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SHAH CEMENT

Let goodness, love prevail

Interfaith leaders also urge people to shun violence in the name of religion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different religious communities yesterday called upon the countrymen to reject violence in the name of religion and work to establish peace by upholding harmony.

No religion allows violence, they said at the inauguration of the Bangladesh Inter-Religious Forum for Peace and Harmony (BIRFPH) at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in the capital.

BIRFPH Coordinator Syed Tayabul Bashar said their main objective was to establish peace and protect those who might fall victim to rumours and religious hatred.

There are vested interests who do not want to see the current progress in Bangladesh and are involved in destructive activities to tarnish the country's image abroad, they added.

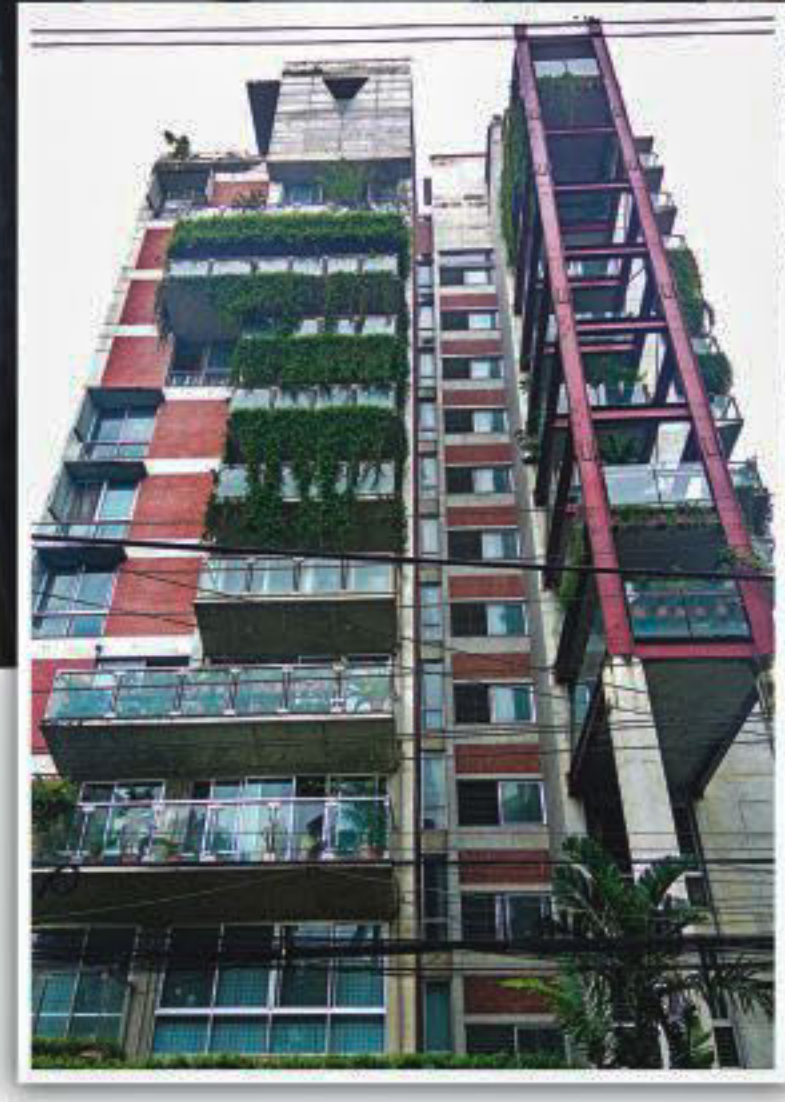
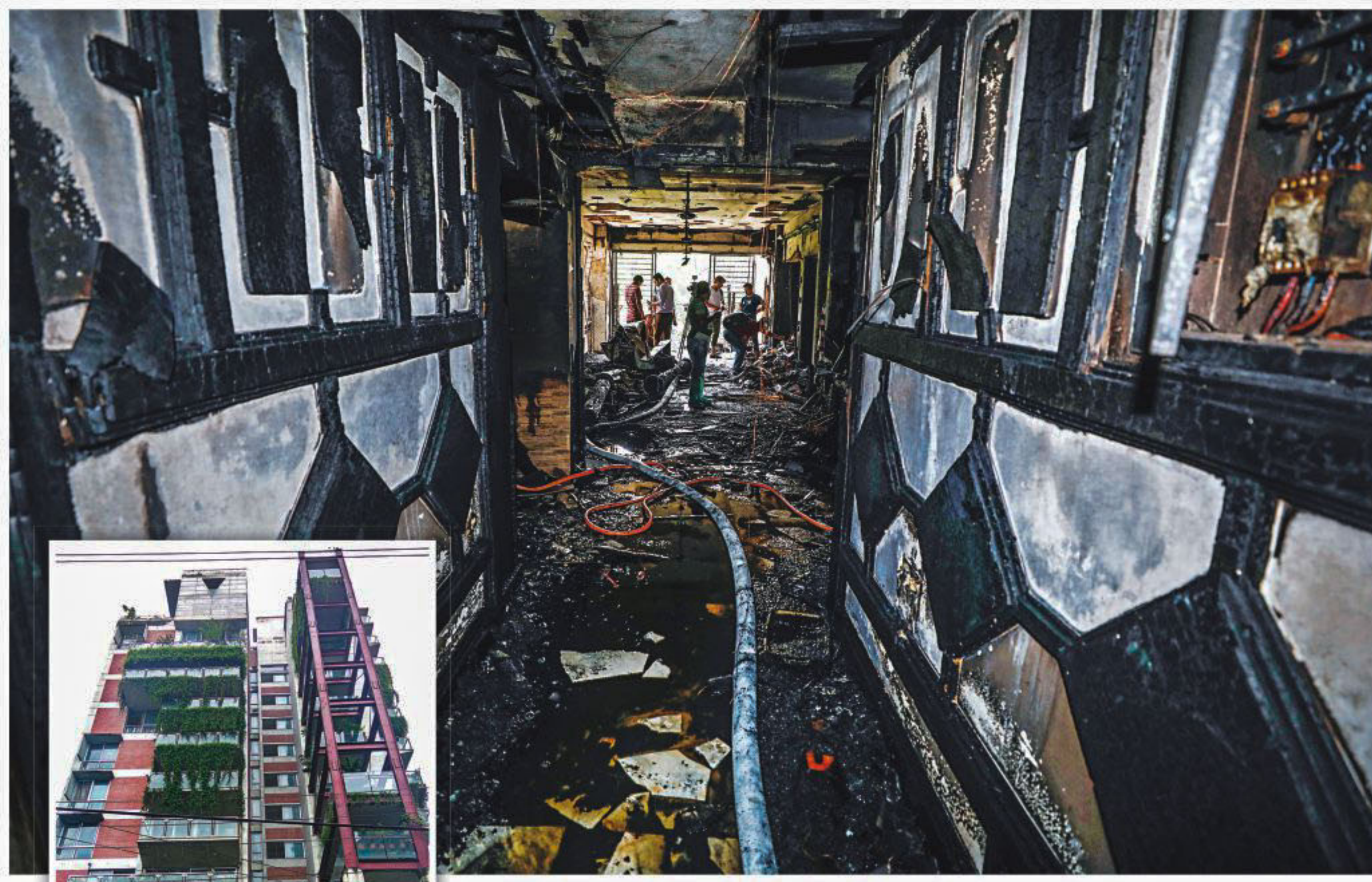
Save and Serve Foundation, a non-government, non-profit that aims to promote religious tolerance, will act as the forum's secretariat, according to the organisers.

At the programme, eminent Islamic scholar Maulana Farid Uddin Masud said Islam as a religion considers love as its "core value."

"Only love and affection can solve problems, not hatred," he said. "Not only as a Muslim, but as a human being, I urge all to learn how to respect each other and be affectionate towards others."

A disturbing trend to demean others has emerged all over the world, he said, adding against such a backdrop, launching a forum to work for religious harmony was a timely step.

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A fire-ravaged hallway of the 13-storey building in the capital's Dhanmondi. The fire broke out at a flat on the second floor yesterday morning and the smoke quickly engulfed the apartments above.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Joy questions some foreign missions' role

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy has once again questioned the "motive" of some foreign missions in Dhaka, specifically the US embassy, for their activities.

"I am not telling [you] a few countries but their diplomatic missions, specifically the US embassy here, try to hatch conspiracies when Bangladesh is marching towards progress," he said.

Joy was interacting with a group of youths at a programme titled "Youth on Politics, a session of Young Bangla with Sajeeb Wazed". The programme was aired by a private TV channel on Friday night.

"What is their motive? They [a few foreign missions] don't want to see a strong government here. They want a [weak] government which will function at their dictate," Joy said responding to a question.

Sharing his personal experience, the PM's adviser said he found Jamaat men and war criminals invited to US embassy programmes.

He also said the US embassy in Dhaka has turned into a "den of Jamaat and war criminals."

He urged the youths to remain alert to such conspiracies.

Joy also questioned the statements made by a few foreign missions in Dhaka on the recent murder of

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Rover to hunt for water on Moon



Nasa will send a mobile robot to the South Pole of the Moon to hunt for water, the US space agency has announced.

The rover -- the Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover, or VIPER for short -- is the size of a golf cart, and will sample the Moon's soil environments to search for evidence of water and ice.

The machine will collect data for

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TRUMP IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

Judge validates Democrats' bid

Orders release of unredacted copy of Mueller's report

AGENCIES

A US judge on Friday validated the legality of the Democratic-led impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump and ordered his administration to hand over an unredacted copy of former special counsel Robert Mueller's report detailing Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

US District Judge Beryl Howell, handing a major victory to the Democratic-led House of Representatives, undercut an argument that Trump's fellow Republicans have made in attacking the impeachment inquiry. The judge said the House need not approve a resolution formally initiating the effort.

The US Constitution gives the House wide latitude in handling impeachment. Democrats began the inquiry without putting such a



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MIGRANTS IN KSA

200 more return home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 200 Bangladeshi workers were deported on Friday night from Saudi Arabia, as the authorities in the Kingdom are continuing to send back migrant workers.

