

All-round Riders halt Bulls' run

FROM PAGE 1
The Afghan was involved in five dismissals yesterday and all those takes were quite difficult.

Having been set a target of 176, the Riders struck with the very first ball from Shohag Gazi, which was drifting down leg, got the edge of Dilshan Munawera's bat and was well caught by Shahzad.

Two overs later, Gazi and Shahzad were at it again, this time to dismiss the highest run-getter of the tournament, Shahrir Nafees. Nafees attempted to slog Gazi and got his foot out of the crease in the process. Shahzad was quick to react.

But it was Shahzad's third dismissal that was perhaps the best of the lot. Dawson bowled one outside the off-stump which Mushfiqur Rahim tried to slog. In the process, Mushfiqur's leg had exited the crease by a few inches. That though was enough for the Afghanistan wicketkeeper, who whipped the bails in no time.

At 48 for three in seven overs, the Bulls were in trouble and that is when Nadif Chowdhury and Jeevan Mendis stepped up. The duo put on a quickfire 64 in 8.2 overs to bring the Bulls back into the game.

The duo initially just knocked the ball around for a few overs but with 88

required from 42 balls, Nadif decided to take charge.

With 88 runs required from 42 balls, he smacked Sachitra Senanayake for three sixes down the ground, each of which were bigger and higher than the previous hits, and brought the equation down to 64 from 36. Mendis joined in the fun and guided a full toss from Rubel Hossain in the next over for yet another six.

With 55 required from the last five overs, a worried Naeem Islam brought Afridi in. The Pakistan all-rounder delivered almost immediately and got Nadif caught in the deep off the second ball. In his next over, Afridi had Mendis caught behind with a quicker length ball.

Many reckoned that the game was over right there, but then Thisara Perera, who was dropped by Rubel in the fifth ball of that over, smacked Afridi for a six off the last ball.

29 off 12 balls and the tensions worsened when a full-toss from Rubel was sent out of the ground by Rayad Emrit. Rubel however came back well by getting two wickets in that over and leaking just three more runs.

That tilted the game towards the Riders with the Bulls needing 20 off the last over. They eventually managed to get just seven before losing three

wickets and getting bowled out for 163.

Earlier, a brilliant half-century from Mithun led the Riders to a commendable 175. After the Riders slumped to 46 for two in five overs, they needed a partnership to revive themselves and that came in the form of a 78-run stand for the third wicket between Mithun and Liam Dawson.

While Mithun scored 62 off 44 balls, Liam finished with 46 off 36. Mithun hit six fours and two sixes.

His best shot of the game arrived in the sixth over when he merely flicked Kamrul Islam Rabbi for a huge six over square leg. It was pure timing and was brilliant to watch. He reached his 50 with an elegantly driven double through cover in the 11th over off 35 balls.

He was bowled in the 15th over by Thisara Perera while attempting to pull him for a boundary. His partner Dawson played the anchor and had hit just one four until the 13th over.

However, after Mithun's departure, he smacked Abu Hider for two fours in the 17th. And he was joined by Shahid Afridi, who hit a quick fire 22 off 10 balls.

The way he pulled Perera and Al-Amin Hossain for sixes through mid-wicket displayed just how much power the 36-year-old still possesses.

Certificates from 18 pvt universities

FROM PAGE 20
president," he said.

The students of the 18 universities who had their original certificates signed by VCs appointed by the president will not be affected by the decision, said Jesmin Pervin, deputy director at the private university division of the UGC.

The decision will also not be effective for provisional certificates, she told The Daily Star.

The Private University Act-2010 makes it mandatory for a university to recommend names to the president to pick one for the post of VC. The law does not cover the appointments of acting VC, pro-VC and treasurer.

According to the advertisement, the 18 universities are: Asian University of Bangladesh, The People's University of Bangladesh, Premier University, IBAIS University, University of South Asia, Royal University, East Delta University, German University Bangladesh, Ishakha International University Bangladesh, ZH Sikder University of Science & Technology, North Western University, Notre Dame University Bangladesh, Rajshahi Science & Technology University, Ranada Prasad Saha University, CCN University of Science & Technology, Army University of Engineering and Technology in Qadirabad, Army University of Science and Technology in Saidpur, and Bangladesh Army International University of Science & Technology in Comilla.

