



US Department of State employees clap for recently laid-off employees as they leave the Harry S Truman Federal Building in Washington, DC, on Friday. More than 1,300 State Department employees were fired Friday in a downsizing ordered by President Donald Trump and touted as cutting bloated government -- but which critics predict will hamstring US influence around the world.

PHOTO: AFP

Gaza truce talks faltering over troop withdrawal

Say Palestinian, Israeli sources; at least 79 more killed in the Palestinian territory; US citizen killed in West Bank settler attack

AGENCIES

Talks aimed at securing a ceasefire in Gaza are stalling over the extent of Israeli forces' withdrawal from the Palestinian enclave, Palestinian and Israeli sources familiar with the negotiations in Doha said yesterday, as the continued Israeli offensive in the Palestinian enclave killed 79 more.

The indirect talks over a US proposal for a 60-day ceasefire are nonetheless expected to continue, the sources said, despite the latest obstacles in clinching a deal.

A Palestinian source said that Hamas has rejected the withdrawal maps which Israel has proposed, as they would leave around 40 percent of the territory under Israeli control, including all of the southern area of Rafah and further territories in northern and eastern Gaza.

Two Israeli sources said Hamas wants Israel to retreat to lines it held in a previous ceasefire before it renewed its offensive in March.

The Palestinian source said matters regarding aid and guarantees for ending the war were also presenting a challenge, and added that the crisis may be resolved with more US intervention.

The White House said on Monday that Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff, who played a major role in crafting the latest ceasefire proposal, will travel to Doha this week to join discussions there.

Delegations from Israel and Hamas have been in Qatar since Sunday in a renewed push for an agreement which envisages a phased



release of hostages, Israeli troop withdrawals and discussions on ending the war entirely.

Meanwhile, the Israeli offensive in Gaza yesterday killed 79 Palestinians, including 30 aid seekers, hospital sources said.

The new deaths of aid seekers add to nearly 800 similar deaths in the last six weeks, according to the United Nations, with Israel's army saying it issued new instructions to troops following repeated reports of fatalities.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel's military offensive has killed more than 57,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities, displaced almost the entire population of more than 2 million people, sparked a humanitarian crisis and left much of the territory in ruins.

The United Nations yesterday warned that dire fuel shortages in the Gaza Strip had reached "critical levels", threatening to dramatically

increase the suffering in the war-ravaged Palestinian territory.

The deaths came as Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz published a picture of the ruins of Gaza, saying, "After Rafah, Beit Hanoun".

Rafah, Gaza's southernmost city that borders Egypt, has been almost destroyed by the Israeli army. Beit Hanoun is a major city in the northern part of the enclave, which is now under heavy siege by Israeli forces.

The violence also spilled into West Bank yesterday where a Palestinian American man was beaten to death by settlers in the Israeli-occupied territory and a second man was shot dead.

US citizen Sayafollah Musallet, 20, also known as Saif, was severely beaten in the incident on Friday evening in Sinjil, north of Ramallah, the ministry said. Hussein Al-Shalabi, 23 was shot in the chest.

Trump visits Texas flood zone

REUTERS, Kerrville

Donald Trump defended the state and federal response to deadly flash flooding in Texas on Friday as he visited the stricken Hill Country region, where at least 120 people, including dozens of children, perished a week ago.

During a roundtable discussion after touring Kerr County, the epicentre of the disaster, Trump praised both Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem for their response.

Authorities have faced mounting questions over whether more could have been done to protect and warn residents ahead of the flooding, which struck with astonishing speed in the pre-dawn hours on July 4, the US Independence Day holiday.

Action taken against those involved

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in his possession. The DMP also arrested another accused Titon Gazi early yesterday. On Friday, Rab detained accused Alamgir and "Chhoto" Monir.

"Our detective teams are working on the ground, and we are committed to ensuring that all those responsible are brought to justice."

Describing the killing as a "very distressing incident", he called on all segments of society to work together to curb the rising trend of intolerance. "We have become increasingly intolerant. Even minor incidents are provoking extreme reactions. [Stopping] This is not solely the responsibility of law enforcers -- teachers, parents, university faculty, doctors, and others must step up too."

The home adviser rejected claims of police inaction, saying law enforcers took prompt measures.

"If they had been inactive, these arrests wouldn't have happened within two days," he said, citing other examples of swift police response. "We are not sitting idle. In some cases, there may be brief delays, but action is taken immediately once the information [of any incident] is verified."

Jahangir urged the public not to take the law into their own hands and to inform police immediately in the event of any incident.

Meanwhile, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul in a Facebook

post yesterday said the government is committed to ensuring swift justice in the case.

He wrote that the case would be transferred to a Speedy Trial Tribunal, and proceedings would be conducted under section 10 of the Speedy Trial Tribunal Act, 2002, to ensure justice as soon as possible.

Also yesterday, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Hasib Ullah Gias placed accused Titon on a five-day remand after police produced him before the court seeking a seven-day remand, according to a court staffer.

Defending himself in court, Titon was quoted as saying, "Please watch the viral video carefully. I did not hit or assault anyone ... I was just standing there."

After the judge left the courtroom, the accused was heard telling someone that one Monir had called him to the scene.

Earlier in the day, another accused, Tarek Rahman Robin, gave a confessional statement in an arms case before a magistrate. As he was detained with weapons in his possession, a separate arms case was also filed against him.

Meanwhile, plaintiff Manjuara's daughter Bithi alleged that police excluded three names while preparing the first information report.

She said that around a week before her uncle Sohag was murdered, three people -- Roni, Kaiyum

Molla, and another man -- had come to his office and threatened to kill him.

Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, denied the allegation, saying those names were not mentioned when the case was filed. "Those who were actual suspects were listed in the FIR."

On the other hand, three BNP-affiliated organisations -- Jubo Dal, Svecchhasebak Dal, and Chhatra Dal -- have also questioned the exclusion of the three names from the police-prepared FIR.

Jubo Dal President Monayem Munna told reporters, "Those directly involved in the incident -- who are clearly seen in the CCTV footage -- have surprisingly not been named in the case. Those who delivered the fatal blows have still not been arrested. We don't understand why."

Condemning the murder, he said, "We are deeply concerned about the overall law and order situation in the country. The entire nation is shocked after witnessing this brutal and barbaric act. I strongly condemn and protest this savagery."

Sohag was laid to rest beside his mother's grave yesterday morning in Barguna's Sadar upazila. Shortly after, a human chain was formed in front of the Barguna Press Club, demanding justice for him.

(Our Patuakhali correspondent contributed to this report)

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■ The application fee is Tk. 4050 (including online processing fee). The application must be submitted online by **Wednesday, July 30, 2025**. For detailed application procedure, please visit: **www.iba-du.edu** or **https://www.admission.iba-du.edu**

Classes of Executive MBA Program will take place during the weekends i.e., on Fridays and Saturdays.

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Local Re-Press Tender Notice

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