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# Swelling rivers flood parts of the north

STAR REPORT

Water levels of the Jamuna, Teesta, Dharla and Doodhkumar, and their tributaries have kept rising, inundating low-lying areas in northern districts.

The flood forecasting and warning centre (FFWC) said the water levels of those rivers will rise for next two days as there has been continuous rainfall in the upstream areas in the Indian states of Sikkim, Assam, West Bengal and Meghalaya.

Our correspondents from the northern districts reported that people living on the banks of rivers and in low-lying areas have been marooned.

Around 4,500 families of different char areas in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila remained stranded in the water for the last six days as an embankment on the Teesta river had eroded.

Although, the river's water has been flowing below danger levels, people have been resorting to boats and banana-leaf rafts for shelter in areas such as Paschim Ichli, Shankardah, Bagerhat, Binbina, Motukpur, Chilikhal and Kholachar.

Abdullah Al Hadi, chairman of the upazila's Laxmitia union parishad, said around 1,000 families of the union have been marooned due to the surge in water levels.

The water level has also intensified river erosion, he said, adding that immediate relief support is needed in the affected areas.

Jorina Begum of Bagerhat said she stayed on a raft with her family as her home was submerged. They are currently facing a crisis of drinking water as their tube well has also been underwater.



People in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila are having to use boats as transport due to the floods caused by the swelling of the Teesta. Around 4,500 families of different char areas in the upazila have been marooned as an embankment on the river washed away. Many families have even resorted to boats as shelters. The photo was taken recently at Pashchim Ichli of Gangachara.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKAR

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## BUSINESS

### Remittance surges at sharpest pace in three decades

Remittance inflow posted a 36 per cent growth in the just-concluded fiscal year, the sharpest in 30 years, thanks to the hard-earned money sent by migrant workers amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Bangladeshi diasporas sent home \$24.78 billion in 2020-21, the highest on record, in contrast to \$18.20 billion a year ago, Bangladesh Bank data showed.

STORY ON B1

## Neo JMB forms new committee

Sources in CTTC claim

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

With an aim to build a strong base in Bangladesh, IS-inspired militant outfit Neo JMB has recently formed a 20-member committee.

The committee members, all from the "military wing" of the outfit, have named the committee "Islamic State of Bengal Province".

It also planned to train the members in Pakistan on making firearms and set up a factory in Bangladesh after collecting a firearm from Kashmir as sample, according to sources in Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The Neo JMB's improvised explosive device (IED) expert, Sabbir Hossain, 26, also the military wing commander of the outfit's Mymensingh region unit, formed the committee.

CTTC officials claimed to have collected the information about Sabbir, also known as Bamchi Barak alias Major Bamchi alias Abu Hafis al Bengali, by tracking the Neo JMB's strategy.

Rahmatullah Chowdhury, additional deputy commissioner of the CTTC unit, said they recently came to know about the activities of Sabbir.

"We have learnt that Sabbir is carrying

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## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Kissinger calls on Indira Gandhi

JULY 6, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### INDIRA-KISSINGER MEETING

Henry Kissinger, US President Richard Nixon's security adviser, called on Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today.

Kissinger took a general line on India's importance without going into much detail on the arms shipments.

Indira Gandhi explained her political problems: she did not want to use force and was willing to accept any suggestions. She was concerned about Chinese influence growing in East Pakistan.

Kissinger assured her the whole point of America's policy had been to retain enough influence to urge creation of conditions that would permit the refugees to go back, although the US would not promise results.

Kissinger asked how much more time she thought there was before the situation became unmanageable, and Indira Gandhi replied that it was already unmanageable now and that they were "just holding it together by sheer willpower."

Earlier, Kissinger had a discussion with Indian Foreign Minister Sardar Swaran Singh on the issue of arms shipment to Pakistan. Singh asked Kissinger to convey to President Nixon his strong urging that America's arms policy be reviewed with an eye to ending all shipments.

