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Stalemate in cricket

BCB boss alleges 'conspiracy' behind players' boycott

SPORTS REPORTER

There was little indication of recuperation from the turmoil that has engulfed Bangladesh cricket over the past two days following the boycott by cricketers led by Test captain Shakib Al Hasan.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Nazmul Hassan yesterday said that the boycott was uncalled for and that the whole incident might have been a part of conspiracy to destabilise Bangladesh cricket.

He made this remark at a crowded press briefing at the BCB headquarters in Mirpur. The BCB boss was reacting to the 11-point demand from the cricketers, which was announced at an impromptu press briefing on Monday. The players also said that they would refrain from all cricketing activities until their demands, mostly financial, were met.

Bangladesh are scheduled to start the camp for the upcoming series against India on Friday. Besides that, the ongoing National Cricket League, the country's premier first-class competition, is scheduled to resume after a three-day break on Thursday.

But as the situation stands at the moment, there is no indication of the cricketers returning to the ground, putting the much-anticipated India tour under a cloud.

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Workers sort out and stack freshly printed textbooks at a printing house in the capital's Sutrapur area. The government has already started sending new textbooks to upazilas across the country so that students get them for free on the upcoming New Year. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

CLIMATE DISASTERS

19m children face risks in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 19 million children across Bangladesh -- a quarter of them under 5 -- bear the brunt of climate change disasters, according to a Unicef report which says the climate crisis threatens child nutrition in the country.

The report also said natural disasters, including floods and riverbank erosion, are driving families to city slums, where they face overcrowding and a lack of access to healthy food, education, health services, sanitation and safe water.

In slums, children must often fend for themselves and are at greater risks of malnutrition, child labour, child marriage and exposure to pollution, violence and abuse, according to the South Asia section of the global report.

The report, titled "The State of World's Children-2019 -- Children, food and nutrition: Growing well in a changing world", was launched a week ago and has been uploaded to the Unicef website.

The Unicef's flagship report examines issues related to children, food and nutrition, providing a fresh perspective on a rapidly evolving challenge.

The report said despite progress in the past two decades, one-third of children under age 5 are malnourished -- stunted, wasted or overweight -- while two-thirds are at risk

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Bhola Hindus living in fear

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR, SHARIFUL ISLAM and M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL from Bhola

Fearing further attacks, most of the Hindu families in Bhola, have stopped sending their children to schools and restricted their business operations, said the community leaders.

A sense of insecurity gripped the community members since religious zealots vandalised 12 houses and burned down one in Bhawal Bari area of the district's Borhanuddin upazila on Sunday.

The Hindus are even opting to stay indoors after sunset, according to the community leaders.

The six-point demand, placed by religious group Sarbadaliya Muslim Oikya Parishad with a 72-hour ultimatum, is another reason for them to be worried, they added.

Members of the Sarbadaliya Muslim Oikya Parishad wanted to hold a demonstration yesterday, but called it off fearing resistance from police.

Sukumar Das, headmaster of Paschim Kachia Government Primary School in Bhola Sadar upazila, said, "We are yet to get over the horror that was unleashed on us on Sunday. We are still living in fear.

"Even I am not going to school fearing further attack," said Sukumar, who suffered minor injuries on his head during Sunday's attack.

Abinash Nandi, president of Bhola chapter of Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad, said most of the

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COMMUNAL ATTACKS OVER FB POSTS

Instigators still on the loose

Those whose accounts were hacked to incite violence stand in the dock

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

It is always the same story -- a Facebook image, post, or message hurting religious sentiments, an outpouring of rage both on social media and on the streets, ending in attacks on minority communities.

In each incident, a member of one of these communities, whose account was hacked into and used as a medium, found himself at the centre of the violence.

In 2012, it was Uttam Kumar Barua, an assistant of a deed writer in Cox's Bazar's Ramu; in 2016, Rasharaj Das, a fisherman of Brahmanbaria's Nasirnagar; and last year, Sanju Burman, a local salon worker of Brahmanbaria's Nabinagar.

