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SAVAR: DAY III

The rescue continues with families keeping their fingers crossed

PAGE 5

REVOLUTION 2020

Brilliance lies in the link readers make with the book's characters

PAGE 24

POET IN SPACE

Nasa once put Welsh poet Dylan Thomas into orbit

PAGE 7

SAVAR DEATH TOLL

315

Fight for life on under debris

100 more rescued alive; ceaseless efforts on to save trapped workers

WASIM BIN HABIB, HELEMUL ALAM and HOSSAIN BIPLOB

Around three days after the country's worst building collapse, the hope of finding more survivors was not all gone, though a sickening stench of decaying corpses filled the air in Savar.

Some 100 people were rescued out of the wreckage yesterday.

The rescuers were relentless in their efforts as people trapped inside were alive by what could only be described as a miracle.

The death toll, meantime, rose to 315.

The rescue crews bored deeper into the rubble of the collapsed nine-storey Rana

Plaza yesterday. They provided water, saline and oxygen cylinders whenever they found a survivor inside.

"We have supplied saline, torchlight and oxygen to a spot where around 24 people are still alive," said Jashim Uddin, a rescuer.

Major General Chowdhury Hasan Sarwardi, general officer commanding of Nine Infantry Division, told reporters around noon that they could not remove the large slabs as many people were stuck inside. Their personnel made big holes to enter and bring out people, he added.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5  
MORE ON PAGE 3, 5, 20



A woman wails for her missing son near the collapsed Rana Plaza in Savar. Since the disaster, she has been frantically running in the area clinging to the hope that her son will return to her.

PHOTO:  
RASHED SHUMON

Savar Tragedy

UPDATES

Rescued alive

2,400

Bodies recovered

315

Handed over

305

In hospitals

300+

Rescued yesterday

100 alive

57 dead

Help pours in

People's support to victim families, rescuers shows selfless love for humanity

WASIM BIN HABIB

All along the road from the disaster site to Enam Medical College and Hospital and beyond, they hand out food, water and other relief materials to the victims' relatives and the rescuers.

After the nine-storey Rana Plaza in Savar collapsed on Wednesday morning, people, mostly youths, have been doing a great service to humanity.

While many have joined the rescue operation without caring much about their own lives, others are working to make sure the family members of the injured and trapped workers and the volunteers get what they need to endure these difficult hours.

"Have water", "Take this biryani packet" and "Biscuits are free"—these are the words you'd hear in every few steps.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

A daunting task

Mostly untrained, unequipped locals help firefighters in rescue operation

M RAHMAN

It has been mainly the firefighters and locals who have been conducting the rescue operation at Rana Plaza site in Savar since Wednesday, the day the nine-storey building collapsed.

During spot visits, it was seen that personnel of army, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), police and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) were mostly handling the crowd and making way for their vehicles and other vehicles carrying food and medicine to and out of the spot.

The locals and firefighters using shovels, handsaw, hammers and other handy tools have been cutting the fallen walls,

grills and roofs to get the victims out of the debris.

However, after recovery of any victim, personnel of other agencies are seen active to take the victim to hospital.

Against such backdrop, families of the victims and locals yesterday morning staged an angry demonstration in front of the collapsed building alleging that the government machineries were not putting sincere efforts in the rescue; rather the army, Rab, BGB and police were playing the role of onlookers.

Law enforcers had immediately brought the situation under control by firing rubber bullets, said locals.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Rescued after 45 hrs under rubble

M RAHMAN and HELEMUL ALAM

Time was running out for Rikta. She was hungry and thirsty and drained. Two days had passed since she was trapped inside Rana Plaza. Nobody came.

So when someone did come early yesterday, about 45 hours after the collapse, she wondered: "Am I still alive?"

She was, but to remain so she would have to suffer more.

It was a group of civilian rescuers who found her around 5:30am under the rubble on the third floor of the nine-storey building. Her right hand was trapped under a sewing machine. The rescuers tried all means they could think of to pull her out. When all attempts failed, they had



Rikta

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

A worker who had been trapped in the collapsed Rana Plaza waves to volunteers and people after being rescued yesterday around 1:30pm.



PHOTO:  
RASHED SHUMON

2 factory owners arrested

PM orders arrest of Rana

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested two garment factory owners, whose plants were in Rana Plaza, hours after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had ordered capture of the owners of the building and the factories that used to be there.

A senior official of the Detective Branch of Police told The Daily Star early today that they arrested Bazlul Samad and Mahmudur Rahman Tapash in connection with a case filed after Rana Plaza came crashing down on Wednesday.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Save RMG industry

Owners urge PM

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Top apparel sector leaders yesterday met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to seek security for the industry after a section of workers resorted to vandalism yesterday protesting the Rana Plaza disaster.

Leaders of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

LABOUR UNREST

All RMG units shut for 2 days

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Having suffered from labour unrest in the last two days, garment makers across the country yesterday decided to suspend production in their factories for two days from today mainly to avoid massive unrest.

Production was suspended at majority of factories in Dhaka, Gazipur, Savar, Ashulia, Maona for the second consecutive day yesterday, fearing a further labour unrest, stemmed from deaths at Rana Plaza.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

RMG workers go berserk

Vandalise around 160 vehicles in Dhaka, attack several factories elsewhere

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of garment workers yesterday vented their anger on vehicles in and around the capital leaving the public transport system on the brink of a collapse.

Angered by the deaths of their fellow workers in Savar Rana Plaza collapse and following a rumour that two demonstrators were killed, they vandalised at least 160 vehicles in Dhaka, Gazipur and Narayanganj.

They also attacked garment factories in the three districts and set fire to one in Gazipur along with a furniture factory. The fire gutted an ATM booth and several shops in the adjoining market.

The city and its neighbouring areas had a hartal-like look as the workers barricaded roads and highways. Police had to close several roads as well due to the rampaging garment workers.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6  
PHOTOS ON PAGE 20

Brave souls in Savar



Abu Bakar

MASUM AL JAKI

No safety gear, no training, no proper equipment. But they have brave hearts to help the workers trapped in a mangled mess of concrete and rods.

As the Rana Plaza tragedy unfolded, many ordinary people joined the res-



Shah Alam



Salman

cue effort. A large number of students, street vendors, garment workers and religious leaders joined hands with fire fighters, army and police.

In some cases, the unequipped civilians were seen leading the desperate operation putting their lives at risk.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2