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operational due to various problems and bureaucratic red tape.

For a lack of skilled nurses, the ICU had to suspend operation on July 29, he said. Anaesthetist Bidhan Pal, in-charge of the ICU, said four nurses, specially trained for the ICU, along with nine other nurses of the hospital had been transferred elsewhere in July. At present, there is only one nurse who has special training for the ICU.

But it is impossible to run the ICU with one trained nurse. For this reason, the ICU was shut down temporarily, he said.

Bulbule Jannat, a schoolteacher and child organiser, took her elderly mother to the hospital on August 22. Doctors at the emergency unit advised her to admit the patient to an ICU.

But as the ICU was closed, the patient had to be taken to Chittagong.

Abu Morshed Chowdhury, president of Cox's Bazar Civil Society, expressed his disappointment over the closure of the ICU and requested the health minister to take necessary measures for reopening the facility as soon as possible.

Moinul Hasan, editor of a local daily and a college teacher, said at least 50 patients die in the district every year only because there is no ICU at any hospital in the district.

Many of them die on their ways to Chittagong, he added.

India's 105-yr-old

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Her efforts have earned her numerous awards and recognition as an environmentalist, with a foundation created in her name and frequent invitations to tree planting ceremonies all over India.

Never having attended school herself, she's now even featured in the Indian national curriculum, with a poem dedicated to her honour.

What's more, the blessings Thimmakka sought appear to have come her way -- though there are no birth certificates to confirm this, the passionate nature lover says she is 105 years old and is "very happy" with life's outcome.

"I am very happy seeing all my children. We have looked after the trees with love and I am happy and proud."

Meaning "row of trees" in the local Kannada language, Thimmakka was given her name "Saalumaraada" by the local community, where she is considered an environmental hero.

The fruits of her labour weren't easily won -- after a hard day's work on farms, she had to dig holes, plant saplings collected from the local area and haul water several kilometres from the well to nourish her green offspring.

"Sometimes the rain doesn't come," said Thimmakka, who watered the saplings up to four times a week while praying to the rain god, Dev Indra.

Her husband, who has since passed away, helped by carrying water and planting thorny bushes to protect the trees from hungry wild animals.

Their work has bestowed a great legacy to the village and state, as not only are Banyans valuable for firewood and furniture, but the region's chief minister dedicated a pot of money to continue their eco efforts.

Finally

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her face and body," said Shaibal Bosak, a doctor at the hospital.

"Being informed, we brought her to Munshiganj Police Station," said Yunus Ali, officer-in-charge of the station. "Later the girl told us the name of her father and we eventually traced him." The OC said they arranged the breakfast for the father and daughter at the station.

The father filed a case the same night, he added.

"I had to give her up for adoption due to hardship," said Chan Mia, an auto-rickshaw driver. He said one Bharati Begum of Tiladi village adopted Suborna when she was 15-day-old. "I did not know she was living with Kalpana and was being tortured."

"From now on my daughter will stay with me," he said.

Suborna even with injury marks on her face and body was all smiles when this correspondent met her Thursday morning. "I'm happy now. I have found my father," she said.

Meanwhile, police on Thursday night arrested Kalpana, 35, said the OC.

"After gleaning information from Kalpana we learned that when Bharati died in 2014, her husband Ali Islam of Hatimara gave Suborna to Kalpana," said Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Hatimara Police Station yesterday.

"She is with her father now, who took her home," he said.

BNP seeks

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Earlier yesterday, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir criticised the DMP's decision and said, "We will surely seek permission for an alternative venue, and we hope we will get the permission."

He was talking to journalists after placing wreaths at BNP founder Ziaur Rahman's grave along with members of the newly-formed committee of Jatiyatabadi Swachhchasebak Dal.

About the attacks on the Hindus in Brahmanbaria's Nasirnagar, Fakhrul said a vested quarter was carrying out such attacks in a planned way to harm the country's religious harmony.

He also alleged that the local administration failed to play their due role in preventing the attacks.

Historic climate pact enters into force

AFP, Paris

A worldwide pact to battle global warming entered into force yesterday, just a week before nations reassemble to discuss how to make good on their promises to cut planet-warming greenhouse gases.

Dubbed the Paris Agreement, it is the first-ever deal binding all the world's nations, rich and poor, to a commitment to cap global warming caused mainly from the burning of coal, oil and gas.

"A historic day for the planet," said the office of President Francois Hollande of France, host to the 2015 negotiations that yielded the breakthrough pact.

