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Walking backwards

Communalism gaining foothold in place of secularism because of political patronisation, say speakers at Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation's webinar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has been moving away from the path of secularism while communal forces are being patronised to reap partisan benefits and tap vote banks, academics and rights activists told a webinar last night.

It is unfortunate that communalism exists in the country that gained independence with a spirit of secularism, they told the discussion arranged by Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation.

It is sad that discussion is needed on the issue of communalism even after 50 years of independence, said rights activist Sultana Kamal.

People who took power after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, removed secularism from the constitution, she said.

Those people also brought known anti-liberation war forces into politics and patronised communal forces. As a result, communalism entered education, she added.

Muslim children were taught that their religion is the best, and people of other religions were not equal to them. This created enmity and communalism began to spread.

Prof Mizanur Rahman, former chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, quoted Bangabandhu as saying that secularism means the

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Theatre artist Adhora Priya breaks into tears while talking about her father Dilip Das who was killed in a recent communal attack in Cumilla. She was attending a programme organised by Federation of Television Professionals Organization on Manik Mia Avenue in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

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COMMUNAL VIOLENCE FM must withdraw 'untrue' remark

Minority community leaders demand

STAR REPORT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen must revoke his "untrue" remarks over the attacks on Hindu temples during the Durga Puja, demanded Bangladesh Puja Ujyapan Parishad yesterday.

In a press release, signed by Biplob Dey, office secretary of the organisation, it said that the government should expose the truth to the people, ensure punishment of the attackers and rehabilitate the affected.

Condemning the minister's message shared with the media on Thursday, the organisation

UP ELECTION 25 hurt in pre-polls violence

STAR REPORT

At least 25 people were injured in clashes between supporters of union parishad chairman candidates in Dhaka's Dhamrai and Kushtia's Mirpur in the last two days.

Followers of ruling Awami League nominee and a party "rebel" candidate clashed in Dhamrai, while supporters of AL and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal candidates clashed in Mirpur, reports our Savar and Kushtia correspondents.

Police said a clash broke out between supporters of AL chairman candidate Kafil Uddin and party "rebel" candidate Hafizur Rahman Sohrab in Dhamrai's Shuapur Bazar area around 11:45am yesterday.

Kafil's son Abdul Halim was hurt in the incident.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

"I am sitting on the top of a volcano": Indira

OCTOBER 31, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH PROBLEM DOMINATES INDIRA'S TALK WITH HEATH

The Bangladesh problem dominated the talks Indira Gandhi had with Heath today at the British prime minister's country residence outside London. The two prime ministers discussed the Bangladesh situation and shared their common desire to find a political solution to the problem. They also agreed that the political settlement must be acceptable to the elected and accepted political leaders of East Bengal.



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3 found dead in Tangail house

Police also rescue injured child

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police recovered three bodies and rescued a three-year-old critically injured child from a house at Digor union in Tangail's Chatail upazila yesterday.

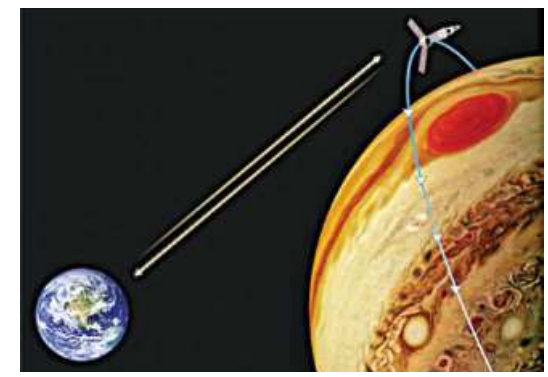
The dead are Jamela Khatun, 60, her daughter-in-law Sumi Akter, 25, and Shahjalal Sohagh, 30. The injured child is Sumi's only son Safi, said police.

Abul Kalam Azad Mamun, chairman of Digor union parishad, said Jamela and Sumi did not wake up as usual in the morning. Thus, Sumi's sister Shahnaj Begum knocked on their door but received no response. Later, she informed locals who then entered the house breaking the lock of the door, he added.

Sohel Rana, assistant superintendent of Tangail police (Gopalpur circle), said they recovered the

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Nasa probe unveils new details of Jupiter



REUTERS, Washington

Data from Nasa's Juno spacecraft is providing a deeper understanding of Jupiter's wondrous and violent atmosphere including its Great Red Spot, finding that this immense swirling storm extends much further down than expected.

Researchers said on Thursday the Great Red Spot plunges between roughly 200 to 300 miles (350 to 500 km) below the cloud tops on Jupiter, based on microwave and gravity measurements obtained by Juno.

The data is giving scientists studying the solar system's largest planet - so big that 1,000 Earths could fit inside it - a three-dimensional account of Jupiter's atmosphere.

The planet, known as a gas giant, is composed

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BCL INFIGHTING Ctg Medical College shut indefinitely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram Medical College (CMC) will stay shut until further notice after a clash broke out yesterday between factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

Three students sustained minor injuries as a result of the brawl in the morning between factions loyal to AJM Nasir Uddin, former Chattogram City Corporation mayor and secretary of Chattogram city unit Awami League, and Mohibul Hasan

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 31

Fazr 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



England's Jos Buttler (L) and Jonny Bairstow celebrate their eight-wicket victory over Australia in their T20 World Cup fixture at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Saturday. For more see page 11.

PHOTO: AFP

SUDAN CRISIS Two killed as forces fire on anti-coup rally

AFP, Khartoum

Sudanese security forces yesterday killed two protesters during mass anti-coup rallies, medics said, despite warnings from global powers who had urged restraint by the military.

"Two demonstrators were killed in the city of Omdurman by the putschist military council," the independent Central Committee of Sudan's Doctors said in a tweet.

The latest killings -- in Khartoum's sister city -- bring the death toll since the outbreak of anti-coup protests on Monday to 11, with about 170 others wounded.

Yesterday's protests came almost a week after the military last Monday detained Sudan's civilian leadership, dissolved the government and declared a state of emergency, leading to a chorus of international condemnation -- and warnings against using force.

"No, no to military rule", and "We are free revolutionaries and we will continue the road" of democratic transition,

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জজ জুএগা টেক্সটাইল মিলস্ বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব শিল্প পুরস্কার ২০২০-এর বৃহৎ ক্যাটাগরিতে দ্বিতীয় পুরস্কার অর্জন করায় ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড রিসার্চ (নিটার)-এর পক্ষ থেকে আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন



জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জন্ম শতবার্ষিকী উপলক্ষে প্রথমবারের মতো 'বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব শিল্প পুরস্কার ২০২০'-এর বৃহৎ ক্যাটাগরিতে জজ জুএগা টেক্সটাইল মিলস্ দ্বিতীয় পুরস্কার অর্জন করায় ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড রিসার্চ (নিটার)-এর গভর্নিং বডি ও একাডেমিক কাউন্সিলের পক্ষ থেকে জজ জুএগা গ্রুপের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, তরুণ ব্যবসায়ী, শিল্প উদ্যোক্তা ও নিটারের গভর্নিং বডির সদস্য ইঞ্জিনিয়ার ফায়জুর রহমান জুএগা কে জানাই ফুলেল শুভেচ্ছা ও আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন। আমরা তাঁর এ অনন্য অর্জনে গর্বিত।

সৌজন্যেঃ

চেয়ারম্যান, গভর্নিং বডি
ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড রিসার্চ (নিটার)