AFP, Baghdad

Sixth grader dies

to the girl for a while. After having his proposals rejected, he and his friend Fahim made a fake video using the girls photos and videos and began blackmailing her

They also demanded money from her, he said.

The father said the video was leaked three days ago.

When the family asked the girl about it on Sunday, she said she was a victim in the situation and that the boys even demanded Tk 20,000 from

The 14-year-old then went to her room, locked the door and hung herself from the ceiling fan around 8:00pm, her uncle said.

The family immediately rescued her in an unconscious state and took her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared her dead around 9:15pm.

"They forced my daughter into suicide. I want justice," the father

Contacted, Abdul Ahad, deputy commissioner of Motijheel Division Police, said drives are on to arrest the

UNO made OSD

did not know whether the order had any connection with the incident of fining a doctor.

On Friday afternoon, UNO Nazrul Islam conducted a mobile court in Satkania to enforce the lockdown. At that time, Farhad Kabir was going to his private chamber in the upazila. The mobile court halted him and fined him Tk 1,000.

The incident triggered protest from doctors as they claimed it was not a violation of the lockdown. They also demanded withdrawal and punishment of the UNO.

"If doctors cannot attend chambers, how will patients receive treatment?" said Faisal Iqbal Chowdhury, general secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association's Chattogram chapter.

In a separate incident of Habiganj's Ajmeriganj upazila, an executive magistrate, who earlier fined a doctor for violating the lockdown, yesterday returned the money.

The local administration said the money was given back following the doctor's appeal. However, the doctor claimed that the government officials asked him to appeal.

On Saturday, Executive Magistrate Shoaib Shat-el Ivan fined Rezaul Karim, owner of Popular Physiotherapy in the upazila's Kakailcheo Bazar area, Tk 20,000 for violating the lockdown.

He was fined because crowd was created at his physiotherapy centre,

said the magistrate. Yesterday afternoon, a staff of the magistrate's office went to Rezaul's home and returned the money.

Contacted, Ajmeriganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Matiur Rahman Khan said the money was given back as the doctor had appealed for it.

However, the physician vesterday told The Daily Star that the government official came to his house with an application form and asked

him to sign it for getting the money. "So, I signed the application form. Then, the official returned the money," said the doctor.

[Our Chattogram and Moulvibazar correspondents contributed to this

Malaysia FROM PAGE 12

to existing initiatives," minister Saravanan Murugan said in a statement vesterday.

The ministry has received 4,636 complaints from workers between May and July 4 via a new mobile app, and had taken action in 3,502 cases, including investigating allegations of forced labour, he said.

Malaysia depends on about two million documented migrant workers from countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and India to make everything from palm oil to rubber gloves.

Saravanan said the ministry would review the levies imposed by private recruitment agents and check whether there were any hidden charges that might lead to risks of exploitation and debt bondage.



Nilufa Akhtar, a Covid-19 patient from Bahmanbaria, wearing an oxygen mask, is being stretchered into the emergency unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital by her relatives. She had been suffering from respiratory issues and a fever for a week. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

1.4k migrants to get Pfizer shots each day

Yesterday, the government formally opened the Surokkha app, which is designated for the nationwide Covid-19 vaccine registration, for migrant workers with adding a new feature for them.

Under the feature, all the outbound workers, including those travelling to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, can register for other vaccines using information of their valid passports instead of their national identity cards, said Harun Or Rosid, an IT programmer at the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division. Besides, Bangladeshi students

studying abroad and foreign nationals will have the similar opportunity to

get them registered for vaccine, he said during a PowerPoint presentation.

Apart from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait-bound ones, those waiting

during registration, he said, urging them not to rush to the centres

without getting SMS.
Prof Abul Bashar Mohammad
Khurshid Alam, director general of
Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said upon completion registration through Surokkha app, migrant workers will be notified via SMS at least one day before the vaccination date.

He said after the first dose, it will take 28 days to get the second dose.

Prof Khurshid said they could not inoculate more than 200 migrant workers with Pfizer vaccine a day from a centre since it takes comparatively more time to vaccinate a person with the jab than with other vaccine shots.