Such violence also broke out in 2013 and 2017.

None of the police investigations that followed could find enough evidence to prove that Uttam, Rasharaj, and Sanju had made the posts.

Yet, the cases against them have not been dismissed; rather, charge sheets had been submitted with Uttam and Sanju named as an accused in their respective cases.

Belonging to minority communities and lower-income groups, they were unable to do anything in their defence. On the other hand, police have failed to bring to book those who instigated the attacks that led to destruction of religious temples and vandalism on the homes of minorities.

Sunday's clash between police and religious zealots in Bhola, following another such social media propaganda, could be seen as a consequence of

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Five days on, hackers yet to be traced

STAR REPORT

Five days have gone by but the investigators are yet to identify the hackers of the Hindu youth's Facebook account through which hate conversations were spread among locals in Bhola's Borhanuddin upazila.

Earlier on Sunday, police claimed that they arrested the hacker, Rafsan Islam Sharif, along with another man named Md Imon from Borhanuddin. They detained Sharif after he made a phone call to the Hindu youth, Biplob Chandra Baidya, from Patuakhali, and demanded Tk 2,000 for giving back Biplob's Facebook account.

The investigators now think that Sharif did not hack the FB account as he does not have the technical knowledge to do so.

Sharif told police that he called Biplob just to make fun of him after learning about the incident of the FB ID hacking, sources told this newspaper yesterday.

At least four people were killed and more than a

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KILLING OF 2 MOHAMMADPUR TEENS

Families denied justice

Cops file final report without talking to family, claim it was an 'accident'; Rajib 'threatened' victim's father

MUNTAKIM SAAD and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The families of two teenagers killed in Mohammadpur during a clash of Awami League factions ahead of the general election have been robbed of justice.

The family members of one of the victims said police submitted the final report in the case without talking to them. The report mentioned no clash even though it was widely covered by the media at that time. It termed the incident an "accident".

Councillor Tarequzzaman Rajib of ward-33 also threatened the father of one of the victims not to file a murder case, they said.

A case was filed after the November 10, 2018, incident and the father of one of the teens was made the plaintiff.

The father maintains he did not file the case and that the signature on the case document could not be his since he is

illiterate. He said Councillor Rajib put a gun to his head and told him to do as he said after the incident.

The families opened up to this paper only after Rajib was arrested this week.

On the morning of November 10, 2018, a procession of vehicles, largely comprised of flatbeds, with supporters of AL leader Sadek Khan was going towards the AL Dhanmondi office to buy nomination paper for Sadek's candidacy in the polls.

Mohammad Sujon, 19, and Arif Hossain, 14, were on one of the pickup trucks when the procession was attacked allegedly by the men of rival AL leader and then lawmaker Jahangir Kabir Nanak.

During the melee Sujon and Arif fell off the vehicle and the driver, trying to avoid the brick chunks being hurled at the pickup,

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Man beaten to death by Ctg cop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was beaten to death before his family members allegedly by a police sub-inspector in Chattogram's Sitakunda over mobile phone theft early yesterday.

