

## Starting anew

The collapse of Rana Plaza in Savar was the worst workplace disaster in textile history, claiming more than 1,100 lives. Leaving almost 2,500 people injured, most of the survivors of this incident are still struggling to make a life out of whatever they are left with.

Saddam Hossain, 27, lives in Tangail with his mother, three brothers and four sisters. He was the breadwinner in the family; he worked in Nestle's distribution office and promoted and delivered Nestle products for suppliers. Saddam had a bachelor's degree under his belt and a job which could prove to be a foothold for a promising start.

Saddam survived the Rana Plaza disaster, but had to pay a hefty price for it. After being rescued from under the rubble, he was unconscious in the hospital for seven days. His right leg was severely injured and his right hand had to be amputated. The traumatic incident left its mark on Saddam's psychological condition. It required more than material aid to pull him out of his state.

Saddam was vulnerable, but he had the determination to not let this setback take a toll on him. Through BRAC Limb and Brace Centre, Saddam received his prosthetic upper limb. He took up computer courses and also completed his masters in economics. Currently he is running a retail store in Tangail which BRAC helped him to set up. He knows that there will be challenges in his way but he hopes to develop his skills to increase his prospects in building a good career.

