National Conference of Acid Survivors with Government Services Providers

Special emphasis on proper application of law and increased coordination in government services

The greater concerted efforts are needed to prevent acid violence, provide treatment and legal aid for acid victims and ensure their rehabilitation. Keeping these objectives in mind, the Acid Survivors Foundation organized a daylong (09:00am-05:30pm) conference of acid survivors with government service-providing agencies on Saturday, 26 February 2011.

Honorable Minister of Land Ministry Rezaul Karim Hira was the chief guest at inauguration ceremony while honorable Secretary of Home Ministry Abdus Sobhan Shikdar and honorable Secretary of Information and Cultural Ministry Hedayetullah Al-Mamun were present as special guests. Honorable Minister of Social Welfare Ministry Enamul Haq Mostafa Shaheed was present at the chief guest for the concluding session and DFID representative Chris Austin was present as the special guest.

ASF Executive Director Monira Rahman presented an overall picture of acid violence and acid survivor representatives Runa Laila, Gulshan Ara, Sonia Akhter and Tamjid Hasan presented the real picture of acid violence and proposals for its remedies. ASF Chairperson Dr Iftekharuzzaman convened the opening and closing sessions of the conference. The member, Naripokkho and Board Member UM Habibunnessa conducted the open discussion on ensuring medical services and legal aid for acid victims. Deputy Director of Land Ministry Afroza Moazzem, Deputy Police Chief, Crime-3, Md. Shah Alam were the discussants during this session. Member of Women for Women and Dhaka University Professor Mahmuda Islam conducted the open session on ensuring rehabilitation for survivors and preventing acid violence. Chairman of Jatiya Mahila Shaongtha Professor Mantaj Begum and Associate Editor of Prothom Alo were the guest discussants.

Apart from them, representatives of government's service-providing agencies from 11 districts where the highest number of acid violence took place, executive of district council, civil surgeon, ASP, district women affairs official, deputy director of social welfare department,
VOICE Quarterly Newsletter

This quarterly newsletter features articles and updates on various topics related to acid attacks and acid survivors in Bangladesh. The newsletter includes news about successful cases, awareness campaigns, and efforts to prevent acid violence. It also highlights the work of organizations and individuals involved in supporting acid survivors.

- **Chairman of Jatiya Mahila Shangstha, PK partner organizations and acid survivors were also present at the conference.**
- The conference proceedings were conducted by ASF representatives AK Azad and Khaleeda Yasmeen. Manusher Jonno Foundation and DIZ helped to organize this huge initiative.
- **Main proposal obtained from the conference:**
  - Holding regular meeting between National Acid Control Council (NACC) and National Acid Control Council's District Committees (DACC).
  - Taking effective steps make the committees operational and increase coordination between NACC and DACC.
  - Applying the two laws on preventing acid violence and starting huge publicity about the laws. It’s worthwhile to mention that according to government statistics, none of the acid criminals were punished in 2010 and many cases have been withheld.
  - Having specific direction from DACC about allocating four crore taka for acid survivors to NACC.
  - It may be mentioned here that out of 1206 acid survivors in 11 districts where ASF has operations, only 170 survivors got DACC grant and that too wasn’t an equal distribution.
  - Ensuring to have a district-wise list of acid survivors with DACC, District Council, officials of Social Welfare and Women Affairs Directorates.
  - Having a list of buyers, sellers and users of acid with Deputy Commissioner’s office and applying acid laws properly.
  - Creating interest-free loans for acid survivors and distributing among them under the supervision of Social Welfare Directorate of the districts.
  - Campaigning extensively on pouring water and introducing burn units effectively at divisional hospitals.
  - Above all, ensuring coordination between national and district level service-providing agencies which would guarantee treatment, rehabilitation and legal aid for acid survivors.
The Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) held its press conference on ensuring prevention and elimination of acid violence, acid survivors' treatment, legal assistance and rehabilitation. The conference was held at the National Press Club lounge at 11:00 am on 10th February 2011.

The conference was told that the highest number of acid violence incidences took place in 2002. A total of 490 persons became victims in that year. Since 2003, the number proportionally came down (10 percent - 20 percent) and stood at 150 in 2009. However, the number again rose to 153 in 2010 which caused great concerns.

ASF Executive Director Monira Rahman presented an overall picture on other atrocities against women side by side with acid violence. Burn Specialist Dr. AJM Saleq explained the limitations and necessary actions in providing treatment for acid survivors. ASF Treasurer and representative Fazilatunnessa describes the limitations and in ensuring legal help and necessary steps. ASF representative Sonia Akhter spoke about the limitations and necessary steps in ensuring psychosocial and rehabilitation assistance for acid victims.

UNFPA Assistant Representative Nur Mohammad explained what we can do in order to prevent acid violence against women and its remedies.

