torture complaints were rarely investigated.

The report stated the issue of the murders of foreign nationals and the anti-government movement by the BNP that saw many buses and other vehicles attacked with petrol bombs.

"Dozens of passengers were killed and scores more injured. No one directly involved in the attacks was brought to justice," it said.

The rights watchdog voiced concern over violence against women and girls as the organisation, citing Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, said over 240 complaints of rape were reported in the media between January and May.

"Human rights groups said while reported incidents of rape had risen in recent years, the conviction rate was extremely low, mainly due to the lack of timely and effective investigations."

Mentioning the gruesome killing of Samiul Islam Rajon of Sylhet, the report said at least 198 people were sentenced to death, including six for killing Rajon.

Amnesty, like in its previous reports, criticised the proceedings of International Crimes Tribunal saying the proceedings were marked with severe irregularities and violations of the right to a fair trial.

Victims' families

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personnel who along with 17 others were murdered during the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) mutiny at its Palkhona headquarters in Dhaka on February 25-26, 2009.

The paramilitary force was later renamed Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Rights activist Sultana Kamal, present as the chief guest, too stressed the need for finding out the masterminds behind that incident.

"If we do not know the reason behind so many killings, the resolution of grief cannot be reached," she said.

Referring to the 152 people sentenced to death by a Dhaka court on November 5, 2013, Sultana Kamal said, "So many people are being hanged but we still do not know the purview of the crime."

She questioned why none of the three inquiry committees formed following the bloodbath could not come up with proper information regarding the reason behind the massacre.

Demanding quick execution of the court verdict, Habibur Rahman, father of Col Kudrat Elahi, said, "The way things are moving, I doubt if I could see the implementation of the verdict in my lifetime or if it would be done during my grandson's life-

time."

Family members also urged the government to declare February 25 as "Shaheed Sena Dibas" and observe it nationally.

"Every day is February 25 for us. We cannot get back what we lost. But if the government declares this day as Shaheed Sena Dibas, we will get something," said Rita Rahman, widow of slain army officer Maj Mahbubur Rahman.

Nehreen Ferdousi, widow of Col Mojibul Haque, called upon the government to build a memorial so that the future generations can learn about the bloodshed.

"We are often asked by people what financial benefit we got from the government after the incident. I want to make it clear that whatever we received was not aid. It was what our husbands deserved for their service to the nation," she added.

Since its formation in 2012, the organisation, "Desh, We're Concerned", has been observing the BDR carnage anniversary through different programmes.

A total of 846 people, including 823 who belonged to BDR, were on trial for the carnage. Of them, 161 were awarded life term while 256 got rigorous imprisonment ranging from three to 10 years. The court acquitted 277 accused.