He added that because of the special requirement for its storage, it was not possible for them to send Pfizer vaccine doses outside Dhaka.

the Surokkha app's new feature for migrant workers, said they were working round the clock to ensure vaccine for the outbound migrant workers. $He \, said \, under \, the \, BMET \, registration$

process, which is a pre-requirement

for Surokkha app registration, about 20,000 to 21,000 migrant workers have registered in the last three days across the country. In reply to a query, Expatriates' Welfare Ministry Secretary Ahmed Munirus Saleheen said although they did not get any official letter, as per a directive of the Saudi General

Authority of Civil Aviation, a migrant worker can have travel permission to the Gulf country after getting one dose of vaccine upon completing certain procedures through an application.

In such case, migrant workers can avoid mandatory institutional

contribution, Zunaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for the ICT division, said remittance sent by them have kept the wheels of the country's economy rolling during the trying time of the coronavirus pandemic.

NM Zeaul Alam, senior secretary of the ICT division, said they revised and customised the Surokkha app so that the migrant workers can register for vaccine easily.

Migrant workers vaccination came to the fore following Saudi Arabia, the largest receiving country of Bangladeshi workers, in a directive in May asked foreign travellers to have vaccinated with one of Pfizer, Moderna, Oxford AstraZeneca or Johnson and Johnson vaccine to avoid mandatory institutional quarantine

Later, another host country Kuwait asked foreign nationals to have vaccinated with one of the four types

quarantine in Saudi Arabia, he said. Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran for travelling to other countries can choose their vaccination centres Ahmad, who formally launched Mentioning migrant workers' of vaccine to get the travel permit.

Neo JMB forms 'Islamic State of Bengal Province'

they recently came to know about the activities of Sabbir.

Unit, told The Daily Star.

Sources said Sabbir has split the newly formed committee into four sub-sections -- "control wing", "military wing", "Shariah wing" and "financial wing".

Sabbir, who hails from a village in Jamalpur, had joined the militant outfit in 2016 on an online invitation. The incumbent Neo JMB ameer, Mahadi Hasan Jon, had declared

Sabbir a leader in 2019, said have been sent home from abroad by make IED, drone, and bomb. investigators.

Jon is now operating the Neo JMB "We have learnt that Sabbir is from Turkey. He was recently planning carrying out activities hiding in to hand over the charge of the outfit's them to book," Rahmatullah, also the to run the organisation from abroad, chief of the CTTC's Bomb Disposal according to a recent intelligence report of a law enforcement agency.

"We have learnt that Sabbir is an expert in making IED and he gained the expertise through watching videos online. We suspect that he has some IEDs in his possession," said a high official of the CTTC unit, requesting anonymity.

"We have details about transactions of Tk 2 lakh through an online money transfer platform. The money might

Jon," the official told The Daily Star.

Based on analysis of some online communication details, the official Bangladesh. We are now trying to Bangladesh operations to a new already visited Jamalpur, Sherpur, the outfit. trace him and his associates to bring leader as it became difficult for him Tangail and Kurigram to recruit members for Neo IMB.

Intelligence sources claimed Sabbir is also a relative of mainstream JMB Ameer Salahuddin Ahmed alias Salehin, who is believed to be hiding in India. Recently, Sabbir came in close contact with the family members of mainstream JMB's bomb expert Mizan alias Boma Mizan.

Mizan was arrested in India in

Sources said Sabbir made some printed tutorial matter on how to CTTC officials said they have

information that Sabbir had a meeting with two Islamic scholars in which he claimed to have learnt that Sabbir tried to convince the duo to work for Analysing some investigation

data, the officials said Sabbir is now planning to make bulletproof jacket, collect a modern firearm from Kashmir and make at least 2,000 firearms to distribute those among the military wing members of Neo JMB.

Officials also found that Sabbir suggested not using WhatsApp for communications as it can be tracked.

The CTTC unit is now trying to know about his educational background and family history to get

S Korea to make 1b mRNA Covid shots

drug and it can be used for Covid-19 vaccine production as the Sanofi project has stalled.

"We happen to have this facility available right now because our clinical trial (with Sanofi) was discontinued in the middle of last year," Kim Soojin, senior vice president of Hanmi, told Reuters.