The press conference was convened by ASF Chairperson Dr. Iftekharuzzaman.

Star. Enamul Huq from The Daily Star won

ASF arranged a Annual Picnic for recreation of survivor’s from 15-18 January, 2011, at Saint Martin’s Island. It was a refreshment trip for Acid Survivor's.
Discussion on providing legal aid to acid victims and removing obstacles

The Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) and BRAC jointly organized a discussion meeting titled "Providing Legal Aid to Acid Victims and Removing Obstacles" on 10th December 2010 on the occasion of International Human Rights Day and the last day of preventing repression in women’s plight. Side by side of preventing acid violence, the ASF has always been working for more than a decade to provide treatment, psycho-social services and legal aid for acid victims. However, the ASF is facing challenges while ensuring legal aid to them. Till now, the ASF could identify 3,000 acid survivors of whom only 10 percent could avail legal aid.

Acid violence is a cognizable criminal offence. The state is the plaintiff in all criminal offences. In that line, the plaintiff of cases filed under Acid Crimes Prevention Act 2002 is also the state. It’s the responsibility of the plaintiff to prove the accusation of the criminal offence. In this case, as the plaintiff, as the flier of the case and the investigator, has to give importance to the case. It’s possible to ensure justice to the victims if the state takes a positive role and cooperates for proving the crimes.

The proper application of law plays a strong role in preventing acid violence and to succeed in this, it’s very important to apply and use the law adequately.

The discussion meeting focused on preventing and remedying the affects of acid violence with the participation of assistant attorney officials who run the acid cases, PPAs, PAPPs, panel lawyers and project officials. Principal Adviser of DIZ Annet Fank as the chief guest, Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain as the special guest and the Assistant Attorney General Salkat Bose spoke at the meeting. Apart from them, Director of BRAC’s Human Rights and Legal Aid programme Dr. Faustina Pereira, Chief of Social Development programme Anna Minz, Deputy Director of Ain O Shalish Kendra Adv. Salma Jabeen and ASF representatives also spoke at the meeting.

ASF Executive Director Monira Rahman presented an overall picture of the limitations in preventing and eliminating acid violence as well as the application of law. The government officials, coming from different districts and who ensure legal services, put forward a few very important proposals in order to overcome the limitations of providing legal aid to acid victims.

Star Enamul Huq from The Daily Star won...
জেলা পর্যায়ের কমিউনিটির সাথে
এসিড সারভাইভারদের সম্মেলন

এসিড সহিষ্ণুতা প্রতিষ্ঠায় ব্যাপক প্রশিক্ষণের লক্ষে এসিড সহিষ্ণুতা প্রতিষ্ঠায় ব্যাপক প্রশিক্ষণে জীবনের অধিকারের নিয়ম করার লক্ষে এসিড সারভাইভারস ফোরাম ও পার্লামেন্ট অর্গানাইজেশনের মূল্য উদ্ঘাটন গণ প্রোগ্রাম ২০১১ তে নেওয়ার চক্রে ২০১১ প্রশিক্ষণ পর্যায়ে মোট চারটি সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছিল। ১ ডিসেম্বর '০৯-এ জন্মীরা, ১১ ডিসেম্বর '১০-এ কুমিল্লা, ১২ জানুয়ারি ’১১-এ চক্রা এবং ২৩ জানুয়ারি ’১১-এ জেলার এই চারটি সমাবেশের সাথে এসিড সারভাইভারদের নিয়ে সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত হয়।

 Acid survivors' conference with
district level communities held

Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) and its partner organizations jointly organized four district level conferences from December 2010 to February 2011 in order to ensure extensive public awareness against acid violence and respectable life for acid victims. The conferences were held in Shatkhira on 1st December 2001, Comilla on 11th December 2010, Bogra on 12th February 2011, and Bhabra on 23rd February 2011. The main objectives of the conferences were to identify the problems and limitations of the acid survivors in those districts and prepare consequent proposals and submit them to government-run service agencies. At the same time, the conferences aimed at discussing and proposing strategies for eliminating acid violence by the year 2015.

