



DCCI condoles tragic deaths in Mirpur fire



DHAKA, Oct 15, 2025 (BSS) - The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) expressed deep sorrow over the deaths caused by a massive fire that engulfed a washing plant and its adjacent chemical warehouse in Rupnagar, Mirpur on Tuesday.

On behalf of the DCCI Board of Directors and all members, President Taskeen Ahmed conveyed profound shock and heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased, praying for the salvation of the departed souls.

He also urged the government to ensure proper medical treatment for the injured to facilitate their quick recovery.

The DCCI called for strict adherence to fire safety standards and regulations during construction, particularly in industrial structures, to prevent similar tragedies in the future. Taskeen Ahmed emphasized the need for enhanced monitoring by the government and relevant authorities to ensure compliance with fire safety rules.

DCCI further stressed that both public and private sectors should work together to raise awareness and implement effective fire protection systems in industrial and residential buildings, highlighting their importance in safeguarding lives and property nationwide.

অগ্নিনিরাপত্তা মানতে হবে কঠোরভাবে : ঢাকা চেম্বার

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার : রাজধানীর মিরপুরে রূপনগরের শিয়ালবাড়ি এলাকায় রাসায়নিক গুদাম ও ওয়াশিং প্ল্যাণ্টে ভয়াবহ অগ্নিকাণ্ডে হতাহতের ঘটনায় গভীর শোক ও উদ্বেগ জানিয়েছে ঢাকা চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি (ডিসিসিআই)। একইসঙ্গে ভবিষ্যতে এ ধরনের দুর্ঘটনা রোধে শিল্পকারখানা থেকে শুরু করে বাসাবাড়ি পর্যন্ত অগ্নিনিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা জোরদারের ওপর গুরুত্ব আরোপ করেছে ব্যবসায়ীদের এই শীর্ষ সংগঠন।

এক বিবৃতিতে ডিসিসিআই সভাপতি তাসকীন আহমেদ বলেন, শিল্পকারখানায় অগ্নিকাণ্ডের মতো দুর্ঘটনা রোধে ভবন নির্মাণের সময় অগ্নিনিরাপত্তার মান ও নিয়ম-কানুন কঠোরভাবে অনুসরণ করা অত্যন্ত জরুরি। তিনি আরও বলেন, ‘সরকার ও সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্তৃপক্ষের কার্যকর নজরদারি না থাকলে ভবিষ্যতেও এমন দুর্ঘটনা ঘটতে পারে, যা দেশের শিল্পোন্নয়ন ও বিনিয়োগ পরিবেশকে নেতিবাচকভাবে প্রভাবিত করবে।

চেম্বার সভাপতি এ ঘটনায় নিহতদের রুহের মাগফেরাত কামনা ও শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জানান। আহতদের দ্রুত চিকিৎসা ও সুস্থতা কামনা করে যথায় যথায় চিকিৎসা নিশ্চিত সরকারকে তাৎক্ষণিক পদক্ষেপের আহ্বান জানান তিনি।

ডিসিসিআই আরও জানায়, অগ্নিনির্বাণ ব্যবস্থা কেবল শিল্পাঞ্চল বা গুদামে সীমাবদ্ধ না রেখে প্রতিটি আবাসিক ভবনেও বাধ্যতামূলক করা উচিত। জনগণের জানমাল সুরক্ষায় অগ্নিনিরাপত্তা বিষয়ে সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধি ও আধুনিক সরঞ্জাম স্থাপন এখন সময়ের দাবি বলে মনে করে সংগঠনটি। চেম্বারের মতে, নিরাপত্তা মানদণ্ড ও নিয়মকানুন কঠোরভাবে বাস্তবায়ন এবং দায়িত্বশীল সংস্থাগুলোর সমন্বিত নজরদারি নিশ্চিত করা গেলে এ ধরনের মর্মান্তিক দুর্ঘটনা অনেকাংশে প্রতিরোধ করা সম্ভব।

THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2025

Chemical warehouse fire tamed finally

FE REPORT

The fire that devastated a garment-factory building and its chemical warehouse killing 16 people in Dhaka's Mirpur area on Tuesday could be brought fully under control on

Wednesday noon. Yet it will need 24 to 72 hours to begin search operation as the spot became extremely hazardous. "We have announced that the fire in the chemical godown,

known as Alam Traders, was brought under control at 2:20 pm today (Wednesday), " Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD) Director (Operations and Maintenance) Lieutenant Colonel Tajul Islam Chowdhury told reporters at a briefing.

