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Waiting for a miracle

Victim families still hope to see missing dear ones alive

SHAMIM ASHRAF and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

As a few hundred pairs of eyes, weary of the long wait, were glued to the narrow tunnel leading out of the now-flattened Rana Plaza, an announcement sounded the most pleasing intimation of all: "A man has been rescued alive."

It worked like magic, especially when common sense rules out chances of anyone's survival inside the rubble for five days.

Several hundred people jostled to have a peek at the man being whisked off by an ambulance, everyone praying it were the one he was waiting for.

But Sadique was just the one the rescuers could recover alive till afternoon yesterday, knowledge that filled the waiting crowd with a heavy gloom.

The list posted there said nearly 1,300 were missing, though the list still has on it some of those already recovered alive or found dead.

"We know we are hoping against hope. But isn't there a word called miracle?" said Khashru Mia, brother-in-law of Morzina Akhter, a sewing operator who was working on the fifth floor.

Split in groups, family members waited for Morzina at Adharchandra Model High School in Savar, where the bodies were kept, and Enam Medical College Hospital, Mitford Hospital and Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Though there were only two bodies kept at Adharchandra school, The Daily Star found at least 1,000

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Relatives of victims yet to be rescued or recovered hold their photos high at Adhar Chandra High School playground in Savar so that rescuers who are bringing in bodies can identify them.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

MPs want more MPO listing

Muhith says it's not good for govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers yesterday put pressure on the finance minister for inclusion of new schools under the government's Monthly Payment Order (MPO) list.

Members of various standing committees at a pre-budget meeting with

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Havoc around lack of data

TAMANNA KHAN and SUSHMITA S PREETHA

Josna Begum desperately asked around for the whereabouts of her son Jasim, a 22-year-old worker in a garments factory which used to be on the fourth floor of the collapsed Rana Plaza.

Her anxious query... "Where is my son?"... remained unanswered for the past four days apparently due to the lack of a database system to list the names of the victims, both dead and alive.

Josna visited the Adhar Chandra High School playground in Savar, along with 15 relatives, to identify if Jasim was amongst the dead brought there. They even checked morgues in Dhaka for his body.

They missed none of the hospitals, clinics, or primary healthcare centres in Savar, and even visited Dhaka clinics and hospitals, where many of the injured were taken.

The family meticulously went through all the lists of the injured being treated at

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RMG factories reopen today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment makers yesterday decided to reopen their industrial units today after two days of production suspension in the wake of massive labour unrest following the Savar building collapse.

"We are ready to reopen our factories tomorrow [today]. We plea to the government for security so that no untoward incident takes place," Atiqul Islam, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said at media briefing at its

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NEWS ANALYSIS

BGMEA and 'image crisis'

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has demanded punishment to the owners and engineers of Rana Plaza against the background of the collapse of the nine-storey building in Savar. The sentiment is appreciated.

It means to have owners of garment factories ensure structural security of their enterprises and submit reports to it to this end, failing which the BGMEA will move to cancel the licences of errant garment firms. This sentiment too is appreciated.

What worries the public, though, is the ire expressed by BGMEA members at an extraordinary general meeting on Saturday regarding the role of the media in the aftermath of the Savar tragedy.

The media, so believe these garment factory owners, have been

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A photo of the Rana Plaza disaster taken from the rear of the building at Savar bazaar bus stand yesterday. A few cranes have been deployed to move the rubble. The nine-storey building collapsed on Wednesday morning, killing over 380 people, mostly garment workers.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bank accounts of Rana, wife frozen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank yesterday froze the bank accounts of Rana Plaza owner Sohel Rana and his wife Mithu for one month following an order of the High Court.

Earlier in the day, the HC directed the authorities concerned to freeze all the bank accounts of the owners of Rana Plaza and the garment factories housed in the building.

In response to a writ petition filed by two rights organisations, Ain O Salish Kendra, and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, the HC ordered the Bangladesh Bank to issue an immediate circular for commercial banks in this regard.

It said the due salaries and benefits of the workers

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Shirin likely to become Speaker

HASAN JAHIID TUSHER

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin

Chaudhury could become

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PRAYER TIMING April 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-29	6-34
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

3 killed as AL, Jamaat clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj


A clash between Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami activists at Bhabanipur of Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj left three people, including two AL activists, dead and 14 others injured yesterday.

The deceased as were identified Bashir Ahmed, 36, a Bhabanipur Fazil Madrasa teacher and also secretary of ward-5 unit of Shibganj municipality Jamaat, Nasir Uddin, 45, an AL activist of Shyampur union unit of the party, and another AL activist Noor Shed Ali, 50.

Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Shibganj Police Station, said a meeting of the local AL was being held at

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The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for the BNP-led 18-party alliance to call a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal again for May 2 in this crucial moment of the nation?

Yes

No

(22%)

(78%)

TOTAL VOTES: 403

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for the BNP-led 18-party alliance to call a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal again for May 2 in this crucial moment of the nation?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT

facebook.com/dailystarnews

How terror can breed through social media

CNN, London

The days of would-be terrorists needing to travel to far-off camps to make contacts and learn how to build bombs are rapidly receding.

Social media forums like Twitter and Facebook provide a ready made Rolodex of sources -- dig further online, mine those contacts further, gain admission to private chat forums and eventually you will find instructions for bomb making.

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মরহুম সিরাজ উদ্দিন আহমেদ এর মৃত্যুবার্ষিকীর অনুষ্ঠান স্থগিত সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি



এতদ্বারা সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, দেশ ও জাতির জন্য দুঃখজনক ও দুর্ভোগপূর্ণ ভয়াবহ সাভার ট্রাজেডির কারণে আমাদের শ্রদ্ধেয় পিতা মরহুম সিরাজ উদ্দিন আহমেদ এর ২৮ তম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী উপলক্ষে আগামী ১লা মে ২০১৩ ইং রোজ বুধবার গুলশানস্থ বাসভবনে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য জিয়াফতের অনুষ্ঠান স্থগিত করা হয়েছে।

অনুষ্ঠান উপলক্ষে আমন্ত্রিত সকল অতিথি ও দেশবাসীর নিকট আমরা আমাদের মরহুম পিতা সিরাজ উদ্দিন আহমেদ ও সাভার দুর্ঘটনায় হতাহত সকলের জন্য দোয়া প্রার্থী।

বিনীত

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সাজেদুর সিরাজ

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ফোন:- ৯৮৫৯৯৮৮, ৯৫৬১৩৭৬