With them, over 800 Bangladeshi workers were sent back this month alone, according to Brac Migration Programme, which maintains a database of deported migrant workers from different countries.

Friday's deportees landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 11:30pm on a Saudia flight, said Shariful Hasan, head of the

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PROTESTS IN IRAQ OVER JOBS, GRAFT

Tensions high after 42 killed

AFP, Baghdad

Iraqi security forces sought to clamp down on protests in Baghdad and across the south yesterday, a day after dozens died in a bloody resumption of anti-government rallies.

A parliamentary session scheduled for yesterday afternoon to discuss the renewed protests was cancelled after it failed to reach a quorum.

Since anti-government rallies first erupted on October 1, nearly 200 people have died and thousands were wounded in Baghdad and across the country's Shia-majority south in violence condemned worldwide.

Almost a quarter of them, 42, succumbed on Friday alone from live rounds, tear gas canisters or while torching government buildings or offices belonging to powerful Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary factions in several southern cities.

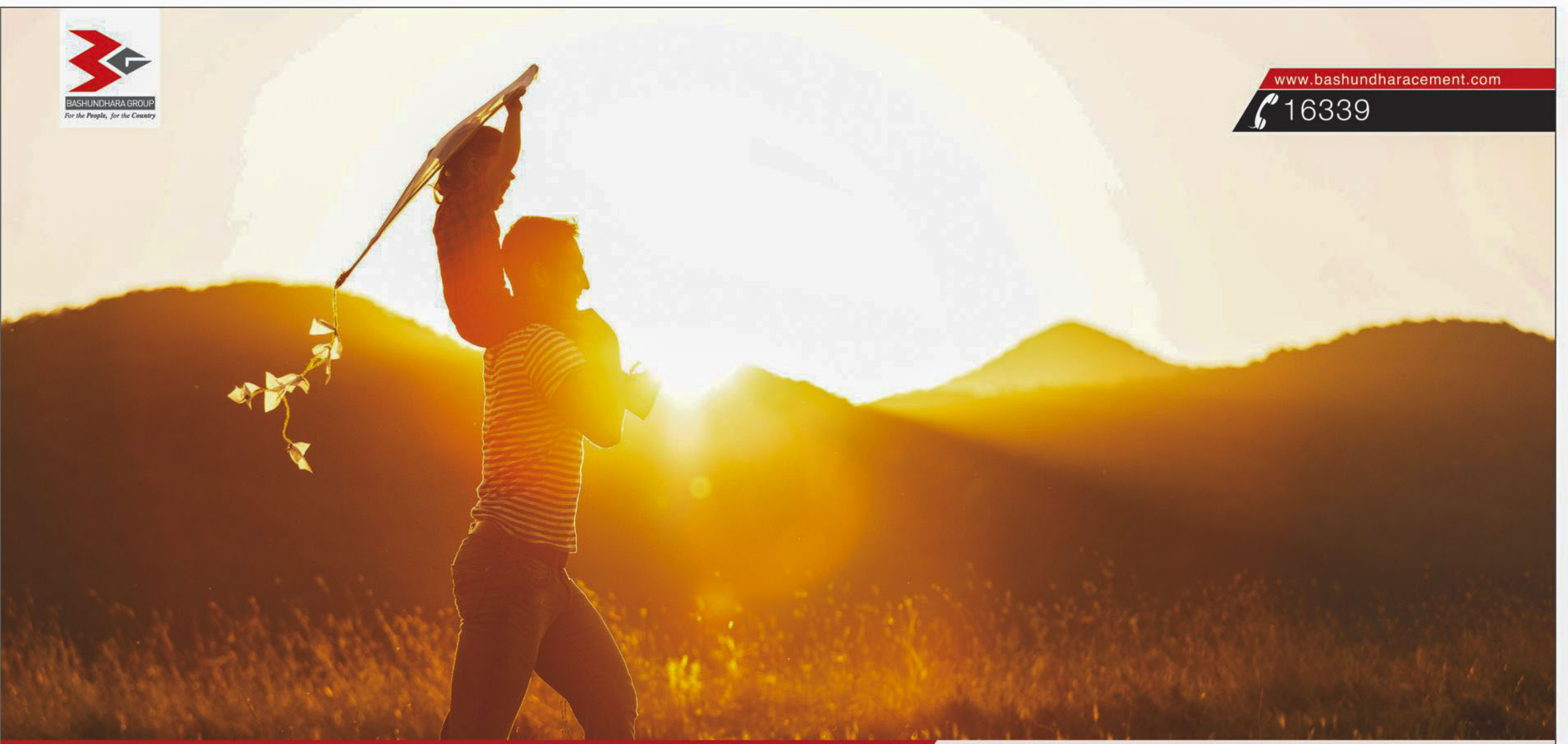
Tensions remained high across several cities there yesterday, with security forces cutting off roads and imposing strict curfews.

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 27

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:50	12:45	4:00	5:32	7:15
JAMAAT 5:25	1:15	4:15	5:35	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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