



Report on Two Years of Rana Plaza Collapse & Killing



Bangladesh Shrama Institute (Bashi)

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Report on Two Years of Rana Plaza Collapse & Killing of hundreds

History's most notorious factory disaster has passed two years. Deaths and injuries of thousands of workers, and pains and losses of their families are still unheard. Victims and their families got some donations or helps in these years. They, however, are kept out of compensation and legal actions against the authorities responsible for the losses are still limping. Bangladesh Shramika Institute (Bashi) has made a brief report on various developments up to 23 April 2015 concerning Rana Plaza disaster and killings.

Loss in Rana Plaza collapse

Death	1137
Survivors and Injured	2438
Missing and Unidentified	162
Unidentified after DNA Test	85

*Information: Government Source

Building, Factories and Owners

Bangladesh Awami Juba League leader Sohel Rana was the owner of Rana Plaza building. He was an influential person as he was intimate to the then lawmaker and Awami League leader Tauhid Murad Jang. It has been known from the primary investigation of police, the building was originally approved for six-storey, but its owners later unlawfully managed to get an approval to make it a nine-storey building. Moreover, the building was made with sub-standard materials and the model was faulty.

Building	Rana Plaza
Area	50 to 56 decimal [0.5-0.6 acres]. It was a marshland before the construction
Building	Construction work incepted in 2007, the building opened for use in 2010
People involved	Sohel Rana, his father Abdul Khaleque, mother Morjina Begum and Tanmoy Housing Limited director Kazi Saiful Islam. Labour ministry, Public Works ministry, municipality and Rajuk officials granted approvals for the unlawful construction
Time of collapse	24 April 2013 at 8:58am

There were shops, banks and offices at the ground and first floors of the nine-storey building. The eighth floor was under construction. There were five factories from second floor to seventh floor of the Rana Plaza building.

	Name	Floor	Owners
1	New Wave Bottoms Ltd.	2nd floor	Bazlus Samad Adnan, Mahbubur Rahman Taposh, Delwar Ahmed, AR Ayub Hossain and Mohammad Delwar Hossain
2	Phantom Apparels Ltd	3rd Floor	Aminul Islam, Suraiya Begum, Nazim Uddin, ABM Siddique, Aleya Begum
3	Ethar Textile Ltd.	4th Floor	Anisur Rahman, Mahbubul Alam, Jesmin Alam, Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Mosammat Moriam, Jannatul Ferdous, Shafiqul Islam Bhuiyan, Rafiqul Hassan, and Monowar Hossain.
4	Phantom Tech Limited	5th Floor	David Mayer Rico, Aminul Islam, Suraiya Begum, ABM Siddique, Amirul Islam Mahmud
5	New Wave Style Ltd.	6th & 7th Floor	Bazlus Samad Adnan



Actions against owners

- On 9 May 2013 Bangladesh Bank ordered commercial banks to freeze the accounts of 21 directors of four factories housed at Rana Plaza building. Decision is yet to be made over the confiscated money.
- Factory owners were named in three cases. Police, however, managed to arrest only two of them. David Mayer Rico ran away to his country, Spain, just on the next day following the disaster.
- On 30 April 2013 the High Court ordered authorities concerned to confiscate all the movable and immovable properties of the owners of Rana Plaza and proprietors of five readymade garment factories. Justice Mirza Hossain Hyder and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar passed the order. Later, the government gave directives to the Dhaka deputy commissioner, Savar assistant commissioner (land) and District executive officers in this regard. They received the order on 13 March 2014. Following the order the authorities on 17 April 2014 concerned confiscated the land on which Rana Plaza building was stood and hanged out a sign at the spot.



Cases

	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3
Charge	Accident	Fault in structure, using sub-standard materials in construction and violating Bangladesh National Building Code	Murder
Plaintiff	Savar Model police sub-inspector Wali Ashraf filed a case under section 337, 338, 304(A), 427, 3411 of the Penal Code 1860 mentioning Rana Plaza collapse as an 'accident'. Case no. 55, date: 24 April 2013.	Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) official Helal Uddin filed a case under section 12 of Building Construction Act 1952. Case no. 53, Filed on 24 April 2013. **	Shiuly Akhter, widow of Rana Plaza victim Jahangir Alam, filed a case with Dhaka metropolitan chief judicial magistrate's court against three people mentioning Rana Plaza collapse as 'murder' under section 25(b)13 of the Special Powers Act 1974. Case no. 4, date 5 May 2013.
Defendant	Twenty-One people, including Sohel Rana, his father Abdul Khaleque, Phantom Apparels Limited chairman Aminul Islam, Phantom Tech Limited managing director David Mayer Rico, Ether Tech Limited chairman Anisur Rahman, New Wave Button and New Wave Style Limited chairman Bajlus Samad Adnan were named in the case	Sohel Rana, his father Abdul Khaleque, mother Morjina Begum, Savar municipality ward councillor Mohammad Ali Khan, architect AKM Masud Reza, municipality mayor Refat Ullah, municipality chief executive Uttam Kumar Roy, executive officer Rafiqul Islam, executive engineer Rafiqul Islam, engineer Mahbubur Rahman, Raqibul Hassan Rassel, Farhana Islam, licence inspector Abdul Mottalib, former secretary Morjina Khan and others.	Rana Plaza owner Sohel Rana, New Wave Style Garments managing director Bazlus Samad Adnan and Savar municipality chief engineer Imtemam Hossain Babu
Condition	No charge sheet yet*	No charge sheet yet*	No charge sheet yet*

* The charge sheets for two cases — one filed by police and Shiuli Akter, and another by Rajuk — are finalised, but the authorities concerned have not submitted the report yet. Government order is required to issue charge sheets against accused 13 government employees. State permission (to issue charge sheet) has been granted against only a few of the accused government officials. As a result the crime investigative branch of police (CID) can't submit the charge sheet before the court.

**At first, Sohel Rana was the only accused in the case. Primarily CID and later Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) investigated the case. The Anti-Corruption Commission on 12 June 2014 approved filing of a case against 17 people, excluding the key accused Sohel Rana, owner of collapsed Rana Plaza at Savar, over their alleged involvement with irregularities in constructing the eight-storey building. After their investigation ACC approved filing of the case under Building Construction Law 5(2), and under section 109. Later on 15 July 2014, the ACC included Sohel's name as a plaintiff and decided to submit the revised charge-sheet against 18 people.

Number of arrestees in different cases	On bail	In jail custody
23	11	12

Rana Plaza Arrangement

After the Rana Plaza Collapse & Killing, Rana Plaza Coordination Committee was formed in September 2013 with representatives from the government, apparel factory owners, buyers, trade unions and non-governmental organisations. International Labour Organisation (ILO) is the neutral chair of the committee. Its purpose was to develop a comprehensive and independent process that would deliver support to the victims, their families and dependants in a predictable manner consistent with international labour standards. The parties reached a consensus in the late 2013, and the process was established through an agreement known as 'the Arrangement.'

The Rana Plaza Donors Trust Fund

The Arrangement with its local and international experts decided the extent of losses, aides that the victims really in need and amount of financial donation or compensation etc. Then it started mobilising fund to help the victims, their families and dependants.

With the combination of funds, including contributions from buyers and other private donors who wish to give to the victims in a spirit of solidarity and compassion, the Rana Plaza Donors Trust Fund was set up. The fund was established in January 2014 in order to collect these contributions and to hold them in trust under specified Terms and Conditions. Around 70% of the targeted collection has been achieved so far.

Present stage of compensations & donations

	Type	Fund	Who is legally and morally responsible to pay	Amount
1	Compensation (According to the Labour Law)	The factory or owner's fund	Owners	Tk 0.0
2	Aid or donation	Rana Plaza Donars Fund	a. PM's Relief Fund b. Foreign buyers	Tk 185 crore [Govt Tk 22.94* + foreign buyers Tk 162 crore (approximately)**]

* On 23 April 2015, Prime Minister's Office (PMO) director general (administration) Kabir Bin Anwar said Tk 22,93,58,720 was distributed among the Rana Plaza victims from prime minister's relief and welfare fund. The State Minister for Labour Mujibul Haque on 22 April 2015 said that the amount is Tk 29.39 crore while BGMEA claimed that the amount is Tk 25 crore.

**Initially, the target was \$40 million or Tk 311 crore, but later the target was reduced to \$30 million or Tk 233 crore. Rana Plaza Donors Trust Fund planned to collect the amount from buyers. Until now, 26 buyers deposited the promised amount. Benetton, Walmart, the Children's Place, and Mango deposited partial donation.

Not Compensation, it's donation

The victims and their families are yet to be compensated by the owners that they should get according to the country's Bangladesh Labour Act. As per the act, which was amended in 2013, the maximum amount of compensation which may be awarded in cases of workplace deaths to the dependents of a deceased worker is Tk one lakh, while the amount is Tk 1.5 lakh if a worker suffers from permanent disability as a result of a workplace injury. No such initiative in collecting funds from the owners and buyers is visible yet. The aid distributed by the Rana Plaza Donors Trust Fund is monetary aid or donation, not the compensation.

A number of glitches regarding the compensation are still lingering on. If the amount of compensation as per the existing law is inadequate, it is needed to be amended. But it has not done yet. Following the High Court order, government formed a special committee to decide the amount of compensation for the victims. The committee formed two more sub-committees — one to estimate the damage, other to fix the compensation limit. Head of the sub-committee on fixation of compensation MM Akash said the committee recommended Tk 1.5 million compensation for the family of a deceased worker, Tk 1 million for of each of the workers, lost two limbs, and Tk 4 lakh for each of the victims who lost one limb in the building collapse. The High Court is yet to issue any instruction in this regard.

Several labour organisations, expert bodies and NGOs did calculations and estimations on what should be the fair or lawful compensation, and continuously pushed for their demands. But none of the estimations were accepted by the government.

Public Representatives involved in illegal construction & approval of Rana Plaza building

	Name	Identity/Designation	
1	Refat Ullah	Savar Municipality Mayor	Savar Municipality BNP president
2	Mohammad Ali Khan	Savar Municipality Ward 7 commissioner	Savar Juba Dal president

Rehabilitation

ActionAid Bangladesh's recent survey on condition of workers who survived the disaster:

Category*	Condition		
	Health	Somewhat healed	Getting worse
	70.6%	22.6%	
Average monthly medical costs	Each survived person spends approximately Tk 1600 per month in average on treatment.		
Psychological Condition	Traumatised and depressed	Recovering	Stable
	59.1%	34.2%	6.6%
Livelihood status	Still unemployed	Engaged in various jobs	Cannot work
	55%	44%	0.6%
Reasons that prevent survivors to go back to regular works	Physical ailment	Trauma	Lack of suitable job
	69%	7%	15%

* Source: A survey titled 'Unfinished Duties' by ActionAid Bangladesh

Initiative of Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) for Victims

Statistics of patients undergone treatment at CRP

Total patients: 510 (admitted: 160 and outdoor treatment taken: 340)

	Problems	Numbers
1	Mutilation	19
2	Problems of backbone	46
3	Osseous complications after injury	444

Source: CRP authority

Training programmes

Categories	Number of persons
Garments and Sewing	58
Animal husbandry	53
Electric repair	17
Computer office applications	15
Running shop	247
Total	390

Source: CRP authority

Returned to work after receiving training

Types	Number of person
Grocery shop	220
Animal husbandry	86
Tailors	45
Computer shop	07
Electric parts shop	18
Drugs store	01
Total	377

Source: CRP authority

BGMEA steps for workers **survived the collapse**

After Rana Plaza collapse and killing, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) announced that it would provide jobs to the workers of the five garment factories housed at Rana Plaza building. It said workers, who are still capable to continue their job, will be recruited in other factories run by BGMEA members. According to the BGMEA website, the employees have so far recruited 140 workers.



Rana Plaza **Monument**

Despite mounting pressure from labour bodies to set up a monument on the land on which the building was stood, the authorities concerned left them in lurch.

A committee of Home Affairs Ministry suggested building a dormitory for workers on the land. However, a monument was built near Rana Plaza debris by some left groups. Rana Plaza Martyrs' Memorial Establishment Committee laid the foundation stone of the monument on the 100th day of Rana Plaza tragedy.

The committee, comprising representatives from Lamppost, Biplabi Chhatra-Juba Andolan, Chhatra Ganamancha, Prapad, Ganamuktir Ganer Dal, Marksbadar Pratham Path and Dabanal, built the memorial on 2 August 2013. The sculptor of the five-foot monument is Antu Modak. Rakib Anwar was his assistant. 1.5 foot of the monument is under ground. In the monument one of the two 3.5-foot hands holds a hammer and another holds a sickle.