



President Abdul Hamid exchanges Eid greetings with foreign diplomats at Bangabhaban in the capital on Eid day.

PHOTO: PID

### Two workers die from toxic gas inhalation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Two workers died from inhaling poisonous gas while cleaning the effluent treatment plant (ETP) tank of a textile mill at the sadar upazila of Narayanganj yesterday.

The deceased were Shahidullah, 38, of Dhalkathi and Jasim Uddin, 42, of Comilla, said Abdul Matin, officer-in-charge of Siddhirganj Police Station.

The two breathed in toxic gas trapped inside the ETP tank of Barnali Textile Dyeing and Printing Mill at Godnail in Siddhirganj around 8:00am, he added.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Md Masud of Adamjee Industrial Police confirmed that the two workers died when they were cleaning the ETP tank.

The factory was closed during the Eid holidays, he added.

### RANA PLAZA VICTIMS Another succumbs to injuries

Death toll now 1,133

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

After passing 107 days in a coma since the April 24 Rana Plaza building collapse, another victim succumbed to his injuries at the intensive care unit of Enam Medical College and Hospital in Savar on Thursday, bringing the death toll to 1,133.

The deceased Monwar Hossain, 22, used to iron clothes at New Wave Bottoms Ltd, housed in the nine-storey building, his father, Abul Hossain, told The Daily Star.

Hailing from Jadabpur village of Mithapukur upazila in Rangpur district, Monwar used to live with his uncle Atiar Rahman in Savar, he added.

The hospital's Director (Media) Jahidur Rahman informed The Daily Star that the victim's family members had received the body.

Right after his rescue, confusion had arisen over Monwar's identity. His face was wrapped in bandages and two persons had claimed him as their child.

The last victim of the collapse to have died was Rupali Begum, 35. She also succumbed to her injuries at the intensive care unit of Apollo Hospitals, Dhaka on June 17.

Wife of Meher Ali and hailing from Badarganj, Rangpur, Rupali used to work on the sixth floor of the building. Her daughter, Mary Akhtar, told The Daily Star that Rupali was rescued on the day of the collapse.

She was admitted to Enam Medical College and Hospital and later transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital before being shifted to Apollo Hospitals, Mary added.

Rupali, who left behind her two sons and two daughters, had been living at Bank Colony, Savar, on the outskirts of the capital. A total of 2,438 people have been pulled out alive from the debris of the building.

### First Gazipur mayor sworn in

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The first mayor of Gazipur City Corporation, MA Mannan, was sworn in at the Prime Minister's Office in the capital yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina administered the oath to him around 11:00am.

Mannan, who was backed by the BNP-led opposition alliance, is scheduled to take charge on Wednesday.

Talking to The Daily Star recently, the new mayor said he would begin his journey by planting trees. The entire city corporation area will be covered in green, he said.

About the problems of waterlogging and supply of drinking water, Mannan said he would prepare a master plan to remove waterlogging in different parts of Gazipur city, particularly the industrial area in Tongi and Konabari, on a priority basis.

The city corporation will dig deep tube wells in every ward to ensure uninterrupted supply of drinking water to the city dwellers, he added.

Revealing his plan on education, Mannan said he would found a technology-based university in the city and set up libraries in every ward in phases.

In order to improve traffic situation, he said, flyovers would be constructed over the Gazipur bypass road, Joydevpur rail-crossing, and Tongi station road. He also disclosed his plan to introduce metro rail system and build a wide road along the Joydevpur-Tongi rail track.

The new mayor said community police would guard the city wards round the clock alongside regular law enforcers. In order to maintain law and order situation, the city corporation will install surveillance cameras at important points of the city, he added. The first election to newly-formed Gazipur City Corporation was held on July 6.

### 10 hurt in Savar RMG factory fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

At least 10 people were injured while trying to escape a fire at a readymade garment factory in South Dariapur of Savar outside the capital yesterday.

The injured were taken to Enam Medical College Hospital.

Khan Khalilur Rahman, station officer of Savar Fire Service and Civil Defence, said the fire broke out on the fourth floor of the seven-storey JK Group factory building around 7:10pm.

Factory sources said the fourth floor used to store chemicals, and some workers were cutting iron rod at the time when the fire broke out. The factory authorities were conducting repair work during the Eid-ul-Fitr vacation. Thousands of people work in the factory.

The casualties occurred, as the workers were running for safety and trying to subdue the fire.

A team of Savar fire fighters controlled the blaze with the help of locals.

### Rights organisations, US condemn Adilur's arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern and condemning the arrest of Odhikar Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan on Saturday, different human rights and political organisations and the US yesterday demanded that he be released immediately through proper legal procedures.

