

# BANGLADESH-MYANMAR BORDER Rohingya man killed in suspected landmine blast

AFP, Dhaka  
A Rohingya man was killed in a suspected landmine blast along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, officials said yesterday.  
Nearly one million Rohingyas have been living in camps in southeast Bangladesh after fleeing a military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state.  
Dhaka has previously accused Myanmar security forces of planting mines along the frontier to prevent the refugees from returning -- a charge Myanmar rejects.  
A loud explosion was heard early yesterday in Ghumdum border area, although the blast appeared to have occurred inside Myanmar, Border Guard Bangladesh regional commander Ali Haider Azad Ahmed told AFP.  
"Our men heard the sound which was apparently of a landmine blast. The man's body was lying near the border," he told AFP.  
Officials said the victim was Abdul Majid, a refugee in his 20s from Kutupalong camp, the world's largest refugee camp, in Cox's Bazar.  
Dil Mohammad, a Rohingya community leader who lives in the tiny strip of no man's land in a small settlement of 4,000 of the stateless minority, said it took place near their makeshift homes.  
"This is very frightening for us," he told AFP.  
Myanmar troops have been accused of waging an ethnic cleansing campaign against the Muslim minority, with some 740,000 fleeing to Bangladesh since August 2017.  
At the height of the mass exodus when tens of thousands of Rohingyas poured into Bangladesh every day, several were killed or seriously hurt in suspected landmine explosions along the border.

## Neo-JMB cell

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substances that have been recovered.  
Saiful said the explosives seemed similar to those exploded in Dhaka recently.  
On April 29, two traffic police constables and a community traffic policeman were injured in a blast in the capital's Gulistan. Later on May 26, two people, including a female police officer, were injured when a bomb went off near a police pickup near Malibagh intersection.  
On August 31, two policemen were injured when another bomb went off at Science Lab intersection.  
Besides, IEDs were recovered in the capital's Paltan and Khamarbari areas on July 24.  
Talking to reporters after the den was busted yesterday, CTTC chief Monirul Islam claimed that the arrestees were directly involved in planning and "executing the incidents".  
He said they were investigating to

trace the others involved.  
Unarmed policemen and police petrol teams were the militants' target as the law enforcers were working hard to destroy their networks, he added.  
**CONTROLLED EXPLOSIONS**  
Five CTTC teams took part in the drive yesterday. Early in the day, the CTTC officials along with members of the district police cordoned off the one-storey building.  
The bomb disposal team of the CTTC reached the spot around 10:45am and detonated five IEDs in phases. The first controlled explosion was carried out at 12:57pm while the last one at 2:09pm, said CTTC officials.  
The explosions blew off part of the roof of the house. At that time, a fire broke out and it was extinguished by firefighters.  
Before the blasts, CTTC officials shifted 17 families to safety.  
**'FOOTAGE'**  
CTTC chief Monirul said the toy guns recovered yesterday resembled the ones seen held by militants in a recent IS footage.  
"We are also suspecting that the vests recovered from the house were used for recording video footage. We are also trying to find whether those were suicide vests," he said.  
A top CTTC official told The Daily Star that some members of the "Neo-JMB" cell were trying to establish communication with the IS. "We have traced a cell member, who is living in Yemen," he said.  
Meanwhile, the authorities of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology suspended Rumeed following his arrest, said Muhammad Abdul Gafur, registrar of the private university.  
"We never found anything suspicious in his behaviour and he was regular at work. We are surprised to know that he was involved in militant activities," he said.



