tion collected Tk 50,000 worth of medicines for the survivors. From the third day onwards, the organisation started collecting cash donations from benefactors that would help in the rehabilitation process of survivors.

"Our volunteers were sent to Dhaka Medical College, Enam Medical College, and NITOR on May 1 and 2 to collect data that would help us create a database and make a list of patients who would need immediate financial help," says Anika Binte Kashem, Senior Vice President, UNYSAB.

An initial amount of Tk 5,000 each was given to 30 families that hadn't received any financial help, to help them survive for the next couple of months.

"We are also creating a list of 30 more patients so we can support their rehabilitation and help them find work. With the donations that we continue to receive, we will also pay for additional treatment costs for those who need extended treatments," informed Kashem.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRS) was amongst the first responders on the scene of the building crash. While around 200 youth volunteers joined the fire brigade and civil defence in the rescue and recovery mission, the organisation also established a mobile medical team which tended to the injured while Red Crescent's ambulance service was used in full force to transport survivors to the different hospitals.

The funds donated to the Red Crescent were used to buy a range of items, starting from oxygen cans and air fresheners to body bags and coffin shrouds. State University of Bangladesh and Independent University of Bangladesh also donated cutting machines to the Red Crescent to help in the rescue mission.

"I have destroyed my only son's future. The purpose of my whole life was only to work and save enough money so I could provide a good education for my son."

— **Shapla**, 22, rescued from the second floor, lost her left hand.

"Tk 1 Lakh of the Tk 6 lakhs donated till date was spent on coffin shrouds alone," said Motiur Rahman, Director, Relief and Response Programme, BDRS, emphasising the magnitude of the disaster.



Rehabilitation is a long and arduous process.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN