tients can return to their normal life after their treatment is over.

Dr Siddiqui asserted that even though the hospital didn't accept donations, funds can be given directly to patients and their families. A list of donor names and the amounts donated has been created. Another list of future donors, who want to contribute to the rehabilitation of survivors, has also been created.

Unlike NITOR, the number of patients admitted to the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) is relatively low; 47 people, mainly amputees, were admitted to CRP by May 6. Patient profiles of 25 people were created till May 2. The medical expenses of all the patients are funded by CRP.

"I don't have the physical or mental strength to search for a job or return to work, but what other option do I have?"

— **Ayesha Begum**, 21, rescued from the third floor.

CRP is planning a proposal that funds the treatment and rehabilitation costs for a hundred patients. Under the proposal, CRP will offer vocational training to patients and fund the startup costs for those patients who want to start their own businesses. CRP will also be constantly checking

THE DAY THE WORLD CAVED IN

At the ICU unit of Enam Medical College and Hospital at Savar on April 27 afternoon, Laboni relates her horrific ordeal to *The Daily Star*'s Head of Investigative Reporting Cell, **JULFIKAR ALI MANIK.**

She was rescued 36 hours after being trapped; Rescuers had to amputate her left arm to save her life.

Twenty-two year-old Laboni Khanam, a graduate and married to Abu Musa was waiting for death along with her co-worker Sabiha, after the ceiling of the floor of Phantom Apparels Ltd where she worked as a 'sister' (nurse), caved in on April 24. Another co-worker, Dipa Patra had died immediately, in front of her when a big piece of concrete fell on her chest. The two waited all those hours asking each other from time to time whether the other was alive. Finally help did come after the excruciating hours of waiting.

"On April 23, it was about 10am. Workers were talking about the closing of the factory for that day due to crack developed in a pillar on the 3rd floor. I left the factory and went home. The whole day and even on Tuesday night I was not feeling comfortable about the crack in Rana Plaza.

But Wednesday morning when she heard that others were going to work, she decided to do the same. Before leaving she wanted to talk to her father and called, telling him about the crack. The line got cut as credit on the cell phone ran out but her father called back a while later when she was already in the factory urging her "Mamoni, you don't need to stay here, just leave."

"I was just thinking about leaving the factory as my father had suggested. At that moment I felt the building shake like it happens in an earthquake. I found the building was shaking and collapsing. I was standing on the floor but hurriedly sat down on the floor. I put my head on the floor and folded my legs the way people do when they crawl. It was full of dust and darkness. I felt a pillar near me fall down on my left arm. I was screaming. It was a nightmare. I felt my head, eyes, and nose bleeding...

Laboni and her husband Abu Musa were both students when they married in 2011. Laboni had finished graduation while her husband still had to complete his degree. From a lower-middle class family in Narail, getting a job at a graments factory in Savar seemed to be a good way to start for the couple. They rented a small room in Savar and Laboni started working as a 'sister' for both Phantom Apparels Ltd and Phantom tac Ltdlocated on the 4th and 5th floors for a Tk 10,000 salary. Her job was to give primary treatment to injured or sick workers. According to Laboni 600 to 700 workers worked on the 4th floor and 400 to 500 on the fifth.

"We were three persons in our chamber when the building started to collapse. Dipa Patra and welfare officer Sabiha were there. Dipa died immediately after a big piece of concrete structure fell down on her chest. Dipa's lifeless body near me; I never heard anything from her. At one point I touched Dipa's body with my right hand and found her body was cold.

"Then someone asked: 'Are you alive Laboni?' It was Sabiha, 'I am alive' I replied.

"The ceiling of our floor fell down in a way that I had no space to move up even a little. There was only an inch between my head and a wall, probably it was the ceiling. So there was no way to change my position. Only one of my legs could extend in the back and other one was folded all the time, as there was no space to extend it. I was in this same position for 36 hours. It was difficult to breath and the blood was all over my face; I had to keep my face down on the floor all the time. My mobile phone was in my right hand, I tried to call my husband, father, mother, but there was no network. It was totally dark. Sabiha was trapped near me but she had some space to move. We