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SHAN CEMENT

15 killed in road crashes

5 of a family among victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a reunion full of elation, Halim Akand was received by four members of his family on his return from Saudi Arabia early yesterday. Halim, 43, landed around 2:00am yesterday.

But as they were on their way home to Bagerhat from the airport, the joy soon turned to misery. The family met a tragic accident which killed all five and a microbus driver on the spot.

The accident occurred on the Dhaka-Khulna highway in Gopalganj's Kashiani upazila around 9:00am when a bus collided head-on with the microbus, also leaving 15 bus passengers injured.

The deceased are Halim, his wife Asma Banu, 35, sons Shihab Akond, 8, and Sujon Akond, 17, and brother-in-law Badsha Farazi, 37. They were from Sharamkhola of Bagerhat. The identity of the driver could not be confirmed.

AKM Alimur Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kashiani Police Station, said the bus of Sheba Green Line service rammed

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The brown beauty

JABER REI

"Hurry up, you are going to get left behind!" The source of the voice vanished behind the uncountable humongous green grasses. They were even enclosing the path, as if the whole ecosystem had consciousness, strictly controlling the

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Bristled Grassbird is a small yet majestic bird that brings melody to otherwise quiet grasslands. The photo of the bird was taken at a char near Mawa ferry ghat in Munshiganj.

PHOTO: SAYAM U CHOWDHURY

War criminals attempted to disrupt trial

Says chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha has said war criminals sought to interrupt the trial proceedings through appointing international lobbyists in exchange of money.

They made the attempt when the first International Crimes Tribunal was set up with three Supreme Court judges, he said.

Later, another tribunal was formed to deal with the situation and the war crimes trial gained momentum, the CJ added.

Justice Sinha was in a meeting with President of International Criminal Court (ICC) of Justice Silvia Aleandra Fernández de Gurmendi and its Deputy Prosecutor James Stewart in the Hague of the Netherlands on June 20.

The CJ led a six-member

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 30

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-30 5-00 6-54 8-17
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-57 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



China building smog-eating 'forest city'

AGENCIES

After eight months of grinding urban warfare, Iraqi government troops yesterday captured the ruined mosque in Mosul from where Islamic State proclaimed its self-styled caliphate three years ago, the Iraqi military said.

Iraqi authorities expect the long battle for Mosul to end in the coming days as the remaining Islamic State fighters are now bottled up in just a handful of neighborhoods of the Old City.

The seizure of the 850-year-old Grand al-Nuri Mosque is a huge symbolic victory for the Iraqi forces fighting to recapture Mosul, which had served as Islamic State's de facto capital in Iraq.

"Their fictitious state has fallen," an Iraqi military spokesman, Brigadier General Yahya Rasool, told state TV.

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'IS caliphate' has fallen: Iraq military

AGENCIES

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DINAIPUR 'MURDER' Key accused held after four weeks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Police arrested the main accused in a case filed over the murder of a teenager in Kahareh upazila almost four weeks ago.

Shajahan Ali was arrested in his home in Tarapur village on Wednesday but five other accused, who are his family members, were not found.

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OUSTER OF QATARI BOSSES Asian migrants in Saudi in trouble

AFP, Doha

Asian migrants working as domestic staff and farmers are stranded in Saudi Arabia -- potentially illegally -- after their Qatari bosses were ordered out of the kingdom, a rights group said Wednesday.

The workers from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal have been left without accommodation and money, said the head of Qatar's National Human Rights Committee.

"There are a lot of migrant workers affected by this decision," said committee chairman Ali bin Smalikh Al-Marri.

Many of those affected were farmers who drive livestock between the two countries, said Marri.

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