## BB asks banks to freeze accounts

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firearms, a huge amount of ammunition, Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) worth Tk 165 crore, around Tk 1.8 crore in cash, stash of US and Singaporean dollars, and some foreign liquor, officials said.  
Seven of his armed bodyguards were also arrested.  
Although there were many photos in social media in which Shamim is seen alongside senior Awami League leaders, ministers, and former and incumbent police and Rab officials, the Awami League and Jubo League leaders were quick to disown him after his arrest.  
Shafaath Hossain, marketing manager of Shamim's firm GKB & Company (Pvt) Ltd, said they were handling 15 large construction projects of the government that involves around Tk 3,000 crore.  
The projects include construction of the Rab Headquarters in Ashkona, the Revenue Building in Agargaon, the Artha Building and two 25-storey buildings at the Secretariat, the National Institute of Traumatology Orthopedic and Rehabilitation, the Neuro Science Building, and the NGO Foundation in Agargaon, he added.  
In a separate order yesterday, the BFIU asked all banks to freeze accounts of Khaled who was arrested for running "casinos" at a football club in Fakirerpool.  
Bangladesh Bank yesterday also asked banks to send by today detailed information of past and present bank accounts of nine other people.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina being greeted by Bangladeshi expatriates upon her arrival at the Lotte New York Palace hotel on Sunday. She reached New York earlier in the day to attend the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly. PHOTO: PTI

# Nepali staffers sneaked in as RMG traders

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The Daily Star could not independently verify whether the letter pad was authentic.  
Contacted, the proprietor of the buying house claimed that he was not Babu Lal.  
"I am Jahangir Alam and I didn't invite any Nepalis for business purposes this year.  
He added that he is the lone proprietor of the buying house and he has no partnership with anyone.  
"I had written an invitation letter for two Nepalis in 2016 as I had business with them. But the names you mentioned, I don't know them," Jahangir said, suspecting that there may be a fake copy of his buying house letter pad.  
The website of the buying house was also found hacked yesterday.  
Jahangir said that he would contact the domain provider to find out when his website was hacked.  
Riyad Hossain, whose cell phone number was mentioned in the company pad of the garment factory, claimed his name and mobile number were correct but he didn't do any job for any garments factory and he didn't write the letter.  
"I am now a student at Dhaka College and I give tuition classes," he added.  
The documents found in Mohammedan Sporting Club have raised questions regarding how the visas were obtained if the letters were fake.  
Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, director (in-charge) of the club, said they rented out the space under "political pressure"

and didn't know what was happening inside.  
Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Motijheel Division) Anwar Hossain, who led the raid at the club on Sunday, said the matter was under investigation and he could not comment until it was complete.  
The Daily Star could not reach Bangladesh Ambassador in Kathmandu Mashfee Binte Shams, despite several attempts to call her on messaging applications for comments.  
**'POLICE HELPED THEM FLEE'**  
A CCTV footage of an apartment building in the capital's Segunbagicha area showed that 15 Nepalis, who reportedly worked in casinos, fled from the building early Thursday when Rab conducted a crackdown in the casinos at Fakirerpool Young Men's Club and Dhaka Wanderers Club in Motijheel area.  
The six Nepalis were also among them.  
The footage showed that three plainclothes men with walkie-talkies entered the building -- "Summit Hasan Lodge" -- around 10:48pm on Wednesday night.  
At the entrance, they introduced themselves as policemen and told the security guard to take them where the Nepalis were staying.  
The guard, Uzzal, took them to the flat. Uzzal was not allowed inside.  
The three left the building around 11:28pm with a bag.

Around 1:46am, 15 Nepalis were seen leaving the building with luggage.  
Belayet Hossain, an owner of a flat in the building, said the Nepalis rented the flat on the 5th floor around two months ago for a monthly rent of Tk 40,000.  
A Bangladeshi man named Masum introduced himself as a trainer of Mohammedan Sporting Club and helped the Nepalis rent the flat, he said.  
"I am just work in the club. My NID was used to rent the flat for the Nepali staffers," Masum said.  
When renting the apartments, Masum, however, did not provide any information about Nepali tenants in the tenants' registration form, police said.  
Investigators have found direct or indirect involvement of about 100 foreign nationals, mostly Nepalis, in Bangladesh's illegal casino business, which is currently facing a crackdown by law enforcement agencies.  
They are either partners in the casinos, employees hired to operate the gambling machines or hired to manage the businesses, said police.  
Azimul Haque, additional deputy commissioner of police (Ramna Division), visited the building yesterday and told reporters that they would investigate the footage and take action if they found any policemen involved.  
The country woke up to this underworld operation when Rab conducted a crackdown on Wednesday, finding Las Vegas style gambling rackets dealing with crores of taka.

