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প্রথম ঢাকা এলিভেটেড এক্সপ্রেসওয়ের শুভসূচনা

সিমেন্ট ও রেডিমিক্স কংক্রিট  
অন্যতম নিরাপত্তা সহযোগী

**শাহ সিমেন্ট**

## Counter anti-govt propaganda on social media

PM asks party leaders

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday told her party leaders to spend at least half an hour on social media every day fighting anti-government propaganda.

She asked them to keep the coming election in mind and launch a fiery campaign on social media highlighting the multitude of achievements of the government as the opposition is out to spread lies.

"We made digital Bangladesh. Now, they are using it to spread propaganda," the prime minister said when around 40 AL central committee members and top leaders of the party's associate bodies met her at the Gono Bhaban.

"Activists and leaders of the Awami League and its associate bodies have defeated the anti-liberation force BNP Jamaat on the streets.... Now, [we] have to be more active to win the war in cyberspace," multiple attendees of the meeting quoted Hasina as saying.



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A child dressed like Krishna is being carried by a man dressed as Vasudeva, Krishna's father, during a Janmashtami parade. The celebratory procession started out from Dhakeshwari temple in the capital. The photo was taken when it reached Palashir Mor around 3:00pm yesterday. Janmashtami is an annual Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Krishna.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## DU student rescued over 6 hours after abduction

STAR REPORT

A Dhaka University student was rescued around seven hours after a group of unidentified armed people abducted her from Rangamati's Sijok Chora area yesterday.

The student, Dipita Chakma, 23, of Khagrachhari, is a master's student of DU's public administration department.

She was on her way to Sajek with other students of her department for their annual tour.

Mir Abu Tauhid, superintendent of police in Rangamati, said they rescued her from Daripara area around 7:15pm, while the abduction took place around 12:30pm.

"We rescued the student around 7:15pm and handed her over to her family. What we learned from her is that

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## ONE-POINT MOVEMENT BNP to march thru capital September 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will take out mass processions in the capital on September 9 as part of its one-point movement demanding the resignation of the government and a non-partisan administration for the next national election.

BNP's Dhaka south and north city units will bring out separate processions to press home the one-point demand, said Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, party senior joint secretary general, while announcing the programme at a press conference at its Nayapaltan central office yesterday.

Its like-minded political parties, who have been waging a simultaneous anti-government movement, will also separately hold similar programmes.

The government is trying to divert people's attention from its one-point movement by highlighting Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus' trial, said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir earlier in the day.

**Its like-minded political parties will also separately hold similar programmes.**

"The issue of Prof Yunus is being highlighted due to personal vendetta .... Our main demand is that the government must resign. This issue is being brought to divert attention from that," he said in response to a journalist's question after the inauguration of a blood donation programme for dengue patients in the capital.

Fakhru alleged that the Awami League government was targeting rights activists and lawyers who stand by Prof Yunus.

"There is no scope to tell the truth in this country.

"A deputy attorney general is being dismissed or action is being taken against him for his stance in favour of Prof Yunus," Fakhru added.

## AL FACTIONAL CLASH

# 7-month-old among five hit by bullets

Say cops; 2 groups locked in gunfight over supremacy in Munshiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A seven-month-old baby was among the five people hit by shotgun pellets as two groups of local Awami League men engaged in a gunfight in Bakultala area of Munshiganj yesterday, said locals and police.

The baby named Tabassum Bin Nur was struck by several pellets in different parts of her body, said Tairan Mahmud, a medical officer at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Senior physicians will decide today how to treat her, he told reporters.

Tabassum's cousin Muhammad Jewel, 27, and a member of the feuding groups named Joy Mastan, 20, were also admitted at the DMCH with pellet injuries.

According to police and witnesses, the two local AL groups engaged in a gunfight over establishing supremacy around 6:30pm on Bakultala-Solarchar road.

Locals said one group led by Suruj Miah, general secretary of Adhara union AL, first shot a man known in the area as Joy Mastan, a member of the group led by Ward-3 AL President Ali Ahmed.

The two groups then started shooting at each other.

Meanwhile, a three-wheeler carrying

Tabassum, her mother Jonika Begum and Jewel got caught in the middle of the gun battle on the street, said family members.

They were returning home in the Syedpur area after shopping for Jewel's wedding which was supposed to take place on Friday, the family added.

Tabassum and Jewel were admitted to DMCH around 10:00pm, they added.

