



## MIRSARAI UPAZILA IN CTG Caught in AL-BNP clash, teen dies

### Both parties claim 16-yr-old was their supporter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A teenager died after being caught in a clash between the activists of BNP and Awami League in Chattogram's Mirsarai upazila yesterday evening.

The incident took place at Azimpur Bazar under Osmanpur union.

The deceased, Jahid Hasan Ruman, 16, was a resident of Joraganj union under the same upazila. He used to live with his uncle in Azimpur area and worked at a shop in the bazar, said locals.

Although police said Jahid was a bystander, local BNP and AL leaders claimed that he was their supporter and blamed each other for his death.

The clash ensued after BNP activists attacked AL men in the area, said Abdul Halim, inspector (investigation) of Joraganj Police Station.

"We heard that Jahid was an epilepsy patient and that he jumped into a pond out of fear," said the police official.

Following the clash, locals rescued Jahid from the nearby pond and took him to Mirsarai Upazila Health Complex, where he was declared brought dead.

Khondkar Noman Shayeri, emergency medical officer at the health complex, said there was an injury mark on the victim's head.

Meanwhile, Mirsarai Upazila AL President Jahangir Kabir claimed that Jahid was a supporter of their party,



Jahid Hasan

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A protester burns tyres during clashes with Israeli forces following a demonstration against the expropriation of Palestinian land by Israel in the village of Kfar Qaddum, in the occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## WORLD CUP 2023 Shakib to sit out 2nd warm-up too

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan will not be featuring in the Tigers' final World Cup 2023 warm-up against England as a precautionary measure after having picked up a niggle that saw the all-rounder also sit out the first warm-up against Sri Lanka yesterday.

The news was confirmed by the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) media manager Rabeed Imaam.

Shakib suffered a slight ankle sprain during training the day before yesterday and was rested for the match against Sri Lanka in Guwahati yesterday.

"Shakib's injury at the moment does not look serious," said a board official who did not travel with the side to India.

Sources claim if the injury was severe, BCB's

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## TRAFFIC MOVEMENT Dhaka ranked slowest in world

### Mymensingh 9th, Ctg 12th on list of slowest cities, shows study of US-based research firm



STAR REPORT

Dhaka is the slowest city in the world, according to a new study that analysed traffic in over 1,200 cities in 152 countries.

Apart from the capital, two other cities in Bangladesh – Mymensingh and Chattogram – are on the list of 20 slowest cities in the world, said the study, published as a working paper by the US-based National Bureau of Economic Research.

The cities ranked ninth and 12th on the list, respectively.

Two Nigerian cities, Lagos and Ikordu, ranked second and third on the list, followed by Manila, the capital of the Philippines, Biwandi, a town in India, and Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal.

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## 57 killed as suicide blasts rip thru two Pak mosques

Over 60 injured; death toll may rise; no group has claimed responsibility

REUTERS, Quetta

Suicide bombings ripped through two mosques in Pakistan yesterday, killing at least 57 people and injuring more than 60 amid events marking the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), police and health officials said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the blasts, one of which trapped dozens of people under rubble, media said. A surge in militant attacks has raised the stakes for security forces ahead of general elections set for January.

The first blast, in the southwestern province of Balochistan, killed 52 people, according to a district health official, Abdul Rasheed. "The bomber detonated himself near a police vehicle near Madina Mosque where people were gathering for a procession," added senior police official Munir Ahmed.

The second attack, in neighbouring northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killed five people at a mosque, according to rescue officials. The mosque roof collapsed, broadcaster Geo News said, trapping about 30 to 40 people under the rubble.

The attack involved two explosions, one of which was at the mosque gate and the other in the compound, an official

said. "Luckily one blast was at the gate so worshippers were able to exit the mosque; as a result the casualties are low," the deputy commissioner of Hangu district, Fazal Akbar, said.

