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Deadly twister kills 24 in US

AP, MOORE, Oklahoma

Emergency crews combed the sticks and rubble remains of an Oklahoma City suburb yesterday morning less than a day after a massive tornado slammed through the community, flattening homes and demolishing an elementary school.

At least 24 people were killed, including at least seven children, and those numbers were expected to climb.

As the sun rose over the shattered community of Moore, the state medical examiner's office cut the estimated death toll by more than half.

Spokeswoman Amy Elliot said she believes some victims were counted twice in the early chaos of the storm that struck Monday afternoon. Downed communication lines and problems sharing information with officers exacerbated the problem, she said.

"It was a very eventful night," Elliot said. "I truly expect that they'll find more today."

Authorities initially said as many as 51 people were dead, including 20 children.

New search-and-rescue teams moved in as dawn broke Tuesday, taking over from the 200 or so emergency responders who scoured the neighborhood all night with a helicopter shining a spotlight from above to aid their search.

Fire Chief Gary Bird said the fresh teams would search the whole community at least two more times to ensure that no survivors - or victims - were missed. They were painting an 'X' on each structure to note it had been checked.

"That is to confirm we have done our due diligence for this city, for our citizens," Bird said.

By early Tuesday, the community of 41,000 people, 10 miles south of Oklahoma City, braced for another long, harrowing day.

"As long as we are here ... we are going to hold out hope

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Flipped vehicles are piled up outside the heavily damaged Moore Medical Center after a powerful tornado ripped through the area in Moore, Oklahoma, on Monday.

DCC polls face further delay

13 newly included areas yet to be designated for any ward

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A recent move by the LGRD ministry prevents the Election Commission (EC) from announcing the schedule for long overdue polls to the bifurcated Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

The Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) ministry has lately incorporated 13 areas of Sultanganj into Tejgaon circle of DCC South, but did not attach the areas with any ward.

Now, the EC cannot proceed with the plan for holding the DCC election after Ramadan, unless the new areas were included in any ward, said sources in the EC.

Election Commissioner Shah Newaz yesterday said holding of the elections keeping the 13 areas out would be a violation of law.

"If we announce the poll schedule, any voter of the 13 areas may move to the court against the elections. And if so, the election

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Tarique for mounting pressure on govt

Meets BNP men in London; meeting venue changed after scuffle

STAR REPORT

BNP Senior Vice-chairman Tarique Rahman on Monday called upon all non-resident Bangladeshis to play roles from their positions to compel the government to restore the caretaker government system.

He made the call at a views exchange meeting with local BNP leaders at a hotel in East London, reports our London correspondent.

BNP's UK chapter leaders and presidents and secretaries of 42 regional committees, among others, attended the meeting.

Tarique, who is BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's elder son, convened the meeting as part of the process for selecting the chapter's president and general secretary.

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BCL men snatch fellow from police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League cadres snatched away one of their fellows, Golam Rahman Razon, from police in front of a restaurant at the city's Tilagar area around 9:00pm on Monday.

District BCL acting president Hiron Mahmud Nipu, led the group, who locked in heated altercation with plainclothes policemen soon after Razon's arrest that day, witnesses said.

At one stage the cadres

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

China, India push trade dynamically

AFP, New Delhi

Visiting Premier Li Keqiang yesterday promised to open China's vast domestic market wider to India and forge a "dynamic trade balance" to deepen economic ties and ease tensions between the Asian giants.

The trade push, which the countries say will supply "new engines" to lift the stumbling global economy, came amid efforts by the nuclear-armed powers to put a military dispute along their contested Himalayan border behind them.

"We have the ability to mitigate the trade imbalance between our two countries," Li told business leaders in New Delhi, responding to Indian worries over trade that is heavily skewed in China's favour.

"The Chinese side is willing to provide facilitation for more Indian products to access the Chinese market," added Li, who chose to make India his first foreign stop after taking office two months ago.

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL: Alim's link to killing testified

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Pakistani army gunned down 11 people at the instruction of war crimes accused Abdul Alim at Joypurhat Sadar during the Liberation War, a prosecution witness said yesterday.

Abdul Hamid Sakidar, who was a resident of Sakidarpara in 1971, told International Crimes Tribunal-2 that the then Muslim League leader Alim had formed a Peace Committee in Joypurhat and become its chairman.

Hamid, the 21st prosecution witness in the case, said the Pakistan army and its local collaborators used

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Mother of Rana Plaza victim Hasna Akhter, with flowers and a photo of her missing daughter, gathers at Jurain graveyard with relatives of many other missing victims. Five unidentified bodies were laid to rest there yesterday.

Violence against Muslims must stop

Obama warns Myanmar but backs reforms

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama on Monday threw his support behind Myanmar President Thein Sein in his drive to reform a former pariah state but warned that a wave of violence against Muslims must stop.

As his guest became the first leader of his country in almost 50 years to visit the White House, Obama praised Myanmar's journey away from brutal junta rule and promised Washington would offer more political and economic support.

The US president said that Thein Sein had made "genuine efforts" to solve the intricate ethnic wars that have long torn at Myanmar's unity, but expressed "deep concern" on the plight of Rohingya Muslim minority.

"The displacement of people, the violence directed towards them, needs to stop," Obama said.

However, Obama said that once tortured US-Myanmar relations had eased because of "the leadership that President Sein has shown in moving Myanmar down a path of both political and economic reform."

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BNP's hartal today in Dhaka dist

Capital exempted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP called a daylong hartal in Dhaka district for today protesting the re-arrest of its Joint Secretary General Amanullah Aman and demanding release of former MP Dewan Salauddin Babu.

The BNP, Dhaka district unit called the hartal in Dhamrai, Savar, Keraniganj, Dohar and Nababganj

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PRAYER TIMING		May 22
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		




Five coins may rewrite history of Australia

MAIL ONLINE

Five copper coins found in northern Australia could rewrite the country's history. The coins are thought to date back as early as the 900s and are believed to have originated in Africa.

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The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL

Don't you think that the policy of making many civil servants officers on special duty (OSD) has adverse impact on the civil bureaucracy and it causes waste of public money?

Yes

(95%)

No

(5%)

TOTAL VOTES: 193

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Textiles and Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddique that US Ambassador Dan W. Mozena's recent remarks calling on Bangladesh to allow trade unions in the garment sector is provocative?

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