Everybody knew, nobody opposed  
About the drive at Fu-Wang Club, executive magistrate Abdullah al Mamun, who led the raid, said the club had the licence to run a bar. But the club was found closed as it was under maintenance.  
No gambling equipment was found on the premises during the raid.  
Meanwhile, Officer-in-Charge of Hatirjheel police station Abdur Rashid said they, along with DB police, raided Piyashi Bar and Golden Dragon yesterday evening to verify whether those operate any "casinos", but found nothing illegal.

# Everybody knew, nobody opposed

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After he made the proposal, it was discussed at a meeting. There was opposition, but we could not take any steps against the 'casino' as the club was getting some Tk 30,000 to 40,000 per day [from it]," the veteran Victoria official told the Daily Star yesterday.  
In regards to who knew what, no answers were forthcoming.  
The Victoria Club official did not disclose who operated the "casino".  
Mohammedan Director Lokman Hossain was also reluctant to disclose the identity of the politicians who apparently pressured the clubs to allow the gambling dens.  
"You also know who they are. Look at the newspapers and you will find the names," he told this correspondent.  
"I even went into hiding for a few days [because of the situation] ...," said the Mohammedan top official, adding that the "casino" at the club had a separate entry gate.  
When asked if the other club directors were aware of the casino, he claimed everyone except the president knew but "we did not discuss it in the meetings" and no kind of consensus among them was reached on the matter.  
"I have said before [on Wednesday] that we closed the 'casino' after hearing about the government stance on this illegal business. It is true that we were getting a small amount of money from them as rent and spending it to run the club because it has no other income source."  
To run a top-tier football club, as these clubs often do, at least Tk 5 crore needs to be invested.  
Dhaka South City Corporation

(DSCC) Councillor AKM Mominul Haque Shaheed, who holds the president's post of both Arambagh and Dilkusha Sporting clubs -- both of which were raided for housing gambling dens -- said the entire situation was a collective failure.  
Talking to this reporter over phone from Singapore, where he is currently attending to his ailing son, he said as president of both clubs he could not deny his responsibility, but there were others to blame as well.  
While he did not give names, he pointed fingers at those in positions of power, alluding to the fact that they all knew what was happening.  
"As playing cards and housie at the clubs have been a common phenomenon, I really did not pay heed when the 'casinos' sprung up. But now who will take the responsibility for it?  
"More or less everyone is responsible. As a president, councillor and a social worker I also have some responsibility, but so does the mayor, MPs, DCs, the police commissioner and intelligence departments. Everyone has errors and no one can avoid responsibility," he said.  
The revelation of "casinos" housed in such historic clubs has also become a source of disappointment for those associated with these bodies.  
"I feel ashamed and insulted because of the casino issue. I was known as Tipu of Mohammedan but if I now say I once played for the famous club, the younger generation might consider me a good poker player only," said Golam Sarwar Tipu,

a mainstay in Mohammedan football team back in its heady days in the 70s.  
Tipu also said he had always considered the Motijheel club as his second home, but was shocked to hear of the gambling dens.  
Sources said leaders of different associate bodies of the ruling party have long been involved in running such "casinos".  
The country woke up to this underworld operation during a single crackdown by the Rab on Wednesday.  
At least five clubs in Dhaka city were raided on that day and 182 people, including a Jubo League leader, were arrested. Fakirerpool Young Men's Club and Dhaka Wanderers Club were sealed off.  
Mohammedan Sporting Club, Victoria Sporting Club, Arambagh Sporting Club and Dilkusha Sporting Club in Motijheel area were raided by police on Sunday.  
**DRIVE CONTINUES**  
Joint teams of the Detective Branch (DB) of police and police stations concerned yesterday raided Fu-Wang Club in Tejgaon Industrial area, Piyashi Bar in Moghbazar and Golden Dragon Bar in Eskaton area in the capital.  
No one was, however, arrested and nothing was seized in the drives launched following information on possible gambling activities.  
Earlier on Sunday night, police raided three spa centres on three floors of Navana Tower in Gulshan and arrested 19 people, including 16 women.  
Police said the arrests came in the light of "illicit activities" going on at the centres.

