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International Briefs

Fire Kills 7 at Bangladesh Refugee Camp

DHAKA, Bangladesh (UPI) — A fire raged through a camp housing refugees bound for Pakistan, killing at least seven people and injuring 1,500 others Sunday, witnesses and officials said. About 150 people were said to be missing.

In addition to the casualties in the three-hour fire, two people were killed and 40 injured in a fierce storm that struck after the blaze at the camp housing 50,000 to 85,000 people in bamboo and straw dwellings.

Police recovered the charred bodies of four women. About 50 of the 1,500 injured people were hospitalized.

The camp is a legacy of the 1971 war in which Bangladesh, then East Pakistan, threw off the government of Pakistan. It is one of 66 set up to transport Biharis — Bangladeshis who retained their allegiance to Pakistan — back to their homeland. About 350,000 people now live in the camps.