National Human Rights Commission hoped that all quarters would be aware so that Adilur's rights were not violated and he gets proper justice.

Ain o Salish Kendra said such arrests would negatively affect the independent works of human rights activists and their security and demanded that the government ensures Adilur's safety and security in police custody.

Terming freedom of expression as the key tool for good governance and democracy, Transparency International Bangladesh urged the government to refrain from such activities and behave responsibly with arrestees.

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development expressed concerned over Adilur's physical security. "The government must swiftly remedy the situation and provide an enabling and safe environment for the legitimate work of human rights defenders," it said.

The other organisations include Bikalpadhara Bangladesh, Human Rights Forum, the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances, Doctors Association of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Sammilita Peshajibi Parishad, Islami Chhatra Shibir and Islami Oikya Jote. American Center Director Viraj LeBailly commented that in a democracy, it was essential that the government create an environment where organisations like Odhikar can freely operate.

"We have reached out to the government for an explanation of Adilur's detention, noting that the human rights activist's detention is reverberating negatively around the world, where the work of Odhikar and other human rights organisations is widely appreciated," she said.



Streets of Dhaka city are yet to regain their usual hustle and bustle after the Eid holidays. The photo was taken at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue around noon yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia exchanges Eid greetings with a cross-section of people in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on Eid day.

PHOTO: BNP

### Compensate affected billboard owners

Badruddoza Chy asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Comparing the government's widespread use of billboards for projecting its successes to "grabbing of chars", Bikolpodhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday called upon the administration to compensate the affected billboard owners and seek apology from them.

In a statement, the former president strongly protested the incident, saying the administration should not have captured others' billboards like "grabbing of chars" for letting people know their so-called achievements.

In another statement, he demanded release of human rights activist and Odhikar Secretary Adilur Rahman. "This renowned person shouldn't have been arrested. At best, a case could've been filed against him. I consider this incident a violation of human rights," he said.

### MATIRANGA ARSON ATTACK

### Take action against perpetrators

Int'l Council for the Indigenous Peoples of CHT urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Council for the Indigenous Peoples of Chittagong Hill Tracts (ICIP-CHT) has urged the government to take legal action against the perpetrators of the recent arson attack on indigenous communities in Matiranga upazila of Khagrachhari.

It also called for proper compensation for the victims and necessary steps to prevent such attacks on indigenous communities, said a press release.

On August 3, houses of indigenous community families in Matiranga upazila were torched and looted allegedly by Bangalee settlers

following the "abduction" of a motorbike rider, Md Kamal, 32, in Taindang area.

Following the attack, a total of 380 families of indigenous Tripura community fled and took shelter in neighbouring area, according to Kapeeng Foundation, a human rights organisation for indigenous people.

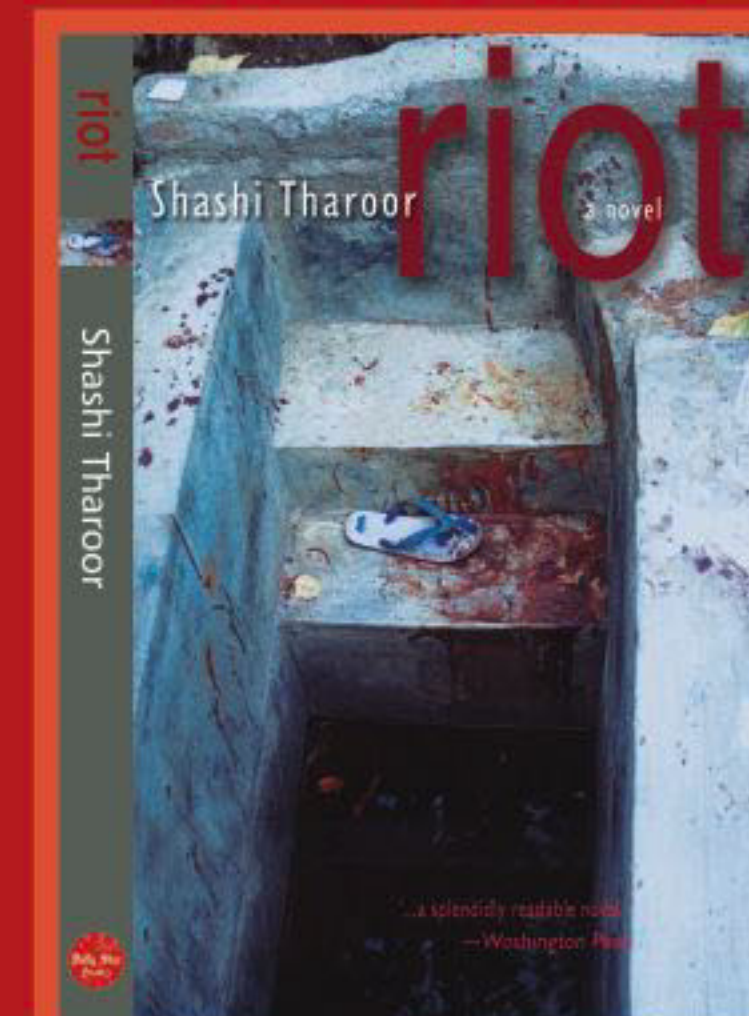
ICIP-CHT also urged the international community, including the United Nations, to raise concerns with Bangladesh to establish rule of law, restore human rights, and rights of indigenous people in the CHT and assist in rebuilding homes and livelihoods of the victims.



