24th April, the very day the building collapsed. She is currently being treated for soft tissue injury and fractures in bed 24 at Dhaka's National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR).

Like Karuna's parents, the families of numerous other survivors are currently focused on the victim's well-being, but financial distress hovers over them. Despite assurances from the government, many hospitalized survivors don't know how their families will survive the coming months without their income, while others have been injured so badly that they have given up hope of returning to the workforce.

head injury and has been suggested a three-month bed rest by doctors. Her mother says that despite the financial difficulties the family will have to face if her daughter doesn't rejoin the workforce, she does not want Khairunessa to go back to work in the garments industry.

"She can go back to our village in Noagaon and start sewing for a living, but I don't want my daughter to risk her life ever again by working in a garment factory," she says.

The worst industrial disaster in the nation's history has been caused by monstrous greed, by the complete disregard that a handful of unscrupulous employers showed for the value of human



The National Institute of Traumatology and Rehabilitation Centre (NITOR) is overflowing with survivors of the Savar tragedy seeking treatment. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

"I'd rather live as a beggar to support my daughters than die there."

— **Pakhi Begum**, 25, rescued from the fifth floor, lost both her legs in the disaster.

"I am the breadwinner in my family, since my father is disabled and my mother stays at home to look after him. I have two younger sisters and I pay for my family's every need," says Khairunessa, 21, who is being treated in bed 26 at NITOR.

Khairunessa, who also worked at New Wave Apparel, is admitted with soft tissue damage and a

lives. However, the tragedy also brought out the best in people. Civilians, students and members of various organisations rushed to the site on the day of the disaster and stayed there till they were sure that they had saved as many lives as they possibly could. People from all walks of life bombarded hospitals and organisations with donations that helped buy medicines, supplies, food, and water for the survivors.

The work has not ended after the rescue mission. People are still worried about the survivors, and they want to know how they can continue helping the survivors and the victims' families. Non-profit organisations like JAAGO Foundation are constantly asked about rehabilitation programmes and projects that can get the survi-