"Humanity will look back on November 4, 2016, as the day that countries of the world shut the door on inevitable climate disaster," UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa and Moroccan Foreign Minister Salaheddine Mezouar said in a joint statement.

Mezouar will preside over the UN meeting opening in Marrakesh on Monday.

"It is also a moment to look ahead with sober assessment and renewed will over the task ahead," they said.

This meant drastically and urgently cutting emissions, which requires political commitment and considerable financial investment.

The urgency was brought home by a UN report Thursday warning that emissions trends were steering the world towards climate "tragedy".

By 2030, said the UN Environment Programme, annual emissions will be 12 to 14 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) higher than the desired level of 42 billion tonnes.

The 2014 level was about 52.7 billion tonnes.

2016 is on track to become the hottest year on record, and carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere passed an ominous milestone in 2015.

That historic agreement was finally endorsed in the French capital last December, after years of complex and divisive negotiations, but the ratification was reached with record speed.

At least 55 parties to the UN's climate convention (UNFCCC), responsible for at least 55 percent of global

greenhouse gas emissions, had to ratify it for it to take effect.

It passed the threshold last month, and by Friday had been ratified by 97 of the 197 UNFCCC parties, representing 67.5 percent of emissions, according to France's environment minister Segolene Royal, the outgoing president of the UN talks.

'MAGNIFICENT DAY' "It is a magnificent day, concluding years of hard work," Royal told journalists in Paris.

"We must maintain this extraordinary momentum by encouraging countries to continue ratifying the deal, and by moving full steam ahead with our preparations to put it into action across the world," Europe's climate commissioner Miguel Canete added in a statement.

A major doubt looms over the process, however, as diplomats gear up for 11 days of talks in Morocco to discuss way of putting the agreement's political undertakings into practice.

US Republican nominee Donald Trump has threatened to "cancel" Washington's participation in the agreement if he is elected president on November 8.

"I refuse to think along these lines," Royal said, when asked about a possible US withdrawal under Trump.

"The Paris agreement prohibits any exit for a period of three years, plus a year-long notice period, so there will be four stable years," she said.

The pact undertakes to limit global warming to "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels, and to strive for 1.5 C.

Countries submitted voluntary, non-binding carbon-cutting goals towards this goal.

According to the International Energy Agency, implementing the pledges would require investments of \$13.5 trillion in efficient and low-carbon and energy technology to 2030 - almost 40 percent of total energy sector spending.

"The timetable is pressing because globally, greenhouse gas emissions which drive climate change and its impacts are not falling," said Espinosa and Mezouar.

Brexit timetable 'unchanged'

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"The PM explained to both Chancellor Merkel and President Juncker that while the government was disappointed with the judgement, it had strong legal arguments ahead of the case moving to the Supreme Court," the statement said.

The decision raises the prospect of a protracted parliamentary debate before then -- in a chamber that overwhelmingly opposed Brexit -- although EU leaders themselves have urged a swift departure. Lawmakers could also demand to know May's negotiating strategy and seek to maintain stronger ties with the bloc before agreeing to invoke Article 50.

Liberal Democrat MP Nick Clegg told BBC Radio yesterday that he and other pro-EU lawmakers would "seek... to amend the legislation such that parliament would say to government it should pursue a soft Brexit, not a hard Brexit."

Bookmakers have slashed the odds of a general election early next year, three years ahead of schedule, as May could decide to expose obstructive anti-Brexit lawmakers to the pressure of public opinion and take advantage of her Conservative Party's huge polling lead.

In a sign of the likely parliamentary storms ahead, Conservative pro-Brexit lawmaker Stephen Phillips resigned as an MP yesterday, citing "irreconcilable policy differences with the current government".

'ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE' The pound -- which has tumbled to multi-year lows since the referendum -- soared against the dollar and euro, standing at \$1.2497 during afternoon trading in London.

Meanwhile, the White House urged Britain and the EU to "continue to be flexible and work this out in a process that is smooth, pragmatic, transparent and productive" following the court ruling.

The court's decision sparked fury among newspapers that backed Brexit, accusing the judges of "betraying" the 17.4 million people who voted to leave the EU.

The Daily Mail carried pictures of the three judges above a front-page head-

line reading "Enemies of the People", while its leading article called the ruling "a betrayal of common sense, the people and democracy".

The Sun editorial said in its editorial: "All our politicians... must ask themselves this: will they honour the biggest ballot box mandate in British history... or sniffily decide the little people cannot be trusted and thwart them?"

