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RANA PLAZA COLLAPSE

Search for the remains

Families, rights activists appeal to locate about 200 still missing

TAMANNA KHAN and AKRAM HOSEN

The discovery of more than 300 bones and three skulls in the ruins of Rana Plaza over the last one month suggests that the actual death toll in the disaster might be higher than the official figure of 1,135.

There have been confusions over the death toll, as none could confirm how many people were inside the building when it collapsed on April 24 last year.

According to estimates by workers' rights groups, more than 200 families are yet to find the remains of their loved ones.

DNA samples were collected from 322 unrecognisable bodies, and 157 of them could be identified.

Rag pickers found the skeleton of garment worker Obaidul Huq with his identity card and mobile phone at the site on December 13 last year.

With the hope of finding more human remains, rights activists and workers conducted searches there and found more than 300 bones and three skulls till January 3.

Activists, workers and families of the missing victims feel that a fresh search operation will discover more human remains at the site.

Zaher Majhi, father of missing victim Rabeya Khatun, 18, went to Savar from Bhola about a month ago when he learnt about the discovery of human remains.

"I heard a skeleton of a worker has been found at Rana Plaza. So I am hopeful that my daughter's remains might also be discovered," said the 50-year-old man whose

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The construction work of Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover has wreaked havoc on the lives of the New Eskaton Road residents and others who use the street. The lanes towards Bangla Motor are blocked midway and the ones heading towards Moghbazar are bumpy and very narrow.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bangabandhu Airport project to be revived

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will restart the process of constructing Bangabandhu International Airport that it initiated during its last term, but backtracked at the fag end of its tenure.

"We will start afresh the proposed Bangabandhu Airport. I've already held a meeting and had discussions about it," Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon said yesterday.

He said this after inaugurating the high-speed taxiway built under a project of the Danish International Development Assistance (Danida) at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The high-speed taxiway will enable

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Razakars killed 65 on a single day

Bagerhat freedom fighter testifies against Jamaat leader Yusuf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A freedom fighter yesterday testified that Razakar force formed by Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf had killed 60-65 people, mostly Hindus, at Ranjitpur village in Bagerhat upazila on May 13, 1971.

Dilip Das from Ranjitpur told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that the marauding armed men also torched their houses and chanted slogans "Pakistan Zindabad, Yusuf Bhai Zindabad" while leaving the village.

Two of his relatives were killed in the attack, Dilip, the 21st witness in the case against Yusuf, said.

The two-member tribunal led by Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah with Justice Md Shahinur Islam recorded Dilip's testimony before adjourning the case proceeding until today, when he will face cross-examination.

Tribunal Chairman Justice Obaidul Hassan was not present



at the court yesterday.

During his 25-minute testimony, the 65-year-old Dilip said after the historic 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu and proclamation of independence on March 26, they [villagers] had formed Sangram Committee to guard their village.

"One day, we heard that Razakar force under the leadership of Yusuf Shaheb from

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Biswa Ijtema begins Jan 24

160-acre Tongi ground ready for congregation; 2nd phase a week later

HELEMUL ALAM

Biswa Ijtema, the second largest congregation of the Muslims after hajj, is set to start on January 24 on the bank of the Turag river at Tongi in Gazipur.

The first phase of the Ijtema will be held on January 24-26 while the second phase on January 31 to February 2.

Tablighi Jamaat has been organising the Biswa Ijtema, also called the World Muslims' Congregation, every year since 1946.

The three-day congregation includes delivering boyans (sermons) on the fundamental issues of Tablighi Jamaat, prayer for the spiritual, exaltation and welfare of the Muslim Ummah and recitation from the holy Quran and Hadith.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the government is doing enough to protect the minorities?

Yes

(10%)

No

(90%)

TOTAL VOTES: 354

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with the European Parliament that parties which turn to terrorist acts should be banned?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING

January 20

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-43	5-47
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Dip in icy water to purify souls!

MAIL ONLINE

Hundreds of Russian Orthodox Christians have plunged into icy water around Eastern Europe to mark the feast of Epiphany.

In temperatures as low as -17C, the believers wore little more than basic swimming costumes as they leapt into lakes and plunge pools to confirm their willingness to follow Jesus.

With snow piled high around the water, it's no wonder many of the Christians grimace as they each

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Violence flares up in Thailand

Blasts, gunshots hurt 28 at Bangkok anti-govt rally

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Two explosions have hit an anti-government demonstration site in Bangkok yesterday, wounding at least 28 people, as Thailand's increasingly volatile political crisis drags on.

Police said the blasts near Victory Monument, in the north of the capital, were caused by fragmentation grenades – the same kind that killed one man and wounded dozens in a similar explosion targeting protest marchers on Friday.

The demonstrators, who control several small patches of Bangkok, were vying to overthrow the prime minister, Yingluck Shinawatra, and her government and derail elections on 2 February, which she called in a bid to quell the crisis.

Witnesses said the explosions occurred about two minutes apart. The first blast went off less than 200 metres from

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হাসিনা

জননেত্রী

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান এর

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