

Bangladesh Clothing Factories' Tragedy

Today, let's talk about the Bangladesh clothing factory building that collapsed at the end of April. The disaster at the Rana Plaza building in Savar, near the capital Dhaka, killed many of those who were working inside it.

The building that housed five clothing factories killed more than 427 people with more than 2,500 injured. Another 140 workers are still unaccounted for. Recovery teams used special lifting equipment to prise apart piles of collapsed concrete slabs. The army brought in sniffer dogs in the search for victims.

This tragedy has highlighted to the world the dreadful working conditions of many of those who work in the clothing industry in Asia. More than four million people, most of whom are women, work in these sweatshops in squalid conditions for a pittance. In fact, the average monthly salary is US\$40.

Following the disaster many garment factories closed as their workers protested in Dhaka and other Bangladeshi cities; their workers demanding safer working conditions and punishment for those responsible. At one point there were violent clashes with police with some factories having to be placed under armed guard.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pleaded for them to return to work, citing they could lose their jobs. Many heeded her advice and after the demonstrations returned to work. Following the tragedy the factory owners and engineers of the collapsed building were arrested for alleged negligence.

The EU is now considering "appropriate action" to encourage an improvement in working conditions in Bangladeshi clothing factories.

SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about clothing factories in Asia. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the Prime Minister.
- 2) Name the country.
- 3) Name the capital of the country.
- 4) How many people were killed?
- 5) What is a sweatshop?

Student B questions

- 1) What does 'pittance' mean?
- 2) How many clothing factories were in the building that collapsed?
- 3) Following the collapse what did clothing workers do?
- 4) What might the EU do?
- 5) Where were the armed guards?

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Clothing factories**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

Bangladesh Clothing Factories' Tragedy - *In pairs* choose three things from the article.

Write them below.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three similar ideas of your own. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

SPEAKING

In pairs. The collapsed Bangladeshi garment factories building involved a huge rescue operation. Explain the following phrases.

Survival pockets / heavy equipment / local knowledge / video equipment / dog teams / digging by hand / listening equipment / ending the rescue.

You are a news reporter at the scene of the tragedy. Describe what you see.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Where did you buy the clothes you are wearing?
- 3) Which country did the clothes you are wearing come from?
- 4) Why are working conditions so bad in many Bangladeshi garment factories?
- 5) What is a solution to the squalid working conditions in Bangladesh?
- 6) Would you like to work in a Bangladeshi garment factory? Explain!
- 7) Could you live on US\$40 per month?
- 8) Will anything change in the Bangladeshi garment industry?
- 9) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *CNN Dhaka* TV studio. Today's interview is about: *Bangladesh Clothing Factories' Tragedy*.

- 1) A Bangladesh garment worker
- 2) Someone who was pulled from the collapsed factory building
- 3) A garment factory boss in Bangladesh
- 4) A clothes buyer from your country

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. One of you is a clothes buyer from a large store in your country. You are visiting your supplier in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Discuss an order for new clothes you wish to make. The other student is the clothes factory boss. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - GAME – 10 mins

Class - On the board – draw a man and woman – add as many different garments to their figure as you can! List them as you go!

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Bangladesh clothing factories – The future

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Name three other countries that make clothes.
- 3) Why are working conditions so bad in Bangladesh?
- 4) Do you know any Bangladeshis?
- 5) What should the Bangladeshi government now do?
- 6) Will the EU take 'appropriate action'?
- 7) Where did you buy the clothes you are wearing?
- 8) Which country did your clothes you are wearing come from?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

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GAP FILL: READING

Bangladesh Clothing Factories' Tragedy

Today, let's talk about the (1)___ clothing factory building that collapsed at the end of April. The disaster at the Rana Plaza building in Savar, near the capital Dhaka, killed many of those who were working inside it.

The building that housed five clothing factories killed more than 427 people with more than 2,500 injured. Another 140 workers are still unaccounted for. Recovery teams used special lifting equipment to prise apart piles of collapsed concrete (2)__. The army brought in (3)___ dogs in the search for (4)__.

This (5)___ has highlighted to the world the (6)___ working conditions of many of those who work in the clothing industry in Asia. More than four million people, most of whom are women, work in these (7)___ in (8)___ conditions for a pittance. In fact, the average monthly salary is US\$40.

