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TRIPURA KILLINGS

Dhaka wants impartial investigation

Delhi for fencing to stop cross-border smuggling

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has called on the Indian government to launch an immediate, impartial, and transparent investigation into the killing of three Bangladeshis by mob in India's Tripura State on October 15.

"This heinous act is an unacceptable and grave violation of human rights and the rule of law," said Bangladesh Foreign Ministry in a statement yesterday.

"All individuals, regardless of nationality, are entitled to full protection of their human rights, even if they inadvertently cross borders," the foreign ministry said.

Bangladesh expressed serious concern and condemned the incident and stressed that the perpetrators must be identified and brought to justice without delay.

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The upper portion of the Adams Caps & Textiles Ltd factory building caved in after a massive fire ravaged the seven-storey structure since Thursday afternoon at the Chattogram Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) in South Halishahar. Even 19 hours later, smoke was still seen rising from the site yesterday morning.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Lethal gas found in gutted Mirpur warehouse

Hydrogen sulphide measured at 'immediately lethal' levels, says DMP bomb unit official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Toxic hydrogen sulphide gas at "immediately lethal" levels was detected yesterday inside the burnt chemical warehouse in Mirpur's Shialbari, where smoke was still billowing more than 72 hours after a blaze killed at least 16 people.

The hydrogen sulphide concentration inside the warehouse was measured at 149 parts per million (PPM), said Mohammad Mahmuduzzaman, assistant commissioner and team leader of the DMP's Bomb Disposal Unit, yesterday.

He warned that exposure to hydrogen sulphide at levels above 100 PPM can cause instant unconsciousness and death. Other toxic gases, including carbon monoxide, were also detected, and many sacks of chemicals were still lying inside, he added.

Earlier, Mahmuduzzaman and a four-member team entered the warehouse equipped with gas detectors and other equipment.

"The gas levels were fluctuating and rising," he said. "Yesterday (Thursday), our gas detectors found hydrogen sulphide above 20 PPM. Today (Friday), it was 149 PPM."

He also cautioned that other toxic elements were present in the surrounding air and advised evacuating people within a 150-300 metre radius, warning that the gas could spread up to 1.5 kilometres downwind.



FILE PHOTO

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Advance to the next step of Gaza peace deal

Hamas urges mediators, reaffirms commitment to truce

AGENCIES

Hamas yesterday called on mediators to push for the next steps under the ceasefire in Gaza, including reopening the border, letting in aid, beginning reconstruction, setting up an administration and completing Israel's withdrawal.

Fighting has largely stopped in Gaza under US President Donald Trump's plan, endorsed by mediators Egypt, Qatar and Turkey. But further steps have been held up in part by Israeli accusations that the militants were too slow in handing over bodies of dead hostages.

Israel said on Thursday it was preparing for the reopening of Gaza's Rafah crossing with Egypt to allow Palestinians to move in and out, but gave no date as it traded blame with Hamas over violations of the ceasefire.

Other unresolved elements of the plan include the disarmament of militants and Gaza's future governance.

Hamas insisted it was committed to returning all the hostage remains still unaccounted for under Gaza's ruins, as a Turkish official said specialists dispatched to help find bodies were awaiting Israel's authorisation to enter.

Responding to a call from Hamas for help locating the bodies of the 19 hostages, buried under the rubble alongside an untold number of Palestinians, Ankara sent specialists to help in the search.

A Turkish official told AFP that dozens of disaster response specialists were at the

Egyptian side of the border awaiting a green light from the Israeli government to enter the war-shattered Palestinian territory.

The 81-member team from Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) is equipped with specialised

was not that of a former hostage.

In exchange, Israel freed nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners from its jails and halted the military campaign that it launched in Gaza after Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack.

A Hamas source told AFP the Turkish



Turkish experts await Israeli go ahead to help recover bodies in Gaza

UN says will 'take some time' to scale back Gaza famine

search-and-rescue tools, including life-detection devices and trained search dogs.

"It remains unclear when Israel will allow the Turkish team to enter Gaza," the official said.

