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RESCUE OPERATIONS

Equipment inadequate

Experts' suggestion for procurement ignored

TAWFIQUE ALI

The country lacks equipment and expertise required to conduct search and rescue operations in the event of massive buildings collapsing, experts say.

Despite experts' recommendations eight years ago, equipment like ground-penetrating radars (GPR), fiber-optic cameras and remote visual inspection devices -- crucial to saving the lives of those trapped in rubble -- have not been procured yet.

The GPR is a remote sensing device that helps to locate the presence of a survivor stuck in the wreckage of a collapsed building. The camera captures images from inside the wreckage and helps make plans for an effective rescue operation.

These were badly needed during the search and rescue operations in the nine-storey Rana Plaza that collapsed on April 24, killing at least 388 garment workers and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

IN THE END silence

Perhaps they were close to each other in life. Perhaps they only had a nodding acquaintance. Perhaps they were a couple charmed by the many shades of beauty life had on offer. And, again, perhaps they were colleagues struggling to make a living through tortuous labour in the factory that crashed on them on Wednesday. On the night between 24-25 April, it was their improbable companionship that came alive in the gathering shadow of tragedy.

Life might have been too constricting to allow them the freedom to indulge in dreams. We will never know. But through this image, caught by Taslima Akhter on her lens as she transited between the professional and the individual, death in all its lugubrious intensity brings this man and this woman into eternal union. His arms around her speak of a poignant story of chivalry, for he tried to keep the life going in her even as he prepared for death. In his desperate protective embrace, she must have felt reassured about a renewal of life beyond the falling concrete.

In the end, all was silence. Life went to pieces. Death became a metaphor for what could have been.



PHOTO COURTESY: TASLIMA AKHTER

PROPERTY OF RANA, FACTORY OWNERS

HC orders confiscation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to confiscate immediately all the property of the owners of Rana Plaza and the five garment factories housed in the building at Savar.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



How Rana fled after rescue

Murad Jong phones him 20mins into building collapse; taken away by the MP's vehicle

SHARIFUL ISLAM and KAILASH SARKAR

While ruling-Awami League lawmaker Murad Jong has been denying any kind of association with Sohel Rana, owner of the collapsed building in Savar, Rana's mobile phone record shows how close they were.

According to Rab sources, at 9:05am on Wednesday, just 20 minutes after the collapse,



Murad Jong had called Rana over the mobile phone to enquire about his condition. Rana, however, could not receive the call, as he got trapped inside the building and was almost unconscious.

After his arrest Rana told Rab that he had gone to his office in the basement of Rana Plaza around 8:00am that day. He

was holding a meeting with his five aides on an

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Witness testifies on torture in '71

Says Nizami was present during Pabna incident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahjahan Ali, still bearing the infliction of brutal torture of 1971, was taken to a river bank in Pabna where local Razakars attempted to kill him by slitting his throat in presence of Motiur Rahman Nizami.

Locals rescued him later, but since then it has been hard for

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Burnt rescuer flown to S'pore

PMO to bear treatment cost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rescuer, who sustained burn injuries while trying to rescue trapped garment worker Shaheena from Rana Plaza rubble on Sunday night, was flown to Singapore for better treatment on the instructions of the prime minister.

An air ambulance carrying Mohammad Ezazuddin Kaikobad, a volunteer aged around 35, took off for Singapore from Shahjalal International Airport last night.

Ezaz was undergoing treatment at the burn unit of Combined Medical Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka with around 55 percent burn injuries. He left the hospital around 7:40pm, said CMH officials.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) will

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits Mohammad Ezazuddin Kaikobad at Dhaka Combined Military Hospital yesterday. Ezazuddin suffered burns while trying to rescue a garment worker from the Rana Plaza debris on Sunday night.

PHOTO: PID

RESCUE AT SAVAR MKA defends rejection of foreign aid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government rejected foreign aid for Savar rescue operation as they had proposed to send nothing but expert manpower, said Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir yesterday.

"We have enough manpower to conduct the rescue operation and our requirement was rescue equipment," the minister told journalists at a prize giving ceremony of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in the capital.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

2 western buyers to compensate Savar victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two western retailers, so far, committed to compensate victims of the Rana Plaza collapse, which claimed the lives of around 400 workers as of yesterday evening.

British retailers Primark and Canadian retailers Loblaw's -- sellers of the Joe Fresh brand -- have committed to compensate the victims and their families, through statements published on their business websites.

They, however, did not mention the amounts or the modes of dispersion of these funds.

Primark in a statement on Monday said its team in Bangladesh has been working to put in place immediate and long-term help for victims of this disaster, as it acknowledged its supplier to have operated from the building.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL
Do you think lawmakers' pressure on the finance minister for inclusion of new schools under the government's Monthly Payment Order (MPO) list is justified?
Yes (40%)
No (60%)
TOTAL VOTES: 155

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think families of the Savar building collapse victims will be compensated properly?
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING			May 1
	Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-15	4-50	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	4-45	5-00	
Maghrib	6-31	6-35	
Esha	8-00	8-30	
Source: Islamic Foundation			

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