

Sixth grader dies

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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 with it.
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 her.
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 said.
Contacted, Abdul Ahad, deputy commissioner of Motijheel Division Police, said drives are on to arrest the accused.

E-comm sites

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platform of Aikderal.
"However, it will teach a lesson to those who want to do business by deceiving people, withholding money for months without delivering products."
This is to protect the rights of online shoppers, curb anomalies on payments and refunds, and ensure timely deliveries, said Md Hafizur Rahman, director-general of the WTO Cell under the commerce ministry, a few days earlier.

About advance payment adjustment, the notification said if the shopper makes an advance payment through debit and credit cards, bank transfer or mobile banking, the money has to be refunded in full within a maximum of seven days for any delivery failure.
Within 48 hours of the payment for a product, the item must be handed over to the deliveryman or delivery company and the customer must be notified through telephone, e-mail, or SMS. To operate in Bangladesh, a foreign digital commerce entity must have to be registered and must take permission of the concerned authorities.

Swelling rivers

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"We don't have any food either," she said.
Taslima Begum, Gangachara upazila 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.

Rockets target Iraq base hosting US troops: coalition

AFP, Baghdad
Three rockets targeted an Iraqi air base hosting American troops yesterday without causing casualties, a spokesman for the US-led coalition said.
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.



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 to get Pfizer shots each day

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Mujib Medical University, Kurmitola General Hospital and Sheikh Russel National Gastroenterology Institute and Hospital.

Yesterday, the government formally opened new features of Surokkha app, which is designated for the nationwide Covid-19 vaccine registration. The features were for migrant workers.
All the outbound workers, including those travelling to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, can register for vaccines using information of their 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 similar opportunities to get registered, he said during a PowerPoint presentation.

Apart from Saudi Arabia and

Kuwait-bound ones, those waiting to travel to other countries can choose their vaccination centres during registration, he said, urging them not to rush to the centres without getting the texts.

Prof Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said upon completion of registration through Surokkha app, migrant workers will be notified via SMS at least a 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.

Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad, who formally launched the Surokkha app's new feature for migrant workers, said they were working round the clock to ensure vaccine for the outbound 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 Munir 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

6 Barishal cops

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inspector (investigation) of the police station.

In the case statement, the victim could mention names of two accused - OC Ziaul Ahsan and Inspector Mainul Islam of the police station. She said the ASP of Uzirpur circle was also involved in the incident, but could not mention his name. Besides, she named three other policemen in uniform as accused in the case, said Momin.

After the case was filed, Ziaul and Mainul were withdrawn, said Maruf Hossain, superintendent of police (SP) in Barishal.

They were withdrawn so that they could not influence the investigation, said SM Akhtaruzzaman, deputy inspector general (DIG) of Barishal Range Police.

On Sunday, police formed a two-member inquiry committee, led by Barishal Range Superintendent of Police Kazi Shoaib, to investigate the incident. The body was asked to submit a report within three working days.

On Friday, the woman, who is accused in a murder case, was produced before a court after her two-day remand.

At the court, she alleged that Mainul, investigation officer (IO) of the murder case, and some other law enforcers at the police station sexually harassed and tortured her, said court sources.

Taking the allegation into cognisance, Barishal Judicial Magistrate Mahfuzur Rahman directed the authorities to conduct a medical test of the woman. He also asked the director of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital to submit a report within 24 hours.

Doctors after conducting test submitted a report where they said injury marks were found on the woman's both hands, neck and other parts of her body.

Earlier, The Daily Star contacted Mainul, who claimed the allegation was false.

On June 26, Ujirpur police recovered the body of vegetable vendor Basudeb Chakraborty in Jambari village.

The victim's brother Barun Chakraborty filed a murder case against the woman the next day.

Police arrested her on June 30 and produced her before a court that placed her on the two-day remand.

Plane graveyard

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and take the planes elsewhere, but did not get any response, said Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman, chairman of Caab. "That's why we decided to confiscate the planes."
Airport officials hope the cargo village will soon regain its real estate occupied by the decaying and unsightly planes.

The airplanes have been de-registered, clearing the way for them to be auctioned off, he said, adding that officials will soon call for tenders from parties interested in buying the planes.

Caab assigns a unique registration number to every plane that operates in the country, and a plane cannot be legally dismantled and sold unless it has been de-registered.

An official, requesting anonymity, said in case no one shows interest in buying the planes, Caab will tear them down and sell them.

"If no one shows interest, we will discuss what can be done next," Touhid added.

GMG stopped its flight operations in 2012 and left its MD-82 to gather dust in the cargo village since then. Officials of GMG could not be reached for comment.

United Air ceased its flight operations in February 2016 without making a formal announcement, about 10 years after its first flight.

Contacted, Kazi Wahidul Alam, Chairman of United's board of directors, said, "We are aware of the outstanding charges and we are taking the matter seriously."

He said he hopes to settle the issue through negotiation with Caab, adding that his company is making arrangements for a technical audit to assess the value of the aircraft.

"We will assess whether the aircraft laying at the airport are airworthy," said the aviation expert and editor of Bangladesh Monitor, an aviation and travel magazine.

