

Classes resume at Savar Adharchandra school

Our Correspondent Savar

CLASSES resumed at Savar Adharchandra High School on Sunday, 24 days after the deadly collapse of nearby Rana Plaza on April 24. The school premises turned into a virtual morgue where bodies retrieved from the rubble of the collapsed building had been kept for identification by the relatives who crowded the premises day and night looking for their dear ones.

The eight-storey Rana Plaza, which housed five clothing factories, a shopping mall and a bank, came crashing down on the morning of April 24 killing 1,127 people, mostly women gar-

ment workers. A joint rescue team of the army, fire service and several thousand volunteers ran an epic rescue operation for nearly three weeks taking the bodies to Adhar Chandra High School premises for waiting relatives to identify them.

The school is located nearly half a mile from Rana Plaza which now lies in ruins.

Wails of grief were heard day and night as the relatives of the workers missing in the building collapse waited there till May 13 in search of their dear ones. They hung hundreds of posters with the pictures of the missing workers on the boundary walls of the school.

The school management declared school closed immediately after the building collapse and joined the rescue operation as volunteers.

Most of the bodies rescued from the rubble were taken to the school ground before handing them over to relatives or sending the unidentified ones to hospital.

Savar Adharchandra High School headmaster Harun-Ar-Rashid said, 'We tried our best to do something for the country at such a critical time. Our students also feel proud to have worked as volunteers in the service of humanity. Many students of the school joined the rescue operation as volunteers.'

Abu Usuf Nobel, a class X student of the school who worked as a volunteer in the rescue operation since the day the building collapsed, said, 'The school was declared closed as soon as the news of the building collapse came and I decided to join the rescue operation.'

Savar Adharchandra Model High School, established in January 1913 by the late Rakhai Chandra, is one of the oldest educational institutes in Bangladesh.