

# All-round Mehedi powers Kings

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including Rajshahi, who have 10 points while Dhaka Dynamites and Khulna Titans occupy the top two spots with 12 each.  
Batting first, the Rajshahi Kings revived from 43 for seven to post 128 and that was primarily because of a brilliant 85-run stand for the eighth wicket between Mehedi and Forhad.  
With Rangpur's spinners going great guns it seemed as though the game was going to be over early. Arafat Sunny scalped three, Shahid Afridi took two while Liam Dawson and Rubel Hossain took one each, to send back Rajshahi's top seven batsmen in just 9.2 overs.  
Prior to yesterday's match Miraz's highest score in the Bangladesh Premier League was six, while Forhad's was nine.  
While Miraz scored a 33-ball 41, Forhad posted a 32-ball 44. It was a well-built partnership. For four overs after the two got together, not a single boundary was scored. They were merely

milking the singles and trying to get set. After over number 16, they were poised at 78 for seven. With just four more overs to go, that is when both of them decided to unleash themselves.  
Forhad began the scoring by hitting Rubel Hossain straight back past his head for a six. It was arguably one of the best shots of the tournament so far and it was not a surprise that Forhad held his pose for quite some time after playing that stroke.  
Miraz joined in the fun in the last two overs. He hit Arafat Sunny straight down the ground for a four in the 19th over. The youngster then upped his tempo in the last over and scooped Rubel Hossain for a four in the first ball. He then went down the track and elegantly stroked a length ball for a six down the ground. In the last four overs the duo managed to post 50 runs.  
After the exchange, Mehedi bowled a brilliant turner to get Soumya Sarkar stumped in the third over, while Mohammad Shahzad was caught off

Mohammad Sami in the fourth. Mehedi returned again to take a brilliant diving catch towards his right off his own bowling to dismiss Nasir Jamshed in the fifth over.  
Things got worse for the Riders when Dawson was adjudged LBW off Nazmul Islam in the next over. Replays though showed a clear inside edge. The Riders were struggling at 29 for four after the first Powerplay.  
Before the 10th over the Riders lost their two main batsmen, Shahid Afridi and Mohammad Mithun, and the game was pretty much done and dusted at that point.  
While Arafat Sunny tried to revive things with a few hits at the end, the Riders were eventually bundled out for 79.  
With figures of thee for eight in four overs, Nazmul Islam was Rajshahi's key bowler. He also had a hand in the winning moment as he caught Muktar Ali's slog to the deep off Abul Hasan in the 18th over.

# Raushan

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don't worry. I have taken on the responsibility," she said.  
Pointing to the January 5 national election in 2014, boycotted by most of the political parties, Raushan said, "Our main condition for joining the election was that the cases would be withdrawn. But they [Awami League government] are yet to keep that promise."  
At present, proceedings of three cases are going on against Ershad in lower courts. These are radar purchase graft, plot allotment and Maj Gen Abul Manzur murder cases.

# A lingering

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with BRAC Bank and Maasranga Television.  
Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, one of the most influential artists of Indian Classical Music of the 20th century, performed in the concluding night's musical proceedings.  
One of the biggest ambassadors of the classical music festivals, conferences and concerts worldwide, the forerunner of the classical santoor started off his recital with playing Raga "Jog". His vilambit composition was set on Rupaktaal (seven beats) and drut composition was on teentaal (16 beats). Tabla artiste Pandit Yogesh Samsi accompanied the evocative recital producing sweet melodies and rhythms. The maestro later performed a Pahadi dhun that swayed the audience blissfully.  
A concluding ceremony was held at the venue where Brac Founder and Chairperson Sir Fazle Hasan Abed graced the occasion as chief guest. Dhaka north and south city corporation mayors Anisul Huq and Sayeed Khokon and Maasranga Television Managing Director Anjan Chowdhry were present as special guests.  
Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman presided over the programme.  
"Syed Shamsul Haq, to whom the festival was dedicated this year, was a versatile genius in the fields of Bangla literature after Rabindranath. If I am lucky enough to live until 85, I'll consider myself privileged to be able to attend the 10th edition of Bengal Classical Music Festival. It is from our land that towering maestros such as Ustad Allaudin Khan, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, Ustad Vilayat Khan and Pandit Ravi Shankar were born, and it is from this land that maestros as such will emerge again," said Sir Fazle Hasan Abed.  
Prof Anisuzzaman said, "This festival is a reflection of our cultural conscience, and the Bengal Parampara Sangeetaly is the living proof of our eagerness towards classical music and the devotion with which we are pursuing it."  
Abul Khair Litu, chairman of Bengal Foundation, thanked all who were present and had worked for the event. He also expressed his endless gratitude and hoped for their unhindered support for future endeavours.  
He proposed to construct cultural institutions to nurture the artistic abilities of the youth. In response to a spirited speech by Sayeed Khokon, Abul Khair declared that a three-day Sufi festival would be organised in Bangabandhu National Stadium in January next year.  
Classical music maestros such as Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia (flute), Arati Ankalikar (kharayal), Pandit Kunal Das (sitar) and promising artists of the Bengal Parampara Sangeetaly sitar troupe, talented classical vocalist Kumar Mardur and upcoming classical vocalists of the department of music, Dhaka University, also performed.

