

## Police bust firearms den, arrest one

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police busted a firearm-making den, arrested a man and seized 17 locally made guns and gun-making materials in Raozan upazila of Chattogram early yesterday.

The arrestee is Md Alamgir of East Raozan area. He was running the den, said police.

He is accused in at least 17 cases filed with Raozan, Panchlaish, and Chandgaon police stations over robbery, murder and illegal use of guns, they added.

The incident took place on a hill called Ghora Samsur Tila at East Raozan around 12am.

"We have seized a variety of guns, cartridges and a huge amount of gun-making materials, which

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Clockwise from left, commuters walk on Dhaka's Mayor Hanif Flyover, as transport workers went on an indefinite strike protesting the newly enforced Road Transport Act. In Chattogram's city gate area, demonstrating workers assault a CNG-run autorickshaw driver for plying the streets during strike, while protesters obstruct buses in signboard area on Dhaka-Chattogram highway. The photos were taken yesterday.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON, RAJIB RAIHAN

## PM to attend UN climate confce in Spain

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the 25th UN Climate Change Conference, to be held in Madrid, Spain next month.

The 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP25) will convene on December 2, officials said. The premier is likely to leave for Madrid on November 30. She will return home on December 4.

Earlier, Chile announced that it was withdrawing as host of the upcoming COP25, citing the impact of ongoing anti-government protests there.

Yesterday, the German embassy in Dhaka in collaboration with the British High Commission, British Council and GLZ, launched a photo exhibition with the theme "Climate Change -- Time

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## GAS EXPLOSION AT CTG

# Five victims fighting for life

MOHAMMAD SUMAN and ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Noakhali residents Md Ismail (30), Md Yusuf (30) and Md Rakib (28), came to port city in early November in search of work.

Two weeks went by, but the three friends could not find anything. Meanwhile, the money they had was almost finished. So, they decided to head back home.

On the morning of November 17, they went to Kadamtoli Bus Terminal to catch a bus bound for Noakhali. There were about to board one when Ismail received a call from his father-in-law. He told them to go to Sadarghat as he managed some work for them there.

They were relieved. They hopped on a rickshaw and started heading to their destination. Finally, after so many days of desperation and disappointment, their luck will change, they thought.

When the rickshaw -- carrying the three friends lost in conversation amid hope for a better life -- was crossing Patharghata Brickfield Road, a massive gas explosion occurred at a house and chunk of the building's wall fell on

them.

The rickshaw-puller died on the spot and the three were injured critically.

They are being treated at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

On the day, seven passers-by -- two women and five men -- were crushed to death as concrete walls fell on them following the explosion, which took place on the ground floor of the five-storey building.

The explosion also left at least 15 injured.

Among them, condition of five persons -- Sandhya Rani Devi, 45, and the three -- are critical. Another victim, Arpita Nath, 15, was referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The rest were admitted to various hospitals in the city. Most of them were released as they suffered minor injuries.

Visiting the CMCH casualty ward yesterday, this newspaper saw Ismail was getting blood transfusion.

Ismail, who suffered from polio during his early childhood, said, "I came to Chattogram hoping to find work. I was about to head back home

to my family... but everything changed all of a sudden..."

Even though critically injured, he kept thinking about his five-member family. "I'm the only bread-earner in my family..." he said in a worried voice.

His two friends were receiving treatment next to him.

Not too far from them, Sandhya laid on a bed. She lived in the two-room house where the explosion took place.

After her husband passed away last year, she had been living with her sister's family and taking care of her nephew and niece. On the day of the incident, she and her niece Arpita were injured in the blast.

The doctor said she is suffering from internal bleeding and needed blood transfusion frequently.

Her nephew Arnab Nath was sitting beside her. "Even now, when she is fighting for her life, she is asking about my sister Arpita," he said.

Rivu Raj Chakraborty, head of CMCH casualty ward, said the injured are under close observation.

Arpita, who sustained 30 percent burns, was shifted to DMCH on Sunday, said doctors.

## Police constable killed in Cumilla road accident

STAR REPORT

A police constable was killed and two officers were injured after a truck rammed their microbus at Dhanaitori area in Sadar South upazila of Cumilla at 11:05 pm on Tuesday night.

Nur Hossain was declared dead after being rushed to Cumilla Medical College Hospital. Injured ASI Mohsin Mia and constable Ismail were also admitted to the hospital, said Md Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Cumilla Sadar South Police Station.