The conference in Shatkhira began on 1st December 2010 with a colourful rally led by the district magistrate and chief guest Hamid Hasan. The rally was initiated by the partner agency Ogrogoit Shangstha, District Police Officer Habibur Rahman Khan, Sadar Upazila Chairman Al-Haj Nazrul Islam, Vice-Chairman Shahnaz Rahman Millie, Jatiya Mahila Shangstha Chairman Rifaq Amin, Ogrogoit Shangstha Executive Director Abdus Sabur Biswas, pressure group members, ASF representatives and acid survivors spoke at the conference as special guests. It's worthwhile to mention that the conference was held in cooperation of ASF and Australian Aid. The conference in Comilla was held on 11th December 2010 under the supervision of partner organization Aid Comilla. The Member of Parliament from Comilla and chief guest of the conference AKM Bahauddin inaugurated the rally by flying colourful balloons at Comilla Shilpakala Academy premises in the morning.
ধিকতর বিনা তথ্য উপায়ে উপস্থিত ছিলেন, কুমিল্লার ডি সি জেনার মো.রেজাউল আহমদ, এসিড সারভেইয়ারস ফাউন্ডেশনের নির্বাহী পরিচালক জেনার মনিবা রহমান, এই কুমিল্লার নির্বাহী পরিচালক জেনার রশেলা রেশমা ফিরস্তী, হেসের গ্রাম সদর এবং সারভেইয়ার গ্র্যান্ডিউস।

সম্প্রতি সংসদ সদস্য জনাব আ.ক.ম.রাইসুল মিয়া সম্রাজ্ঞীর উদ্বোধনের অনুষ্ঠানের জুড়ে স্যারোস সারভেইয়ারসের সমূহের সাথে সম্পর্কিত বিষয়ে কিছু প্রশ্ন সৃষ্টির কারণ জন। তিনি বিদ্যমান হেসের একককার সারভেইয়ারসের বিষয়ে সম্পর্কিত কর্মের জন্য।

১২ ফেব্রুয়ারি '১১ বছর পুরনো সম্মিলন লাইট হলে-এর উন্মুক্ত ও এই সারভেইয়ারস ফাউন্ডেশন ও ইউনিসেফের সহযোগিতায় মুখ্যমন্ত্রী আমিনুল হক দুলাল মিলানোয় এসিড সারভেইয়ারসের সম্পর্কে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। সম্মিলনের পূর্বে বড় বাড়ি এসিড সারভেইয়ারসের সহযোগিতায় বাড়িতে একটি বাড়ি বাড়ি শনাক্ত করে। একটি বিড়াল বাড়ি শাধ নির্মান করে। সম্মিলনে দুর্ভীষণ উত্তর উদ্ধৃতি রাজিয়ে হিসাবে বাড়ি বাড়ি লেলা ও লেলা জন্য জনাব মফিন ইসলাম, আমির অতিরিক্ত হিসাবে বাড়ি রাখন আধুনিক মনোহার, সিচিল, বড়াল, লেলা ও লেলা জন্ম, প্রচলিত হিসাবে রাখন, হেসের গ্রাম সদর এবং সারভেইয়ার গ্র্যান্ডিউস।

২৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি '১১ এর সময় সম্মিলন কোণটি ট্রাস্টের উন্মুক্ত ও এসিড সারভেইয়ারসের সহযোগিতায় এসিড সারভেইয়ারসের সমূহের অনুষ্ঠান অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। সম্মিলনে উদ্ধৃতি রাজিয়ে হিসাবে মনোরথ হস্তাক্ষর সমূহের অতিরিক্ত হিসাবে বাড়ি রাখন হেসের সহযোগিতাতে বাড়ি রাখন হেসের সহযোগিতাতে বাড়ি রাখন হেসের সহযোগিতাতে বাড়ি রাখন।

এই সম্মিলনের উদ্ভিদ প্রতিটি সারভেইয়ারসের উদ্ভিদ অনুষ্ঠানে এসিড সারভেইয়ারসের জন্য নির্দিষ্ট এবং টেকসই পরিবেশন জন্য যাত্রা দান সাপ্তাহিক এবং বিভিন্ন পর্যায়ের অনুমতি এবং অনুমতির মধ্যে অন্তর্ভুক্ত হয়।

ফতেমা ফরেনেন, নবাবসাগর, মদানামাজিক সরা ইউনিট

Deputy Commissioner of Comilla Mr. Rezaul Islam, ASF Executive Director Monira Rahman, Aid Comilla Executive Director Rokeya Begum Sehfalli, pressure group member, and ASF representative were present as the special guests. The chief guest AKM Bahauddin urged all social services officials to ensure the various facilities from the Social Services Department. He promised to ensure the rehabilitation of one acid survivor from Comilla.

The acid survivors' conference in Bogra was initiated by partner organization Light House and was held on 12th February 2011 in cooperation from ASF and Unicef at Freedom Fighter Aminul Haq Dulal auditorium. A colourful rally of acid survivors along with the participation from all walks of life went around the city before the conference. Deputy Police Super Shirin inaugurated the rally by flying colourful balloons in the morning. District Judge Mr. Mafuzul Islam as the chief guest, Abdul Matin as the invited guest, PP, Bogra district judge, ASF representative, members from the media, pressure group member and acid survivor representative spoke at the meeting.

