

Dhaka thump lowly Comilla

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 Implosion that was the more telling event of the day. This was their fourth defeat in four matches this season.

Mashrafe (47 off 35 balls) provided the entertainment late in the match by hitting four massive sixes off the penultimate over by Shakib to help Comilla score 161 for nine, but the match was over as a contest when they were brought down to 74 for seven after 11 overs.

The day's afternoon match saw a closer affair between Barisal Bulls and Chittagong Vikings, with the former notching a last-over victory to win by seven wickets.

In the evening match, chasing a formidable total, Comilla looked like every bit the hapless team their position at the bottom of the seven-team table paints them as.

It started promisingly enough, with all the top four reaching double figures, but the signs of a rout were there as none of them passed the 19 scored by opener Imrul Kayes. It was his wicket that ended a 30-run opening stand when Nasir Hossain had him caught at mid-off in the fourth over. Fellow opener Jashimuddin followed in the next over, caught off Seekkuge Prasanna.

There was still hope with Ahmed Shehzad and the young Nazmul Hossain Shanto at the crease, but with the team score on 47 the former

was smartly stumped by Kumar Sangakkara off the off-spin of Mosaddek Hossain. Comilla's fourth loss in four matches was all but confirmed when, in the ninth over, the left-handed Shanto chopped a Sunzamul Islam delivery onto his stumps to leave Comilla at 68 for four.

Comilla lost three more wickets for the addition of six runs in the next two overs. Ryan ten Doeschate was bowled by a Prasanna skidder, Rashid Khan lofted Mohammad Shahid to long on and Al-Amin edged the same bowler to the keeper.

Earlier, Comilla chose to field and Dhaka's in-form batsman Mehedi Maruf started like a house on fire.

Maruf, who made a flying start to this edition by hitting an unbeaten 45-ball 75 against Barisal Bulls on November 8, started in much the same fashion. It was the Sri Lankan legend Sangakkara who got things going with two consecutive boundaries in the second over off Sohail Tanvir, but his younger partner responded by hitting Mashrafe for a four and a six in the third over, which ended with the Dynamites reaching 31.

Sangakkara's dismissal in the next over, stumped off Al-Amin for a 12-ball 20, brought no relief for Comilla as Nasir made full use of his promotion to number three and he started immediately, hitting boundaries from the start.

The run-rate hovered around 10 an over for most of their 84-run second-wicket partnership, which ended when Nasir failed to clear a Ryan ten Doeschate delivery over long off. He had scored a 35-ball 43 and gave Maruf the support that enabled Dhaka. Maruf hit one more six to take it to take Dhaka to 138 at the end of the 15th over in the company of Ravi Bopara, but both departed when in the next over bowled by leg-spinner Rashid Khan. Bopara missed a slog and was bowled, and a ball later Maruf mishit a lofted shot to mid off to be dismissed for a 39-ball 60 with four boundaries and three sixes.

Skipper Shakib, who has not had the best time of it with the bat, then took over, hitting ten Doeschate for a straight six and a four in the 17th over. Dwayne Bravo hit another maximum off Tanvir in the next over. Shakib took on Khan, and hit him for a towering six over long on in the first ball of the 19th over but departed a ball later after hitting the ball straight to deep midwicket. The skipper had done his job as 13-ball 24 had taken Dhaka to 178 for five with nine balls to go.

One of those nine went for five wides, which ruined Khan's figures to an extent, but three for 28 is still an excellent return when a side scores 194.

Navy gets

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 The navy chief thanked the Chinese naval force for modernising the submarines and giving necessary training to the Bangladesh Navy personnel to operate and maintain the ships.

In the meantime, Navy personnel of both the countries have completed a sea trial and real training to run the submarines, according to an ISPR news release.

Both the submarines are 76 metres in length and 7.6 metres in width and are equipped with torpedoes and mines which are capable to attack enemy warships and submarines.

The type 035 submarines will soon reach Bangladesh and will be added to the naval fleet at the beginning of 2017 as Nabojatra and Joyjatra.

Contacted, former Navy chief Vice Admiral Zahir Uddin Ahmed, who initiated the process to add the submarines, said, "Today Bangladesh Navy has become complete. The Navy is now a three dimensional force with the inclusion of the submarines."

The Navy's capacity in the Bay of Bengal would now increase a lot and the country's maritime border would be more secured, he told The Daily Star. He added the force now must concentrate on developing capacity for the proper use of the submarines by creating a special wing for it.

The former navy chief further said, "Amidst many limitations we are advancing, keeping in mind the force's Goal 2030. We hope that we will be able to develop a balanced naval force in next 10 years."

Both the former and the incumbent navy chiefs expressed deep gratitude to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her bold initiative to modernise the naval force by introducing submarines and other modern components.