# Reduce number

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November 25 and 26. The workshop was participated by prominent educationists and academicians of the country.  
There has been a longstanding debate over the quality of secondary education in the country. Though the public examinations are witnessing dazzling pass rates every year, educationalists on several occasions argued that the education system is flawed.  
The education ministry held several programmes with the educationalists to get their views on the solution.  
At the workshop, the academicians said subjects like Physical Education, Health Sciences and Sports, Arts and Crafts, and Career Education should be removed from the SSC syllabus to lessen pressure on students during the public examinations.  
Instead, they said, the subjects should be taught at the schools with a regular evaluation system. They stressed on finding out ways to teach these subjects to the students in a proper and attractive way.  
Competitions should be arranged on these subjects at the schools, Nahid quoted them as saying.  
The academicians suggested forming a committee comprising educationalists to review the school curriculum formulated in 2012, he said.  
Nahid said the educationists recommended making a panel to modify some textbooks of class IX and X so that those become attractive and more comprehensible.  
Co-curricular activities should be

incorporated in the schools so that the students feel encouraged to read more. A day for reading books at all schools should be declared as well.  
As per the recommendations, all teachers will have to prepare questions and evaluate answer scripts mandatorily, he said, adding that another suggestion was to create an item bank (question bank) to improve the multiple question and creative question patterns.  
All the educationists underscored the need for increasing budgetary allocation to education section.  
They said the government should consider introducing "standardised score" to prepare the results of public examinations in order to keep consistency with the existing examination system around the globe.  
As an experiment, they said, the results of SSC results in 2017 could be prepared using the "standardised score" Bangladesh Examination Development Board can do this work, they added.  
This system is used everywhere in the world. This system, if introduced, would not put any effect on students getting GPA-5, said noted academician and writer Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal at yesterday's press conference.  
Founder and Chief Executive of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Campaign for Popular Education Executive Director Rasheda K Choudhury, Education Secretary Sohorab Hossain, and Dhaka University Pro-Vice Chancellor (administration) Prof Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman also spoke.

# 'Serious fraud'

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short of his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in the popular vote -- she carried the election by 2.2 million ballots -- but win the all-important Electoral College court, which decides the US presidency.  
The Republican billionaire's latest statements, in which he said he would have won the popular vote were it not for the "millions of people who voted illegally," came as steps are being taken towards recounting votes in the state of Wisconsin, which Trump won.  
Trump and his aides have pushed back hard against that recount, with the president-elect tweeting loose a series of early-morning tweets in which he quoted Clinton about the need to respect the electoral process.  
But by the end of the day, Trump was alleging on Twitter that: "In

addition to winning the Electoral College in a landslide, I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally."  
Although Trump had warned before the election that the result might be "rigged," he had offered no such complaint after his unexpected November 8 victory -- until now.  
Back in New York late Sunday after spending the Thanksgiving holiday at his Florida Mar-a-Lago resort with his family, Trump again took to Twitter, alleging that voter fraud had occurred in several states.  
"Serious voter fraud in Virginia, New Hampshire and California - so why isn't the media reporting on this? Serious bias -- big problem!" Trump posted.  
Trump and his aides have offered no evidence concerning the claims, nor did Trump explain why he would oppose

the nascent Wisconsin recount if illegal voting was such a serious problem.  
No election observers have pointed to any such widespread fraud.  
"THIS RIDICULOUS RECOUNT"  
While the recount was requested by Green Party candidate Jill Stein, who received a minute fraction of the total vote in Wisconsin, Clinton's campaign has said it would join the process despite having seen no irregularities in the White House contest so far.  
Trump's top aide Kellyanne Conway, in the middle of the turbulence, appeared Sunday to at least hint that if the Clinton team pushes too hard on the Wisconsin recount, the president-elect might rethink his vow not to seek Clinton's prosecution for using a private email server when she was secretary of state.