Under a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas spearheaded by US President Donald Trump, Hamas returned 20 surviving hostages and the remains of nine of 28 known deceased hostages — along with another body, which Israel said

delegation is expected to enter Gaza by Sunday.

The Turkish official noted that the recovery team's complicated mission included locating both Palestinian and hostage bodies.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reaffirmed on Thursday his determination to "secure the return of all hostages" after his defence minister warned that the military would restart the conflict if Hamas failed to do so.

MPO teachers begin hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 100 teachers and staffers from non-government educational institutions under the Monthly Pay Order (MPO) scheme, who have been demonstrating for several days to press their three-point demand, began a hunger strike until death yesterday.

The demands include a 20 percent house rent allowance based on their basic salary, a 75 percent festival bonus, and a medical allowance of Tk 1,500.

Delwar Hossain Azizi, member secretary of the Alliance for Nationalisation of MPO Institutions, the platform leading the demonstration, said, "We want 20 percent house rent allowance. Teachers will not accept any other proposal. We will continue this hunger strike until the demand is met."

He made the comments before the strike started at the Central Shaheed Minar around 2:15pm.

Earlier in the day, the demonstrators brought out a

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Malibagh mall burglary was a planned heist

Say police; 4 held, 190-tola gold recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For nearly three months, a gang quietly watched, calculated, and waited for the right time to strike at Sompajewellers in Fortune Shopping Complex in Dhaka's Malibagh. When the night of October 8 arrived, they executed their plan with almost cinematic precision, detectives of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said yesterday.

During a press briefing at the DMP Media Centre, Md Shafiqul Islam, additional commissioner (detective branch) of DMP, said four members of the gang had been arrested after a 72-hour drive across several districts.

One of them had earlier tied a thin string to the bathroom window of the market during the day. After nightfall, they returned, used that string to pull up a thick rope, climbed to the second floor, broke the window, and entered the building.

Hidden inside the bathroom were burqas and burglary tools, stashed there days earlier. Disguised and prepared, the burglars broke into Sompajewellers and made away with gold worth crores.

The detectives disclosed the findings after claiming to have finally cracked the case.

The arrestees are Shahin Matbar

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Around 900m poor exposed to climate shocks

AFP, United Nations

Nearly 80 percent of the world's poorest, or about 900 million people, are directly exposed to climate hazards exacerbated by global warming, bearing a "double and deeply unequal burden," the United Nations warned yesterday.

"No one is immune to the increasingly frequent and stronger climate change effects like droughts, floods, heat waves, and air pollution, but it's the poorest among us who are facing the harshest impact," Haoliang Xu, acting administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, told AFP in a statement.

COP30, the UN climate summit in Brazil in November, "is the moment for world leaders to look at climate action as action against poverty," he added.

According to an annual study published by the UNDP together with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, 1.1 billion people, or about 18 percent of the 6.3 billion in 109 countries analysed, live in "acute multidimensional" poverty, based on factors like infant mortality and access to housing, sanitation, electricity and education.

Half of those people are minors.

One example of such extreme deprivation cited in the report is the case of Ricardo, a member of the Guarani Indigenous community living outside Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia's largest city.



Illinois State police detain a protestor outside of the Broadview ICE facility after US President Donald Trump ordered increased federal law enforcement presence to assist in crime prevention in Chicago yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump refiles \$15b lawsuit against NYT

AFP, Miami

US President Donald Trump has refiled a \$15 billion defamation lawsuit against The New York Times, court documents show, weeks after it was thrown out by a federal judge.

Trump has intensified his long-established hostility toward the media since his return to the White House and the suit is one of numerous attacks against news organisations he accuses of bias against him.

The Times complaint was thrown out in September because District Judge Steven Merryday took exception to its florid writing, repetitive and laudatory praise of Trump and its excessive 85 page length.

The suit filed Thursday in Florida and seen by AFP runs to less than half the length, at 40 pages.

It takes aim at "false, defamatory, and malicious publications", highlighting a book and two Times articles.

The lawsuit named the newspaper, three Times reporters and the publisher Penguin Random House as defendants.