**Tigers look**  
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all-important final.  
Bangladesh also have injury concerns ahead of the final. Leg-spinner Aminul Islam, who debuted during Bangladesh's match against Zimbabwe in Chattogram last Wednesday, has also been rendered uncertain for today's game after picking up a left-hand injury in the only game he played in the tournament.  
Bangladesh were defeated convincingly by Afghanistan when the two sides first met in the tournament at the same ground on September 15. However, the Shakib Al Hasan led side has since bounced back from that 25-run defeat with magnificent outings in Chattogram, where the Tigers won both the matches played in the port city.  
Although the likes of Shakib and Mahmudullah Riyad have been amongst the runs in the tournament so far, the main concern for the Tigers remains their opening partnership as Nazmul Hossain and Liton Das have not been consistent at the top.

# Countries need

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to formulate healthcare financing strategy for each country could be an important tool to achieve UHC and ultimately SDGs by 2030," she said.  
The PM was addressing the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage.  
Hasina along with her Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez co-chaired the programme held at ECOSOC Chamber of the UN Headquarters.  
The PM said, "Inclusive development and progress mean two things -- everyone, irrespective of his or her social background, must get equal opportunity; and everyone must have equal access to the common benefits and resources."  
She said only generating growth and creating wealth are not enough for progress and wellbeing unless the access to and distribution of the wealth are just and proper.  
"We've found out that securing universal health coverage is one of the pre-conditions for establishing a righteous and fair society as our health equates to our existence. While adopting Agenda 2030 in 2015, we committed that all individuals and communities should be able to receive essential health services."  
Although there has been some major progress, half the world's population still lacks access to necessary health services. About 100 million people are pushed into extreme poverty each year because of health expenses, and 800 million people spend at least 10 percent or more of their household budget on healthcare expenses, Hasina said.  
She said disadvantaged people often cannot access services from privately-owned health care providers resulting in inequity in overall healthcare benefits.  
The PM said a lack of equity and absence of inclusive development may bring political instability and serious erosion of social cohesion.  
The equity in healthcare services could be ensured through Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by reaching to the poorest segment of the society with affordable and efficient healthcare services, Hasina added.  
"We need to ensure that no family is forced into poverty because of health care expenses."  
In Bangladesh, the PM said, the government has established about 14,000 Community Clinics across the country to provide primary healthcare to rural areas.  
She said some 40 patients take services from each community clinic per day and 90 percent of them are women and children. On average, more than 10 million visits are made to these community clinics every month.  
Michelle Bachelet, UN high commissioner for human rights; Winnie Byanyima, executive director of Oxfam International; and Prof Jeffrey Sachs, director at the Center for Sustainable Development of Colombia University were among the panelists of the event.  
Earlier, Hasina arrived in New York on Sunday afternoon (local time) on an eight-day official visit to the USA to attend the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). She will deliver the country statement at the 74th Annual General Debate of the UNGA on Friday.

## UGC asked

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Nevertheless, students staying on the campus faced trouble as the authorities did not restore water supply and dining facilities at the dorms.  
In the wake of ongoing students' movement, the authorities on Saturday declared a 10-day vacation ahead of Durga Puja and asked the students to vacate dormitories by 10:00am.  
As the students refused to give in, the authorities severed power and water connections to the dorms after 10:00am.  
Later in the day, a group of "hired goons" attacked students who were on their way to campus to join the protest programme, leaving 20 students including three journalists injured.  
Protesting the attacks, assistant proctor of the university Assistant Proctor Humayun Kabir resigned from his post.  
**WHY ARE THE STUDENTS PROTESTING?**  
Several thousand students have been demonstrating for the VC's removal, bringing allegations against him of sexual harassment, nepotism in recruiting teachers and other employees, and corruption in development projects, including the construction of the Shaheed Minar and Bangabandhu's mural on the campus.  
The demonstrators said the university authorities suspended students and served show-cause notices to those teachers whose speeches or statements go against them.  
Fatema Tuz Zinia, a second-year student of law department and a campus reporter of The Daily Sun, was a victim of suspension for a Facebook post.  
Amid countrywide protests, university authorities withdrew the suspension order on September 18.