The fire that broke out at around 11.30 am at the garments factory building was doused on Tuesday; however, taming the flame in the chemical warehouse took longer time, said the fire service official.

"Starting a search operation in the warehouse was not possible yet due to the toxic effects of the chemicals," he said, adding that the chemicals were being removed by spraying water. There were six to seven different types of chemicals, which were yet to be known, in the warehouse, he said, adding that the process was a time consuming one. Drone footage reveals that the building was apparently damaged due to longstanding heat. "At present, this is a

significant amount of damage and conducting any search operation here is certainly risky," he said, adding that they might have to wait for another 24 hours or even 72 hours to confirm whether there were any individuals inside the godown.

The entrance to the warehouse known as Alam Traders was under lock and key indicating that there might have been no one inside, he added.

On Tuesday, a blast took place in the chemical godown and spread to the nearby four-storey building which housed a washing plant on the ground floor and apparel factories on the other floors.

A hazmat (hazardous materials) team of the FSCD and experts from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) visited the spot.

After visiting the spot, Social Welfare Adviser Sharmeen Soneya Murshid told reporters that those responsible for the deadly fire incident would be brought to justice.

She, however, emphasised relocating the chemical warehouses from the densely populated areas in the city to safer places.

Earlier in another briefing Assistant Director of the FSCD Kazi Nazmuzzaman said that the chemical warehouse was locked when the fire broke out which indicates that there might not have been anyone staying inside.

He said that the thick, toxic fumes from the burning

chemicals made it nearly impossible for fire fighters to enter the building and extinguish the remaining flames.

During a visit there, people from different walks of life and locals were seen wearing face masks to avoid inhaling toxic fumes. FSCD alerted nearby people to be aware of the hazardous situation in neighbouring areas. Relatives of the victims and workers who managed to flee the inferno have expressed anger saying that the doors to the rooftop were locked with two padlocks, preventing many from escaping. They said the deaths could have been avoided if the doors had been open.

"If I had been on the second floor, I would have been among the 16 who died. I was lucky, but those who worked with me perished in the fire. The factory owner is responsible for this," worker of the factory, Tariqul Islam, told the FE.

The dead bodies were taken to the morgue of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while eight more people sustained burn injuries, three of whom were receiving treatment at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery (NIBPS). Meanwhile, relatives of the missing garment workers thronged DMCH to find out their near and dear ones. Relatives of Mukta Begum (14) and Mousumi Akter (15), two missing workers, at DMCH told the FE that they were yet to know about their duo's whereabouts.

Meanwhile, Adviser to the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) Brigadier General (R.) Dr M Sakhawat Hussain expressed deep condolence over the incident.

A seven-member investigation committee has been formed under the leadership of Lasker Tazul Islam, joint secretary of the MoLE, to ascertain the cause of the fire, the extent of damage, determine responsibilities and provide recommendations. The committee will submit an objective report within the next 7 (seven) working days. It will also submit a report to the ministry following an inquiry into the accident and recommendations to check recurrence of such incident. Meanwhile, different originations and right bodies including Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies - BILS, Karmojibi Nari, Sramik Nirapotta Forum, expressed grief over the incident and asked for exemplary punishment of the people responsible. They also asked for proper treatment of the injured and compensation for the families of the deceased.

On behalf of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI), its President Taskeen Ahmed called upon all concerned to strictly follow the fire safety standards and regulations in construction process of buildings, especially industrial units, to prevent occurrence of such tragic incidents in future.

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MIRPUR BLAZE

Fumes and plight continue

Shamsul Arifin Khan Sunny, Dhaka

Only a day ago, Mirpur's Shialbari was alive with the rhythm of different machineries in factories and workers were occupied with regular works. The area is now filled with marks of devastation.

