

INTERNATIONAL

HK tower fire toll rises to 128

200 remain missing; security chief says fire alarms failed



REUTERS, Hong Kong

The death toll from Hong Kong's worst fire in nearly 80 years has risen to 128 and about 200 people remain missing from the high-rise residential complex that was engulfed by the blaze, the city's security chief said yesterday.

The fire in the Wang Fuk Court development, with eight 32-storey towers in the northern district of Tai Po, started and quickly spread on Wednesday afternoon.

"We do not rule out the possibility that more bodies could be discovered when police enter the building for detailed investigations," Hong Kong Security Chief Chris Tang told a press conference, adding that only 39 of the 128 dead had been identified.

Tang also said fire alarms in the complex had not been working properly. Rescue efforts had now been concluded and at least 79 people, including 12 firefighters were injured, he said.

"Our aim now is to make sure the temperature decreases in the building and once everything is deemed safe, police will collect evidence and conduct further investigation," Tang said. The estate housing more than 4,600 people had been wrapped in bamboo scaffolding and green mesh for renovation work.

Dozens of domestic workers from the Philippines, Indonesia had been caught up in the disaster and 19 were still missing, said Edwina Antonio, executive director at migrant women refuge association Bethune House.

Police said they had arrested three construction company officials on suspicion of manslaughter for using unsafe materials, including flammable foam boards blocking windows.

Israel strikes Syria, Gaza in air raids

13 Syrians killed, 25 others hurt in Beit Jin; Palestinian killed near Khan Younis; 9 bodies found in Hamas tunnels

AGENCIES

At least 13 Syrians were killed and 25 others wounded yesterday in Israeli artillery and missile attacks on the town of Beit Jinn, southwest of Syria's capital, Damascus.

In Gaza, at least one Palestinian was killed in an Israeli drone attack on the Bani Suheila municipality near Khan Younis city.

Israeli forces also carried out artillery attacks and shot from helicopters in Khan Younis city and air strikes nearby Rafah, reports Al Jazeera online.

Syrian state television reported that women and children were among those killed by Israeli military attacks in Beit Jinn. "Others remain trapped in the rubble", said the media, adding that dozens of local families have fled the area.

The Israeli army said an exchange of fire in an operation to detain militants from neighbouring Lebanon in the Syrian village of Beit Jin left six Israeli soldiers wounded, three of them in serious condition.

"We were asleep when we were woken up at three in the morning by gunfire," wounded resident Iyad Daher told AFP at a hospital in Damascus around 40 kilometres

(25 miles) from the village.

"We went outside to see what was happening and saw the Israeli army in the village, soldiers and tanks. Then they withdrew, the air force came, and the shells started falling. I was hit by shrapnel in the neck."

The Israeli army said the targets of the operation were fighters from the Islamist group Jamaa Islamiya, which is based in neighbouring Lebanon. "The suspects operated in

of Palestinian armed groups, was filmed from several angles, including by AFP.

Four European nations on Thursday urged Israel to stop what they called increasing "settler violence against Palestinian civilians" in the occupied West Bank.

"We — France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom — strongly condemn the massive increase of settler violence against Palestinian civilians and call for stability in the



the area of Beit Jin in southern Syria and advanced terror attacks against Israeli civilians," it said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army and police said they were investigating the circumstances in which two Palestinians were shot dead in the occupied West Bank while seemingly surrendering to Israeli forces.

The incident in Jenin in the northern West Bank, a stronghold

West Bank," they said.

In a separate development, the Israeli army said yesterday it had found the bodies of nine Palestinian militants recently killed in its attempts to dismantle the tunnel network in the southern Gaza Strip.

During operations in eastern Rafah, soldiers "located nine additional terrorists who had been eliminated in the underground terror infrastructure", the army said.

Putin to visit India on Dec 4-5 for Modi talks

REUTERS, Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin plans to visit India on December 4-5 at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss bilateral ties and international issues, the Kremlin and India's Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

During the state visit, Putin will hold talks with Modi and hold a separate meeting with Indian President Droupadi Murmu, the Kremlin said, saying a number of unspecified intergovernmental and commercial documents would be signed.

Putin last went to India in December 2021, just a few months before ordering troops into Ukraine in February 2022.

"This visit is of great importance, providing an opportunity to comprehensively discuss the extensive agenda of Russian-Indian relations as a particularly privileged strategic partnership," the Kremlin said in a statement.

Tunisia court hands opposition figures decades in jail

AFP, Tunis

Dozens of Tunisian opposition figures were handed prison sentences up to 45 years long on appeal yesterday, lawyers told AFP, in a trial rights groups have condemned as politically motivated.

Nearly 40 defendants, many of them critics of President Kais Saied, were sentenced to up to 66 years in April for "conspiracy against state security" and "belonging to a terrorist group".

The United Nations and rights groups have criticised the trial, and the charges were mainly based on accusations of meeting with foreign diplomats.

Most of the detainees were arrested in a crackdown on the opposition in 2023, after Saied labelled them "terrorists". Saied was elected in 2019 after Tunisia emerged as the only democracy of the Arab Spring. In 2021, Saied staged a sweeping power grab, and human rights groups have since criticised a major rollback on freedoms.

Jamaat planning major overhaul

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decided to bring forward young leadership. "A significant number of our voters are young who couldn't cast their votes in the last three farcical national elections. We want to attract the young voters by nominating young candidates," he said.