The premier in 2014 commissioned two frigates bought from China for the Navy. Several warships, patrol craft and patrol aircraft were also added to the navy in the last three years.

Reconciliation

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 not there though ruling party men of the area asked them to attend the meeting held in the afternoon at Shahebganj Sugar Mills in Gobindaganj of Gaibandha, said Philimon Baske, a local leader of the indigenous community, on phone.

"Reconciliation cannot be forced upon somebody. No such situation has been made for that to happen."

Only a few Santals from Goalpara and Simitjuri villages, far from the place of tension, were present in the meeting, and local lawmaker Abul Kalam Azad was the chief guest, said Baske who has been hiding in fear of arrest.

Meanwhile, most of the Santals evicted from the disputed land at Shahebganj now refuse to talk to anyone unknown even if somebody introduces himself as journalist.

Talking on phone, some leaders of Adivasis said local activists of the ruling party had warned Santals not to speak against the local MP and Sapmara Union Parishad Chairman Shakil Akhand Bulbul accused of receiving money to help indigenous people get a lease on the land.

Asked about the threat, Azad, lawmaker of Gaibandha-4, said he was not aware of any threat to indigenous people.

A section of people are conspiring against him, he said.

He didn't play any role in the eviction, and the media is giving wrong messages to people, hiding the truth, the MP added.

Some of the victims of Joypurpara and Madarpur villages in Gaibandha alleged that the local administration tried to get their signatures on blank papers but they refused to do so.

The Gobindaganj upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), however, said the Santals were asked to sign papers related to relief distribution.

The handful of indigenous people, who agreed to speak, said they would not accept relief from the UNO who himself had been there when police fired at Santals, and Bengalees and mill labourers set fire to their houses and looted their valuables.

"Even if I die, I won't accept relief offered by them [the administration] until and unless they give back our land," said Rina Mardy, one of the evicted Santals.

Sitting under a mango tree at Madarpur, she was talking about the house she and her husband had built on the land.

Rina said around 33 acres of land of her grandfather had been acquired by the deputy commissioner's office for the then Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation that established Rangpur Sugar Mills between 1954 and 1957.

"I could not bring anything as they set fire to my house. I ran away holding hands of my two sons. I don't have warm clothes for my sons."

Cases have been filed against her husband who is hiding, Rina said.

Asked what the demands are of the Adivasis, Baske said a fair investigation into the attack on them, punishment of the perpetrators, compensation to the injured and the families of those killed and most importantly the land of their forefathers.

UNO Abdul Hannan said he brought 20 kilograms of rice, one kg lentil, one litre edible oil and salt for 134 families each of Madarpur and Joypur villages. The minority community's leaders refused to give any list of those evicted.

"The government arranged relief as the indigenous people are feeling insecure to go out of their villages. Now they don't have any income. So, we brought relief for them," he said.

The upazila administration talked

to Barnabas Tudu, a community leader, in vain. Two trucks returned in the evening with relief materials.

NHRC TEAM IN GAIBANDHA
 A team of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), led by its Director Ishrat Hossain Khan, yesterday visited Madarpur area of Gobindaganj upazila to investigate the November 6 incident.

Asked whether the incident violated human rights of Santals, she said the matter was under investigation.

"We are investigating what happened here, but the Santals are not cooperating with us," she told The Daily Star.

The NHRC was yet to find any witness to the alleged torching of Santal houses and police firing, added Ishrat.

She was accompanied on the visit by the UNO of Gobindaganj.

Anti-Trump protests

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 "It was pretty large. There were different groups protesting different things so I'm thinking there was a couple of thousand people" she said when describing the sheer size of the protest.

She then went on to explain her reason for joining the thousands of citizens that day. "Initially I went there because when I finished work, I had all these waves of emotion and disgust about the future. We were going through a mourning period at work and once I got there, it was comforting knowing I wasn't grieving alone."

The 27-year-old sounded frustrated while saying, "I hugged a stranger and cried with them because half our country gave us the middle finger."

On Saturday afternoon, New Yorkers assembled at the Union Square park at 14th Street to protest the president elect for the fourth consecutive day.

People were eager to march over to the Trump Tower on 5th avenue and began chanting "march, march, march" before the group was set to move.

A carpenter and ANSWER Coalition volunteer, Carlos, went in and around the marching crowd signing people up to participate in an anti-Trump protest

in Washington D.C. and become volunteers of the organisation.

This was his third protest he attended in the week and when asked why he came he responded "I'm Brazilian. I was the first person in my family to be born in the United States. Last month I had a woman stay in my apartment in a spare bedroom. She had just arrived [in the United States] and she was looking for a place to live for work so I helped her out. But now that Trump is president I don't even know what is going to happen even to her, she hasn't even been here for three months. I'm here because I think we have to unite and we have to get organised."