Rohingya refugee.  
The foreign ministry officials were critical of the UN refugee agency, the UNHCR.  
They alleged that the UNHCR always puts undue pressure on Dhaka, and in the name of safety and dignity of the refugees, it delayed repatriation of Rohingyas for decades, which apparently encouraged more Rohingyas to enter Bangladesh.  
A high official of the foreign ministry said, "The UNHCR is requesting us to allow refugees to enter Bangladesh but it is not saying anything to Myanmar... Are we responsible for violence in Myanmar?"  
Responding to a query on UNHCR's call for letting Rohingyas in, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali told journalists on Thursday, "It has become the only duty of the organisation to ask Bangladesh to open its border whenever a crisis is created in Myanmar."

# Mobile court

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commencement of Mobile Court proceeding. And if anyone is convicted in the aforesaid manner, the whole proceeding of the mobile court will be vitiated and the order of conviction is illegal.  
"The magistrate who is empowered for holding a mobile court under the Mobile Court Ain, 2009 must take cognizance of the alleged offence instantly at the spot provided the same has been committed or unfolded in his presence and the said magistrate is also empowered to convict the accused and award the prescribed sentence to him if he pleads guilty," said an HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Ashish Ranjan Das.  
"It is true that Mobile Court Ain, 2009 provides for appeal against the judgment and order of conviction before the district magistrate. But if mala fide is found on the face of the record in a mobile court proceeding and the conviction is 'no-est' in the eye of law, then this court [HC] has every jurisdiction to interfere with the matter exercising power under Article 102 of the constitution."  
Delivering the verdict on a suomoto rule, the HC judges on October 18 declared illegal a mobile court verdict that sentenced Sabbir Shikder, a ninth-grader of Protima Bonki Public High School in Sakhipur, to two years in prison allegedly for threatening a local ruling party lawmaker via Facebook.  
The court also directed the secretaries of public administration and home ministries and the inspector general of police to withdraw UNO Mohammad Rafiqul Islam and OC Mohammad Maksudul Alam from Sakhipur and place them outside Dhaka division "for a fair investigation".  
The HC acquitted Sabbir of the charges and directed the chief judicial magistrate of Tangail to launch a judicial enquiry based on Sabbir's statement submitted to it on September 27.  
Following two petitions filed by Rafiqul and Maksudul, the Supreme Court chamber judge on October 26

stayed for four weeks a section of the HC verdict that ordered the government to transfer them.  
Sabbir was sentenced to two years in jail by the mobile court led by UNO Rafiqul reportedly under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act for threatening the lawmaker via Facebook.  
UNO Rafiqul passed the order as an executive magistrate a day after police detained the boy in connection with a general diary filed by Anupam, lawmaker of Tangail-8 (Basail-Sakhipur) constituency.

The Daily Star on September 20 published a report under the headline "Boy jailed for FB comment about MP".  
Regarding the report, the HC in the full judgment said, "These show the high journalistic etiquette maintained by the 'Daily Star' as well as the local correspondent in preparing and publishing the report. Further, considering the facts that the local correspondent made contacts on several occasions to ensure that he obtained the correct information and also took great care and showed concern in reporting the news."

FROM PAGE 2  
Para house in Tangail town on the night of January 18, 2013.  
A charge sheet in the case, submitted by the Detective Branch of police in Tangail in February this year, says Amanur and his family opposed Faruk's vying for the post of Tangail district unit AL general secretary in 2012.  
Amanur's brother Shahidur Rahman Khan Mukti was a contestant for the post.  
Failing to persuade Faruk to quit the race, Amanur and his brothers assigned their accomplices to kill him, it says.  
On September 18 this year, a Tangail court sent Rana, the lawmaker from Tangail-3 (Ghatail) constituency, to jail after rejecting his bail petition in the case.  
He was elected uncontested in the January 5 national election in 2014. He won a by-election in 2012 from the same constituency.