The pro-EU Guardian praised the judgement for putting parliament "back at the heart of the Brexit debate", but warned Remain supporters "not to get their hopes up" about its implications.

Most members of parliament wanted to stay in the EU, but commentators believe there is no majority support for reversing the referendum result. 'PUBLIC ANGER'

The case challenged the government's right to use "historic prerogative powers" -- a type of executive privilege -- to trigger Article 50, which begins a two-year countdown to exiting the EU.

Robert Pigney, one of the claimants in the case, told AFP that the ruling was "an immense victory for the British people".

"It's very important that our elected representatives in parliament remain in control of our future," he said.

Nigel Farage, the interim leader of the UK Independence Party who led the Brexit campaign, urged May to call a general election and warned any lawmakers who attempted to delay Brexit had "no idea of the level of public anger they will provoke".

"The British people are not simply going to let this incredible establishment arrogance lie," he wrote in yesterday's Daily Telegraph.

Opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, whose party opposed Brexit, said he respected the decision of the British people.

May has so far declined to outline her negotiating strategy, insisting that showing her hand would damage her chances of achieving the best outcome.

But she has indicated she will prioritise cutting immigration, a move that EU leaders have warned is incompatible with staying part of the European single market.

Hindu temple set afire

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Tito told The Daily Star that people who want to destroy communal harmony in the area vandalised and set fire to the temple.

He also demanded that the real culprits be brought to book immediately after an investigation.

Police detained local union parishad Chairman Poygang Ali, also the organising secretary of the district BNP, for his alleged involvement in the attack.

In another incident, Banaripara police arrested one Babul Howlader on charges of vandalising several idols, including Durga, of a temple in

Banaripara Bazar on Thursday.

Ziaul Ahasan, officer-in-charge of Banaripara Police Station, said Babul was arrested from his house in Narottampur village under Banaripara upazila last night.

During primary interrogation, Babul confessed to involvement in the attack, said the police official.

Meanwhile, Barisal city unit of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad formed a human chain in front of Ashwini Kumar Hall yesterday, protesting the attacks on religious minority community and Hindu temples at different places in the country.

Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 1

MTUC Secretary-General N Gopal Kishnam claims that the "expatriate" loophole is being exploited by those seeking to bring in migrant workers into the country.

"Every day, there are full flights from Bangladesh to Malaysia," Gopal says, explaining that MTUC officials visit various airports to observe what is happening on the ground.

"We spoke to the Bangladesh nationals and they told us that they had come to Malaysia as skilled and semi-skilled workers. However, they later told us that their salaries amounted to only RM 1,000 a month besides having to work 12 to 14 hours a day."

He adds the expatriate loophole has been exploited for more than a year, but this has intensified after Malaysia froze the intake of foreign workers in February following a hue and cry over the Southeast Asian country's plan to recruit 1.5 million Bangladeshis over the next three years.

Malaysia, which is home to some six lakh Bangladeshi workers, has been a popular destination for Bangladeshis. The recruitment process, however, has always been tainted by malpractices that result in labour abuses.

Following massive irregularities during 2006 and 2008, Malaysia froze recruitment from Bangladesh in early 2009. In late 2012, the country began labour recruitment on a limited scale, but it did not work well allegedly for influence of recruitment agents having vested interests in both the countries.

Malaysia has declared recruiting 1.5 million Bangladeshis over the next three years through private sector, but the move got halted following a hue and cry by the trade unions and civil society in Malaysia over alleged involvement of syndicates that wanted to control the recruitment process.

Censorship

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Although the government has ordered other temporary shutdowns of TV networks, it is the first time that this specific legislation has been invoked to take a news channel off air.

NDTV, which has had several run-ins with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's right-wing government, said it had been "singled out" for action and that its reporting had been no different from what other channels broadcast.

"After the dark days of the emergency when the press was fettered, it is extraordinary that NDTV is being proceeded against in this manner," it said in a statement.

The Editors Guild of India also said the measure evoked memories of the 1975-77 emergency rule when fundamental rights were suspended in the world's largest democracy and large numbers of journalists were jailed.

"The decision to take the channel off the air for a day is a direct violation of the freedom of the media and therefore the citizens of India and amounts to harsh censorship imposed by the government reminiscent of the Emergency," the guild said in a statement.

"Imposing a ban without resorting to judicial intervention or oversight violates the fundamental principles of freedom and justice. The Editors Guild of India calls for an immediate withdrawal of the ban order."