"It's very timely that we have a fully ready, GMP, state-of-the-art facility available," she said, referring to good manufacturing practice.

Quratis, which makes a tuberculosis vaccine, said its new factory built last year can now be used for mRNA vaccine production.

and rose nearly 7% yesterday after the Reuters report, and its top shareholder Hanmi Science jumped 10.3%.

COLLABORATION WITH WHO South Korea has stepped up its effort to produce more vaccines since US President Joe Biden in May agreed with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on a comprehensive partnership on Covid-19 vaccines.

Lee said his team is having frequent video conference calls with the vaccine makers and the World Health Organization (WHO). WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic

told Reuters the organisation is "talking with South Korea and other

Shares in Hanmi erased early losses countries," but did not elaborate. The WHO said last month it

will set up a hub in South Africa to manufacture mRNA vaccines within 9-12 months that will give companies poor and middle-income countries the know-how and licenses to produce Covid-19 vaccines.

Lee said mRNA vaccine makers may be reluctant to share their technology, but they can take advantage of South Korea's raw material suppliers to address a global shortage of such ingredients as lipids, nucleotides and capping reagents.

"They're capable of manufacturing and developing such raw materials to help vaccine makers... and the South

Korean government is committed to provide all necessary support including financial and administrative

Lee said the country also has a capacity for at least another 500 million doses of fill-and-finish vaccines apart from the deal Moderna announced with Samsung BioLogics

South Korea has deals to buy 106 million doses of mRNA vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna to cover full vaccination of its population of 52 million this year. The government said last week it would purchase more mRNA shots to use them as a booster shot next year.

AFP, Patikul

The Hercules C-130 transport plane was carrying 96 people, most of them recent army graduates, when it overshot the runway while trying to land in sunny weather on Jolo island in Sulu province -- a haven for Islamic

Fifty people, including 47 military personnel and three civilians, died when the plane "skidded" and burst into flames in a village, said Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Major General Edgard Arevalo.

Another 53 were injured, most of them soldiers. It is not clear if the

The three people killed on the ground had been working in a quarry,

wreckage of the fuselage's back section laying in a coconut grove.

the evidence that we will retrieve, most "Aside from eyewitness accounts,

"We have people on the ground to

we are also looking for recordings, radio conversation recordings between the pilot and the control tower.'

Request for proposal (RFP) for hiring sub-awardees under the "USAID's Alliance for Combating TB in Bangladesh Activity" of icddr,b

Tender Ref. icddrb/G&F/OTM/2021/002

Date: 6 July 2021

icddr,b leads the four-year TB implementation project titled "USAID's Alliance for Combating TB in Bangladesh Activity". icddr,b is now inviting sealed proposals from any interested private health organisations, non-government organisations (NGOs) community based organisations (CBOs), who fulfill the criteria mentioned in the RFP for selection of sub-recipients. The RFP document contains all the necessary information for interested offerors. With most proficient offeror, icddr,b will sign an agreement for currently established scope.

Interested participants can download the RFP documents from the web address

below: http://www.icddrb.org/work-with-us/tender-notices Pre-bid meeting will be held on 13 July 2021 at 2:30 PM BST on Microsoft Teams Please see the bid documents for details of location and contact.

Offerors shall submit their offers through hard copy in designated place as mentioned in the RFP document. Offers must be received no later than 27 July 2021 at 2:30 PM BST. Please note that bid opening session will not be conducted as a

icddr,b reserves the right to accept or reject all/part proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever. This RFP invitation will also form a part of the contract and will be binding upon the tenderer.



Senior Manager, Grants & Compliance

Over 1k Afghan FROM PAGE 12

The militants have seized

dozens of Afghanistan's districts, raising fears that that the Afghan military will collapse once US and international troops complete their withdrawal from the country in September.

US President Joe Biden has ordered the departure of all US forces from Afghanistan by this year's 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks that triggered the invasion.

Meanwhile, Afghan government forces plan a counteroffensive in Afghanistan's northern provinces after losing ground to the Taliban, Russia's RIA news agency quoted an adviser to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani as saying yesterday.

Scientists create world's 180 degrees relative to its neighbours

binary, on-off lightswitch very quickly.

