



### 3 shrines vandalised, set on fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Three shrines and an Akhra were vandalised and set on fire in Cumilla's Homna upazila yesterday.

Locals and police said Md Mohsin, 35, of Asadpur village, posted "derogatory comments about Islam" on Facebook around 10:50am on Wednesday.

The post sparked outrage among locals, who later gathered near Mohsin's house to stage demonstrations demanding his punishment.

On information, police and army personnel rushed to the spot and detained Mohsin, said Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Homna Police Station.

In the afternoon, a local, Shafiqul Islam, filed a case against Mohsin, he added.

Around 10:30am yesterday, a group of people under the banner of "Tawhidi Janata" again gathered near Mohsin's house and started demonstrating, said the OC, quoting locals.

The agitating people were calling

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Abdu Shah's shrine lies in charred ruins after locals set it on fire yesterday in Asadpur village under Homna upazila of Cumilla. Inset, agitators also torch Hawali Shah's Akhra in the same village.

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

### JULY ATROCITIES ICT frames charges against 5 ex-cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday framed charges on three counts against five former police officials, including Habibur Rahman, ex-commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, in a case filed over crimes against humanity committed in the capital's Rampura during the July uprising.

The three-member tribunal, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, passed the order.

The other accused are then DMP's (Khilgaon zone) additional deputy commissioner Rashedul Islam, then Rampura Police Station officer-in-charge Mashiur Rahman, then sub-inspector Tarikul Islam Bhuiyan, and then Rampura police outpost assistant sub-inspector Chanchal Chandra Sarkar.

Of them, only Chanchal is in custody while the others remain fugitives.

The charges include murder, attempted murder, conspiracy, complicity, facilitation, abetment, incitement, failure to prevent or punish crimes, and command responsibility under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973.

According to the formal charge, on July 19, police action in Rampura left six-year-old Musa critically injured after being shot. The same bullet that pierced his body fatally struck his grandmother, Maya Islam. Musa survived following treatment, but his grandmother died of her injuries.

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### Tulip's citizenship row deepens amid fresh scrutiny The Labour MP denies allegations

BULBUL HASAN, London

The controversy surrounding Labour MP Tulip Rizwana Siddiq took a fresh turn as new evidence emerged suggesting she continues to hold Bangladeshi citizenship through a national identity card, voter registration, and multiple passports, despite her repeated public assertions that she is solely a British national.

A joint investigation by Prothom Alo and The Times verified the authenticity of official documents in Dhaka, confirming that Tulip obtained a Bangladeshi national identity card in 2011 and has been registered as a voter using the address of Sudha Sadan, the Dhanmondi residence of her aunt, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Passport office records further reveal that Tulip was first issued a Bangladeshi passport in 2001 from London and obtained a second one in Dhaka in 2011, while Hasina was in office.

Meanwhile, Tulip has issued a rebuttal, describing the allegations as "politically motivated" and "fabricated".

In response to queries from The Daily Star last night, she said that she never held a Bangladeshi national identity card, voter ID, or passport since childhood.

Framing the reports as a deliberate attempt to damage her reputation, she said the Bangladeshi authorities are circulating "fabricated documents in a desperate attempt to justify their so-called trial".

In her statement to this newspaper, she noted that

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### ASIA CUP 2025 Bangladesh through to Super Four

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh are through to the Super Four of the Asia Cup thanks to Sri Lanka, who handed Afghanistan a six-wicket defeat in the final match of Group B in Abu Dhabi on Thursday.

Kusal Mendis struck an unbeaten 74 off 52 balls and Kamindu Mendis chipped in with an unbeaten 13-ball 26 as Sri Lanka cruised to 171-4 in 18.4 overs in response to Afghanistan's 169-8.

With the win, Sri Lanka qualified as Group B winners with three wins in as many matches, while the Tigers made it through as runners-up with two wins over Hong Kong and Afghanistan, respectively.

Afghanistan finished third in the four-team group with a sole win over fourth-placed Hong Kong.

The Afghans, in a must-win game, had lost their way early on after choosing to bat, hobbling to 120-7 after 18 overs.