Of them, Asian University of Bangladesh has been running without a VC appointed by the president since 2009, The People's University of Bangladesh since April, 2016, Premier University since 2014, IBAIS University since 2012, University of South Asia since January, 2016, Royal University since 2009, East Delta University since 2013, and German University

Bangladesh since March, 2016.

The other 10 universities have been running without VCs, pro-VCs and treasurers appointed by the president since their inception, according to the advertisement.

The UGC advertisement has worried students.

"Why should we suffer? We had our VC in office when we got admitted to our university. What is our fault if the university does not have a VC now," said a female student who received her certificates last week after graduating from Premier University.

"We've got the certificates after studying hard for four long years. What shall happen to us if it has no value now," She told The Daily Star last night, wishing not to be named.

A final-year honours student at University of South Asia said, "I will finish my final semester exam next month and hope to get my certificates within two more months. But I will not be able to apply for any job now. I will be in great trouble."

"What shall I do during the time to be taken by the university to appoint a VC following due procedures?" he said.

The UGC advertisement said the original certificates earned by students at private universities must be signed by the vice-chancellor and the examination controller.

According to the Private University Act-2010, the president will appoint VC, Pro-VC, and treasurer for the tenure of four years. Therefore, appointing someone in those positions as acting by the university authorities goes against the law, the advertisement said.

"Even the certificates, signed by the VCs who had already completed their terms, will be illegal," the advertisement said.

The VC is the chief executive of the university and an academic official. But

despite several directives from the commission, these 18 universities are not taking effective steps to appoint VCs, pro-VCs, and treasurers, said the advertisement.

Explaining the reason for the decision, the UGC chairman said the commission in another newspaper advertisement had issued a one-month deadline to the authorities of 28 universities to appoint VCs following due process before September 30.

Complying with that, some of the 28 universities got people appointed to the posts. But many of them did not even respond, said Prof Mannan.

"Appointments to the posts in some universities have not been given in a proper way since their inception. It cannot continue," he said. "It was the duty of the university to follow the law."

Asked about the trouble the students would be in due to the fault of their universities, the chairman claimed that the UGC move has nothing to do with the students.

He said the students would be able to get "corrected" certificates once their universities have VCs appointed by the president.

The chairman also urged students to remain careful while choosing their universities.

"We have been publishing a circular in newspapers mentioning the names of the universities which are running fulfilling all the required conditions. We are also publishing the names of those which are not doing that," he said.

He also said the new universities which were yet to produce any graduate would not face much problem.

Around 4.63 lakh students are now studying in 84 operational private universities and they account for 65 percent of the campus-based students of higher studies in Bangladesh, according to the UGC.

5 'JMB leaders' held

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death during a raid by the elite force members in Ashulia on October 8, was the chief of "Neo JMB".

Police, however, said he was a third-grade leader of the outfit.

"We do not believe that Sarwar was the chief of Neo JMB," a senior DMP official, wishing anonymity, told The Daily Star recently.

Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury, killed in a police raid in Narayanjanj on August 27, was a key "Neo JMB" leader who masterminded the Gulshan café siege and Sholakia attack, DMP says.

During a briefing at the Rab media centre in Karwan Bazar, Mufti Mahmud said the five were trying to reorganise the operatives who went into hiding following the deaths of top leaders.

Of the arrestees, Maulana Abdul Hakim Faridi alias Sufian, 40, and Razibul Islam alias Razib, 29, were captured in Uttara.

Gazi Kamrus Salam Sohan alias Abdullah, 27, Sohel Rana alias Khadem alias Muazzin, 23, and Abu Saleh alias Liton alias Huraira, 42, were held in the city's Adabor.

Sohan, a former student of Mirzapur Cadet College, completed BSc in electrical and electronics engineering at Islamic University of Technology in Gazipur.

Razibul is a former student of economics department at Dhaka College.

All, except for Sohel, were leaders of Ansarullah Bangla Team before joining "Sarwar-Tamim group", according to Rab.

The elite force recovered a pistol, 20 bullets, 10 crude bombs and bomb-making materials from their possession.

Rab says the JMB faction got weakened as its top leaders were killed and many operatives went into hiding after the July 1 Gulshan café siege that left 20 hostages, including 17 foreigners, dead.