Porwar also said Islamist parties were discussing an "understanding" for seat adjustments, adding, "Once the electoral understanding or alliance is finalised, candidates will be withdrawn from some constituencies."

The Jamaat had completed the nomination process in all 300 constituencies early this year, allowing its candidates to prepare the field far ahead of their opponents.

The party, however, faced criticism from different quarters for not nominating any candidates from minority and women. Asked about the matter, Zubair mentioned the

party's recent decision to nominate several candidates from minority and ethnic groups. On the inclusion of women candidates, he said the party has an organisational system to pick the prospective candidates for running in the national election.

Around 80 percent of Jamaat's picks are new faces who have never contested an election before, while about 60 have experience in running for public offices.

At least 16 candidates are former presidents of Islami Chhatra Shibir, including Shafiqul Islam Masud, currently serving as the secretary of the party's Dhaka South unit.

Jamaat last saw major electoral success in the fifth (1991) and eighth (2001) parliamentary polls, winning 18 and 17 seats respectively. Ahead of the 2026 election, it is again seeking to lead an Islamist alliance with Islami Andolan Bangladesh and others.

NCP-led alliance

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declared a constituency, insiders say he is "highly likely" to run from Dhaka-10, noting that he recently shifted his address from Cumilla-3's Muradnagar to Green Road.

With the BNP yet to nominate a candidate for the seat, the likelihood of Asif contesting from Dhaka-10 has strengthened, they added.

At a November 27 event, Asif said, "I will resign before contesting. I have not yet decided which party's ticket I will run with."

NCP sources say Asif has built a substantial organisational network in Dhaka-10, opening seven campaign offices across Green Road, Dhanmondi, New Market, Kalabagan, Hazaribagh, and Kamrangirchar.

Asked about the dispute, Mily avoided direct comment. "Talks on forming the alliance are still ongoing, and we would like to think positively. We hope to overcome all

disagreements and contest the election together."

"Since I grew up in Dhanmondi, I am the best candidate for the seat. I have long been politically active there and enjoy both acceptability and experience."

NCP insiders say Asif strongly preferred aligning with the BNP-led coalition, seeing it as a more secure route to a nomination.

Another adviser, Mahfuj Alam, also supports joining the BNP; although he hopes to run from Lakshimpur-1, he may drop out if circumstances are unfavourable.

In contrast, NCP's top five central leaders — Convener Nahid Islam, Member Secretary Akhtar Hossen, Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patowary, and Chief organisers Sarjis Alam and Hasnat Abdullah — had initially agreed to join the four-party bloc or contest independently. They have now stepped back amid resistance from leaders aligned with Asif.

Funding concerns have also played a role. Asif has reportedly assured financial support to several NCP candidates, and many within the party are reluctant to jeopardise that backing by moving ahead with the alliance, insiders said.

Man shot dead

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of Dilip orchestrated the killing to frame their rivals. They said Saddam was one of their own and had been with Dilip earlier that evening.

However, Delwar Hossain Dilip rejected the allegation, saying he did not call Saddam from his home and denied that the victim had been with him earlier that night.

Azharul Islam, officer-in-charge of Brahmanbaria Sadar Model Police Station, said the two groups have long been locked in a power struggle over local dominance.

"The murder appears to be linked to the same rivalry. Police have begun investigating," he told The Daily Star.

39 deported from US arrive

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Shariful Hasan, associate director of BRAC Migration and Youth Platform, criticised the lack of monitoring behind these journeys. He said the government allowed workers to travel legally to Brazil, but did not ensure whether they were genuinely going there for work or using Brazil as a route to US.

Returnees said in previous months, many Bangladeshis were sent

back from the US in handcuffs and leg chains, but this time, the 39 were not restrained.

Since Donald Trump's second presidency, the US government has intensified efforts to remove undocumented migrants. As part of this policy, several groups of Bangladeshis and other nationalities have already been deported.

On June 8 this year, a chartered flight brought back 42 Bangladeshis.

Between March 6 and April 21, at least 34 more were deported on multiple flights. From the beginning of 2024 to August 2025, more than 220 Bangladeshis returned from the US.

Under US law, undocumented migrants can be deported through court orders or administrative decisions. When asylum claims are rejected, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement arranges their removal.

Revision proposes cost

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was later extended to Kamalapur, raising the estimated cost to Tk 33,472 crore in the previous revision.

According to the proposal, as of June 2025, physical progress on the Uttara-Motijheel section stands at 99.40 percent, while progress on the Motijheel-Kamalapur section is at 63.15 percent.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়
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২৭ নভেম্বর ২০২৫

শ্রেণি-১৬ হতে শ্রেণি-২০ পর্যন্ত MCQ পরীক্ষার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, গণপূর্ত অধিদপ্তরের শ্রেণি-১৪ হতে শ্রেণি-২০ পর্যন্ত মোট ০৮ ক্যাটাগোরির ৬৬৯টি শূন্য পদে সরাসরি জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত গত ২৯/০৯/২০২৫ তারিখ বাংলাদেশ প্রতিদিন, দৈনিক যুগান্তর এবং The Daily Star পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশ করা হয়। বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত ০৮ ক্যাটাগোরির মধ্য হতে নিম্ন বর্ণিত ০৩ ক্যাটাগোরির পদের MCQ টাইপ পরীক্ষা উল্লিখিত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী ঢাকা শহরের বিভিন্ন শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

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(মুহাম্মদ সারওয়ার জাহান)
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