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People's Right to Know

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ADOPTS RESOLUTION

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Rescuers give up hope for the trapped

26 more bodies pulled out

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rescuers all but gave up hopes to get out alive some 200 people still trapped in debris of the nine-storey building five days into its collapse at Savar, as official death toll rose to 55 with 26 more bodies pulled out in the last two days until 11:30 pm yesterday.

"It'll be a miracle if we find any survivor," said Brigadier General Nizam Ahmed, who is co-ordinating the rescue operation.

The 11 bodies retrieved yesterday were so badly decomposed, with some of them beyond all recognition, that the distraught relatives of SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

garment workuntraced wait with their photos in hand at the site of the collapsed nine-storey factory building at Savar yester-



Relatives now hope only to identify their dear ones

EMRAN HOSSAIN EMON

Uncertainty rules over hundreds of relatives about identification of their dear ones still trapped in the rubble of Spectrum Sweater's collapsed building, as the bodies have already decomposed so badly that the air around has become unbearable with an acrid stench and the bodies retrieved yesterday were beyond all recognition.

As the roof of the third floor was removed on Thursday night, four days into the building collapse on April 11, the rotten bodies of the illfated employees have started to come up in horrifying appearances.

"I could not believe it was my uncle's body. It was really hard to identify as the body was swollen with a broken neck," said Rakibul Islam, nephew of Abul Hashem, who worked in the knitting section of the factory, after identifying the body of

"At last we identified him from an SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Allow full int'l probe into bombings, ensure free EC, caretaker govt

Highlights

Full access to all evidence of bomb attacks

- 2. Publishing the probe report
- End to anti-crime activities by Rab
- Trial on war-crime of 1971 Reforms for good gover-
- End to opposition's parlia-
- ment boycott
- Holding of an all-party dia-

The European Parliament in a resolution on Bangladesh has condemned repeated bomb attacks in the country and urged the government to ensure full access of 'international investigators assisting local intelligence forces' to all evidence regarding the incidents in accordance with the government's prom-

The resolution was adopted on Thursday with 92 votes in favour, two against and three abstentions, according to the European Parliament's official website

www.europarl.eu.int. It also urged the government to

The European Parliament said that in view of the parliamentary elections scheduled for late 2006/early 2007, systematic reforms were necessary to re-establish the principles of good governance so that the election commission and the caretaker government could operate independently.

"A coordinated approach by all donors worldwide will be necessary to support such reforms," it noted.

The European Parliament called upon all sides to refrain from undemocratic practices and to enter into an all-party dialogue through SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Crossfire kills 2 in Ctg, Kushtia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two top criminals were killed in 'crossfire' between police and their accomplices in Kushtia and Chittagong yesterday.

Our Kushtia correspondent reported that Firojul Islam alias Naba, chief of 'Naba Bahini', was killed in a shootout between police and his accomplices in the housing area of the town early yesterday.

Police said they arrested Naba from his residence in the housing area on Wednesday noon. He was SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

'GDP growth to exceed donors' estimates'

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday claimed the country's real GDP growth would be more than "the understated estimates by different quarters" including the development

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected this year's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) of Bangladesh to grow by 5.3 percent and International Monetary Fund

(IMF) by 5.4 percent, scaling down their earlier estimates due to crop losses in recurrent floods and increased petroleum prices.

"Our development is very much understated... many emerging areas were not taken into account in calculating the GDP," Saifur said at a statistical conference in the National Economic Council conference room, expressing his dissatisfaction over lack of updated data.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Global impression about Bangladesh excellent: Saifur

BSS, Dhaka

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman Thursday said the overall impression about Bangladesh across the world, including the European Union, is now excellent.

Talking to journalists at the Zia International Airport on his return after a six-day visit to Sweden and United Kingdom, he said he found a "This year's GDP will depend on very positive attitude towards

Dhaka, Doha to expand cooperation, sign MoUs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Qatar agreed to strengthen bilateral co-operation in economic, social and trade sectors during official talks between the two heads of government yesterday.

Besides, Dhaka and Doha signed two MoUs (memorandum of understanding). The first MoU was signed for strengthening economic cooperation while the second for exchanging information between the government news agencies of

Another MoU is likely to be signed at private level by the chamber leaders of Bangladesh and Qatar to bolster trade and commerce between the two nations.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia led the Bangladesh side while visiting Emir of Qatar Shaikh Hamad Bin-Khalifa Al-Thani led the Qatar side at the meeting vesterday evening. Both the sides expressed opti

mism that the Emir's visit would SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Emir of Qatar Shaikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani talks with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday evening.

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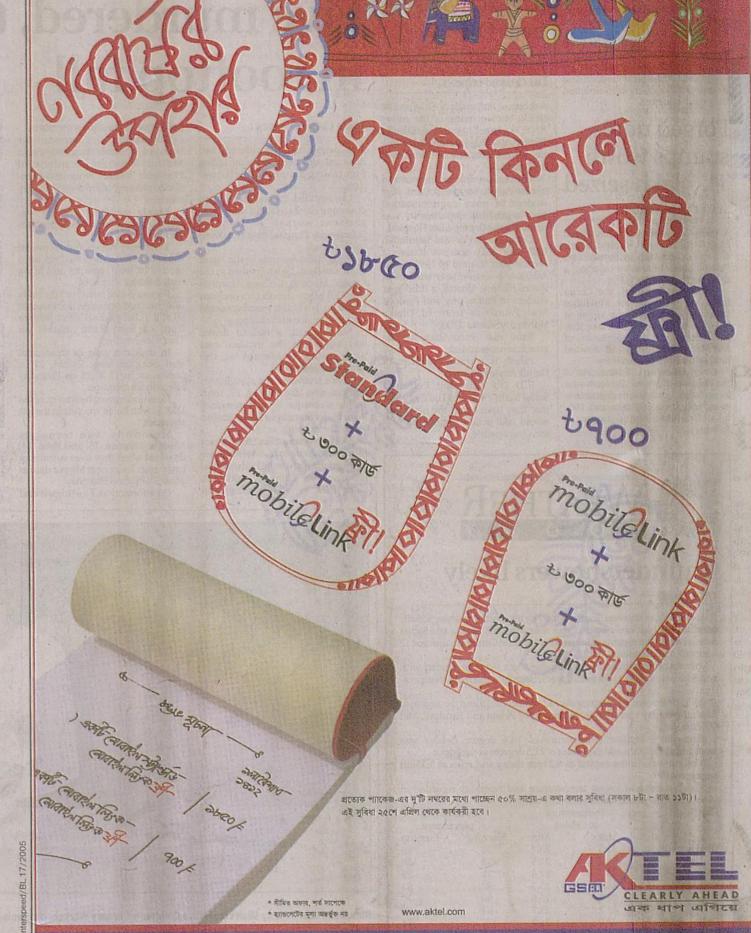
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