The Rab at a briefing on October 21

claimed that documents found in Sarwar's den and subsequent probe suggested that "Neo JMB" still had 21 of its members at large.

Replying to a query, Mufti said the five arrested on Wednesday were possibly not among the 21.

Shaykh Abdur Rahman established Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in April 1998.

JMB operatives, who became inactive after Maulana Saidur Rahman took over as its chief following Abdur Rahman's execution in 2007, formed a group that law enforcers started calling "Neo JMB".

The offshoot is skilled in modern technology and equipped with sophisticated firearms, investigators say.

PROFILE OF THE FIVE

An official of an electric supply company, Sohan joined militancy in 2011, motivated by his university friend Mostafizur Rahman alias Sifat, an administrator of jihadi webpage At-tamkin.

Sifat was arrested by Rab on August 6 this year.

Sohan was also inspired to join terror activities by the sermon of Ansarullah's Bangla Team's spiritual leader Jasimuddin Rahmani, now detained and sentenced to five years in jail in blogger Rajib murder case.

Sifat first took Sohan to Sarwar. Sohan received 11-day training on militancy in northern region. He also took training on use of small arms and bomb-making in Chittagong.

"He also used to maintain communications with the militants who already went into hiding," Mufti said, adding Sohan also used to collect funds. Rab claimed that they came to know about nine persons, believed to be operatives or sympathisers, who donated Tk 28 lakh to him.

Maulana Hakim was a spiritual leader of the "Sarwar-Tamim group". He got involved in militant activities being inspired by Jasimuddin Rahmani.

A good orator and trainer, Hakim, was once made the chief of Ansarullah following the arrest of Rahmani. He joined this JMB faction through Sarwar.

Hakim used to collect arms and ammunition from a businessman in Chittagong, Habibur Rahman Sheikh alias Tawhid.

Sohel stepped in the path of militancy in 2013 and was the most trusted informer of Sarwar.

Staying in Jhenidah as a Muazzin of a local mosque, he used to maintain a safe house in the district where Tamim and Sarwar held meetings before any subversive activities.

He used to help militants by providing them with security and adequate information.

Besides, he also monitored the "activities of a police station that the militant group wanted to attack to loot its arsenal". He also circulated the message from Sarwar to other operatives.

His brother Masudur Rahman told our Jhenidah correspondent that Sohel went missing on June 3. The family filed a GD with Jhenidah Sadar Police Station the next day.

They also claimed that he has no links to militancy and he studied up to class VIII.

Saleh, a black belt holder in karate, has been engaged in militancy since 2002. He has worked with Rahmani.

Once an Ansarullah operative, Saleh was introduced to Sarwar by Hakim. He was a physical trainer in the group and donated a good amount of money to its fund.

Razib, who joined militancy in 2007 and took training in Sylhet, became an arms trainer in the outfit. A close aide to Rahmani between 2007 and 2009, he worked as a sales representative of a cement company.

Oil mill

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Masud sells his oil, packaged in new plastic bottles, for Tk 200 a litre. It's Tk 15 to 20 cheaper than those available on the market.

The residue of the crushed seeds, known as oil cakes, is spewed out through a separate outlet. They are sold at Tk 30 a kg as animal feed.

"City people value pure stuff. That's why I chose this city," he said, adding that his monthly profit stands between Tk 20,000 and 25,000.

Before opening his own business, he worked at an oil mill, owned by his brother, in Tangail, where he learned the skills he needs.

In all, he invested Tk 14 lakh. Of the sum, Tk 3.5 lakh was spent on buying and customising the miniature oil mill and the rest on purchasing a second-hand truck.

His mill can produce about 13 litre of oil from 40 kg mustard seeds, said a satisfied Masud. "To ensure quality, I only use local mustard seeds."

He moves around different parts of the city on different days -- Airport Train Station, Motijheel, Banasree, Rampura and Kamalapur.

After a good response in the capital, Masud is now planning to take his venture to Chittagong and Sylhet.

Shahidul Islam, Masud's assistant, said they would launch two more mobile mills soon.

Encouraged by Masud's success, another budding entrepreneur, Emdad Hossain, recently set up a similar mill at Khalpar Bazar of Mirhajirbagh near Jatrabari.

He hopes to be as successful as Masud.

EU expects

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during their meetings with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Political Adviser to the PM HT Imam and Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed.

