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SHAH CEMENT

Farmer lays a road for his village

The Tangail man now fears rain may wash away the 1.5km clay road at places

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

It all began with a simple thought -- the villagers need a road to go to the nearest market, but there is none. Nor did the local administration take any initiative. So Mohammad Chhainuddin, a farmer, took it upon himself to build one.

Chakgagadhar is one of the most underprivileged villages in Tangail's Nagarpur upazila and was virtually cut off from the mainland due to the absence of a road link.

The villagers would use a 1.5km narrow ridge (or ail, which separates two plots of land) from the edge of Chhainuddin's house to a concrete road to go to the local market for trading. It was also the only passage for their children to school.

But during monsoon that passage would go under waist-deep water causing immense sufferings. With no easy alternative route, the villagers had to take a boat or wade through water to go about their business.

"Sometimes, I had to take my daughter on my shoulder



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A pilgrim trying to calm his sobbing granddaughter who came to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to see him off. The first hajj flight left for Saudi Arabia yesterday. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR

RMG worker gang-raped in Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A case was filed against four unidentified men yesterday for allegedly gang-raping a 20-year-old ready-made garment worker in Chattogram's Anwara upazila on Wednesday night.

According to the case statement, the victim was returning home from her workplace around 9:00pm with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw that already had three men in it.

The men in the auto-rickshaw abducted the girl and took her to an isolated place near Boiragi union's China Road. Two of the men then gang-raped her.

Later, they took the girl in the auto-rickshaw and dumped her beside Chattogram-Anwara road. The criminals also called the victim's family members and informed them about the incident, the case statement added.

The victim was rescued by her family members and rushed to Karnaphuli Upazila Health Complex. She was later shifted to

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Unesco delays decision on Sundarbans

Asks govt for documents on steps taken to preserve the forest; decision on 'Heritage in Danger' next year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Unesco has postponed the decision of including the Sundarbans on the List of World Heritage in Danger until next year, urging the Bangladesh government again to halt a large-scale industrial construction around the mangrove forest.

So, the government gets one year more to take necessary measures to protect the forest before the World Heritage Committee (WHC) sits again next year to discuss whether to put the forest in the list.

Yesterday, the WHC of Unesco made the decision during its ongoing 43rd session in Baku, Azerbaijan. The WHC requested the government to submit all the updated documents of the government's initiatives taken for the conservation of the Sundarbans by February next year.

The WHC will evaluate those documents in its 44th session to be held in June next year and then decide whether or not the Sundarbans will be listed as the

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CRIMES AGAINST ROHINGYAS ICC seeks to start probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecutor of International Criminal Court yesterday requested the judges to authorise an investigation into alleged crimes against humanity and persecution against the Rohingyas.

In a request to the judges, ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said the requested authorisation to investigate the situation covers the period between October 9, 2016 and the recent waves of violence in Rakhine State in Myanmar.

The request follows a thorough preliminary examination by her office which concluded that the legal conditions required under the Rome Statute to open an investigation have been met, according to an ICC statement.

The progress in the ICC comes when Myanmar security forces and insurgents are accused of committing human rights violations against civilians in restive western states that may amount to fresh war crimes.

On the April 9 last year, the ICC prosecutor filed a request with the court's judges for a legal ruling on the question of jurisdiction over the alleged deportation of the Rohingya people from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

The second phase of the preliminary examination of this situation started last September, following the judges' ruling in response to that request, which confirmed that the Court may assert jurisdiction pursuant to article 12(2)(a) of the Statute, "if at least one element of a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court or part of such a crime is committed on the territory of a State Party to the Statute."

The prosecutor has determined that there is a reasonable basis to believe that at least 700,000 Rohingyas were deported from Myanmar to Bangladesh through a range of coercive acts and that great suffering or

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Principal of madrasa held for raping a dozen girls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Rab yesterday detained a madrasa principal in Fatullah for his alleged involvement in raping around a dozen female students since 2018.

Al-Amin, 45, is the founder and principal of Baitul Huda Cadet Madrasa in Mahmudpur area. He was also the imam of a mosque.

On Sunday, Rab arrested Ariful Islam, 30, an assistant teacher of a private high school in Siddhirganj, for allegedly violating over 20 girls, said Alep Uddin, senior assistant director of Rab-11.

When the arrest news went viral on Facebook, a class-three student of Baitul Huda Cadet Madrasa saw it and asked her mother why the law enforcers did not arrest the principal of her madrasa, said the Rab

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Ancient Philistines came from Europe



AFP, Jerusalem

Ancient bones excavated in Israel and analysed in Germany may have cracked the puzzle of the Philistines' provenance and provided for the first time evidence of the biblical people's European origins, researchers say.

The findings related to the Old Testament nemesis of the ancient Israelites were published Wednesday in the journal Science Advances and dubbed "extraordinary" by one of the archaeologists involved.

Many are familiar with the Philistines through the biblical story of Goliath, the giant Philistine warrior killed by the underdog David and his sling in the Valley of Ella, as told in the Book of Samuel.

The Philistines are believed to have arrived in the region in the 12th century BC, but researchers

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MOSQUE IN CAPITAL Caretaker's body found in a sack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered a body from an abandoned room of Mayor Mohammad Hanif Jame Mosque in Dhaka's Azimpur yesterday.

The dead was identified as Abu Hanif, a Khadem (caretaker) of the mosque.

KM Ashraf Uddin, officer-in-charge of Lalbagh Police Station, said the body was found inside a sack and had at least 10 stab marks on it.

Police are primarily suspecting that Hanif was

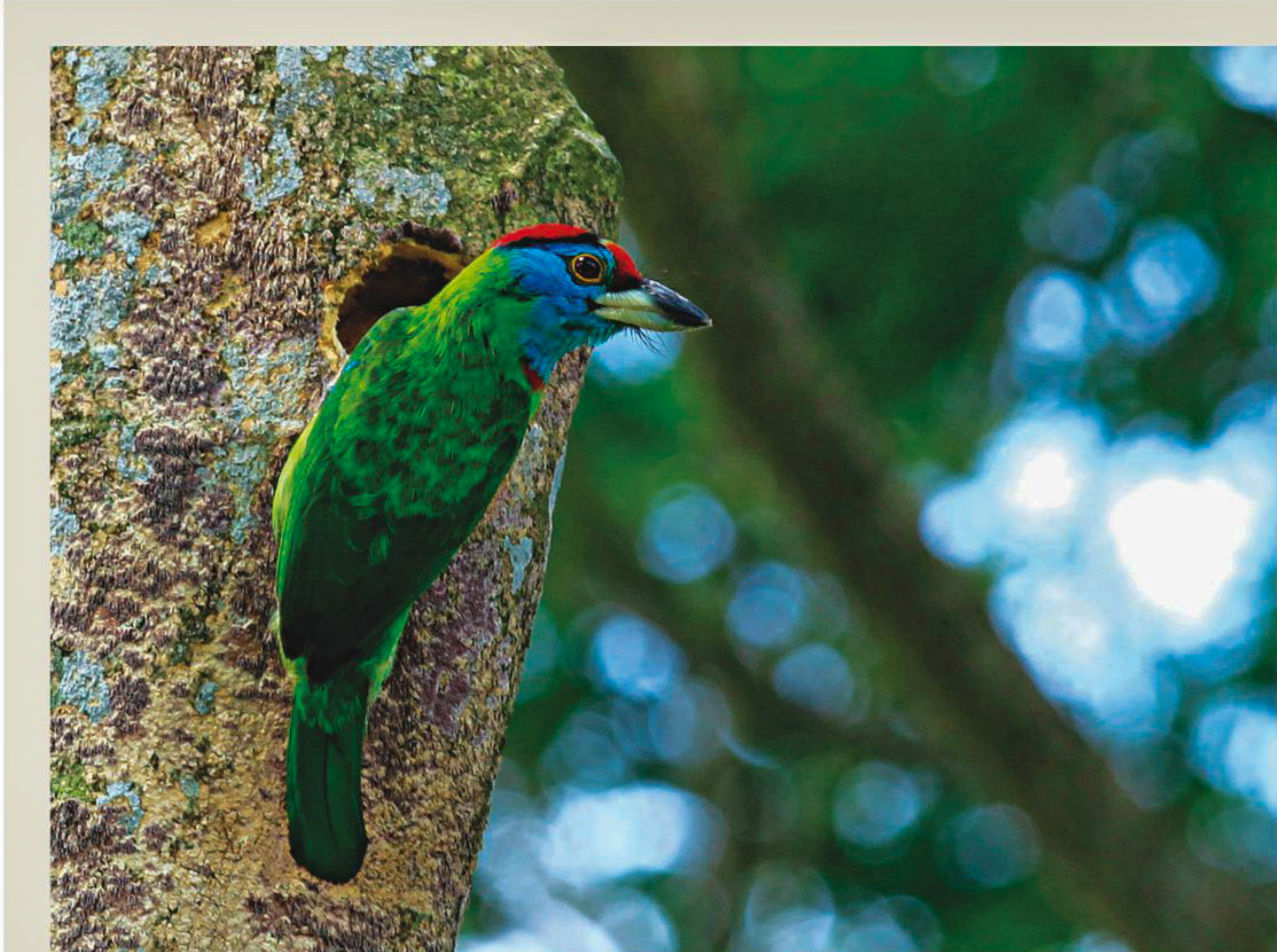
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PRAYER TIMING JULY 5

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-30 5-00 6-21 8-17
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 6-24 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



THE NEST BUILDER

A blue-throated barbet excavating a nest hole in the soft trunk of a tree as it is their breeding season. As forests are being cut, they are rarely seen in Sylhet. The photo was taken recently in Rustampur area of Gowainghat.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASTR

'Be careful with the threats, Iran'

Trump warns after Tehran vows to exceed maximum uranium enrichment level

REUTERS, Geneva

US President Donald Trump warned Iran on Wednesday against making threats that can "come back to bite you like nobody has been bitten before," after Tehran vowed to exceed the maximum uranium enrichment level allowed by a landmark 2015 nuclear accord.

President Hassan Rouhani announced that after July 7 Iran would enrich uranium beyond a fissile purity of 3.67%, which is the maximum allowed by the deal and a level which is deemed suitable for electricity generation.

It is the second time this week that Tehran has announced a measure that undermines the nuclear accord, which has been in trouble since Trump pulled the United States out of it last year.

"Our level of enrichment will no longer be 3.67. We will put this commitment aside by whatever amount we feel like, by whatever amount is our necessity, our need. We will take this above 3.67," said Rouhani, according to IRI news agency.

Enrichment to 90% yields nuclear bomb-grade material. Trump responded with a post on social media, saying: "Iran has just issued a New Warning. Rouhani says that they will Enrich Uranium to 'any amount we want' if there is no new Nuclear Deal. Be careful with the threats, Iran. They can come back to bite you like nobody has been bitten before!"

Iran's intelligence minister has said Tehran and Washington could hold talks only if the United States ended its sanctions and Iran's top authority, Ayatollah

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