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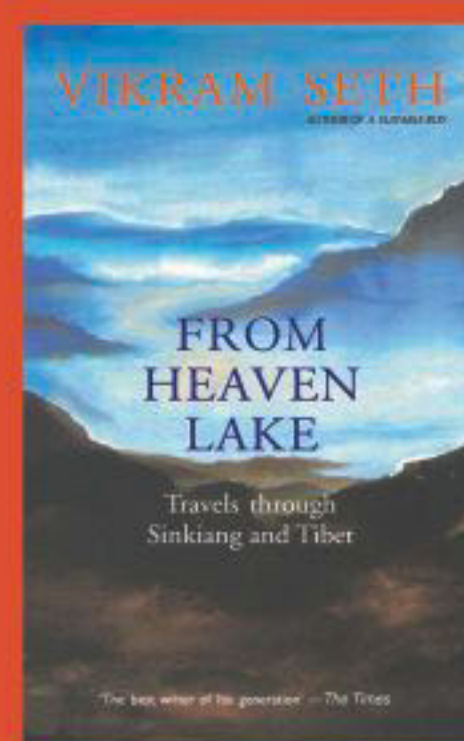
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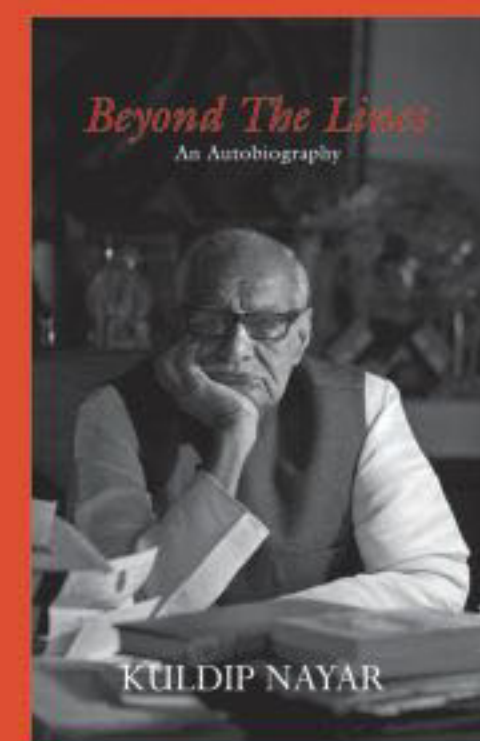
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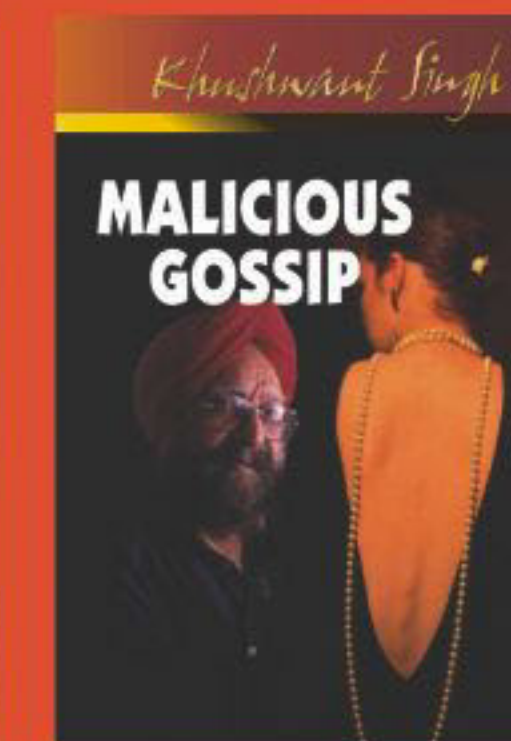
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