

Ayodhya site to be divided

Both parties to appeal against verdict

BBC ONLINE

A court in India yesterday ruled that the disputed holy site in Ayodhya should be split between Hindus and Muslims, but both sides plan to appeal.

In a majority verdict, judges of the Allahabad High Court gave control of the main disputed section, where a mosque was torn down in 1992, to Hindus.

Other parts of the site will be controlled by Muslims and a Hindu sect.

The destruction of the mosque by Hindu extremists led to widespread rioting in which some 2,000 people died.

It was some of the worst religious violence since the partition of India in 1947.

Officials urged both sides to remain calm and respect the Allahabad High Court's verdict.

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Combustible chemicals stored at a shop at Armanitola, Old Dhaka yesterday afternoon. Following the Nimtoli blaze, the government directed the traders to move their stocks of inflammable chemicals to a safer location by the end of yesterday to lessen the risk of further fire.

OLD DHAKA CHEMICAL DEPOT Deadline over, shops stay

RAKIB AHAMMED

Lives of thousands of Old Dhaka residents still remain under constant threat as traders in the area continue to store and sell combustible chemicals defying government orders.

Against the backdrop of a devastating fire at Nimtoli on June 3, the government banned storage of combustible chemicals in Old Dhaka and directed the traders to move their stocks to a safer location by August 17.

Following requests from the traders the government later extended the deadline, which expired yesterday.

Since the Nimtoli inferno, two fresh fire incidents took the lives of seven people at warehouses in Lalbagh and Bangshal areas. A probe revealed that the Nimtoli blaze, which claimed at least 124 lives, originated from a chemical warehouse.

Visiting different locations in the area yesterday, this correspondent found traders selling flammable chemical products at their stores.

"We have not seen anybody [traders] shifting their flammable

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Admin reels from Pabna shock

SYED ASHFAQUL HAQUE

The much-publicised row between a ruling party lawmaker and local administration for the last one week over recruitment of only 12 low-ranked staff in the Pabna district has put the issue of good governance and credibility of the government on the line.

Though not against the tradition, lawmaker Golam Faruk Khandaker Prince wanted his men on board and Deputy Commissioner Manzur Kadir won't oblige to the demands he

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2 Pabna ADCs made OSD

Another recruitment test today amid tight security

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The government yesterday withdrew two more officials from Pabna and made them officers on special duty (OSDs) following the row between the district administration and ruling party men centring the September 17 attack on government officers.

The officials are ADC (general) Bijoy Bhushan Paul and ADC (revenue) Imam Uddin Kabir, according to a gazette notification of establishment ministry.

The government on Tuesday withdrew Pabna Deputy

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Form separate cell to probe HR violations

Suggests rights commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission yesterday sought a separate investigation cell to look into human rights violations in Bangladesh.

NHRC Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman suggested this while revealing its draft five-year plan to prevent human rights violations.

"The commission will produce recommendations before the

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Tax return deadline now Oct 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday extended the deadline for submission of income tax returns to October 7 on 'special consideration' following strong demand from leading business chambers.

NBR Chairman Nasiruddin Ahmed told The Daily Star last night that the deadline, which expired yesterday, has been extended for a week.

"We have extended the

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