Driver of the three-wheeler, Jahirul Islam, 32, received minor injuries and was discharged by a Munshiganj hospital after primary treatment.

Two other injured individuals, Alvi, 17, and Rasel, 23, were admitted to a local hospital in Munshiganj.

Sumon Dev, superintendent of police in Munshiganj, said a police team was deployed in the area to bring the situation under control.

Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Munshiganj Police Station, said five people including a baby were injured in the gunfight, adding that police are looking for the suspects.

Local AL leader Ali Ahmed said his rivals within the party had shot Joy Mastan.

He added that the others who got injured were also shot by his rival group.

Suruj could not be contacted for comments.

## BUSINESS

### Jewellers depend on informal sources

The jewellery industry has apparently remained largely dependent on unauthorised channels for sourcing gold although there is no direct government bar on importing the precious metal. Industry insiders said taxes on legally imported gold were high, which was the main reason companies felt more comfortable sourcing gold through unauthorised channels.

Companies source gold by taking advantage of the National Board of Revenue's baggage rules and through other informal avenues, they added.

STORY ON BI

## Bangladesh hit by worst dengue outbreak on record Says World Health Organization

AFP, Geneva

Bangladesh is experiencing its most severe dengue outbreak on record, the World Health Organization said yesterday, partly blaming climate change for contributing to the spread of such mosquito-borne diseases.

Since the outbreak began in April, more than 135,000 dengue cases and 650 deaths have been recorded in the world's eighth most populous country, the UN agency said.

More than 300 deaths from dengue were reported last month alone, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told an online news conference. "The outbreak is putting huge pressure on the health system," he said.

While cases were beginning to decline in the capital Dhaka, they were increasing in other parts of the country, he added.

The WHO said it has deployed experts on the ground in Bangladesh, and is supporting authorities to strengthen surveillance, boost laboratory capacity and increase communication with affected communities.

Dengue is a disease endemic to tropical areas that causes high fevers, headaches, nausea, vomiting, muscle pain and, in the most serious cases, bleeding that can lead to death.

The WHO has warned that dengue -- and other diseases caused by mosquito-borne viruses such as chikungunya, yellow fever and Zika -- are spreading faster and further due to climate change.

The agency's alert and response director Abdi Mahamud told the conference that such outbreaks were a "canary in the coal mine of the climate crisis".

He said that a combination of factors including climate change and this year's El Nino warming weather pattern had contributed to severe dengue outbreaks in several areas including in Bangladesh and South America.

DENGUE CASES KEEP RISING OUTSIDE DHAKA -- PAGE 3

## EASTERN UKRAINE 17 killed in Russian strike

Zelensky condemns 'Russian evil'; Blinken visits Kyiv

REUTERS, Kyiv

At least 17 people were killed and many more were wounded in a Russian attack on the eastern Ukrainian city of Kostiantynivka yesterday as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Kyiv, Ukrainian officials said.

Footage circulated online by presidential officials showed people falling to the ground or running for cover after a huge explosion in front of them, seconds after some look up to the sky when they hear what sounds like a missile approaching.

President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned the attack, saying a market, shops and a pharmacy had been struck in the industrial city close to the battlefield. "This Russian evil must be defeated as soon as possible," Zelensky said on the Telegram messaging app.

Kostiantynivka is about 560 km from Kyiv, where Blinken was meeting Zelensky and other Ukrainian leaders on a visit intended to show support for

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A rickshaw garage has been set up encroaching upon the Kalyanpur canal in Goidertek area of the capital's Adabar. Illegal structures like this obstruct the flow of water in the canal, leading to waterlogging in many parts of the city during monsoon. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Roman-era swords, likely rebel booty, unearthed in Israel



REUTERS, Jerusalem

Four 1,900-year-old swords, complete with wooden and leather scabbards, have been discovered in a remote cave in an Israeli desert, leading archaeologists to believe they were the booty of Jews who rose up against Roman rule.

The fashioning of three of the blades recalls Roman "spatha" swords, and the fourth has a ring-pommel handle consistent with the period, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) said.

The rare find included a shafted Roman "pilum" spear.

The desert location, overlooking the Dead Sea, was a hideout for Jewish rebels against the Romans, who controlled what was then Judea between the first century BC and second century AD.

A coin from the time of the Bar Kokhba revolt of 132-135 AD was found at the entrance to the cave.