Initiated by local assisting organization Coast Trust, the conference in Bhola was held on 23rd February 2011 in association with ASF and Australian Aid. The district commissioner of Bhola inaugurated the conference. The representatives of government and non-government organizations, pressure group members, ASF and acid survivor representatives spoke at the conference.

Sustainable and positive proposals, assurances and promises in order to bring about a change in acid victims' lives were reflected at conferences in each district. The acid survivors themselves put forward their problems as well as proposals at the conferences.

Fatema Parveen Putul
Manager, Psycho-social Unit

রািনী

বিদ্যমান মফিন ইসলাম, আমির মনোরথ হস্তাক্ষর, সম্মিলন সারভেইয়ারসের নির্দিষ্ট হিসাবে এসিড সারভেইয়ারসের জন্য নির্দিষ্ট এবং টেকসই পরিবেশন জন্য যাত্রা দান সাপ্তাহিক এবং বিভিন্ন পর্যায়ের অনুমতি এবং অনুমতির মধ্যে অন্তর্ভুক্ত হয়।
Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) conducted 75th Advanced Course on Administration and Development (ACAD) from 05 December 2010. A total number of 22 officers of the rank of deputy secretary of the government visited Acid Survivors Foundation as a part of the course on 15th December 2011.

---

**Donation**

*July, 2010 – February, 2011*

**Organization**

- Distant Horizons
- Miss Sin Win Man
- American International School
- Md. Abul Mohsin
- U. H Rasheda
- Malma Group
- ASTI
- Global fund for Women
- Interplast Australia & New Zealand

**Individual**

- Eva Bendz
- Mrs. Farzana Aziz
- Mr. Nizamul Islam
- Mrs. Farhad Banu
- Mr. Mehtaj Hossain
- Ms. Sharmin Lucky
- Rasheda Akhtar Khanam
- Mr. Takamori
- Mr. Anjan Chowdhury
- Ahmed Ahsanul Munir
- Mr. Philip
- Mrs. Ruth Dolan
- Mr. Max Perry
Leadership training for acid survivors

The Acid Survivors Foundation organized a two-day training programme titled "Growing Leadership among Acid Survivors" was held on January 26-27, 2011 in order to empower the acid survivors financially and socially. The training programme was held at the NGO Forum Training Centre. Thirty acid survivors from 15 districts participated in the training programme. The objectives of the training programme were basically to build a social movement by involving the local people, make acid survivors financially and socially self-dependant, help other acid survivors to get state and other facilities and ensure that they can lead a respectable life through flourishing their thoughts and imagination. Mr. Jahangir Nabi conducted the training programme. He was assisted by ASF representatives Zakirul Haq and Siddiqui Rubel.

Orientation on first aid for acid and other burn patients

An orientation course for doctors and nurses titled "Orientation on Essential Burn Care" was held on December 28-29, 2010 at Khulna Medical College Hospital in order to improve the skills of doctors and nurses while providing first aid care to acid and other burn patients. A total of 145 persons, comprising nurses, interns, surgeons and assistant professors of Khulna Medical College in the two-day orientation. Apart from them, the directors of Khulna Medical College, JSS representatives, acid survivors and ASF representatives were also present at the course. The noted burn specialist, AJM Saleq, directed the orientation course. The orientation course was organized jointly by the partner organization of Khulna, JSS, and ASF with the assistance of Manusher Jonno Foundation.
ASF is proud to inform that our Executive Director, Monira Rahman, has been nominated for ‘The World Children’s Award 2011’. The World’s Children’s Prize, which aims to contribute towards a more humane world, is the world’s largest annual educational program for young people on the rights of the child. 53,500 schools with 24 million students in 101 countries are involved. In the Global Vote, the children decide who will receive their prestigious award for their unique work for the rights of the child. The patrons of the World’s Children’s Prize include Nelson Mandela, HRM Queen Silvia of Sweden and Graça Machel amongst many others. This year’s nominees along with Monira Rahman are Cecilia Flores-Oebanda (Philippines) and Murhabazi Namegabe (Congo). The prizes will be presented by the children of the world and by her majesty queen silvia of Sweden in Rikssalen at Gripsholm Castle in Mariefred on Thursday 28 April 2011. The ceremony will also be screened live in Vita Salongen.
Players of England Cricket Team with Acid Victim Children & Women during their visit to the Acid Survivors Foundation on 17th February 2011. During the Visit DFID representative Chris Austin, ASF Chairperson Dr. Iftekharuzzaman & ASF Executive Director was also with them. British Princess Royal Anne with Acid Victim Children & Women during their visit to the Acid Survivors Foundation on 17th February 2011. During the Visit DFID representative Chris Austin, ASF Chairperson Dr. Iftekharuzzaman & ASF Executive Director was also with them. Since Anne Visited the ASF in 2000. She spent a charming moment with acid survivors during the visit.