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# A school for the poor

**Once a child labourer, Alok Chandra sets up free school for underprivileged kids**

MD MIZANUR RAHMAN HIMADRI

As the sun sets on the horizon in Elahipur village of Khulna's Rupsha upazila, most children begin heading home from the playgrounds; except eight-year-old Sukur. The child eagerly leaves his homes and makes his way to Anushilon Mojar School.

"I have been waiting all day for this wonderful moment," Sukur said.

Like many of his fellow classmates, Sukur had never thought of reading books and writing before enrolling in the school. After his father left him and his mother a few years ago, the duo joined a fish processing company in the locality to make ends meet.

But the earning was too little and education became a luxury they could not afford.

In 2017, the authority of Anushilon Mojar School provided free tuition to Sukur who once had no knowledge of reading and writing. Today he is a proud nursery student of Elahipur Government Primary School.

"I had to spend all day working but now everything has changed. The teachers are very affectionate and caring. They love me very much. They also give me snacks during the evening school," he said.

The initiative for the school was taken by Alok Chandra Das. Once a child labourer himself, Das understood the

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**CHANGE MAKER**



**Underprivileged children, most of whom are child labours, attend an evening class being taken by Alok Chandra Das, founder of Anushilon Mojar School in Khulna's Rupsha upazila, recently. Inset, Alok and his students pose for a photo at the gate of the school.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# China orders crackdown on religious statues

AP, Beijing

China's ruling Communist Party has ordered local governments to better regulate the construction of large outdoor religious statues amid increasing restrictions on religious expression of all kinds.

The directive from the United Front Work Department viewed on its website yesterday appears targeted mainly at followers of Buddhism and Taoism, two of China's five officially recognised religions.

"The meeting required all localities to take up the regulation of large outdoor religious statues as their top priority in preventing the further commercialization of Buddhism and Taoism," the directive said.

Thousands of Buddhist and Taoist temples and shrines, along with mosques and churches, were damaged or destroyed under communism, especially during the violent

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# Anarchy rules transport sector

**Cheating continues in the name of seating service**

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With the government failing to regulate the so-called "seating service" bus operators in the capital, the buses continue to charge extra every day.

Around 96 percent buses and minibuses offering "seating services" are taking extra fares, a survey of a passengers' platform revealed yesterday.

Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity, the platform, said in the name of "seating services," 96 percent buses and minibuses lock their doors between 7:00am and 11:00am and 2:00pm and 11:00pm, causing trouble for passengers who want to get on the buses between their starting point and journey end.

Those buses take extra fare as they do not follow the government's fare chart, the platform alleged, saying, "For this reason, transportation cost for the lower-income group is becoming unbearable."

Unregulated charging of fares is common throughout the year but during Ramadan many regular buses turn themselves into "seating services" putting passengers in trouble, Mozammel Haque Chowdhury, secretary general of the samity, observed.

"Cashing in on the higher demand for buses before Iftar time, they [bus operators] overcharge the passengers," he told The Daily Star referring to the survey yesterday.

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# Hopes rise for talks

**Leaders of two Koreas hold surprise meeting to keep US-N Korea summit on track**



REUTERS, Seoul

South Korean President Moon Jae-in held a surprise meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un yesterday in an effort to ensure a high-stakes summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump takes place successfully, South Korean officials said.

The unannounced meeting is the latest dramatic turn in a week of diplomatic flip-flops surrounding an unprecedented summit between the United States and North

Korea, and the strongest sign yet that the two Korean leaders are trying to keep the on-again off-again summit on track.

Their two-hour talks at the Panmunjom border village came a month after they held the first inter-Korean summit in more than a decade at the same venue on April 27 and declared they would work toward a nuclear-free Korean peninsula and formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War.

"The two leaders candidly exchanged

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# The hidden world under Antarctica

MAIL ONLINE

Vast canyons and mountain ranges twice the size of Ben Nevis have been discovered hidden beneath the South Pole.

Ice penetrating radar was used to uncover the canyons, which cut through three expansive subterranean mountain ranges under the Antarctic ice shelf.

As global warming continues to heat up the poles of our planet, these valleys could play a crucial role in controlling the flow of ice, scientists claim.

Researchers from Northumbria University were part of an international team that studied the canyons as part of the European Space Agency PolarGAP project.

Radar images revealed the deep troughs, which run for hundreds of miles under the ice and cut through subterranean mountains.

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Ramadan	May	Sehri	Iftar
10	27		6:43
11	28	3:40	6:44

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Prayer Timing May 27

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 3:46	12:45	5:00	6:43	8:05
JAMAAT 3:56	1:15	5:15	6:53	8:35

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Girl killed 'after rape' in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A schoolgirl was allegedly raped and killed at Aronkhola union in the district's Madhupur upazila on Friday.

The victim was identified as Liza, 11, daughter of Mizanur Rahman of Uttar Gachhabari village.

Mizanur, a farmer, said his daughter, a fifth grader at Gachhabari Government Primary School, went missing on Friday afternoon. She last told her mother that she was going to take her bath at a nearby water body, he added.

As she did not return home till the evening, locals in groups started a search for her. Her body was later found under banana leaves in a bamboo orchard around 9:30pm, said Belayet Hossain, member of Aronkhola Union Parishad.

Police recovered her body and sent her body to Tangail General Hospital morgue for autopsy yesterday morning.

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**Florists display on the chassis of a heavy vehicle left on the street by police in front of Shahbagh Police Station. Authorities last month evicted the flower stores that used to occupy pavements in the area. The photo was taken yesterday.**

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# INDO-PAK TENSIONS ALONG LOC Indian army foils infiltration bid

**Kills five 'militants' in Kashmir**

AGENCIES

At least five terrorists were killed in a gunfight with the Indian Army on the Line of Control (LoC) after an infiltration attempt from across the de facto border with Pakistan was foiled early yesterday, officials said.

The operation was launched in north Kashmir border area of Tanghdar. "Five terrorists killed while attempting to infiltrate early morning today," a defence spokesperson said.

Officials said more militants could be involved as the operation was still on.

This is the first infiltration bid to be foiled near the line of control (LoC) with Pakistan since the Union government declared a unilateral ceasefire in view of Ramzan recently. Although Army personnel had spotted a few militants near

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