All officers involved in the accident were appointed under Cumilla Sadar South Police Station, he said. Police seized the truck.

Meanwhile, in Dinajpur, two people were killed on the spot after a truck hit their motorcycle near Mohandpur bridge in Chirirbandar upazila around 9:30pm on Tuesday, said police, quoting witnesses.

The deceased are Ashiqur Rahman (35), a Jubo League activist, and Debesh Chandra Roy (30).

Police recovered their bodies and handed them over to their families.

## Rohingya youth held at Ctg passport office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Officials of Panchlaish Passport Office in port city yesterday foiled another bid by a Rohingya youth to get a Bangladeshi passport through submitting fake documents.

The officials detained and handed him over to Panchlaish Police Station. The arrestee is Mohammad Shah, 20, said police.

On Tuesday, a Rohingya youth and Bangladeshi broker were arrested over similar charges.

Masum Hasan, deputy director of Panchlaish Passport Office, told The Daily Star, "The Rohingya youth applied for an emergency passport introducing him as a resident of port city's Sulakbahar area."

"While he was submitting his documents, officials challenged him and eventually found that the documents were forged. There was a broker with him, who managed to flee," he added.

To avoid suspicion, the youth submitted a citizenship certificate, signed by Sulakbahar ward councillor, a birth certificate mentioning his village home in Satkania upazila and a copy of utility bill, said the deputy director.

"He got caught when his fingerprints matched the one in the Rohingya database," said Masum.

Talking to The Daily Star at the passport office, Mohammad Shah said he hailed from Teknaf. "I contacted a broker at the passport office. He prepared all the documents and charged me Tk 9,000 for that."

According to the Rohingya database, Mohammed Shah's reference Id is 10120171115135418.

Inspector (investigation) Md Shahadat Hossain of Panchlaish Police Station said a case was filed in this regard.

In last few months, Rohingyas being detained with Bangladeshi passports and NID cards have been hogging the headlines. Law enforcers said Rohingyas managed NID cards and passports with the help of some local agents in exchange of a huge amount of money.



Md Yusuf undergoing treatment at Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Patient dies after jumping off hospital building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A patient died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) early yesterday, after she jumped off a three-storey building of the hospital.

Jesmin Ara (27), from Bagmara upazila, had been suffering from mental health issues that were triggered by a rare autoimmune disease, said Dr Saiful Ferdous, a deputy director of the hospital.

Jesmin was admitted to the hospital on November 13. She was receiving treatment under Associate Professor Md Mahbubur Rahman Khan of internal medicine department.

She was diagnosed with Lupus, which made her suffer through immense pain and inflammation all over her body, Mahbubur said.

Lupus is a disease that prompts the body's immune system to attack the body itself. There is currently no cure for the disease. Patients are treated by suppressing the symptoms.

"Under these circumstances, we all try to keep a watch on the patient, as their behaviour is likely to be irrational," he

said.

Jesmin's husband Asadul Islam said she was admitted to ward 38, which is located on the top floor of the three-storey building.

Asadul saw Jesmin for the last time at midnight. She had asked him to go to sleep as he hadn't slept for the last three nights while staying beside her.

He then went out of the hospital, asking Jesmin's aunt Guljan Begum to be with her.

Quoting Guljan, Asadul said Jesmin had asked Guljan to go to sleep around 1:30am. After sleeping for three hours, Guljan woke up to find that Jesmin was not in the room.

Guljan then noticed the door of the hospital's balcony was open. After looking down from the balcony, she saw Jesmin's body lying in a pool of blood on the ground.

"She bore a fatal head injury, which we think was from the fall," said Shahadat Hossain Khan, officer-in-charge of Rajpara Police Station.

Her body was sent to the hospital's morgue for autopsy.

## ILLEGAL WEALTH Councillor Sayeed sued

UNB, Dhaka

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against AKM Mominul Haque Sayeed, ward-9 councillor of Dhaka South City Corporation.

Sayeed, also proprietor of "Baishakhi Enterprise", acquired around Tk 4.5 crore through illegal means, including casino business, Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, public relations officer of ACC, told the news agency.

ACC Assistant Director Ataur Rahman filed the case with its head office.

He was removed from office last month for "absence in DSCC meetings and staying abroad without permission". The move came weeks after reports surfaced that Sayeed was involved in illegal casino business in the capital.



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