But the experienced Mohammad Nabi then shifted the momentum, first scoring 17 runs off

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### Climate change causes havoc with global water cycle: UN

AFP, Geneva

Climate change is spurring increasingly erratic and extreme swings between deluge and drought globally, with cascading repercussions for societies, the United Nations warned yesterday.

The UN's World Meteorological Organization said in a report that the world's water cycle was becoming ever more unpredictable, with shrinking glaciers, droughts, unbalanced river basins and severe floods wreaking havoc.

"The world's water resources are under pressure from growing demand, and at the same time, we are seeing more water-related hazards," WMO chief Celeste Saulo told reporters in Geneva.

The agency's annual State of Global Water Resources report "shows quite clearly that the water cycle has become increasingly erratic and extreme," she said, pointing to the "cascading impacts on infrastructure, agriculture, energy, health, and economic activities".

Last year was the hottest on record, leading to prolonged droughts in northern parts of South America, the Amazon Basin and southern Africa, the report said.

Meanwhile, parts of central Africa Europe and Asia dealt with wetter weather than usual, being hit with devastating floods or deadly storms, it pointed out.

Africa's tropical zone experienced unusually

heavy rainfall in 2024, resulting in around 2,500 deaths and displacing some four million people.

Asia and the Pacific were meanwhile hit by record-breaking rainfall and tropical cyclones, killing more than 1,000 people.

And Europe saw its most extensive flooding in more than a decade, with a third of river networks exceeding high flood thresholds, the report found.

WMO said 2024 was the sixth consecutive year globally where there had been a "clear imbalance" in the world's river basins.

"Two-thirds have too much or too little water – reflecting the increasingly erratic hydrological cycle," it said.

The organisation also flagged how the water quality in major lakes was declining due to warmer weather, and glaciers

shrank across all regions for the third year in a row.

It found that across the globe, a full 450 gigatonnes of ice was lost – enough to fill 180 million Olympic swimming pools, WMO said.

The meltwater had added about 1.2 millimetres (0.05 inches) to the global sea level in a single year, contributing to the risk of flooding for hundreds of millions of people living in coastal zones, the report warned.

"From the 1970s until now, 9,000 gigatonnes have been lost, which is 25 millimetres of sea

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### New Picasso portrait unveiled at Paris auction house

AFP, Paris

A previously unknown portrait by Pablo Picasso of one of his lovers was revealed on Thursday after being put up for sale at auction in Paris with a reserve price of eight million euros (\$9.5 million).

Entitled "Bust of a woman with a flowery hat", it depicts Dora Maar, a French photographer, painter and poet who was Picasso's best-known muse.

Painted with oil, the colourful work measuring 80 x 60 centimetres (31 x 24 inches) "is valued at around eight million euros, a reserve price that could soar," according to auctioneer Christophe Lucien at Parisian auction house Drouot.

It was painted by Picasso on July 11, 1943, and acquired in August 1944 by a French collector who is the grandfather of the current owners.

Agnes Sevestre-Barbe, a Picasso specialist present during the unveiling of the work, said it was "unknown to the public and never exhibited, except in the Spanish master's studio in Paris".

She added that it was "quite exceptional and marks a milestone in the history of art and in that of Picasso."



Cars arriving to pick up children after school occupy nearly the entire stretch of Kakrail's main road, disrupting traffic and causing long tailbacks. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon in front of Willes Little Flower School and College.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

### This time, Ekushey book fair to begin in December

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, the Amar Ekushey book fair will be organised twice in a single calendar year, with the upcoming edition scheduled to be held from December 17 this year to January 17 next year.

This marks the second time the fair will be organised outside its traditional February slot. The first deviation was in 2021, when the event was postponed to March due to Covid concerns.

The decision was finalised at a meeting held yesterday at Bangla Academy, chaired by Cultural Affairs Secretary Md Mofidul Rahman.

Speaking to this newspaper following the meeting, Bangla Academy Director General Mohammad Azam said, "Preparations are underway for the national election in February. Soon after, the Ramadan and Eid holidays will begin, during which most people leave Dhaka. Then April will bring storms and heavy rainfall, making it impractical

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