

Equipment inadequate

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injuries scores.
Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, a noted civil engineer who headed the search and rescue equipment selection committee, submitted the list of equipment to the then government in 2005.
It took the government five years to approve a Tk 69 crore scheme, procure the equipment, and hand over the equipment to Fire Service and Civil Defence, said Mohammad Abdul Wazed, director general of the Department of Disaster Management.
Multiple cutters, concrete cutters, power chain saws, rescue saws, air compressors, electric demolition hammers, portable electric generators, ladders, breathing apparatus, megaphones, airbags, search

cameras, hydraulic jacks (used to expand the gap between two sandwiched floors), knee pads, lock cutters, safety vests and flash lights are among the equipment procured so far.
As to lack of some vital equipment, he said out of five contractors, one -- M/s Sohel Enterprise -- did not supply the equipment yet. The High Court ordered the supplier to deliver the goods by April 30, yesterday.
It, however, did not comply with the court order till yesterday, said the DG.
Wazed said they also handed over six high-power cranes and some other heavy equipment to the Armed Forces Division.
However, the rescuers were using three heavy cranes hired from private firms to remove huge concrete slabs at the Rana Plaza

collapse site, he alleged.
Yesterday, the Planning Commission approved a Tk 260 crore second-phase scheme to procure mostly similar equipment.
Search and rescue operations in the case of a big structural collapse requires extensive training, knowledge, and an adequate number of equipment, which are not yet available in the country, he said.
Abu Sadeque, secretary general of Bangladesh Earthquake Society, said those equipment were not seen being used during search and rescue operations in Rana Plaza.
Refuting the allegation, Brig Gen Ali Ahmed Khan, director general of the Fire Service and Civil Defence Department, said the equipment was used to remove the debris from the collapsed building. But

they would be extremely inadequate in the case of multiple collapses at a time.
Prof Mujibur Rahman, who teaches civil engineering at Buet, said mostly untrained local voluntary rescuers along with a few firemen took the risk of rescuing the trapped victims inside the crumpled Rana Plaza.
Although only professional rescuers were supposed to carry out such risky operations, one could not ignore the lesson learnt from the Rana Plaza rescue operations, he added.
According to a report of the UNDP-funded Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, some 72,000 buildings may collapse in Dhaka city in an earthquake of VII to VIII intensity scale (extent of jolt), as happened in 1897.

Three ex-army men No need to change law on Rohingya citizenship Says Myanmar panel

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"Appeal is allowed. Judgment of the High Court Division set aside so far it relates to the respondent. The judgment of the trial court is maintained," the court said in the short verdict.
After the verdict, Anisul Huq, principal state counsel of the case, told The Daily Star that the case had been settled through the apex court verdict.
"I will request the government and the authorities specifically concerned to take steps and approach all avenues to get the convicts back to the country to execute the apex court verdict," he said.
Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said the SC verdict would act as consolation for the nation as all convicted killers are fugitive.
Captain Mansur Ali's son Awami League leader Mohammad Nasim, who was present in the SC, expressed satisfaction with the verdict, saying justice had been done although it was late.
"We had to wait for around 38 years for this verdict. We wanted punishment for the killers of four national leaders," he said.
Talking to The Daily Star, AHM Kamaruzzaman's son and Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton demanded bringing back the fugitives from abroad to execute the verdict.
He said, "We are hopeful about execution of the verdict after the Supreme Court upheld the lower court's judgement."
Abdullah Al Mamun, counsel for convicts Marfat Ali and Abul Hashem Mridha, said he would file two separate review petitions with the

SC against the verdict after getting its full text.
The SC yesterday affirmed the judgement of Dhaka Metropolitan Judge's court which on October 20, 2004 convicted and sentenced three army personnel -- Muslemuddin, Marfat Ali Shah and Abdul Hashem Mridha -- to death and handed down life term imprisonment to 12 others.
Of the 12 convicts, four -- Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Lt Col (ret'd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Maj (ret'd) Bazlul Huda and Maj (ret'd) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed -- were already executed in the Bangladesh assassination case.
On August 28, 2008, the HC upheld the capital punishment of Muslemuddin and acquitted Marfat and Hashem. It also acquitted Farooq, Shahriar, Mohiuddin and Bazlul Huda.
The HC did not say anything about the eight others who got life term imprisonment from the SC yesterday.
The government filed an appeal with the SC in 2009 against the HC verdict, appealing to the SC to uphold the trial court's verdict.
In 2011, the SC exempted Farooq, Shahriar, Mohiuddin and Bazlul Huda from the case as they were already executed.

DPA, Yangon
Myanmar's 1982 citizenship law that made a Muslim ethnic minority stateless does not need to be amended, but should be applied fairly, a commission set up to assess last year's sectarian violence in the Rakhine State said Monday.
Fighting that broke out between Buddhist and Rohingya communities in the state killed at least 192 and left about 1,25,000 homeless.
The government-appointed commission called for improved law enforcement, protection of human rights and a ban on "hate language" and "extremist teachings." It stopped short of recommending an amendment to the law that many claim is at the heart of the problem.
"International organizations are trying to criticize the 1982 citizenship law regarding the Bengalis but the law is very suitable for us," commission member Yin Yin Nwe said.
"But the enforcement of the law is not clear because of the corruption of the local immigration officials," he added.
The law classified eight races and more than 130 ethnic minority groups which could qualify as Myanmar nationals, but excluded the Rohingyas from the list.
The latter insist they are a separate ethnic minority whose ancestors have lived in the country for generations. The government views the Rohingyas as Bengali migrants who were brought to the western state by the British colonialists as farmers.
The commission pointedly referred to the Rohingyas as Bengalis.
"It was not because of government pressure," commission member Kyaw Yin Hlaing said. "Our intention is to bring about reconciliation and if we use Rohingyas, we can't achieve that goal because of the high emotions of the people, not only in the Rakhine but also in the other parts of the country." Myanmar is a predominantly Buddhist country, in which Muslims are a small minority.
Much of the violence against the Rohingyas, along with attacks last month against Muslims in central Myanmar, was allegedly orchestrated by militant Buddhist groups.