Sweatshops / victims / Bangladesh / dreadful / slabs / tragedy / squalid / sniffer /

Following the disaster many garment factories closed as their workers protested in Dhaka and other Bangladeshi cities; their workers demanding safer working conditions and (1)___ for those (2)__. At one point there were (3)___ clashes with police with some factories having to be placed under (4)__.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pleaded for them to return to work, citing they could lose their jobs. Many heeded her (5)___ and after the (6)___ returned to work. Following the tragedy the factory owners and engineers of the collapsed building were arrested for alleged negligence.

The EU is now considering "(7)___ action" to encourage an (8)___ in working conditions in Bangladeshi clothing factories.

armed guard / appropriate / improvement / advice / demonstrations / violent / punishment / responsible

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Bangladesh Clothing Factories' Tragedy

Today, let's talk (1)___ the Bangladesh clothing factory building that collapsed at the end of April. The disaster at the Rana Plaza building in Savar, near the capital Dhaka, killed (2)___ of those who were working inside it.

The building that housed five clothing factories killed more than 427 people with more (3)___ 2,500 injured. Another 140 workers are (4)___ unaccounted for. Recovery teams used special lifting equipment to prise apart piles of collapsed concrete slabs. The army brought in sniffer dogs in the search for victims.

This tragedy has highlighted to the world the dreadful working conditions of many of (5)___ who work in the clothing industry in Asia. (6)___ than four million people, (7)___ of (8)___ are women, work in these sweatshops in squalid conditions for a pittance. In fact, the average monthly salary is US\$40.

those / most / than / more / about / still / whom / many

Following the disaster many garment factories closed (1)___ their workers protested in Dhaka (2)___ other Bangladeshi cities; their workers demanding safer working conditions and punishment for those responsible. (3)___ one point there were violent clashes with police with some factories having to be placed under armed guard.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pleaded for them to return to work, citing they could lose their jobs. Many heeded (4)___ advice and after the demonstrations returned to work. Following the tragedy (5)___ factory owners and engineers of the collapsed building were arrested (6)___ alleged negligence.

The EU is now considering "appropriate action" to encourage (7)___ improvement in working conditions (8)___ Bangladeshi clothing factories.

for / her / and / the / at / in / an / as

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

Bangladesh Clothing Factories' Tragedy

Today, _____ Bangladesh clothing factory building that collapsed at the end of April. The disaster at the Rana Plaza building in Savar, near _____, killed many of those who were working inside it.

The building that housed five clothing factories killed more than 427 people with more than 2,500 injured. Another 140 workers are still unaccounted for. Recovery _____ teams used special _____ prise apart piles of collapsed concrete slabs. The army brought in sniffer dogs in the search for victims.

This tragedy has highlighted to the world the dreadful _____ of many of those who work in the clothing industry in Asia. More than four million people, most of whom are women, work in these sweatshops in _____ for a pittance. In fact, the average monthly salary is US\$40.

Following the disaster many _____ closed as their workers protested in Dhaka and other Bangladeshi cities; their workers demanding _____ and punishment for those responsible. At one point there were violent clashes with police with some factories having to be placed _____.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pleaded for them to return to work, citing they could lose their jobs. Many heeded her advice and after the demonstrations returned to work. Following the tragedy _____ and engineers of the collapsed building were arrested for alleged negligence.

The EU is now considering " _____ " to encourage an improvement in working conditions in Bangladeshi clothing factories.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, list 20 things you know about *Bangladesh*. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Bangladesh _____
- 2) The tragedy _____
- 3) The garment industry _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***Bangladesh Clothing Factories' Tragedy***. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) Bangladesh
- 2) slabs
- 3) sniffer
- 4) victims
- 5) tragedy
- 6) dreadful
- 7) sweatshops
- 8) squalid

ANSWERS

- 1) punishment
- 2) responsible
- 3) violent
- 4) armed guard
- 5) advice
- 6) demonstrations
- 7) appropriate
- 8) improvement

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) Bangladesh
- 2) squalid
- 3) factory
- 4) those
- 5) unaccounted
- 6) sweatshops
- 7) pittance
- 8) dreadful
- 9) disaster
- 10) punishment

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) advice
- 12) demonstrations
- 13) tragedy
- 14) negligence
- 15) appropriate
- 16) encourage
- 17) action
- 18) recovery
- 19) violent
- 20) improvement

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