

Today's Top Stories

29/1/2006 - 2:00:37 PM



Rescuers were today searching for victims buried when the roof of an exhibition hall in southern Poland collapsed on a racing pigeon show, killing at least 65 people and injuring a further 160.

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Tourism boost expected on back of German TV drama

Hundreds of tourists are expected to flock to Cork and Kerry this summer after 7.7 million people in Germany watched a television drama shot in the southern counties.

Bird flu found in northern Cyprus

The European Commission said today that tests conducted in a British laboratory on samples from birds in northern Cyprus reveal they died of the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus.

Stenson the master in Doha

Henrik Stenson held his nerve in challenging conditions to win the Commercialbank Qatar Masters by three strokes – but he was pushed all the way by a resolute Paul Broadhurst.

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Belfast: Search launched for missing man

29/01/2006 - 14:39:22

A major land, air and sea search was mounted today for a man who went missing on New Year's Day after he left a bar in Belfast docks.

Friends and family combed the waterfront for Martin Kelly, 21, from Holywood, Co Down, who has not been seen since he left Pat's Bar. They fear may have ended up in the water.

Ahead of the search they released 100 yellow balloons bearing messages to Mr Kelly as a symbol of his family's hope he may still be alive.

The plumber and part-time barman had gone to the bar with friends but stayed on after they left, and was seen leaving at around 7pm on January 1.

After releasing the balloons the family began a walk around Belfast Lough to Holywood searching as they went.

The missing man's brother-in-law, Paul Kelly said: "I think that we are coming to terms with the possibility that Martin may not now be found alive. But the family is also holding on to that little bit of hope that he is alive somewhere."

Last week the family criticised the Police Service for not doing enough to find Mr Kelly and said police divers had spent just one hour searching the waters near Pat's Bar and had not returned.

The PSNI said officers were searching for the missing man today on land, in the water and from the air.

A spokeswoman said: "We are working to establish the whereabouts of Martin Kelly and can confirm a dedicated search adviser and two police boats have been made available to assist the family search."

She said an air search was also being carried out around the shores of Belfast Lough.

However, police divers will only return to the search when they have completed the hunt for the body of a fisherman missing since his trawler went down in the Irish Sea off Ardglass, Co Down earlier this month, she said.

The skipper of the sunken trawler was rescued, the body of one of his crew recovered and the search of the third man continues daily.

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