In a brief private session, according to Kissinger, the Indian foreign minister told him that India would not insist on a settlement involving the jailed Bangladeshi leader, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, but would be satisfied if Pakistan could

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## OUTBOUND MIGRANTS

### 1.4k to get Pfizer shots each day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

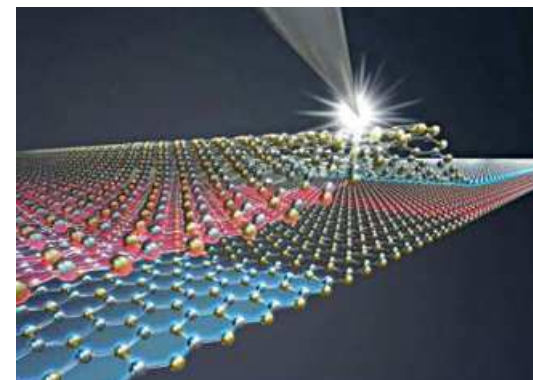
Up to 1,400 migrant workers, who are waiting to go to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, will be administered Pfizer vaccine shots against Covid-19 each day at seven hospitals in the capital, the government said yesterday.

To get the vaccine, the migrants, already registered with Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), have to register now through Surokkha app, the authorities concerned said during an online press conference.

The seven hospitals where the migrant workers can get the shots are: Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital, Mugda Medical College Hospital, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, Bangabandhu Sheikh

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## Scientists create world's thinnest technology



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The world's smallest piece of technology – only two atoms thick – has been created by researchers to store electric information.

Current state-of-the-art devices consist of tiny crystals that contain approximately one million atoms, one hundred atoms square. In a computer, these devices switch between two binary states (one and zero, yes and no, up and down) to encode and process information.

This is done incredibly rapidly, approximately one million times per second – akin to pressing a

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## Sixth grader dies by suicide after 2 men blackmail her

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sixth grader died by suicide Sunday night after two men allegedly made an "obscene video" of her and leaked it on social media recently.

Police said the victim's father filed yesterday a case with Sabujbagh Police Station against Shamim and Fahim, both aged around 20, under the Pornography Control Act 2012 and Penal Code.

The girl's uncle alleged that Shamim had been making indecent proposals

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### PRAYER TIMING JULY 6

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
JAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17  
JAMAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## E-comm sites must deliver product in 10 days

Commerce ministry issues notice

MAHMUDUL HASAN

The ministry of commerce yesterday issued a notice saying products will have to be delivered to customers by e-commerce platform within a maximum of 10 days of advance payment.

If the buyer and the seller are located in the same cities, the product should be delivered to the customer's doorstep within five days, it said, adding that the platform would have to return the money to the customer if delivery is delayed.

The notice came amid allegations against some e-commerce platforms that have not been delivering products on time or have not refunded their customers for delays.

"This will boost the e-commerce platforms, who conduct business with due diligence..." said AKM Fahim Mashroor, chief executive of e-commerce

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Sumi Akhtar, a resident of Lalbagh, is seen leaving the capital on a truck. After she heard of her mother's illness, she and her daughter left for Sirajganj, where her family lives. Due to the lack of transport during the countrywide lockdown, she contacted a relative, who brings fruits for sale into the capital, and traveled with him on his way back.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## CLASHES WITH TALIBAN Over 1k Afghan troops flee to Tajikistan

Govt forces plan counteroffensive in northern provinces

AGENCIES

More than 1,000 Afghan troops fled into neighbouring Tajikistan in the early hours of yesterday after clashes with the Taliban, the Central Asian country's national security committee said.

Taliban militants have launched several major offensives in northern Afghanistan in recent weeks as US and international troops withdraw from the country, including seizing its main crossing into Tajikistan last month.

Yesterday, Tajikistan's national security committee said that 1,037 Afghan government troops had fled into the ex-Soviet country "in order to save their lives" after clashes with the Taliban during the night.

"Taking into account the principle of good neighbourliness and adhering to the position of non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, the military personnel of the Afghan government forces were allowed to enter Tajik territory," the committee said in a statement distributed by Tajikistan's state information agency Khovar.

It said the Taliban had taken "full control" of six districts of the Badakhshan province bordering Tajikistan in Afghanistan's northeast, reports AFP.

Several hundred Afghan troops had already crossed into Tajikistan after the Taliban unleashed its onslaught in early May.

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