Carlos seemed hopeful about people coming together and voicing their anger and being politically active. "I think it's going to go on for a while, even if it dies down for a little bit. Protests and movements in general, they rise and they slow down for a little bit. You can see it in Black Lives Matter and we saw it with Occupy but these people aren't going to disappear.

Once Trump starts initiating his attacks, once he cuts social security, once he reduces the tax bracket, once he deports immigrants, people are

going to become more revolted and they are going to want to do something. So, this is just the beginning. This is just saying we're here, we're willing to fight back."

Among the protesters, Dorcas, a designer, chanted for Trump to leave with a fierce gaze and powerful, unwavering voice. This was her first anti-Trump protest she was attending with her friends.

"We are against the policies that Trump is implementing -- racism, global warming, abuse against women, and abuse against the Gay and Lesbian communities," she yelled, her voice straining over the loud chants.

Her friend explained why she was attending saying, "We don't want a misogynist as the president of the United States."

Like Carlos, Dorcas also wanted the protests to continue. "I hope people don't give up fighting for their rights," she concluded before marching off with her friends.

Marginalised groups are coming together in an effort to protect their communities and themselves. Trump's election has caused major uproar among the American public and it is not clear when protests will end.

Vested group

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 mill, so there is no reason to return the land, he added.

'SANTALS THEMSELVES BURNT HOUSES'
 The senior secretary said the houses were burnt either by those who were "annoyed" with the ethnic minority community or the Santals themselves set fire to their houses on instructions from the people who had brought them to the mill's land.

"The whole area, where they had stayed, was gutted. Now the entire area has become free from illegal occupation, and they have returned to their own village," said Bhuiyan.

Videos broadcast by some private televisions and also available on social media show that a complete settlement was gutted in presence of police.

Asked on the basis of which he claimed that some "annoyed people" set fire to the houses or the Santals themselves did this, he said, "These are under investigation."

Since the eviction, many Santal families have been living under the open sky.

The official, however, said each of the Santals, who occupied the sugar mill land illegally, had own home. "These were not their homes. They have not been evicted from their homes. Illegal occupants have been evicted," he said.

"It is not that all of them are landless. They have been brought from outside."

Bhuiyan said Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC), the custodian of Rangpur Sugar Mills, had tried to solve the issue peacefully but the land was not freed amid influence by the vested quarter.

Quick action

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 The court issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in 10 days why cuffing of Choron, Bimal and Dijen during the treatment should not be declared illegal.

The home secretary, inspector general of police, DMP commissioner, DIG (Rangpur) of police, and Gaibandha SP were made the respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice Krishna Debnath came up with the order and rule in response to a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua, seeking its order upon the government to take the three men's handcuffs off.

The lawyer moved the HC following a report run by The Daily Star on November 13 under the headline "Santal man being treated with hand cuffed, tied".

Our Rangpur correspondent reports: Police took off handcuffs of Choron and Bimal around 1:00pm.

Choron and his wife Pani Soren broke down in tears soon after he was freed from handcuffs.

On Sunday evening, Awami League leaders, led by Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, organising secretary (Rajshahi division), visited the two injured at the RMCH and inquired about their treatment. The leaders directed the doctors not to neglect their treatment.

Tipu Munshi, AL finance and planning secretary, and Mozammel Haque, organising secretary (Rangpur division), were present.

Condemning the attack on the ethnic minority people of Madarpur, Joypur, Sahebganj and Horinmari areas in Gobindaganj upazila of Gaibandha, the AL leaders said the government would form a probe committee to identify the culprits behind the attack.

The state would bear the treatment expenses of the injured, they added.

President to hold dialogue with all

FROM PAGE 16
 leader [Khaleda] will present a specific proposal for the formation of a neutral and credible commission," he said.

BNP standing committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said, "A framework to ensure people's voting rights and to form a representative government and parliament will also be there in the proposal."

A senior BNP leader, wishing not to be named, said the party might come up with an idea of forming a search committee for appointing the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the other commissioners.

The committee would have one representative from each of the AL, the BNP and the opposition parties, and a justice, a bureaucrat and civil society members.

The party might also propose to pick the commissioners either from the civil society members or the former vice chancellors of different public universities, added the leader.

During yesterday's roundtable, some civil society members and politicians demanded that a law be formulated to reconstitute the EC in a trans-

parent and credible way.

They also emphasised on changing the current "political culture" for a free and fair polls.

In response, AL leader Razzak said the demand could be considered.

M Hafiz Uddin Khan, president of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), said it was not possible to hold a free and fair election without the political will of the government.

