



On the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, the country is alive with the spirit of celebration. From the bustling capital to the tranquil Kirtankhola riverbank and the fun filled Foy's Lake Concord Amusement World in Chattogram, families and friends gathered to revel in the joyous occasion.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS, TITU DAS, RAJIB RAIHAN

## Tourist spots abuzz with Eid holidaymakers

ARUN BIKASH DEY and SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Many recreational places in the port city were seen abuzz with visitors of different walks of life on Eid holidays. As the weather was favourable with no rain, recreational places saw a huge turnout of visitors. Foy's Lake Concord Amusement World was a popular destination for Chattogram residents. Many people came with families while many others came with friends since the afternoon of the Eid day. Ashrafal Huq came to the park with his wife and daughter on Sunday, the second day of Eid. He said he has to live in Dhaka for his job and came to Chattogram to celebrate Eid. "My wife and daughter wanted to come to this park. They enjoyed their time at sea world of this park," he said. Contacted, Bishwajit Ghosh, deputy manager (marketing) of Foy's Lake Concord Amusement World, said, "Around 20,000 visitors came here in the past three days." The Chattogram Zoo was another sought after place for the people to get amusement during Eid vacation. Visitors, especially children, enjoyed their time here, said officials of the zoo. Rashna Sharmin, a resident of city's Panchlaish area, came to visit the zoo with her six-year-old son Sadman. "My son likes kangaroos as he saw them on Animal Planet TV channel. I am also amused to see white tigers at the zoo," he said. Shahadat Hossain Suvo, curator of Chattogram Zoo, said the zoo saw a turnout of 13,000 visitors on Saturday,

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## Convicted war criminal held in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion has arrested a convicted war criminal from Golapganj in Sylhet.



Md Abdul Matin has been sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal for committing crimes against humanity in 1971. Matin, now 70, took training in India for the Liberation War, but later joined the Razakar Bahini (Pakistani collaborators) and committed war crimes. A team of Rab-3 arrested Matin from the residence of his nephew in Golapganj on Sunday night.

His arrest comes seven years after he went into hiding following a warrant, Lt Col Arif Mohiuddin Ahmed, Rab-3 commanding officer, told reporters at the battalion headquarters yesterday.

Five charges of crime against humanity including murder, genocide, kidnapping, torture, looting, arson and rape in 1971 were brought against Abdul Matin and his brother Abdul Aziz, who was also sentenced to death in the case.

Aziz was arrested earlier. Both the brothers, hailing from Pakhiala village in Moulvibazar's Barlekha upazila, received Liberation War training in India and later escaped to Barlekha and joined Razakar force, the Rab officer said.

## 5 of a family hurt as auto-rickshaw catches fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Five members of a family, including children aged eight and three years, suffered burn injuries after a CNG-run auto-rickshaw caught fire in Chattogram's Bakalia area yesterday.

The family were travelling on the auto-rickshaw to visit relatives on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. The injured -- Bilkis Begum, 28, Josna Begum, 28, Sathi Akter, 17, Jannat, 8, and Kainat, 3 -- were admitted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital's burn unit, said Bakalia Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Abdur Rahim.

The gas cylinder of the vehicle exploded due to the fire, he said. Locals doused the flame and rushed the injured to CMCH.

## 10 YEARS OF RANA PLAZA TRAGEDY

# When everything comes crashing down

How a survivor's life turned into a series of unending struggles

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Ten years have passed since the collapse of Rana Plaza, but for Sabujan, a survivor of the tragedy, the wounds of that fateful day still run deep. Her life, once filled with hope and dreams, has turned into a never-ending struggle. Her story is one of heartbreak, loss, and resilience in the face of unimaginable adversity.

Sabujan had joined a garment factory inside Rana Plaza with the hope of changing her family's fortunes. However, within eight months of her employment at the factory, her world came crashing down. She was rescued from under the rubble nine hours after the building collapsed, but her injuries were severe, and her life changed forever.

After receiving treatment at a hospital in Savar, Sabujan returned to her ancestral home in Chapainawabganj. However, due to high treatment costs, she had to return to Dhaka to receive free treatment at Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP). The CRP provided her with initial treatment, rehabilitation therapy, family support, and vocational training.

However, Sabujan's struggles did not end there. Her husband Moktar Hossain, a day labourer, was diagnosed with cancer, and



the family spent everything they had on his treatment. Despite their best efforts, they could not save him, and Sabujan was left to pick up the pieces.