Rajdeep Sardesai, one of the main anchors of the rival India Today network, also expressed alarm at the move.

"One of India's most sober and responsible channels NDTV India to be banned for a day by I and B ministry. NDTV today, who tomorrow?" he tweeted.

The Al Jazeera news channel was taken off the air for five days last year after it broadcast a graphic of the Kashmir region which is divided between India and Pakistan but whose borders are disputed.

The previous centre-left government also ordered The Economist to cover up a map of Kashmir in 2011, forcing the news weekly to place white stickers on the 28,000 copies being sold in India.

India ranks 133 among 180 countries in the latest annual World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders in 2016.

China's 'monkey king' picks Trump as next US president

AFP, Shanghai

A Chinese monkey described as the "king of prophets" has tipped Donald Trump for the US presidency, a tourism park said, after the creature successfully predicted the winner of football's European Championship final earlier this year.

Known as Geda -- which means knots or goose bumps -- the prophetic primate is the latest in a series of purportedly psychic animals that have popped up around the world since Paul the Octopus correctly predicted multiple 2010 World Cup matches.

The simian seer, wearing a yellow shirt emblazoned with his title, was given a chance to pick between life-sized cut-outs of Republican Trump and his Democratic challenger Hillary Clinton.

Who are the attackers?

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Para, Kashipara and Mahakalpara. Those from the Ahle Sunnat rally reportedly stormed Dutta Para.

"Of the attackers, almost 60 to 70 percent were aged between 14 and 25 and they were from different villages of Nasirnagar Sadar upazila," Sub-Inspector of Nasirnagar Police Station Mohiuddin Ahmed, investigation officer of the case filed over the attack, told The Daily Star on Thursday.

Witnesses and victims said activists from local chapters of Islamist group Hefajat-e Islam, BNP, Awami League, Jamaat-e-Islami and Ahle Sunnat as well as local goons took part in the attack. And local leaders of those organisations played the role of instigators.

According to witness accounts and video footage obtained by The Daily Star, people wearing panjabis and prayer caps were seen taking part in the attack.

However, Awami League lawmaker and Fisheries Minister Mohammed Sayedul Hoque on Thursday said no attacker was wearing panjabi or prayer cap.

At least three video clips of the attack on Gauro Mandir at Mahakalpara and Dutta Bari Mandir at Dutta Para show that most of the mobs were youths and teenagers.

This newspaper obtained the clips, which also show that some attackers were wearing pants and shirts and some were in panjabis and prayer caps.

Several victims told this correspondent that some women wearing hijab participated in looting Hindu houses and temples.

A section of attackers carrying sticks and locally made weapons had come from Nurpurvillage of Gokorno union.

"People came from the village and created mayhem," added a police official of Nasirnagar Police Station.

Nurpur is known as the "village of thieves", locals say.

Besides, villagers, mostly youths, from Harinber, Noorpur, Datmandal, Kahetura, Sanakaradah, Asoarail and Benipara attacked Hindu temples and houses.

While locals have identified several attackers from mobile phone video clips, the administration is yet to find out the masterminds or the attackers.

"We are working to identify the masterminds and attackers," said Abdul Kadir, officer-in-charge of Nasirnagar Police Station, who has been withdrawn but is still carrying out duties.

"Most of the attackers were teenagers. We are examining video clips to identify the attackers," he added.

About 200 houses and business establishments and at least 17 temples of Hindus were vandalised and looted on Sunday in Nasirnagar upazila town and Haripur union.

The mayhem followed a Facebook post from the account of Rasraj Das, a local fisherman.

Rasraj, 27, is now in jail in a case filed over the post. Before his arrest and the attack on Hindus, he claimed he had nothing to do with the post, but apolo-

gised for it anyway. Relatives say his account may have been hacked.

Several witnesses told The Daily Star in the last three days that BNP activist Mahub Ahmed carrying a stick and riding a horse attacked Hindu houses in different areas of the upazila town.

This correspondent on Wednesday visited Mahub's house at Dantmondon. But the man ran away when he was approached for his comment.

Many witnesses said Chaportola union AL President Suraj Ali addressing the Towhidi Janata rally called upon people to "attack Hindus".

Contacted, Suraj denied making any such statement but admitted that he had joined the rally.

Locals also said former Bhureshwa Union Parishad member Mohammed Oli Miah and his sons Sumon and Milon attacked Gauro Mandir.

Oli, who had won the union parishad election as an AL-backed candidate in 1996, refuted the allegation and said he tried to protect Hindus.

