



# TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## UN IN ACTION

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### BANGLADESH: THE RANA PLAZA TRAGEDY

#### VIDEO

STREET SCENES DHAKA  
PEOPLE IN STREET  
CYCLE CARTS

KHALEDA SEWING

ARCHIVAL SHOTS OF COLLAPSE

RESCUE MISSION AT THE BUILDING

KHALEDA ON CAMERA

#### AUDIO

#### NARRATION:

Bangladesh, a country in southern Asia, is the hub of hundreds of garment factories, vital to the nation's economy. (8)

Khaleda is one of millions of workers in the industry. She works in a small tailoring shop in Dhaka, the capital city. (8)

When Rana Plaza - the building where she worked- collapsed, Khaleda was trapped for 16 hours beneath the rubble. (7)

#### KHALEDA: (In Bengali) F

*"The building started trembling, there was lots of noise and I started running forward. After five or six steps, I couldn't see anything and I started falling down like an elevator. I was crying. The roof was so close that it was touching my nose and every time I breathed I could feel it on my face. We thought we were going to die and we were saying goodbye to*

*each other.” (24)*

NARRATION:

STREET SCENES DHAKA

INSPECTORS

FACTORY WORKERS

Since the incident, the Government of Bangladesh, the garment industry, trade unions and the international community have come together to improve safety standards in the workplace and ensure workers know their rights. (14)

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Today, with support from the International Labour Organization, or ILO, teams of structural engineers and safety experts inspect factories around the country. Dr. Mehedi Ansary of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. (13)

DR. MEHEDI ANSARY ON CAMERA

DR. MEHEDI ANSARY: (In English) M

*“If we find that there is a problem in a factory, then we will immediately vacate that building and stop all the activities and it will go directly to the review panel.” (12)*

MEETINGS

NARRATION:

Owners support this initiative, recognizing the benefit to their businesses, says manager, Mohammad Moniruzzaman. (8)

NEW BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

MOHAMMAD ON CAMERA

MOHAMMAD MONIRUZZAMAN: (In Bengali) M

*“It can help us increase our profitability, because we will be able to tell our buyers that our buildings are safe, and that there will be no problems with safety issues if they give us work.” (16)*

PEOPLE LEAVING WORK

NARRATION:

And other changes are underway. For the past 15 months, more than 130 trade unions have registered in Bangladesh; compared to only two over the last three years. (13)

FACTORY INSPECTORS

What's more, labour laws have been amended, creating 400 new positions for inspectors, says Srinivas Reddy, ILO Director in Bangladesh. (12)

SRINIVAS REDDY ON CAMERA

SRINIVAS REDDY: (In English) M

*"I see this as the beginning of a change process, both in terms of workers' rights and in terms of safety issues. The new unions are giving hope that it is a change that is happening for the benefit of the workers, and also the safety issues are gaining momentum in Bangladesh."* (15)

WOMEN IN FACTORY

THEATRE GROUP

NARRATION:

Now the government, with ILO's help, is offering support to survivors and their families to obtain counselling. Approaches such as role-playing and theatre are used to overcome the trauma experienced. (14)

KHALEDA IN TAILORING SHOP

For now, Khaleda is leaving the trauma behind and moving on with her life. Trained in dress-making through an ILO initiative, she is thinking of going into business for herself. (12)

KHALEDA BEGUM: (In Bengali) F

KHALEDA ON CAMERA

*"I have enough courage and experience to run my own shop now. I have a strong will to do it and I will do it."* (7)

STILLS OF BUILDING

NARRATION:

With new safety procedures, inspections and awareness of workers' rights in place, Bangladesh hopes that incidents such as the Rana Plaza tragedy will never be repeated. (12)

WIDE SHOT OF BAY

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Sandra Kuchen for the United Nations. (4.5)