In February, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) took an initiative to revive United Airways. BSEC reorganised the board of directors with Kazi Wahidul Alam as its chairman, replacing Tasbirul Alam Chowdhury.

United was listed with the BSEC in 2010. It was the first private airline to be listed with the stock exchange. It is still listed with the BSEC, but its transaction has been closed.

Kazi Wahidul Alam told The Daily Star that reviving the operations of a defunct airline is very difficult.

"We will try to bring back the confidence of investors. The first task is to secure the investors' money."

Regent took to the skies in 2010. It ceased operations last year amid the economic fallout from the pandemic. The airline has yet to resume operations.

Avina started off in 2008 but shut down within a few years.

Officials of neither Regent nor Avina were available for comment.

Neo JMB forms new committee

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out activities hiding in Bangladesh. We are now trying to trace him and his associates to bring them to book," Rahmatullah, also the chief of the CITC's Bomb Disposal 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".

The Neo JMB, who hails from a village in Jamalpur, had joined the militant outfit in 2016 following an online invitation.

The incumbent Neo JMB ameer, Mahadi Hasan Jon, had declared Sabbir a leader in 2019, said investigators.

Jon is now operating the outfit from Turkey. He was recently planning

to hand over the charge of Neo JMB's Bangladesh operations to a new leader as it became difficult for him to run the organisation from abroad, according to a recent intelligence report of a law enforcement agency.

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

"We have details about transactions of Tk 2 lakh through an online money transfer platform. The money might have been sent home from abroad by Jon," the official told The Daily Star.

The official said they learnt after analysis of some online communication details that Sabbir already visited Jamalpur, Sherpur, Tangail and Kurigram to recruit

members for Neo JMB.

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

Mizan was arrested in India in 2018. Sources said Sabbir made printed tutorial materials on how to make IEDs, drones, and bombs.

CITC officials said they have information that Sabbir in a meeting with two Islamic scholars tried to convince them to work for the outfit.

The officials said Sabbir is now planning to make bulletproof vests, collect a modern firearm from Kashmir and make firearms to distribute those among the military wing members of

Death toll in Philippine military plane crash rises to 50

AFP, Pattikul

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.

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 militants -- on Sunday.

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 Avelo.

Another 53 were injured, most

of them soldiers. It is not clear if the pilots were among the survivors.

The three people killed on the ground had been working in a quarry, village leader Tanda Hailid told AFP.

Photos of the scene released by the Joint Task Force-Sulu showed the damaged tail and the smoking wreckage of the fuselage's back section laying in a coconut grove.

"We have people on the ground to make sure the integrity of the pieces of the evidence that we will retrieve, most particularly the flight data recorder," Avelo said.

"Aside from eyewitness accounts, we are also looking for recordings, radio conversation recordings between the pilot and the control tower."

Avelo said the military had secured the crash site and would ensure that militants on the island did not disrupt search efforts.

Most of the passengers had recently graduated from basic military training and were being deployed to the restive island as part of a counter-insurgency effort in the Muslim-majority region.

The military has a heavy presence in the southern Philippines where militant groups, including the kidnap-for-ransom outfit Abu Sayyaf, operate.

"This is one of the worst tragic incidents that happened in our armed forces," said Avelo.

C-130s have been the workhorses of air forces around the world for decades, used to transport troops, supplies and vehicles.

The second-hand Hercules that crashed Sunday was acquired from the United States and delivered to the Philippines earlier this year.

It is one of four in the country's fleet. Two are being repaired while the other one has been grounded following the crash.

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

Tender Ref. icddr,b/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.icddr.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 public opening.
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

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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.

Kissinger calls on Indira

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come up with a solution that was non-military and non-communal -- i.e., was not biased against the Hindus.

BANGLADESHIS IN BRITAIN DONATE RS 2 CRORES

Seventy-five thousand Bangladeshis in Britain had already donated nearly two crore in Pakistani rupees to the Bangladesh fund. Each head of a Bangladeshi family in Britain had been subscribing to the fund at the rate of a minimum one pound a week. The fund had been kept in a bank in Britain on the advice of the Bangladesh government.

USA OFFERED SEVERAL BOMBERS TO PAKISTAN

The US state department said today the US had offered several B-57 bombers to Pakistan last autumn as part of a "once only exception" to its embargo on arms shipment. But none of the planes were delivered, the department's spokesman

Charles Bray informed. "No item under the offer of last fall has been delivered to Pakistan and its agents and nothing is scheduled for delivery," he added.

IRISH MP WANTS EMERGENCY UN MISSION

Conrad O'Brien, Irish Labour MP and spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the party in parliament thought that an emergency session of the UN General Assembly should be called immediately to discuss the heavy influx of refugees in India as a result of happenings in Bangladesh.

"The happening in East Bengal have been the greatest human tragedy. Its implication might lead to further danger because of the unabated inflow of refugees and deteriorating relation between India and Pakistan," he added.

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Scientists create

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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 180 degrees relative to its neighbours (antiparallel configuration)" says Dr Moshe Ben Shalom from Tel Aviv University.