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Nobel laureate Maria Ressa acquitted of tax evasion

AFP, Manila

Philippine Nobel Prize winner Maria Ressa was acquitted yesterday of tax evasion, among a slew of charges she has long maintained are politically motivated, calling the verdict a victory for “truth”.

Ressa, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov in 2021, still faces three other cases, including a cyber libel conviction now under appeal that could mean nearly seven years

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TAMBRU BORDER One killed in ‘gunfight’ at Rohingya camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

A Rohingya man was killed and another injured in a firing incident at Konarpara Rohingya Camp near the Tambru border in Bandarban’s Naikhongchhari upazila yesterday.

Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), two armed groups in Myanmar, are behind the firing, said Dil Mohammad, a community leader of Konarpara Rohingya Camp.

Multiple shooting incidents have taken place at the camp, situated on the zero line, since 6:00am, he added.

Hamid Ullah, 27, a Rohingya man, suffered bullet injuries. He was rushed to the MSF-run hospital in Kutupalong where doctors declared him dead, said Sheikh Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge of Ukhiya Police Station.

The body was sent to Cox’s Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy, he added.

Mohib Ullah, 25, another Rohingya man, also suffered bullet wounds. He was sent to the hospital for better

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Land grabbers put up a fence in the Kirtankhola in Barishal city’s Rasulpur area to occupy a portion of the river. Some of them have installed signs claiming the land to be theirs. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

37,000 RIVER GRABBERS NRCC decision to withhold names draws flak

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

The National River Conservation Commission has decided not to publish a list of 37,000 new encroachers of 48 rivers and the environment activists say protecting their identities is tantamount to siding with the grabbers.

The decision was made at a meeting of the commission on December 15 last year.

The meeting minutes say those who made the list did not follow the British-era Cadastral Survey (CS), which as per a High Court order, should be followed while demarcating rivers.

That’s why making public the names of encroachers and the number of structures may

cause legal and administrative complications, added the minutes.

The list was made under a Tk 34 crore project to come up with a study that would also include descriptions of biodiversity, erosion and river health. The Project to Survey 48 Rivers was taken up in 2017 and it ended in December 2022.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, told The Daily Star that the commission apparently took the side of the encroachers by protecting their identities.

Contacted, Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman of the National River Conservation Commission (NRCC), said those who did the study were supposed

to follow the CS to prepare the list which would have required colossal work. But they chose the rather easy way of following the Water Act-2013 and Port Act-1908.

“They did not even have the CS map and record of rights [khatian] that are required to prove one is an encroacher. Otherwise, the list will fall flat if it is challenged in a court of law. The onus will be on me to prove with documents that the land is part of the river,” he said.

He then referred to a High Court order issued by Justice Khairul Haque in 2009 that outlined how to reclaim rivers based on the CS.

“We sent the list [of encroachers] to deputy commissioners across the country and received feedback from three districts. Once we get

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WOMEN’S U-19 T20 WC Bangladesh romp to Super Six

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh U-19s topped Group A in the inaugural ICC U-19 Women’s T20 World Cup, picking up a comfortable five-wicket win in their third and final group match against USA at Willowmoore Park B Field, Benoni to make it to the Super Six.

It was a disciplined performance with the ball from the young Tigresses as they restricted USA to 103 for four in 20 overs. USA opener Disha Dhingra (20) and number three Snigdha Paul (26) put up a 57-run stand for the second wicket but runs were hard to come by. Dhingra departed to a run-out in the 15th over and next delivery Bangladesh skipper Disha Bishwas, who led the bowling effort from the front, castled Snigdha to leave USA reeling. Disha finished with two for 13 that included a maiden while another medium pacer, Marufa Akter, bagged one for 17.

In reply, Bangladesh lost openers Sumaiya Akter and Afia Protashia early, with the former holing out at short fine-leg for 10 before Afia found the fielder at mid-on to depart for seven. In-form Shorna Akter came in and quickly turned the tempo with a 14-ball 22, hitting a glorious six to showcase her growing confidence but was holed out to mid-off while attempting another big one against Sai Tanmayi Eyyunni. Dilara Akter, too,

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World’s oldest runestone found in Norway

AFP, Oslo

Norwegian archaeologists believe they have found the world’s oldest runestone inscribed almost 2,000 years ago, making it several hundred centuries older than previous discoveries.

The square brown sandstone rock, measuring about 30 by 30 centimetres (12 by 12 inches), was found during the excavation of an ancient burial ground in late 2021, at Tyrifjorden northwest of Oslo, ahead of construction on a railway line.

Carbon dating of bones and wood found in a grave beside the rune suggest that it was inscribed

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An artisan putting the finishing touches to Saraswati idols at Dariapara mandop in Sylhet city. The Hindu community is going to celebrate Saraswati Puja on January 26. Saraswati is the goddess of knowledge, music, arts, and culture. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

ATTACK ON MRO HOUSES Culprits will be brought to justice Says NHRC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Kamal Uddin Ahmed has assured the Mro community that those involved in torching and vandalising their homes in a Bandarban village on January 1 will not be spared.

“Attacking, looting and setting fire to people’s houses are heinous crimes. It’s like a gross violation of human rights,” the NHRC chief said after visiting some victims at Rengyan Mro Para in

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GLOBAL WARMING UN chief slams Big Oil’s ‘big lie’

AFP, Davos

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres skewered oil firms yesterday for having “peddled the big lie” about their role in global warming, telling the World Economic Forum that they should be held accountable.

Addressing a room full of the world’s business and political elite, Guterres drew a parallel between the actions of oil companies and those of tobacco companies that have been hit by huge lawsuits over the adverse effects of cigarettes.

“We learned last week that certain fossil fuel producers were fully

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