Nasirnagar AL General Secretary ATM Moniruzzaman said he along with the president of the AL unit joined both the rallies, spoke there and called for a peaceful protest.

"The matter is under investigation and I am not in a position to make any comment," said Moniruzzaman, also the upazila chairman.

Moniruzzaman, Nasirnagar's Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat Convener Reazul Karim, Towhidi Janata Chairman Mufi Muklesur Rahman and BNP General Secretary MA Hannan rejected the allegations that their organisations had any links with the communal violence.

"They all said it was an act of some vested quarters that wanted to create anarchy."

Ahle Sunnat's Reazul and Towhidi Janata's Muklesur categorically said none from their rallies were involved in the attack.

They both said that a section of AL leaders amid intra-party feud might have provoked their followers into attacking Hindus. It is also possible that people who want to destabilise the government created the situation.

Muklesur added, "Attackers also could be local goons, Hindu land grabbers and Hindu people who have conflicts with other Hindus."

Locals alleged that Haripur union AL President Faruk Miah's cousin Kaptan Miah, who is an AL activist, was one of the instigators in the area.

Kaptan was not available for comment but Faurk said his cousin had no links to Sunday's incidents.

After watching mobile phone clips, locals could say that attackers included Nasirnagar Chhatra League leader Rabbi Rubel, Chhatra Dal activist Marzan Bhuiyan of Haripur union, upazila town's Hefajat activist Haris Miah and Jamaat activist Dukhu Miah.

However, those party men could not be reached for comments.

Nasirnagar BNP leader Hannan said no leaders and activists of the party had taken part in the attack or instigated it.

Iraqi forces punch

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had set up barriers and laid bombs all along the streets.

Air strikes by the US-led coalition had intensified over the past two days, despite the smoke from burning tyres set on fire by IS in a bid to provide cover.

They ebbed when the push on the ground got under way however.

The resistance came despite wide-spread reports in recent weeks that top IS commanders had left the eastern side of the city and crossed the Tigris river to regroup on its west bank.

BACK FROM THE DEAD

An estimated 3,000 to 5,000 IS fighters are scattered across the sprawling city, Iraq's second largest, where a million-plus civilians are believed to be trapped.

There has been an exodus of civilians from outlying villages this week but few managed to find a safe way out of the city itself.

Umm Ali could not hold back her tears when she spoke of her constant fear the jihadists would take her young sons.

"They kept coming to our home. Sometimes they'd knock on the door at 10:00 pm," she said. "They took our car, saying: 'This is the land of the caliphate, it belongs to us'."

Civilians seeking refuge in Kurdish-controlled areas east of the city recounted tales of IS brutality.

"We're coming from the world of the dead back to the world of the living," said Raed Ali, 40, who fled his home in the nearby village of Bazwaya.

In a rare audio message released on Thursday, IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi urged his fighters to defend the city where he proclaimed the "caliphate" in June 2014.

The public announcement he made from the pulpit of Mosul's Great Mosque of al-Nuri heralded the most ambitious and brutal experiment in modern jihad, a period marked by mass murder, attempted genocide and slavery.

But his "caliphate" has been shrinking steadily since mid-2015 and the loss of Mosul would leave Raqa, in Syria, as the group's only major urban stronghold.

IS has been increasingly pragmatic in its tactics this year, falling back in the face of superior force even in some of its emblematic bastions such as Fallujah in Iraq and Dabiq in Syria.

IS SEEKS CHILD RECRUITS
IS militants have killed hundreds of

people, including 50 deserters and 180 former Iraqi government employees, around their stronghold of Mosul, UN human rights spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said yesterday.

Militants told residents of Hammam al-Ali that they must hand over their children, especially boys above the age of nine, in an apparent recruitment drive for child soldiers, reports Reuters.

"They've been knocking on people's doors and asking for their boys," she said, adding that families that did not comply were threatened with severe punishment.

IS militants were holding nearly 400 Kurdish, Yazidi and Shia women in Tal Afar, and had possibly killed up to 200 people in Mosul city, she said.

Iraqi special forces recaptured six districts of eastern Mosul yesterday, a military statement said, expanding the army's foothold in the Islamic State stronghold a day after its leader told his jihadist followers there could be no retreat.

Suu Kyi pledges due process in Rakhine state

AFP, Tokyo

Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday said authorities were looking into allegations of atrocities committed against the Muslim Rohingya minority, as she faces mounting criticism over her handling of the crisis.