Both provinces border Afghanistan and have suffered attacks in recent years by Islamist militants, who aim to overthrow Pakistan's government and install their own brand of strict Islamic law.

The Balochistan blast is a rare attack on civilians as Islamist militants have largely targeted security forces in the recent surge of attacks.

Television images showed hundreds of people helping the injured into ambulances in its aftermath. At least 58 people were wounded, said Abdul Rasheed, the health official, adding that the toll could rise as many of the injuries were serious.

Militant attacks have surged since

2022 when a ceasefire broke down between the government and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), an umbrella body of hardline Sunni Islamist groups.

The TTP, responsible for some of the bloodiest attacks in Pakistan since its formation in 2007, denied responsibility for yesterday's blasts. Previous attacks denied by the outfit have been claimed by splinter organisation loosely linked with them.

TTP denied involvement in a Peshawar police mosque bombing in January that killed 100 people, but a faction of the umbrella group later claimed the attack.

In July, more than 40 people were killed in a suicide bombing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at a religious political party's gathering. The Islamic State militant group claimed responsibility for that attack.



## ROOPPUR POWER PLANT 1st shipment of uranium arrives from Russia

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The first shipment of uranium reached the Rooppur nuclear power plant in Pabna yesterday.

International guidelines on safety were followed during shipment of the nuclear fuel and the project site is now globally recognised as nuclear infrastructure, said Shawkat Akbar, project director of the power plant.

"After ensuring infrastructure, trained workforce, and equipment required by the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency], we got the licence for nuclear fuel import and storage," he added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Russian President Vladimir Putin are likely to virtually attend a fuel handover ceremony on October 5.

Earlier on Thursday, a Russian chartered plane carrying the shipment landed in Dhaka.

The nuclear fuel was then taken to the project site some 270km away in four lorries guarded by dozens of vehicles of the armed forces, police, and Rab.

Officials said Bangladesh Army maintained the safety protocol during the transportation.

## DENGUE OUTBREAK Country crosses grim milestone of 2 lakh cases

### Eight more die in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of dengue cases crossed a grim milestone yesterday with the figure topping 200,000, the highest ever cases logged in a year in Bangladesh.

As many as 1,793 dengue patients were hospitalised in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday, taking the total caseload to 200,981, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The previous all-time high of 101,354 cases were recorded in 2019.

The number of fatalities is also nearing 1,000 this year as eight more people died from the mosquito-borne disease during the 24-hour period, raising the death toll to 975.

"The efforts to prevent dengue were not much successful. The city corporations have failed to prevent the disease," Dr Benazir Ahmed, a former member of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group of the health ministry, told The Daily Star.

He, however, said the number of cases

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BNP leaders and activists at a rally in front of its Nayapaltan central office yesterday. Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal, the women's wing of the BNP, organised the meeting demanding unconditional release of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia and general election under a non-party administration. Story on page 5.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## China debuts its first overwater high-speed train

CNN ONLINE



China's rail ambitions just keep growing.

The latest addition to the country's portfolio is a 277 kilometre (172-mile) high-speed train line along the southeastern coast, connecting the cities of Zhangzhou, Xiamen and Fuzhou, all three of which are in Fujian province.

The maximum speed of the trains along this route is 350 kilometres (217 miles) per hour, according to China Railway, the state railway operator. The first train on this line debuted on Thursday, September 28, departing from Fuzhou, the province's capital, at 9:15 am.

The new railway currently has 84 bridges and 29 tunnels, plus 20 km (12 miles) of track that goes over the sea, making it the country's first overwater bullet train.

China Railway says that it used intelligent robots and environmentally friendly corrosion-resistant steel to build out the overwater rail sections.

The new line is just one of many infrastructure projects touted by the Chinese government in 2016, when the "Eight Horizontal and Eight Vertical" rail initiative was announced. State-run media outlet Xinhua notes that ground transportation in Fujian province has been challenging due to its mountainous terrain.