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Warehouse owner still at large

Case filed against 8 over Mirpur factory fire

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

Three days have passed, but law enforcers are yet to arrest the owner of Alam Traders, the chemical warehouse that burned down in Tuesday's deadly fire, claiming 16 lives.

Police said Saiful Islam, brother of garment worker Sanwar Hossain, who died in the blaze, filed a case on Wednesday night accusing eight people, including Shah Alam, owner of Alam Chemical Warehouse, over the Mirpur fire, on charges of death caused by negligence.

He filed the case under Section 304 of the Penal Code with Rupnagar Police Station on Wednesday.

Other accused include Alam Chemical Warehouse manager Akram; owners and managers of Evergreen Color Print, NRS-Wash, Shah Ali Wash, and Shahjali Wash factories; along with 10-15 unidentified individuals.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Pallabi Division Police Saleh Muhammad Zakaria told The Daily

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Rohingya boat departures triple in first half of 2025

Says Save the Children report on Bangladesh



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The number of Rohingya who left Bangladesh by boat in the first six months of this year has tripled compared to last year, as conditions for children in the camps of Cox's Bazar continue to deteriorate and funding cuts reduce essential services.

According to Save the Children, at least 1,088 Rohingyas embarked on sea journeys from Bangladesh during the first six months of this year, with around 87 of them children, heading for Southeast Asian countries including Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

The number was 364 during the same period last year, according to figures from the UN Refugee Agency.

"As the rainy season ends and the situation in the camps continues to deteriorate, with increasing crime and reducing services, more families are contemplating

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World hunger a collective failure: Pope

AFP, Rome

Pope Leo XIV yesterday condemned the world's failure to stop millions of people from going hungry, blaming a "soulless economy" and calling on others to rethink their lifestyles and priorities.

"Allowing millions of human beings to live -- and die -- victims of hunger is a collective failure, an ethical aberration, a historical sin," Leo said in a speech at the Rome-based UN agricultural agency.

"The scourge of hunger... continues to atrociously plague a significant portion of humanity," he said, a day after the United Nations warned global hunger "is at record levels".

The crisis was "a clear sign of a prevailing insensitivity, a soulless economy", Leo told the FAO at a World Food Day ceremony that falls on the agency's 80th anniversary.

Ensure fair trial, victim protection in key cases: Türk

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

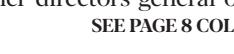
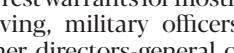
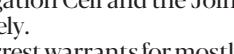
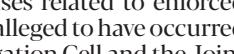
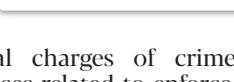
UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk has said the initiation of proceedings against those accused of carrying out enforced disappearances and torture under the previous government in Bangladesh is an important step towards accountability.

"This marks the first time that formal charges have been brought for enforced disappearances in the country. It is a significant moment for victims and their families," High Commissioner Türk said in a press statement on Wednesday.

Last week, International Crimes Tribunal submitted formal charges of crimes against humanity in two cases related to enforced disappearances and torture alleged to have occurred at the Task Force for Interrogation Cell and the Joint Interrogation Cell, respectively.

The tribunal also issued arrest warrants for mostly former, but also some serving, military officers, including a number of former directors-general of

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MPO teachers threaten hunger strike unto death

Postpone their march to Jamuna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of non-government MPO-listed institutions, who have been demonstrating for several days, threatened to go on a hunger strike unto death today if their demands, including 20 percent house rent of their basic salary, are not met.

"We have postponed today's [Thursday's] march towards Jamuna for the time being as our well-wishers, including political parties, advised that some opportunists might infiltrate and divert the movement. Around 2:00pm tomorrow [Friday], we will begin the hunger strike," said Delwar Hossain Azizi, member secretary of the Alliance for Nationalisation of MPO Institutions.

"Even after that, if the government does not heed to our demands, we will go on a hunger strike unto death. Our bodies will return home from the Shaheed Minar," he said, adding, "There is no way to back down until our demands are met."

Azizi said the teacher leaders had a meeting with the education adviser at the Secretariat but received no positive feedback yesterday.

After the meeting, Azizi returned to the Central Shaheed Minar around 3:00pm and told the gathering, "We want to give the government time until 5:00pm. We want our guardian, the chief adviser, to resolve the issue. Otherwise, we will be compelled to proceed with our march towards Jamuna.

"The movement has spread like wildfire. Either you fulfil our demands or send your forces to kill us all," he added.

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A father embraces his daughter, a student of Viqarunnissa Noon School and College, with unbridled joy after her HSC results were published yesterday. This year, girls once again outperformed boys across all nine education boards. The photo was taken in front of the school on the capital's Bailey Road.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'Fight not over yet' in Gaza, wider region

Warns Netanyahu as Hamas seeks more time to find hostage bodies

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that Israel was "determined" to secure the return of the remains of all hostages still held in Gaza, vowing that the "fight is not over yet".

"We are determined to secure the return of all hostages," Netanyahu said at a state ceremony at Jerusalem's Mount Herzl military cemetery, marking the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel that sparked the military campaign in Gaza.

The fight is not over yet, but one thing is clear - whoever lays a hand on us knows they will pay a very heavy price. We are determined to win a victory that will shape our surroundings for many years," he added, a day after Hamas said it had handed over all the captives it could access.

Israel said yesterday it was preparing for the reopening of Gaza's Rafah crossing with Egypt to let Palestinians in and out but set no date as it traded blame with Hamas over violations of a US-mediated ceasefire.

Israeli government spokesperson Shosh Bedrosian told reporters Israel remained committed to the agreement and continued to uphold its obligations, demanding Hamas return the bodies of the 19 deceased hostages it had not handed over.

The Islamist faction has handed over 10 bodies, but Israel said one was not that of a hostage. The group says it has handed over all bodies it could recover.

The armed wing of Hamas said the handover of more bodies in Gaza, reduced to vast tracts of rubble by the war, would require the admission of heavy machinery and excavating equipment into the Israeli-blockaded Palestinian enclave.

Meanwhile, a senior Hamas official yesterday accused Israel of flouting the ceasefire by killing at least 24 people in shootings since last Friday and said a list of such violations was handed over to mediators.

- Two Palestinians killed by Israeli fire
- Opening of Rafah crossing delayed
- Israel returns 30 Palestinian bodies to Gaza

"The occupying state is working day and night to undermine the agreement through its violations on the ground," he said.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond. It has previously said some Palestinians have ignored warnings not to approach Israeli ceasefire positions, and troops "opened fire to remove the threat".

'Will go in and kill Hamas if Gaza killings continue'

Warns Trump

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump yesterday threatened to "go in and kill" Hamas if the armed group continued to kill people in Gaza, in an apparent reference to recent shootings carried out by Hamas targeting alleged gang members and suspected Israeli collaborators.

"If Hamas continues to kill people in Gaza, which was not the Deal, we will have no choice but to go in and kill them," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social network. "Thank you for your attention to this matter!"

Trump did not elaborate on what he meant by "we". But he said on Wednesday that "we won't need the US military" to be involved in Gaza.

His comments come just days after he backed the Hamas shootings -- which include public executions -- and described them as killings of gang members.

Since the partial withdrawal of Israeli forces in Gaza under the US-backed 20-point ceasefire deal,



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