Aktaruzzaman Flyover Chittagong

**Principal** Cement **Brand** 



# Bringing hope to remote shoal

Retired govt official sets up primary school on Padma River shoal on own initiative

ZAHANGIR SHAH with ANDREW EAGLE

Raising children on a Padma River shoal is a challenge, not least in accessing education. For parents in Gangadhardi and three neighbouring villages situated on a shoal in Harirampur upazila in Manikganj, there wasn't any nearby school for their children to attend. That situation changed in 2012 when retired government officer Ashraf Hossain Chowdhury of his own initiative founded the Kuti Mia Memorial Nongovernment Primary School. Named after his grandfather, the school opened a convenient education pathway to local children for the first time.

"Before this school was here, our children had to travel up to five kilometres to reach a school," says one parent, Shahjahan Ali. "Many simply didn't go. Now we have dedicated teachers, right here. Our children have become attentive students."

"I used to worry a lot about my daughter's education," says Aziz Bepari, the father of class-three student Laboni Akter. "Now that it has become possible locally, my mind is at ease. I hope she will continue into high school."

For the school, Laboni is likewise full of praise. "The teachers are very good," she says. "I attend regularly and try my best. When I grow up I want to work for the government.

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**Ashraf Hossain** 



Students attend an assembly on the premises of Kuti Mia Memorial Non-government Primary School in Harirampur upazila of Manikganj recently. Retired government official Ashraf Hossain Chowdhury founded the school in 2012.

РНОТО: STAR

#### Fifth grader 'gang-raped' in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

A primary school student was gang-raped in Ghior upazila when she was attending a puja on Tuesday night.

The victim's brother said his sister is a student of class five at a school in Manikganj town. She went to a relative's house in Kalta village in Ghior with her father to celebrate the puja.

Locals said Johnny, 20, son of Jasim Mia of the village, called her to a nearby field from the puja venue around 8:00pm and allegedly raped her there. Later, Rubel, 26, son of Bablu Mia, and Shahidul Islam, 25, son of Yad Ali, of the same village also allegedly raped her.

Immediate after the incident, Yunus, Rafiq and Shahjahan, residents of the area, caught the alleged

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ARTICLE 70 OF CONSTITUTION

## It's a safeguard for democracy

HC observes in full text of order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Article 70 of the constitution, which deals with the cancellation of membership of parliament members for voting against their political party, works as a safeguard for democracy, the High Court has observed. "I am of the opinion that the present article 70 is not

contravence with the constitution at all; rather it works as a safeguard for our democracy," an HC bench of Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman said in a full text of its order released recently.

Under article 70, lawmakers lose their seats in parliament if they vote in the House against the party that nominated them. The bench on March 18 this year upheld article 70,

summarily rejecting a writ petition that challenged the legality of the article. Earlier on January 15, a two-member HC bench gave a

split order on the same writ petition.

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### N Korea summit could still happen on June 12

Says Trump after Pyongyang leaves door open for talks with US 'at any time'

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump, a day after his cancellation of a high-stakes summit with North Korea, said yesterday that the meeting with Kim Jong Un could still go ahead.

"We're going to see what happens," Trump told reporters at the White House, after welcoming Pyongyang's latest statement on the talks as "very good news." "It could even be the 12th," he said in a

reference to the original June 12 date set for the meeting in Singapore. "We're talking to them now," Trump said

of the North Koreans. "They very much want to do it. We'd like to do it. We'll see what happens."

North Korea, responding to Trump's abrupt cancellation of the meeting over "hostility" from Pyongyang, said yesterday

that it is willing to talk to the United States at any time."

Trump welcomed the statement as "warm and productive."

"We will soon see where it will lead, hopefully to long and enduring prosperity and peace. Only time (and talent) will tell!" the US president said in a tweet.

In a letter to Kim, Trump said Thursday he would not go ahead with the summit in Singapore, following what the White House called a "trail of broken promises" by the North.

Trump blamed "open hostility" from Kim's regime for his decision to call off the talks, and warned North Korea against committing any "foolish or reckless acts."

But Pyongyang's reaction to the sudden U-turn has so far been conciliatory.

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PHOTO:

SHEIKH NASIR

#### **INDO-BANGLA BORDER** Assam part to be sealed by December

Says the state's CM

TOI, Guwahati

The India-Bangladesh border in Assam will be sealed by December employing technical solutions on the river part of the frontier and smart fencing on the land area, state chief minister Sonowal has said.

The CM, who completed two years in office on Thursday, said the move was a part of the state's initiative to curb crossborder infiltration and smuggling.

In keeping with the promises, the government would be taking effective measures to make the state

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#### The pavement that generates power



MAIL ONLINE

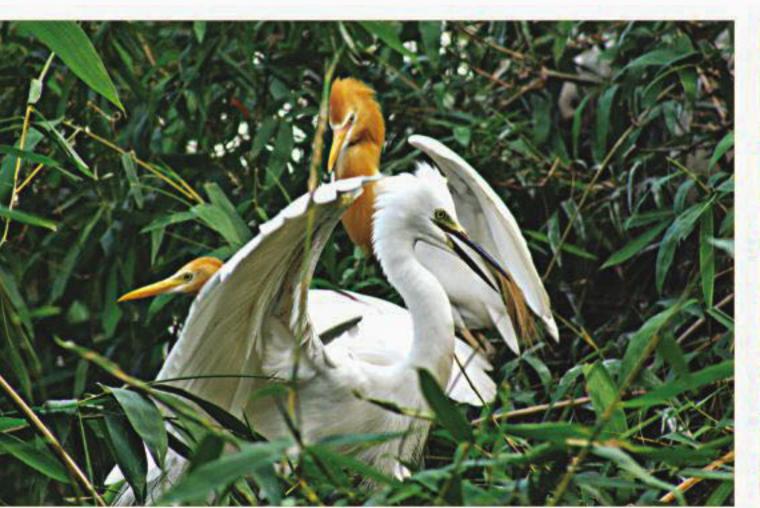
Solar-powered tiles could soon line pavements, harnessing the sun's energy to power our cities. At least that's the vision of Scottish scientists who are working on creating paving tiles that converts energy from the sun into electricity.

Scientists say the tiles are tough enough to withstand pedestrian traffic and waterproof enough to survive rainy weather.

A team, including scientists at Glasgow Caledonian University, have invented the energy-producing tile which in their hundreds could line whole pavements.



Birds of different species take refuge in the trees of this house, not seen in the frame, in Chhalia of Sylhet's Companiganj upazila every year from March to August. The house owner, Imdadul Haque, has planted a lot of trees to make the place a haven for them. However, poaching has become a major headache for him as the birds often get hunted while frolicking and collecting food in nearby wetlands.





Malaysia 1mdb Scandal Probe

### \$28m seized in raids linked to ex-PM Najib

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysian police said yesterday that cash worth 114 million ringgit (\$28.6 million) and over 400 luxury handbags were seized from several apartments as part of an anti-graft probe into a state fund founded by former prime minister Najib Razak.

Najib's home, and the apartments of a son, and a daughter were among a dozen properties searched since May 18, Amar Singh, the head of commercial crime division, told a news conference. Since his defeat in an election on May 9, Najib has been

barred from leaving the country by the new government, which has reopened an investigation into billions of dollars missing from 1 Malaysia Development Berhad (1 MDB).

At one empty apartment, officers found 35 bags stuffed with cash valued at 114 million ringgit. The banknotes were

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Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha 3-46 12-45 5-00 6-43 8-00 JAMAAT 3-56 1-15 5-15 6-53 8-30 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