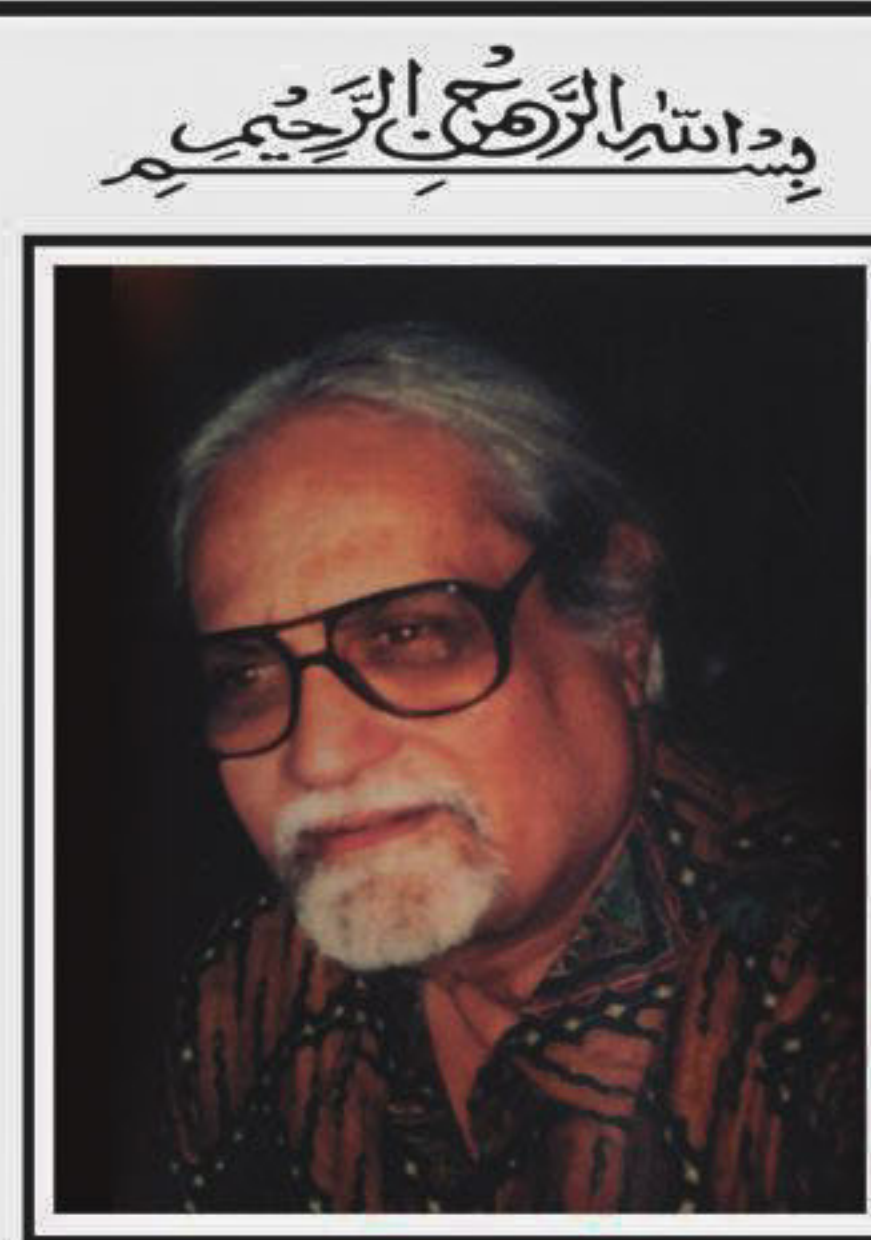
Victim Ejahar Mia, 26, son of Mofizur Rahman of Balur Bosta area, used to work at a shipbreaking yard.

Police arrested SI Iqbal Parvez Raihan, who has recently been transferred to Range Reserve Police of Chattogram district from Khagrachhari's Guimara Police Station.

Raihan lives in Balur Bosta area with his family. Three days ago, a mobile phone of Raihan's sister went missing from their home. Raihan suspected that Ejahar stole the phone, said Sabbir Ahmed Chowdhury, member of ward-4 of Bhatiyari Union Parishad in Sitakunda.

SI Raihan on Monday night went to Ejahar's home and looked for Ejahar. Not finding him, Raihan took away national identity cards of his parents

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Azimur Rahman
1935 - 2001

You Never Said Goodbye

by Unknown

You never said I'm leaving
You never said goodbye.
You were gone before I knew it,
And only God knew why.

A million times I needed you,
A million times I cried.
If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died.

In life I loved you dearly,
In death I love you still.
In my heart you hold a place,
That no one could ever fill.

It broke my heart to lose you,
But you didn't go alone
For part of me went with you,
The day God took you home.