# It's not responsibility

FROM PAGE 1  
"It is now time to make the Rohingya crisis an international issue, and seek support from all to resolve it permanently. Bangladesh is the worst sufferer of this Rohingya situation. The international community must come forward to shoulder the responsibility and ensure the rights of Rohingyas," said international affairs expert Maj Gen (Retd) Abdur Rashid.  
The former ambassador said the government appears hesitant to take a firm stance on the issue and convey the message that it would no longer tolerate such an uncalled-for situation created by Myanmar.  
"We shouldn't think that Myanmar may be unhappy or BCIM [Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar economic forum] or BIMSTEC [the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation] may be affected if we take a firm stance on the Rohingya crisis that is adversely affecting Bangladesh. We must uphold our national interest and security first," he said.  
He observed that Myanmar would continue to create such crisis, and one day, it would push all its Rohingya citizens into Bangladesh territory if Dhaka continues to maintain its soft stance.  
"Of course, we should continue our efforts to solve the problem bilaterally. But we can definitely engage the international community and regional players so that Myanmar refrains from creating such humanitarian crisis that also has global implications," said the former diplomat, who served as ambassador to the USA and Australia.

Last week, Dhaka decided to launch an all-out diplomatic effort to drum up global support for mounting pressure on Myanmar to resolve the Rohingya crisis.  
Foreign ministry officials said the ministry has directed the Bangladeshi envoys in more than 60 countries and the UN bodies to brief the officials concerned in their countries of stay on the influx of Myanmar Rohingyas to Bangladesh in the face of persecution.  
At a diplomatic briefing on Thursday, foreign envoys in Dhaka expressed their strong support in resolving the longstanding crisis in a peaceful manner and through dialogue between Bangladesh and Myanmar.  
Seeking anonymity, a senior official at the foreign ministry told this correspondent that the government now strongly feels that mounting global pressure on Myanmar is essential as the country is not responsive to Dhaka's steps to establish and maintain friendly relations.  
Several officials of the ministry said Bangladeshi envoys abroad have been asked to brief the foreign policymakers and high-ups in the light of the "Strategy Paper on Addressing the Issue of Myanmar Refugees and Undocumented Myanmar Nationals in Bangladesh".  
The strategy paper clarifies the government's position on some vital issues regarding the Rohingyas. It unequivocally identifies them as "Myanmar nationals."  
The Bangladeshi envoys are advised to highlight that the country has been hosting nearly half a million documented and undocumented Rohingyas since 1991 and has not deported any

armed forces to revolt, Manna told the court he never said anything like that in the conversations.  
The former vice-president of Dhaka University Central Students' Union also protested that during the conversations he talked about the need for dead bodies to intensify the anti-government movement.  
But prosecutors said they needed to quiz Manna to know the names and addresses of those, including a Bangladeshi living in Australia, "involved in a conspiracy" against the government.  
On the third day of the 10-day remand, Manna fell sick. He then filed a petition with the HC challenging the legality of the remand order of the lower court.  
Following his petition, the HC on December 10 last year scrapped the lower court order that had placed him on remand.  
On March 31 last year, following his another petition, the HC directed the prison authorities to admit the Nagorik Oikya convener to Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital in Dhaka immediately for treatment, as he had been suffering from different diseases, including cardiac problem and diabetes.  
Following two separate bail petitions filed by Manna, the HC, on August 30 and November 10 this year, granted him permanent bail in the cases.  
The government later on moved separate leave-to-appeal petitions before the Appellate Division challenging the HC orders.  
The Appellate Division recently held hearing on the petitions and fixed yesterday for passing order on them.

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# Hasina for global fund

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conservation and utilisation of water resources need to be addressed comprehensively.  
"It wouldn't merely eliminate inequality in access to water resources, but would also help bring peace, stability and security to the society as water has been the roots of many tension and conflicts across the world."  
"To achieve this [water security], we must work together and act now. Bangladesh is committed to playing its role," she added.  
About the seven-point agenda, Hasina said the Agenda 2030 sufficiently articulated the inter-linkages and interfaces between water and wider sustainable development architecture. Hence, water should be the integral part of any development endeavour at national, regional and global level.  
She said millions of people around the world face difficulties to access safe drinking water and basic sanitation, given the fact that water supplies were neither adequate nor safe.  
"Special focus needs to be paid to people or group who is usually left behind: the poor, the women and the marginalised section of the society," she told the Summit.  
Water is one area where climate vulnerable countries are intensely challenged, the PM said, adding that there is an urgent need to build resilience to water related disasters.  
"Water challenges today are not the scarcity of water in absolute term, rather its equitable distribution. Effective management of trans-boundary river water would serve a lasting and viable solution to this effect," she observed.

