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Previous Offer

Help aplenty

Locals, doctors make unique efforts to tackle crisis

INAM AHMED

It is an eerie syncopation of pain and grief, frantic effort and desperation at the Enam Medical College and Hospital.

- "Bandage." "Forceps."
- "Quick. Where is pethidine?"
- "Put the drip on. Full"
- "My brother! O my brother. Where are you? Why did you go to work today?"

"Help me. I am dying. Help!"

Frantic words fly around the emergency room of Enam Hospital at Savar as victims are brought in streams. The high-pitched sirens of the ambulances just add a hellish edge to the scene.

Several hundred doctors and interns in white aprons swarm around the injured. Many of them just lie motionless with life drained out of them.

As the emergency rooms fill up, treatment is administered on the lobby. Everywhere.

The hospital, the largest in the area, has put in its every strength to cope with the situation. And yet it is proving a tough fight.

"We have called in our students and interns. All together we are 300 people taking care of the wounded,"



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Onlookers give away as an injured of the Rana Plaza collapse is rushed into Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar yesterday.

They risk life for humanity

SUSHMITA S PREETHA and RAFIUL ISLAM

They were pretty ordinary people but took up the heroic job of rescuing those who got trapped inside the broken-down nine-storey building in Savar on the outskirts of

the capital yesterday. Just after the building collapsed around 8:45am, local people and relatives of those who were inside -- dead or alive -- rushed to the site. They did whatever they could do to bring the victims out, at

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PRAYER TIMING Azan Jamaat 4-20 4-55 12-45 1-15 4-45 5-00 6-29 6-34

Tragedy-struck

AL-AMIN, SHAHEEN MOLLAH and SUMAN SAHA

"This cannot be Rana Plaza"

In the midst of all the deepening despair, a young man pops up about a hundred yards from the doomed Rana Plaza in Savar. Wearing only trousers, he walks with his weight on the shoulder of another. Suddenly, there is a cry. Two men from the crowd rush towards him in unbounded joy. It is a moment to behold as the hysterical hugs continue unabated. Around them, people heave a sigh of relief in the knowledge that at least one family among hundreds has had its loved one back from the collapsed ruins of the eightstorey building.

"I know him. His name is Rana and he works in New Wave factory in Rana Plaza as a line supervisor," says a man in the crowd. "My name is Sujon," he continues. "I have two shops in that plaza from where Rana buys clothes. And I did not open my shops today because he warned me about the cracks yesterday."

A few blocks away, a man in his 40s collapses to the ground and some people carry him to an empty space of grassy land. He has fainted on getting news that his wife working in Rana Plaza has died.

18-year-old Shahnaz, trembling on a rickshaw, is looking for a cell phone to let her husband know that she has just been rescued from the seventh floor.

"Mobile phones are not allowed inside our factory. So I left it at home," she said.

Asked how she escaped death, Shahnaz said: "I was trapped on the sixth floor. I could crawl between the two roofs and SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

Workers forced to join work

Relatives allege; BGMEA president claims factories reopened on 'assurance from engineers'

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA and SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Workers of at least two garment factories at Rana Plaza that collapsed yesterday were forced to join their workplaces following a false assurance on the building's safety from a local engineer, relatives of the victims alleged.

Teary-eyed relatives, eagerly waiting for their loved ones near the destruction site, said top officials of the garment factories held meetings in the morning and forced the workers to join work.

