

'WINDOW FOR ACTION CLOSING'

G20 urged to hike climate pledges, sources say group split over coal, 1.5 degree climate limit SEE PAGE 6

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Your Right to Know

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"The recent communal violence is the result of the communal mentality, which has grown over the past three decades." WORKERS PARTY PRESIDENT RASHED KHAN MENON



"I can tell you we're not on track. We really need to speed it up or you know what? This pandemic is going to go on for a year longer than it needs to." WHO SENIOR LEADER DR BRUCE AYLWARD



"I told our foreign minister that we cannot have the luxury of hosting them in our country." TURKEY'S ERDOGAN THREATENS TO EXPEL 10 WESTERN ENVOYS AFTER THEY CONDEMNED DETENTION OF A CIVIL SOCIETY LEADER



PLACING HOLY QURAN AT MANDAP Suspect Iqbal arrested

Identified as the person responsible thru' CCTV footage, police say

STAR REPORT

Police last night arrested the man who they said put the Holy Quran inside Nanua Dighir Par puja mandap in Cumilla city in the early hours of October 13.

The incident in Cumilla led to communal attacks on Durga Puja mandaps as well as Hindu homes and shops in different places of the country.

A team of Cox's Bazar police arrested the suspect, 35-year-old Iqbal Hossain, a resident of Sujanager area under Cumilla City Corporation, around 11:00pm yesterday, Zakir Hossen Khan, additional DIG (Crime and Operations) of Chattogram Range, told The Daily Star.

The arrestee was handed to Cumilla police for interrogation, he said, without giving any further details.

Contacted, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan confirmed Iqbal's arrest in Cox's Bazar.

Earlier, police in Cumilla, analysing CCTV footage, said Iqbal was the man who placed the Holy Quran inside the mandap that night.

From the footage, it was also found that he incited people to commit violence in the area later that morning by delivering hate speech, Superintendent of Police in Cumilla Faruk Ahmed told The Daily Star.

He said they collected 12 pieces of CCTV footage as evidence as of yesterday. One such footage shows Iqbal in a T-shirt entering the Daroga Bari



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Shakib Al Hasan returned figures of nine for four, the all-rounder's best figures in T20 World Cups, to power Bangladesh through to the Super 12 stage with a thumping win over Papua New Guinea in Muscat yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

Rampant Tigers thru' to Super 12s

SPORTS REPORTER from Muscat

Brushing off any lingering uncertainty about an early exit, Bangladesh sealed a Super 12 berth after a big 84-run win over Papua New Guinea in their final game of the first round of the ICC T20 World Cup at the Al Amerat Cricket stadium in Muscat yesterday.

After falling to a shock defeat to Scotland in their opening game, the equation was simple for Bangladesh. The clash against Papua New Guinea was a must-win encounter but the Tigers would have to keep an eye on the net run rate and the result of the game between Oman and Scotland in mind.

Bangladesh needed to make a statement to the world and the Tigers did exactly that, posting their highest T20 World Cup score of 181 for seven.

Star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan shone brightest once again, scoring 46 off 37 balls before returning magnificent bowling figures of four wickets for nine runs from four overs.

The 34-year-old's four-wicket haul also saw him reach 39 wickets in 28 games, equaling Pakistan's Shahid Afridi -- who played 34 matches -- as the leading wicket-taker in T20 World Cup history.

Papua New Guinea were thoroughly outmatched by the Bangladeshi bowling and were reeling on 29 for 97 runs in 19.3 overs. Other than Kiplin Doriga's unbeaten 46 and Chad Soper's 11, none of Papua New Guinea's batters were able to reach double figures.

Mohammad Saifuddin also had a good outing as his six-ball cameo with the bat yielded 19 runs before he returned with the ball to claim two wickets for 21 runs.

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Network of hate

Social media contents inciting violence, spreading lies cause irreparable damage; Cumilla incident no exception

"The challenge lies in debunking a rumour before it gets shared -- and that it can get out of control within a very short period of time."

PROF DIN MD SUMON RAHMAN, THE EDITOR OF FACTWATCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If you search for "mondire Quran" (the Holy Quran at a temple) or "Quran obomanona" (demeaning the Holy Quran) on YouTube, you will find over 300 videos spewing hate speech against a minority community.

That was the tally as of yesterday, eight days after the mayhem at a puja mandap in Cumilla on October 13 when the Hindu community all across the country was celebrating Durga Puja.

