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RAMU, UKHIA TEMPLES Ready again

Army rebuilds 19 damaged temples; PM inaugurates Sept 3

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The 19 Buddhist temples that were torched or vandalised by religious fanatics in Cox's Bazar in last September have been reconstructed and renovated.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is to inaugurate the temples on September 3, said Ruhul Amin, deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar.

Islamist fanatics attacked Buddhist homes and temples in Ramu and Ukhia in a two-day mayhem on September 29-30 last year, following a fake Facebook post that demeaned the Quran.

It all began on the evening of September 29, after a certain quarter tagged a local Buddhist boy with the doctored photo.

The Daily Star in its own investigation had found that the photo was then printed and spread in and around Ramu by the quarter to help gather a big crowd and instigate violence.

The Engineering Corps of 17 ECB Battalion of Bangladesh Army in Cox's Bazar has done the reconstruction and renovation of the temples while the Border Guard Bangladesh has rebuilt the homes. The jobs were completed last month.

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The Bimukti Bidarshan Bouddha Bihar, left, in Ramu of Cox's Bazar which was rebuilt after Islamist fanatics, instigated by a certain political party, had burnt it last year. Several Buddhist temples were damaged, destroyed and burnt to the ground in the attack. Inset, a file photo of the charred Bouddha Bihar.

PHOTO: STAR

USER INFO No response from Facebook on govt request

STAR REPORT

The Bangladesh government had asked the social networking platform Facebook for information on 12 users in the first half of this year.

The network, however, did not provide the government with any information, the company said on Tuesday in its first report on the scale of data inquiries it gets from countries around the world.

Governments sought information on over

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Polls in January? It's a drama

A few AL leaders try to convince govt about constitution change

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

A section of leaders and lawmakers of ruling Awami League-led alliance have begun to persuade the government to amend the constitution for holding the next general elections after the current parliament completes its five-year term in January 2014.

According to the constitution, the election must be held within 90 days before the tenure of the parliament expires. So the next general polls need to be held between October 25 and January 24.

But in case the parliament is dissolved before October 25 the election must be held within 90 days after that.

The provision was introduced by amending the constitution in June 2011, replacing the previous one that had allowed polls within 90 days after the parliament's dissolution. It did not matter if the parliament's tenure was over or not.

The alliance leaders in favour of holding the polls after January 24 are saying the delay will increase chances of reaching a consensus among

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Fakhrul says about return of money laundered by Koko; AL reacts saying everything proved in foreign courts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday termed "nothing but a drama" the attorney general's handing over of a cheque for a portion of money that was laundered by Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

"The government staged the drama to bring up new issues and divert people's attention from the opposition movement demanding the restoration of the caretaker government," said BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Through a press conference at the party's Nayapaltn headquarters, Fakhrul shared his party's thoughts about the programme in which the dummy cheque was handed over to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Since November last year, the ACC has brought back in

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

CHT COUNCIL VERDICT Govt to challenge it next month

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government is set to take steps next month for the hearing of two appeals to cancel a High Court verdict that declared the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council illegal and unconstitutional.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza told The Daily Star that his office will place arguments before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for cancelling the verdict after it reopens on September 15.

The HC had made "a lot of errors" in the judgment, he said, without elaborating on what the errors were.

The HC delivered the verdict on April 13, 2010, following two separate writ petitions. However, the SC stayed the verdict two days later so that the council could continue operations.

Petitioners' counsel barrister Belayet Hossain said the appeals against the verdict should be disposed of expeditiously, as they deal with serious legal and constitutional issues, including development of the CHT, political

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Dhaka South City Corporation removes unauthorised placards and banners from in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. The move came after a recent spike in placards and banners littering Dhaka, mostly put up by political leaders.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

KL plans biggest crackdown on illegal workers

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia will launch what local media yesterday called its "biggest ever" crackdown on an estimated half a million illegal foreign workers, as a crime wave focused the nation's attention on security.

Under the three-month operation to begin on Sunday, authorities would seek to deport some 500,000 foreigners, mostly from the country's vast and less-developed neighbour Indonesia, Immigration Department Director General Alias Ahmad said.

The operation would involve 135,000 personnel led by the department, he was quoted by The Star newspaper as saying.

Southeast Asia's third-largest economy is a magnet for migrant workers from poorer neighbours Indonesia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Vietnam, Nepal and elsewhere, who fill low-paid construction, factory and plantation jobs.

Normally laid-back Malaysia has been on edge over dozens of reported shootings, many fatal, that authorities have blamed largely on a gang turf war.

While foreigners are not generally seen as a key source of crime, the presence of large numbers of undocumented workers has fuelled security worries.

Alias said authorities decided it was time to go after the estimated half-million people who initially registered under an amnesty scheme for illegal workers two years ago

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Mozena visits Odhikar office

Concerned over Adilur's detention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena has expressed his deep concern over the detention of Odhikar Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan.