Political parties are the major stakeholder of an election. So, a fair election is not possible without their cooperation, said M Sakhawat Hussain, a former election commissioner.

Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said the demanded law should have a detailed guideline on formation of the search committee and appointment of the CEC and other commissioners.

Noted jurist Dr Shahdeen Malik said the formation of the EC without the law could be challenged with the court afterwards.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Maleka Banu demanded that women represent at least one-third of total officials at the EC.

Yesterday's roundtable on "Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners in Bangladesh" was organised by the Election Working Group (EWG), a platform of 28 civil society organisations.

Presenting a paper at the programme, EWG Director Abdul Alim proposed to form a 7-member search committee headed by a justice of the Appellate Division to appoint the CEC and other commissioners.

The search committee will sit with all the registered political parties and prepare a draft list of three persons for the post of CEC and 15 people for that of other commissioners. Later, it will place the list before the president, who will finally nominate the CEC and other commissioners.

Over a dozen representatives from different organisations and politicians, among others, also spoke at the roundtable.

The tenure of the existing EC expires in February. The country's politics could heat up again over the process of forming a new EC, which would oversee the 2019 general election.

Probe finds

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 the capital's Hazaribagh in what Rab described as a gunfight.

He was the prime accused in a case filed over beating dead a 16-year-old boy Raja on August 17 on the charge of stealing a laptop and mobile.

Following the incident, Arzu's brother Masud filed the case against three Rab officials -- the then Rab-2 commanding officer Lt Col SM Masud Rana, and deputy assistant director Shahidur Rahman and inspector Wahid of the Rab unit's Shia Masjid camp -- over his younger brother's death.

He had alleged that the special force detained Arzu on the night Raja died and "cooked up the crossfire story after killing."

Days after the incident, local Awami League lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh also accused the Rab of killing Arzu and demanded proper investigation into the incident.

"Arzu was a brilliant student. He was polite and innocent. But the Rab killed him without a trial," Taposh had told The Daily Star.

Then, Hazaribagh AL at a press conference demanded that the government ensure punishment for "Rab officials who staged the gunfight".

Later on August 25 last year, a Dhaka court ordered a judicial inquiry into the incident.

Skygazers gawp

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 visible first, hoping that cloudy skies and the perennial pollution that blights many of the region's cities would not spoil the fun.

The eastern Sydney suburb of Bronte became an unexpected viewing spot as thousands of people armed with picnic mats and cameras packed its small beach near Bondi to catch a glimpse of the supermoon after a Facebook invite went viral.

Loud cheers went up among the crowd as the moon made brief appearances between heavy, grey clouds before disappearing.

"It's really nice," Aidan Millar-Powell told AFP of the festive, community atmosphere at the beach. "People don't usually come together like this in Sydney for a natural phenomenon."

Tourists, office workers and couples crowded the Hong Kong waterfront as the supersized moon rose over the skyscrapers of the financial hub, while further north in the Chinese capital Beijing the moon climbed spectacularly over the city's skyline.

"I've never seen a moon this big," said Lee Pak-kan, 44, who was watching at the Hong Kong waterfront. "The moon is quite orange too... it's quite special."

Probe finds

In the Taiwanese capital Taipei, more than 100 people queued up to get a look at the spectacle through telescopes outside a major public hall, while others flocked to the city's landmark Taipei 101 skyscraper -- one of the world's tallest buildings -- to witness the supermoon.

"It's quite moving, to see it up close. It's so big, so round, so bright," said Julia Lee, who was peering through a telescope outside the hall.

'MORE SUPER THAN OTHERS'
 The supermoon was visible across much of India although residents of New Delhi, the world's most polluted capital, struggled to see it clearly through the toxic smog that has been shrouding the city in recent weeks.

Meanwhile, professional astronomers were at the ready at observatories across the region to explain the phenomenon to curious members of the public.

In Thailand, astrologers were variously predicting the supermoon would bring disaster or great fortune.

Soraja Nuan-yoo, renowned for predicting the 2004 tsunami that killed many in Thailand and other countries round the Indian Ocean, warned that when the moon gets close to the Earth, "natural disasters happen".

SC stays

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 submit a leave to appeal petition to this court against the HC judgment by November 27.

Following a bail petition filed by Manna, the HC on November 10 granted him bail in the case.

The government then filed the petition with the SC, seeking a stay on the HC judgment.

Manna was arrested on February 25 last year, a day after an audio of his phone conversations with BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka was leaked.

The same day, a case was filed against the former Awami League leader for instigating the armed forces to overthrow the government.

On March 5 last year, Gulshan police lodged a seditious case against him in which he secured bail from the HC. However, the SC stayed the order.

Probe finds

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