Five factories housed in the building employed a total

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A man in tears with a photo of a missing relative, who worked in Rana Plaza at Savar Bazar bus stand, asks people if they have seen her yesterday. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

President Hamid sworn in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

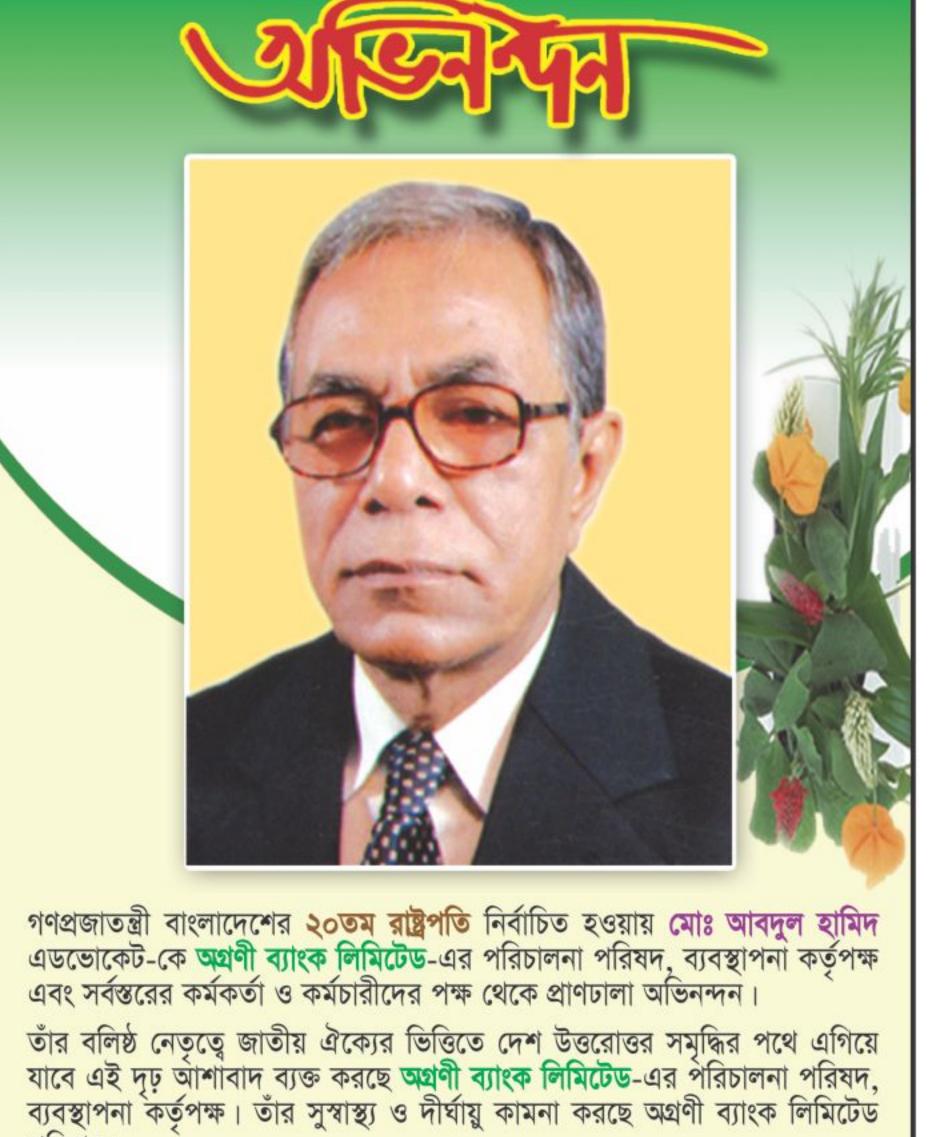
Abdul Hamid took oath as the 20th president of the country yesterday amid

high hopes that he would play a vital role to overcome the growing political crisis.

Acting Speaker Shawkat Ali administered the oath to Hamid at the Darbar Hall at Bangabhaban in a simple ceremony.

"From now on I do not belong to any political party. I belong to the entire nation and all people of the country. I will try to discharge my duties on the principles of law and morality," he told reporters.

Elected to the presidency on ruling Awami **SEE PAGE 12 COL 8 PHOTO ON PAGE 2**



সেই সাথে দল মত নির্বিশেষে সকলের নিকট গ্রহণযোগ্য তাঁর মতো একজন জাতীয়

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