Following her husband's passing, Sabujan completely broke down, and it took a while for her to get back to normal. Along with treatment, Sabujan was given vocational training at the CRP and was taught how to run a stationery store. However, the Covid-19 lockdown was yet another blow, as the shop's sales plummeted, leaving the family struggling to make ends meet.

Despite all the hardships Sabujan has faced, she has not lost her spirit of resilience. She has tried her best to provide for her family with the little income that comes from the shop.

However, their situation

remains dire. Sabujan currently lives in a small cob house with a corroded tin shed roof. The only financial support she receives is a monthly widow's allowance of Tk 500 from the government.

Sabujan's plight has caught the attention of many, including Carolyn Scott, president of Friends of CRP-Canada Society, who met with Sabujan during a visit to Rana Plaza victims. Carolyn was moved by Sabujan's story. She also believes that Sabujan is in a very precarious situation.

Sabujan's story is not just about the struggles of one woman; it is about the thousands of survivors who continue to suffer the consequences of the Rana Plaza tragedy. It is not only a story of resilience, but also a story of neglect and abandonment.

## Rana Plaza victims remembered

STAR REPORT

Relatives, injured workers and leaders and activists of different labour organisations yesterday gathered to honour the memory of the victims of the Rana Plaza tragedy.

Every year on April 24, the day when the building housing a garment factory collapsed in 2013, they gather at the site in memory of the deceased and raise demands for worker rights and punishment for the culprits.

At least 1,136 workers were killed and over 2,438 were injured in the tragedy.

Yesterday, the relatives, workers and activists paid homage by placing flowers at the makeshift altar in front of the plaza.

They held separate meetings and rallies there. This year, they organised programmes to press home seven-point demands, reports our Savar correspondent.

The demands include maximum punishment for all the culprits, including Rana Plaza building owner Sohel Rana, immediate wage board for 40 lakh garment workers who are representing the deceased workers of Rana Plaza, and Tk 25,000 wage for workers.

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## Pabna celebrates as its 'son of soil' takes oath as president

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

People from all walks of life in Pabna yesterday celebrated the swearing-in of Md Shahabuddin as the 22nd president of Bangladesh.

Pabna district unit Awami League arranged a big screen showing of the oath-taking ceremony at the Awami League office.

After that, a joyous procession was arranged and sweets were distributed.

A doa mahfil was also held at the district Awami League office seeking a long life and success of the new president.

"The people of Pabna are happy and proud that Md Shahabuddin, a man of the soil and people, has taken over as the president of Bangladesh," Pabna District Awami League President Rezaur Rahim Lal said.



The people of Pabna believe that the president will play a role in building a smart Bangladesh as well as contribute to the socio-economic development of his home district, the AL leader said.

"He is a great man in the political arena of Pabna. He did not bow down to anyone in politics. He didn't compromise," Rezaul Rahim Lal said about the new president.

Journalists in the Pabna press club also distributed sweetmeat. President Shahabuddin started his career as a journalist before joining the judiciary service.

As a columnist, he also wrote articles for

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## Jabbarer Boli Khela today

Baishakhi Mela kicks off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Baishakhi Mela, a three-day fair held to observe the first month of Bangla New Year, began yesterday at Laldighi Maidan in Chattogram city.

Traders from various regions have already set up their stalls, covering a 1.5km stretch from Anderkill Intersection to Kotwali Intersection.

The Baishakhi Mela is organised by Abdul Jabbar Smriti Wrestling Competition and Baishakhi Mela Celebration Parishad. The fair includes the traditional boli khela (wrestling competition), which will take place on the second day of the fair.

It is the 114th edition of the event that started in 1909 AD by a local merchant Abdul Jabbar Saudagar, to prepare the Chattogram youth for the anti-British movement by keeping them physically fit.

Traders from different parts of the country have set up temporary shops, selling all kinds of handicrafts, including household and kitchen utensils, pottery, toys, sweets, brooms, rugs, furniture, wood and bamboo-made showpieces, cane items, tree saplings, and fishing nets.

Visitors have already started coming to the fair, and the sales are expected to gain momentum as the days progress.



At the vibrant Baishakhi Mela in Chattogram city's Laldighi Maidan yesterday, a woman indulges in the traditional delight of "Murali", a popular snack made with molasses, as she explores the bustling market stalls. Inset, a child beams with excitement as their face is painted with colourful design, adding to the festive atmosphere.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN