

Update as of April 29, 2013

Bangladesh has just experienced one of the worst industrial accidents in the history where about 401 people died and more than 1,000 were injured or disabled. On 24 April 2013, an eight-story commercial building, Rana Plaza, collapsed in Savar, a sub-district near Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. The building, which contained clothing factories, a bank, and several other shops, collapsed during morning rush hour. Warnings to avoid using the building after cracks appeared the day before had been ignored. A garment manufacturers' group said the factories in the building employed 3,122 workers, but it was not clear how many were inside when it fell, but about 2,500 survivors have been accounted for.



View of Rana Plaza days before the collapse



A present view of the collapsed building

BUET 87 Foundation, a non-profit charitable organization registered in Arizona, USA has been very active in assisting the needy people in Bangladesh through various social programs since 2009 and have virtually no overhead, meaning that entire donation money is spent judiciously for the benefit of the victims. The foundation took immediate drive to collect funds for assisting the innocent victims of Rana Plaza and got overwhelming response from Bangladeshi around the world. The fund collection has almost reached \$20,000.

Bangladesh Chapter of this foundation initially started helping in rescuing the trapped workers under the debris through buying tools and funding rescuers. With the vast response from donors, the current focus has changed from emergency support to long term rehabilitation and support for these injured and disabled workers both medically and socially. BUET 87 Foundation plans to collaborate with other similar orgs to carry out these activities. In this connection, Md. Shakil Salahuddin, Bangladesh Chapter General Secretary, has visited nearby hospitals of the disaster site, including Enam Hospital and is in contact with Prof. Dr. Motahar Hossain Bhuyan and Associate Prof. Asaduzzaman Ripon. A database of patients is being developed based on their severity of injury and need of rehabilitation. A concrete plan for rehabilitation program will be conceived shortly.



Notices of missing workers



Hospital ward with injured workers



Critically injured worker



Critically injured worker



Gen. Secretary Shakil visiting a critical patient



Gen. Secretary Shakil visiting a critical patient



Critically injured worker



Critically injured worker