



ICT IN FOCUS

Analysts say govt should make long-term plans for the sector
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AB IS BACK

The rock star appears in his first concert since recovery from illness
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'COMEDIAN IN CHIEF'

Obama mocks critics in comic address at White House correspondents' dinner
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Man behind 381 deaths captured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sohel Rana, owner of the Savar building that collapsed on Wednesday, leaving more than 381 dead and scores injured, was arrested in Benapole, Jessore, yesterday afternoon.

Rana went to Benapole to cross the border without a passport and was hiding at a human trafficker's house in Ball Field area, about 0.5 kilometres from the Indian border, the Rapid Action Battalion said.

As soon as the news of the arrest was announced by Minister of State Jahangir Kabir Nanak, at the collapse site in the afternoon, locals burst into cheers and chanted slogans, "Hang Rana, Hang Rana!"

People in small groups brought out jubilant processions.

After Rana was brought to Dhaka in a helicopter around 5:00pm, Rab held a press briefing at its headquarters.

"He had been hiding in different places since Wednesday. We learnt through secret sources that he was hiding in Benapole," Rab's Director General



Mokhesur Rahman told the media.

The elite crime buster found two bottles of Phensedyl, lungis, caps, cigarettes, medicines and oral saline in a briefcase with Rana.

Asked if powerful people had sheltered Rana, the Rab chief said if someone influential had given him shelter, he would have stayed in one place instead of moving from one district to another.

Rana was in the building when it collapsed on Wednesday morning. He

suffered injuries and received treatment at Insaf Hospital in Ashulia for two hours, Rab officials said.

From the hospital, he went to Mohammadpur and stayed with a friend, Mohammad Shamim. He spent the next day in Manikganj with one Afzal Sharif.

On Friday, when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ordered his immediate arrest, Rana went to Faridpur and the following day to Jhikorgachha in Jessore with the help of one Anil.

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Factory watch just farcical

51 inspectors for monitoring two lakh factories

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The government's department tasked with enforcement of laws to ensure safety of workers cannot perform its functions properly due to acute crisis of manpower and logistics.

The Department of Inspection for factories and establishment under the labour and employment ministry is supposed to oversee more than two lakh factories including over 5,000 readymade garment factories and establishments countrywide, insiders say.

The department has only 51 inspectors to do the massive task. Another 52 approved posts for inspectors remain vacant for long, they add.

"It is just an eyewash what we do in the name of inspection," a senior official of the department told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

Asked, Habibul Islam, chief of the department, told The Daily Star yesterday over telephone that the crisis was persistent in his department.

"We have huge power and important

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Dolly cries, holding the photo of her missing brother as hope starts to fade on day five of the rescue operations yesterday at the Rana Plaza collapse site in Savar. Her brother used to work in one of the garment factories Rana Plaza housed.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

DEATH TOLL 381

Hopes fading, flickering

Use of heavy equipment stalled for hours as one more pulled out alive

MORSHED ALI KHAN and WASIM BIN HABIB

The stench of decaying bodies filled the air around the ruins of Rana Plaza with the death toll reaching 381 yesterday, the fifth day into the building's collapse.

Rescuers refrained from employing heavy equipment to remove the debris after confirming that four people -- three men and a woman named Shahana -- were still alive under the wreckage.

But the efforts to rescue Shahana were hindered due to a fire that broke out around 10:00pm when a rescuer was cutting a steel bar to pull her out, Shahinul Islam, director of Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), told reporters at around 11:00pm.

The rescuers had to retreat from the part of the wreckage where the fire broke out. The fire-fighters doused the flames within 10 minutes.

Earlier, Shahana was provided with food, water and oxygen after the rescuers located her. But it was not possible to rescue her, as part of

her body got stuck in the wreckage, said Shahinul.

"We don't know her condition, but pray for a miracle," he said.

Shahana, who is from Kushtia, is the mother of a one-and-a-half-year-old boy.

The rescuers started using heavy equipment last night to remove the ruins of Rana Plaza, nearly 110 hours after its collapse.

Two hydraulic cranes that were brought to the site a few days ago were put to use around 11:45pm, as the chances of finding more survivors under the wreckage became very slim, said Brig Gen Azmal Kabir of army engineering core.

"We will carry out this operation very carefully so that we can rescue more survivors if there are any," he told reporters.

One of the cranes is being used for cutting pillars and the other for removing them.

Meanwhile, another person was pulled out of the wreckage alive around 12:00noon, taking

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Twin tragedy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

It is as if misfortunes will not let go of them.

Abdus Sobhan and Lal Mia have had enough already, losing Tahura Begum, the former's daughter and the latter's wife, to the Rana Plaza disaster in Savar.

After Tahura's body was recovered from the rubble on Saturday, the two along with some relatives were carrying Tahura's body to their village home in Pabna yesterday.

But three people were killed and four others injured when the ambulance collided with a lorry on the Pabna-Nagarbari highway in Sirajganj.

Badly injured, Sobhan and Lal Mia were taking treatment at Pabna

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Rescuers bring Sadique out of the rubble of Rana Plaza yesterday, alive. He had been buried under the debris since Wednesday when the building housing several garment factories came crashing down.



মশহুদ
অভিনন্দন

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