"Of course, the political situation is quite stable [now]. But of course, as you are going on to hold next general elections ... you have to establish the EC. We hope it'll be done in a proper democratic way," Lange said, replying to a question.

He, however, did not give any specific suggestions on how Bangladesh would form the EC, saying that it was clear in the constitution.

But he gave the European example where the 28-country bloc ensure "multiparty experts commission" that, Lange said, "guarantees independence and guarantees strong mechanism for fair elections."

"And this could also be the mode for establishing election commission here," he said, adding that during their visit, they heard there might be a sub-committee to find "best independent experts" to hold free and fair polls.

The tenure of the current EC, which held the last parliamentary election without opposition BNP, will expire in February next year. President forms the EC, but there is no set of rules how the members will be picked. The current EC was formed by setting up a search committee.

Replying to a question, Jean Lambert, chair of the delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia, said the EC must be "strong and capable so that people can trust them even if they take decisions the political parties do not like".

Ensuing integrity of the elections is the EC's job, she said, expecting that the next elections should be inclusive and fully participatory.

"And that depend on the decision of the various political parties and also their ability to participate in elections campaign," she said.

She said during the meetings with the government interlocutors, they also touched upon the "rights of digital expression".

The visit of the delegation was aimed at assessing the progress achieved in improving health and safety as well as labour rights in the export-driven sectors such as ready-made garments.

They also discussed opportunities and challenges in EU-Bangladesh trade and investment relations, according to the EU delegation office in Dhaka.

The chair of the delegation praised the progress made by Bangladesh in attaining economic development and improvement in standards of benefits for its workers.

Bangladesh as an LDC enjoys duty-free market access to European countries.

But once it graduates from the LDC status, then the market access will change. The value-added trade relations, known as GSP-plus, would be in place and it would require Bangladesh to sign at least 27 core EU conventions.

The chair of the delegation said Bangladesh had signed many of those conventions.

The other members of the visiting delegation and EU Head of the Delegation in Dhaka Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon were present at the press briefing.

During the visit, the delegation had called on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. They also held meetings with BGMEA leaders and members of the civil society.

They also visited a number of factories in Tongi and Joydevpur in Gazipur.

The delegation leaves Dhaka today.

'Holy grail' of genetics!

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The breakthrough – described as a "holy grail" of genetics – was used to partially restore the sight of rats blinded by a condition which also affects humans.

Previously researchers were not able to make changes to DNA in eye, brain, heart and liver tissues.

But the new technique allows them to do this for the first time and could also lead to new treatments for a range of diseases associated with the ageing process.

One of the researchers, Professor Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte, said: "We are very excited by the technology we discovered because it's something that could not be done before."

"The possible applications of this discovery are vast."

The cells in most of the tissues of an adult body do not divide, making it harder for scientists to introduce changes to the DNA.

But Professor Izpisua Belmonte, of the Salk Institute in the US, said: "For the first time, we can enter into cells that do not divide and modify the DNA at will."

"We now have a technology that allows us to modify the DNA of non-dividing cells, to fix broken genes in the brain, heart and liver."

"It allows us for the first time to be able to dream of curing diseases that we couldn't before, which is exciting."

The researchers used the technique on rats born with a genetic disease called retinitis pigmentosa, which affects about one in 4,000 people in the UK.

Joy after 8 months of ordeal

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living in poverty and became dependent on my younger sister," said Ratan, who used to earn over Tk 25,000 a month at home.

Another victim Faridur Rahman said his captivity changed his life forever.

"After being hit hard by poverty several months ago, my wife left my house with our daughter," he added.

According to the workers, the Ford Steel Mill Co Ltd produced steel billets for exporting to Middle Eastern countries. It had around 100 employees, mostly Afghans. The Indian had managed only one month's salary for the 25.

The factory authorities even did not allow the workers to leave its premises, citing security reasons. They did not bother to extend the employees' visas in time.

When the Bangladeshis wanted to return home with funds from their relatives, the factory management said they would have to pay a hefty fine to the government for overstaying visas.

Ratan said they received salaries much lower than what they were promised. "We were actually paid for only two months. Then the factory was

closed."

In April, some of the victims' family members had filed a written complaint with the Afghan embassy in Dhaka against the factory owner. They requested the embassy to arrange safe returns of their relatives.