A deadly fire broke out at 11:40am on Tuesday in the area's Shah Alam Chemical Warehouse and its adjacent printing and garment factories. At least 16 people lost their lives and

many others sustained injuries.

Till the filing of this report 9:47pm on Wednesday, the fire could not be extinguished entirely. A white smoke was still rising from the wreckage there, and a flock of unfortunate people was desperately running from one corner to another for identifying their loved ones.

Families of ten victims claimed to have identified the bodies.

Meanwhile, DMCH Director Brig Gen Md Asaduzzaman said all bodies were badly burnt and they were collecting DNA samples before handing the bodies over to their families. Two injured workers – Md Suruj (30) and Md Mamun (35) – were released after treatment. Another worker Md Sohel (32) was admitted to National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery with non-critical eye injuries, the DMCH official added.

Toxic air and lingering danger

Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD) officials confirmed to the Daily Sun that four chemical substances – hydrogen peroxide, bleaching powder, chlorine, and plastic – were found at the warehouse.

Kazi Nazmuzzaman, assistant director of fire department, said, "Smoke from the warehouse contains toxic and reactive gases that can damage lungs, heart and skin." Senior Station Officer Md Shahjahan Siraj, said, "We are now breathing oxygen mixed with toxic gas... This can silently damage and people will not even realize immediately."

Inside the fire service operation

The firefighting effort, described by officials as one of the most challenging in recent years, required advanced equipment and extreme caution.

Yunus Ali, warehouse inspector of fire department, told the Daily Sun that his team had to use several high-tech tools, including Luf 60, Ground Monitor, Chemical Tender and Hazmat Tender, to fight the flames.

"At first, we couldn't go inside for massive gas and explosive substances," he explained. "We operated the entire mission from outside with advanced equipment.

Still, we cannot access the area where chemicals concentrated." Asked when the operation might end, a senior fire official, said, "We are observing the situation carefully and it would some take time."

Negligence and local outrage

Shialbari locals expressed outrage claiming that government agencies were aware of the illegal chemical warehouses in the area but took no preventive measure.

"Everyone knew about Shah Alam's chemical warehouse. The officials looked away. Now we are the ones paying the price," said Shamim, a Rupnagar resident.

Monnujan Khan, another local, said from Nimtoli to Churihatta, Sitakunda and now Mirpur, the pattern of tragedy repeats itself – illegal chemical storage in residential areas, lack of enforcement and preventable deaths.

The locals demanded that chemical warehouses and factories be banned from residential areas, calling the disaster a result of negligence.

CA asks for probe into Mirpur fire incident

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has instructed the authorities concerned to investigate into the fire, reported BSS. "The chief adviser has been informed about the tragic fire in Mirpur. He immediately asked the authorities concerned to investigate into the incident and expressed shock at the deaths in the fire," said CA's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam.

The press secretary briefed the media in Rome on Tuesday as Prof Yunus was visiting Italy to attend the World Food Forum (WFF), the flagship event of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) there.

"We stand beside the affected families," the press secretary quoted Prof Yunus as saying. Noting that such

fire incidents occurred in chemical factories in previous times in Bangladesh, Shafiqul said, "Despite our utmost efforts, it has been noticed that some people set up such factories illegally".

Official and institutional reactions

The Institute for Planning and Development (IPD) has described the Mirpur fire as a case of structural and negligent homicide, demanding punishment for the factory owner and responsible officials. It also called for fair compensation for victims and urgent reforms to ensure workers' safety. On the other hand, in a statement, the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), led by President Taskeen Ahmed, expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives, urging the government to take immediate measures to ensure industrial safety.

Similarly, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) extended condolences to the victims' families and called for stricter monitoring of chemical handling in garment-linked facilities. The Labour and Employment Ministry announced that the family members of each dead worker would receive Tk2 lakh, and the wounded workers would receive Tk50,000 each. A seven-member investigation committee, headed by Joint Secretary Laskar Tajul Islam, was formed to determine the cause of the fire, assess damages and identify those responsible.

Meanwhile, Social Welfare Adviser Sharmin Soneya Murshid, after visiting the site, stressed the need for strong national policies on chemical storage. "The government must ensure that no such warehouses exist in densely populated areas. Those responsible for must face justice."