General Information

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Seamstress Reshma Begum spent more than 16 days trapped in a basement mosque, subsisting on dried foods and water.

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**CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE**


**Transcript**

Against All Odds, Woman Survives Bangladesh Factory Disaster

BRIAN WILLIAMS, anchor:

In Bangladesh today, an incredible ray of hope. Seventeen days after a building collapse left more than 1,000 garment workers dead, just about everybody had given up hope that anyone else would be found alive there but today in the ruins of one of the worst industrial accidents in history, it happened. NBC’s Ian Williams has our story.

IAN WILLIAMS, reporting:

It was a stunning moment. A young woman pulled alive from the rubble after more than two weeks. The day began much differently with the grim work of recovering the dead, more than 1,000 as of this morning. Then workers heard tapping on a steel pipe and a faint cry- "I’m alive, please save me."

Bulldozers and heavy equipment were shut down. Workers used handsaws and drilling equipment to cut through debris. A crowd gathered, some prayed. Finally after 40 minutes, the young seamstress named Reshma Begum was pulled free and rushed to a waiting ambulance. Doctors say she’s in remarkably good shape having survived on bottled water she found around her in a pocket formed by the collapsed debris.

(Reshma Begum speaking foreign language)

I. WILLIAMS: “I never dreamed I’d see daylight again,” she said from her hospital bed, “I was saved by God.” Three others trapped with her did not survive. The rescue raised hopes for the scores of workers still missing. Family members still stand vigil near the factory ruins. Among those who rushed to Reshma’s bedside today, Bangladesh’s prime minister. She’s facing tough questions about working conditions in her country’s $20 billion garment industry. So are brand name companies drawn here by some of the lowest wages on earth, suddenly under intense pressure to improve workers’ safety. And now, Reshma, alive against all odds has given those demands for change a human face. The use of heavy machinery at the site remains suspended and rescue workers have resumed their search in the faint hope that others like Reshma can still be found alive. Brian.

B. WILLIAMS: Incredible story. Ian Williams with our report for us tonight. Ian, thanks.