It's hard time, remain calm

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could take some money from that fund for filing cases if they needed to do so to protect their interests.
Pointing to the anarchists, the premier asked in whose interest they were vandalising the industries. She directed the authorities concerned to identify the anarchists through television video footage and take action accordingly.
The premier told the workers, "You have to keep the industries running or you will have to go back to your villages after losing your jobs if the industries are closed."
Regarding the Savar tragedy, the premier offered her deepest sympathies to the members of the victims' families and said her government would do every-

thing for the injured workers. "We have already made a list of injured people and necessary assistance will be provided them for their rehabilitation."
Hasina reassured the nation that all the culprits behind the building collapse had been nabbed and would be punished.
The premier thanked the people of the country, members of the army, police and other agencies for coming forward to rescue the victims from the site.
"The way the people came forward to rescue the victims, it proved the positive character traits of the Bangladeshis," she said.
Citing her government's effort in helping the victims, the premier said the government had already sent Ezazuddin Kaikobad,

a volunteer, who recovered some 100 workers alive, to Singapore for better treatment.
"From the very first day of the incident, he was giving relentless service. This man received serious burn injuries while trying to rescue the last survivor. Now we are sending him to Singapore for better treatment," she said, adding that the rescue operation would remain part of history in the world.
The premier thanked the lawmakers for electing the Speaker. "Besides Bangladesh, two of our neighboring countries, Pakistan and India, have female Speakers. So, we have taken the decision to elect our woman Speaker," she said.
The prime minister expressed happiness over

the Supreme Court verdict in the historic jail killing case. The SC upheld the death penalty of three former army personnel Risalder (ret'd) Muslemuddin, Dafadar (dismissed) Marfat Ali Shah and Dafadar (dismissed) Abdul Hashem Mridha and life term imprisonment of eight others.
"We have got justice. We have got rid of a stigma with the judgment. The verdict will be executed as in the Bangladesh murder case," she said.
Termining the war crimes of 1971 as a shameful and hateful chapter in the history of the country, Hasina said the trial of the war criminals would also be held and the verdict would be executed. She sought the support of the nation so that none could hinder the trial.

Witness testifies
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Shahjahan to talk normally.
He yesterday stood before the judges of the International Crimes Tribunal-1 to give deposition on the horrific experience of torture by local Razakars, who collaborated with the Pakistani invaders in killing three million people and violating more than a quarter million women.
Shahjahan is the sixth prosecution witness in the war crimes case against Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami who was president of his party's student wing Islami Chhatra Sangha during the Liberation War in 1971.
Understanding his struggle to speak, the tribunal asked the prosecutor to take his deposition briefly.
In broken voice, the witness said he was an injured freedom fighter and got Tk 10,000 as monthly government allowance.
"On November 28, 1971 a war broke out at Dhuliura village [in Pabna]," he said.
"Eight freedom fighters were caught. I was beaten brutally. As per Motiur Rahman Nizami's instruction Sattar Razakar took four of us on the bank of

the river," said Shahjahan.
"They [Razakars] charged bayonet on us. Nizami was present there. They cut my throat with a knife," the witness said, adding that he could not remember anything more.
His fellow freedom fighters were killed by bayonet charges.
"Local people took me to one Ranjit Sarkar's house at Fulbari village," Shahjahan said, adding, he was later taken to Pabna hospital where he was given treatment for one month.
The witness said he was later transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he received treatment for four years.
About 300-400 people of Dhuliura village were killed in that war, he said.
Prosecutor Mir Iqbal Hossain asked the witness whether Nizami was present at the tribunal.
With much effort Shahjahan stood up on his feet, turned right, pointed his finger to the accused in the dock and said, "He is there, Razakar!"
The tribunal however recorded it as "the witness has identified the accused".
Defence counsel Mizanul Islam had cross-examined the witness before the tribunal adjourned the proceeding until May 2.
Earlier, the defence of another war crimes accused Salauddin Quader Chowdhury completed cross-examining the 31st prosecution witness. The proceeding of the case was adjourned until May 2.
The three-member tribunal yesterday asked the prosecution to submit the final probe report on one Rustom Ali Sikder on May 2.
Prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon told the tribunal that the investigation agency had not found any charges of war crimes against Rustom.

Table with 6 columns: ক্রঃ নং, দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়, দরপত্র জমা গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়, দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান, দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়, দরপত্র প্রাপ্তি স্থান. It lists various government contracts and their details.

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Witness testifies (continued)
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Vacancy Announcement
United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a vacancy for the position of Local Security Expert (Service Contract, SB-4 Level) with United Nations Department of Safety and Security office in Bangladesh.
The duration of the Service Contract is one year initially, subject to renewal upon satisfactory performance.
For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply for the above position, please visit our website: http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs. Applications should be received no later than Tuesday, 14 May, 2013.
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.