The workers' sufferings got exposure in Bangladeshi media after Ratan on July 24 had posted a picture on Facebook, showing the stranded victims sitting in the factory.

On August 10, The Daily Star ran a report about their plight and published follow-up reports.

"We are really grateful to the media. I thought I would never be able to see the daylight in Bangladesh again," said another victim Sakaul Islam.

The IOM official said they had started working for the repatriation of Bangladeshis around two months ago. They contacted the Afghan authorities and the Bangladesh embassy in Uzbekistan to expedite the process. The Afghan government subsequently waived the workers' overstay fines.

Most of the returnees left Dhaka yesterday for their homes in different districts.

No Nabanna this year

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harvested as early as possible, he said. The indigenous people said police were guarding the paddy fields so that they could not harvest the paddy.

Mistri Murmu, of Joypur village, said he cultivated paddy on four acres of land. He had built two houses on the disputed land in the hope of starting a new life.

But his houses were demolished. And now they were not being allowed to harvest the paddy from the land, he alleged.

"The paddy will go to waste if it is not reaped within 10 days," he said.

Rumina Mardi, of Madarpur village, said they harvest paddy with festivity in Agrahayan every year. "We make pitha [cake] for celebrating Loban after offering prayers," she said, adding that they were not celebrating the traditional festival this season.

Bhupen Mardi, of Madarpur village, said the government was yet to assess their losses due to the eviction. He also demanded that the government form a

committee to probe the incident and assess the losses of the evicted indigenous people.

Children who stopped going to their schools after the incident on November 6 attended their classes in the last two days.

Abdul Baki, headmaster of Sahebganj Ikkhufarm Government Primary School, said students started attending their classes since Wednesday with their new books.

Their books were damaged during a tripartite clash between the Santals, staffers of Rangpur Sugar Mills and police over the eviction of the indigenous people from the disputed land on November 6.

The clash left three Santal men dead and 20 others, including nine policemen, injured.

Rafayel Hasda, a Santal leader, said the situation inspired a little.

Police later filed a case accusing 442 people, including 42 named, with Gobindaganj Police Station for attacking police.

BNP to take part

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through elections," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told reporters emerging from the meeting midway.

The meeting began around 9:00pm at Khaleda's Gulshan office.

About the zila parishad elections, Fakhrul said results of those polls have already been determined as 99.9 percent voters of the polls are from the Awami League.

"The BNP will boycott the zila parishad elections as the way the elections are going to held is against the country's constitution."

He also said the BNP standing committee, the party's highest

policy-making body, decided that the party will stage demonstrations across the country on November 21 to protest the issuance of arrest warrant against Khaleda Zia in the case over celebrating "fake" birthday on August 15.

EU TEAM MEETS KHALEDA
A six-member European Parliament's International Trade Affairs (INTA) Committee, led by its Chair Bernd Lange, met the BNP chairperson at her Gulshan office around 6:00pm.

Briefing reporters about the meeting, Fakhrul said the committee told Khaleda that they wanted democracy, rule of law and human rights to be protected in Bangladesh.

Dhaka Lit Fest begins

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The main attraction of the fest, Naipaul will attend a panel discussion, "The writer and the world: VS Naipaul" at Abdul Karim Shahityabisharad Auditorium of Bangla Academy at 5:30pm today, according to the organisers.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said, "The most important aspect of the fest is that it has expanded our horizon."

The festival has created an opportunity for Bangladesh to look into world's literature, he added.

It has become a unique literary extravaganza with participation of authors, writers and critics from different countries, said Bangla Academy Director General Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan.

Recently deceased author Syed Shamsul Haq will be honoured through staging of a play based on his short novel "Neel Dongshon" in English, said Anis Ahmed, one of the fest directors.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor and festival directors Sadaf Saaz and Ahsan Akbar were present at the inaugural ceremony.

Members of cultural organisation Shurer Dhara rendered Rabindra Sangeet on the stage before the formal inaugural ceremony.

Among literary faces, the fest this year features Pulitzer Prize winner American-Indian poet Vijay Seshadri, 2016 Man Booker Prize winner Deborah Smith and winner of 2014 European Union Prize for Literature Evie Wyld.

More than 200 talents are expected to be joining the event, the organisers said.

Of them, 60 are guests from 16 countries.