The premier emphasised the importance of developing less water-intensive varieties of crops and water efficient technologies.  
She reiterated the need for creating a Global Fund on water to support research, innovation and technology transfer. The innovations and solutions should reach the poor people, she added.  
She thanked the Hungarian government for organising the Summit on such a key topic. She said Bangladesh has already met the MDGs for safe water and around 65 percent of its population have access to improved sanitation facilities.  
"We are committed to ensuring safe drinking water for all and improved sanitation for at least 90 percent of our population by the year 2021. Being one of the most climatically vulnerable countries, the government has been carrying out series of measures to address climate change adversities," she added.  
The PM told her audience that Bangladesh faces unique challenges -- abundance in water during monsoon and scarcity during dry season. The country's vulnerability is further increased by the fact that 92 percent of its surface waters originate from outside the border, she noted.  
"Sharing of trans-boundary river water is a complex issue. Two decades back, Bangladesh succeeded to enter into a long-term water sharing arrangement with India on the Ganges waters. Sub-regional cooperation on waters between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal is also on the right track," Hasina said.  
Hungarian President János Áder made the opening statement while UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and His All Holiness, Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch gave

# SC upholds HC bail for Manna

FROM PAGE 1  
Surenndra Kumar Sinha passed the order after disposing of two separate leave-to-appeal petitions filed by the government challenging the HC bail orders.  
Shahdeen Malik, a lawyer for Manna, told reporters that Manna had been kept detained for about two years, but the police had not submitted any investigation report and that there was no progress in this regard.  
The chief justice expressed discomfort, as the government's investigation was not satisfactory, the lawyer said, adding that it would be good if officials having good knowledge in law are appointed to investigate the cases.  
There is no legal bar for Manna to walk out of jail following the apex court order, he added.  
Additional Attorney General Murad Reza told The Daily Star that the SC had not gone into the merit of the cases against Manna, but upheld the HC orders on the grounds that he had been in jail for about two years and police were yet to submit any investigation report to the lower court.  
He also said there was serious allegation against Manna of instigating the army to topple the government.  
Shaikh Nazmul Alam, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch (North) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that the investigation was on, and "we are collecting information and evidence".  
"He is an accused in a sedition case. Investigation into a sedition case usually takes a long time. We need more time to complete the investigation," he added.  
Contacted around 4:00pm,

Proshanto Kumar Banik, senior jail superintendent of Kashimpur Central Jail-2, said that they did not release Manna as they were yet to receive the court's documents on his bail.  
Necessary measures would be taken after receiving the documents, he added.  
More than 20 hours after "plainclothes men had picked up" Manna from his niece's house in Banani around 3:00am on February 24 last year, officials said he was arrested by Rab members who handed him over to the Detective Branch of police.  
Rab officials had then said Manna was arrested in a case filed with Gulshan Police Station for "trying to instigate revolt by the armed forces". The arrest came days after his two telephone conversations were leaked.  
In one conversation, Manna, also former organising secretary of the ruling Awami League, was heard talking to BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka about strengthening the anti-government movement, among other issues.  
The other call was made to an unknown person. During the conversation, the man asked Manna if he would like to sit with top army officers.  
A Dhaka court on February 25 last year allowed the police to take Manna on a 10-day remand in the case.  
Arguing against the remand petition, Manna had told the court, "Everything I said during my two conversations is already public. What additional information will you [police] collect from me when I have nothing new to say about this? There is no need for you to take me on remand."  
On the allegation of instigating the

# Forces try to weed out IS in Mosul

AFP, Bartalla  
An Iraqi officer shuffled through identity cards as he sat at a battered desk by the side of the dust-blown highway heading east from the city of Mosul.  
Six men in dirt-spattered tracksuits huddled nearby, waiting on a concrete slab, part of the latest convoy of civilians to flee fighting as government forces try to oust Islamic State jihadists from the city.  
Clutching a phone to his ear, the officer stood up and read out the men's names one by one, waiting a second to receive a word from the person on the other end. He then handed them back their identity cards and let them go.  
Eventually, only one man remained. The officer repeated his name several times, his voice rising.  
Suddenly, he grabbed the man and started hauling him into a makeshift cell at the back of what was once a roadside car workshop.  
"Everyone in Mosul knows who the terrorists are," said Lieutenant Ali of Iraq's special forces, part of a group of officers involved in the screening.  
Some 70,000 civilians have fled the violence since Iraqi forces started the offensive to retake Mosul last month.  
After more that two years of extremist rule over the city of more than a million inhabitants, the authorities are desperate to stop any jihadists escaping among the throngs