Scientists say they can now make that process even more efficient. Reducing the size of the technology down to only two atoms enables the electrons to move through the layer at a greater speed. The difference is somewhat similar to a large button that requires a great amount of force to push, compared to a smaller,

thinner one that requires less force. These are also the benefits the researchers are touting for practical devices that use this technology: they would be faster, less dense, and consume less energy.

The study, published in the journal Science, uses a one atom-thick layer of boron and another of nitrogen arranged in a repeated hexagonal structure.

"In its natural three-dimensional state, this material is made up of a large number of layers placed on top of each other, with each layer rotated

(antiparallel configuration)" says Dr Moshe Ben Shalom from Tel Aviv University. "In the lab, we were able to

artificially stack the layers in a parallel configuration with no rotation, which hypothetically places atoms of the same kind in perfect overlap despite the strong repulsive force between them (resulting from their identical charges).

"In actual fact, however, the crystal prefers to slide one layer slightly in relation to the other, so that only half of each layer's atoms are in perfect overlap, and those that do overlap are of opposite charges—while all others are located above or below an empty

space—the centre of the hexagon. this artificial stacking configuration the layers are quite distinct from one another. For example, if in the top layer only the boron atoms overlap, in the bottom layer it's the other way around."

Colonel Wayne Marotto, a spokesman for the international coalition in Iraq, said on Twitter that the Ain al-Assad base "was attacked by three rockets" in the early afternoon. "The rockets landed on the base perimeter. There are no injuries and damage is being assessed," he said. The assault on the Ain al-Assad facility in the western province of Anbar is the latest in a series of attacks

Rockets target Iraq

base hosting US

troops: coalition

Three rockets targeted an Iraqi air base hosting American troops

yesterday without causing casualties,

a spokesman for the US-led coalition

Washington blames on Iran-linked US forces, whose 2,500 troops are deployed in Iraq as part of an international coalition to fight the jihadist Islamic State group, have been targeted more than 40 times this year.

on American interests in Iraq which

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for yesterday's attack, which came a week after deadly US air strikes on pro-Iran fighters in both

Iraq and Syria. The Pentagon said the raids were retaliation for attacks on US interests, and Secretary of State Antony Blinken declared they sent a "strong message"

not to keep attacking American forces. The Hashed-al-Shaabi, an Iraqi paramilitary alliance that includes several Iranian proxies and has become the main power broker in Baghdad, said the raids killed four of its fighters in the Qaim region near the border with Syria.

The June 27-28 overnight strikes targeted operational and weapons storage facilities at two locations in Syria and one in Iraq, the Pentagon

Hours later, pro-Iran militias fired several shells at an American base in eastern Syria.

Iran-aligned groups operate in raq, which counts both Tehran and Washington as allies, and in war-torn Syria, where Iran is a key backer of the Damascus regime.

Swelling rivers

FROM PAGE 12

"We don't have any food either," she

Taslima Begum, Gangachara ipazila nirbahi officer, said she has already taken steps to distribute relief among the affected people.

In Sirajganj, the water level of the Jamuna has been increasing, flooding low-lying areas in the district.

The Water Development Board said the water level may exceed the danger level in the next three to four days.

Md Nasir Uddin, district WDB sub-

divisional engineer, said the river is flowing at 12.23 meter, which is 1.12 meter below the danger level. "The Jamuna is flowing at 15 to 20

centimetres every day, we guess the water level may exceed the danger mark after July 8. Due to the rapid increase in water

levels, low-lying areas have begun to flood. However, residents have yet not complained of water entering their homes, he claimed. Meanwhile, fishermen cut down

a sand dam at Potazia in Sirajganj's Shahzadpur upazila a couple of days ago which caused over 40,000 acres in Chalan beel to be flooded, the WDB official said.

Death toll in Philippine military plane crash rises to 50

Philippine security forces searched among coconut trees on a remote southern island yesterday for the flight data boxes of an aircraft that crashed and killed 50 people in one of the country's worst military air disasters.

militants -- on Sunday.

pilots were among the survivors.

illage leader Tanda Hailid told AFP. Photos of the scene released by the Joint Task Force-Sulu showed the damaged tail and the smoking

make sure the integrity of the pieces of particularly the flight data recorder, Arevalo said.