Upload dates and times show that a significant portion of these videos were made and uploaded within hours of the attack on October 13. All of them can be classified as featuring hate speech.

The videos were uploaded by channels that specifically cater to a section of audience interested in religious content. The content ranges from innocuous religious explainers to obscene and inciteful.

The inciteful videos spread with frightening speed on Facebook with a group of people sharing those without verifying the content, sparking angry backlash from people who took what they saw at face value.

A Facebook search reveals that people have used the social network to rally support and spread hate speech, misinformation and provocative

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Stay vigilant

PM asks AL activists over maintaining communal harmony

UNB, Dhaka

Describing the recent Cumilla incident as very unfortunate, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the Awami League leaders and activists to step up their vigilance to maintain communal harmony across the country.

"Communal harmony has to be maintained. Our leaders and activists should increase their monitoring in every area," she said while opening the newly constructed office building of Cumilla city AL.

The premier joined the event virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina, also the AL president, asked the party leaders and activists to take initiatives for holding "peace conferences" and bringing out "peace processions" so that no conflict can arise and people from all religions live a peaceful life on this soil.

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ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES

As marginalised as discriminated

TIB study sheds light on harassments faced by the communities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's marginalised people are facing discriminatory attitudes in many cases while seeking government services and benefits, found a study by Transparency International Bangladesh.

It revealed that marginalised people are subjected to harassment, obstacle and threat by local public representatives and a section of government officials when they file complaints against the discriminatory attitudes.

The study titled "Access of Marginalised Communities to Public Services: An Assessment of Accountability Mechanisms", however, said the activities of non-government organisations play a positive role in responding to the needs of the marginalised people.

The anti-graft watchdog released the study at a webinar yesterday.

The main objective of the study was to assess the state of access to, and exercise of the existing institutional accountability system by the marginalised people in receiving various public services.

The data for the study was collected between October 2020 and September 2021.

According to TIB, Bangladesh is home to at least 30 million marginalised people based on race, religious identity, caste, ethnicity, occupation, and different trait-based identity.

Marginalisation refers to a process by which a group of people or an individual is denied access to important positions and symbols of economic, religious or political power within any society.

Talking about the study, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said children of marginalised people face racist attitude in educational institutions.

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THE THIRD VIEW



MAHFUZ ANAM

IMBIBING THE VALUES OF 1971 in our post-liberation generation

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Initiate judicial probe

Demands civil society body over communal violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Alliance yesterday demanded a judicial probe into the recent communal violence in the country.

In a statement, the alliance said that the probe report should be made public immediately.

The alliance condemned the ongoing communal attacks and demanded an end to the violence immediately.

These are "hate crimes" and a clear violation of human rights, the alliance said, adding, "It is a massive attack on the spirit of the country's communal harmony and secular values."

The alliance called upon the administration to take bold measures against zealots, who carried out the violence using religion.

Although the law enforcement agencies, local administration and representatives claim to have preparation, the communal violence

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A Hindu woman carrying a sack of relief goods distributed by Gono Shastha Sheba in Boro Karimpur Majhipara of Rangpur's Pirganj upazila. Inset, locals, with help from the district administration, rebuild a house destroyed in a communal attack in the area recently. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

NAT'L ROAD SAFETY DAY TODAY

Initiatives not implemented even in years

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

While the country is witnessing a sharp rise in road crashes and related casualties, different government initiatives, to bring discipline in the road transport sector and curb accidents, remained unimplemented for years.



Dozens of meetings were held and committees were formed over the past few years, but those initiatives did not come into effect.

They include bringing small vehicles under regulations, dope tests for professional drivers, setting service life of commercial vehicles, bus route rationalisation and operating buses under some specific companies.

Although the tenure of the previous action plan for reducing road crashes ended last year, the authorities could not finalise the next strategic plan named National Road Safety Strategic Action Plan-2021-24.

Amid this situation, the country is going to observe the National Road Safety Day today, with the slogan "Follow the Speed Limit, Prevent Road Accidents".

Since 2017, the day has been observed officially to reduce road crashes, which are claiming hundreds of lives every year making it a serious cause of concern for the country.

At least 43,856 people were killed and 91,358 injured in 31,793 road crashes in the last six years, Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity, a passenger welfare platform, said yesterday.

Meanwhile, the country has witnessed two major movements for road safety since July 2018.

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