"I am deeply concerned that he [Adilur] remains in prison. I would urge the government of Bangladesh to release him immediately," he said, while visiting the human rights organisation's office in the capital's Banani yesterday.

Mozena along with two embassy staff, and Terrell Henry, research and legislative assistant of the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, arrived

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PRAYER TIMING		August 29
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
4:30	5:05	
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:45	5:00
Maghrib	6:33	6:36
Esha	8:00	8:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think the zila parishads administrators' accusation against lawmakers of interfering in the activities of the local government bodies is justified?

Yes (82%)

No (18%)

TOTAL VOTES: 150

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that BNP is ready to sit with the government to find a way out of the current political impasse over the polls-time government?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

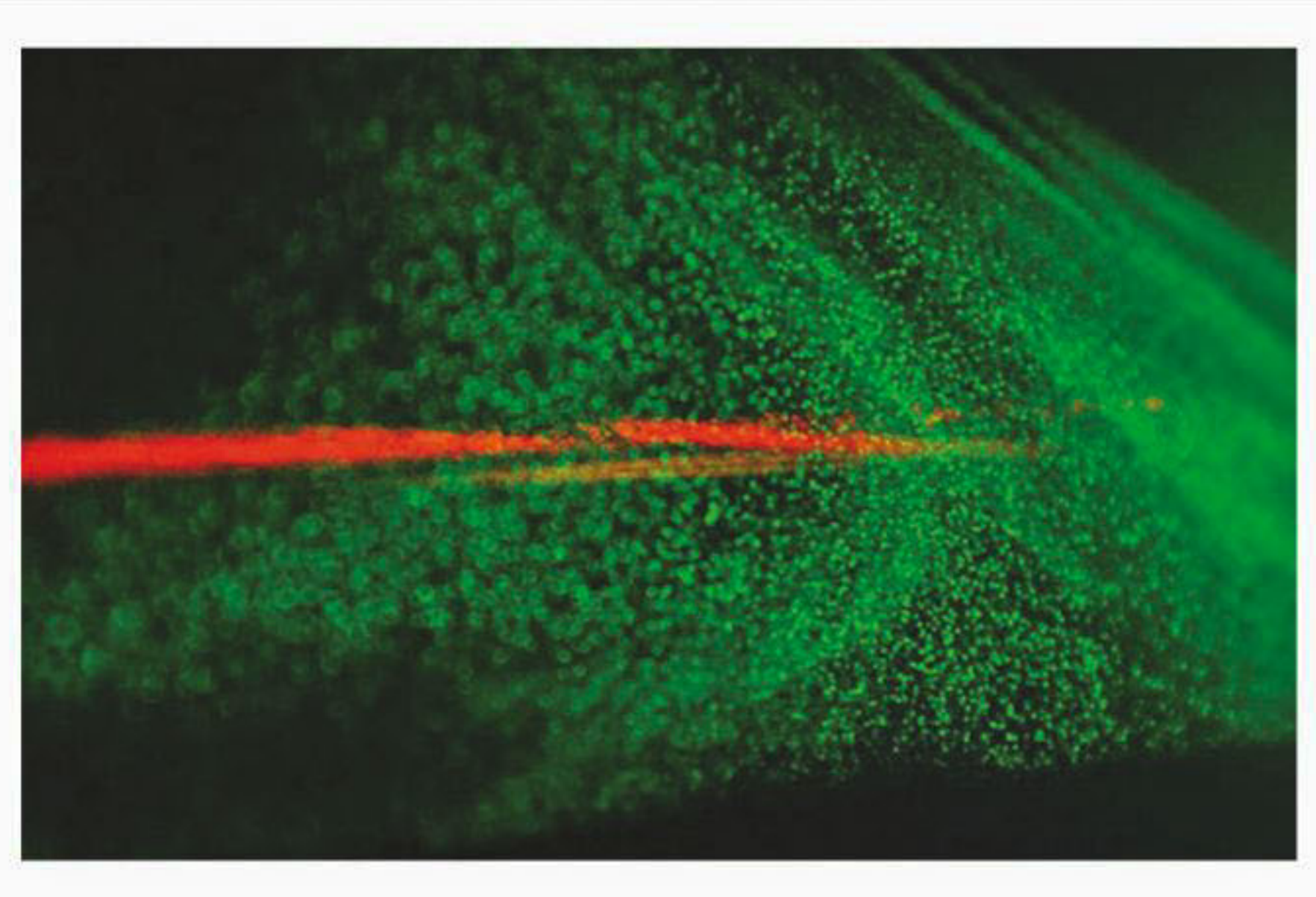
Lasers for controlling weather

THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

Scientists are attempting to control the weather by using lasers to create clouds, induce rain and even trigger lightning.

Experts from around the world are to gather at the World Meteorological Organisation next month to discuss how powerful

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The Daily Star

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