Editorial

Acid survivors undergo harsh realities each and every moment of their life. They are in a continuous struggle to survive leaving the hard realities behind. Could we stand by these least-privileged people who are victims of a brutal form of violence? How far could the family, society and state take these responsibilities of these survivors? Are we aware how these people are surviving against lack of medical treatment, injustice, unemployment and negative attitude of the society? What are the multidimensional problems, their implications and ways to get rid of the sufferings that they undergo? To find answers to these questions, a three-day national conference was organized in 25-27 August 2008 in which more than a hundred acid survivors gathered. Along with them, there also were their families and relatives, journalists, ASF partner organizations, development partners and members of the Trustee Board. In this second national conference, participating acid survivors could well identify their areas of suffering and recommended ways to overcome those. They reflected on their past golden memories, sad present realities and also the uncertain future ahead. The identified recommendations are presented in this issue. Thanks to all acid survivors on behalf of the Voice Team for their huge contributions in organizing the event.

On 26 August 2008, ASF Charity Ball takes place for the third time. Like before, the objective of the event was to raise funds for the acid survivors. More than Tk.20 lakhs has been raised this year.

In this issue, we have published a melancholic song by acid survivor Shamsul Hoq. While listening to the song, everyone present on the occasion could not hold their tears.

We are worried at the rising incidents of acid violence during the last three months. Acid attack has caused the death of Rokeya and innocent lactating girl Rajia of Bhola district. We want an end to such horrible consequences due to acid violence.

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### Statistics of Acid Attack 1999 to September, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Number of Incidents</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Children (Under 18)</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>115</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>61</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>109</td>
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<td>2001</td>
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<td>91</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>180</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>156</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>2062</td>
<td>1316</td>
<td>638</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>2633</td>
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### Statistics of Acid Attack 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<td>July</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>106</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>141</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**

- Report is generated as per data available in the central database of ASF.
- Information taken from newspapers, local NGOs, local journalists, individuals and survivors who come directly to the ASF.
- The report may not claim 100% accuracy.
- Please mention the name of Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) as source.
- Updated till: 30th September, 08

### Situtation of acid attack: Top 5 districts: January to September, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>No of Survivors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Dhaka</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Satkhira</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Bhola</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Narsingdi, Tangail</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Netrokona</td>
<td>6</td>
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### ASF's Support for Acid Survivors: January to September, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Medical Support</th>
<th>Legal Support</th>
<th>Rehabilitation Support</th>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
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<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
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<td>06</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>April</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>131</td>
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Acid Survivors' National Conference 2008

We demand justice, equal opportunities and rights to live

Survivors’ Conference is the name of a conference/ It’s the name of collective protest/ Survivors’ Conference is a get together/ It’s a get together of sorrows and happiness/ Above all, Survivors’ Conference is the name of a movement.

This was the slogan of the three-day survivors’ conference that took place at Savar Ganashasthya Kendra. More than 100 acid survivors gathered in the conference to come up with some collective discussion points. The topics were healthcare, justice, economic self-reliance, familial and social relationship, and combating acid violence. The participants interacted among themselves to find some answers. With them were ASF partner organizations, development partners, journalists and responsible officials from different government ministries.

Ms. Shaeheen Anam, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation; Ms. Promita Sengupta, Principal Advisor of GTZ; and Ms. Perveen Mahmud, ASF Treasurer and Trustee Board member, Chair SAM Showket Hossain and Executive Director Monira Rahman were present on the 1st day of the conference, which was held between 25 and 27 August 2008. Acid survivor Pearly Begum chaired the conference.

In the beginning, chair Pearly Begum along with a number of acid burnt children declared the inauguration of the conference. At the end of the discussion, there was candle-lighting with the song Mongol deep jeele dedicated to the memories of those who lost their life in acid attack in Bangladesh and also Naseeran Hoq and Ivy Rahman who died in unexpected incidents. The song was performed by Panchamshur, an acid survivors’ organization. Following that event, a two-day workshop begins.
We will always raise our voice against all forms of violence including acid throwing against women. We will stand beside all acid survivor women, children and men. We will give all support to the survivors so that they can be self-reliant and live like humans. In one sentence We demand equal opportunities in the mainstream of life – with this pledge started the third day events.

On the final day, acid survivors presented a set of recommendations. Chaired by acid survivor Laili Begum, the closing ceremony was addressed by ASF Chairperson, Executive Director, and Trustee Members Farzana Rahim, Dr. Khalilur Rahman, and SQUARE Group Executive Director Ashiqil Hoq. The three-day conference ended with a vow to turn the sorrows of acid survivors into strengths of taking the challenge of life.

Two special cultural events took place in the three-day conference. Apart from the performances by acid survivors, Prokash Shahitya and Cultural Group, singer Tapu, and different Baul singers also took part in that event.

A K Azad

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**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ASF: JULY TO SEPTEMBER, 2008 (Alphabetically stated)**

**ORGANIZATIONS**

- ABN Assurance Development Ltd.
- Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd.
- Exchangers
- Express One Ltd.
- Hema Enterprises
- International Finance Corporation
- Pragati Insurance Ltd.
- Prime Bank Ltd.
- Shana Enterprise
- Shasha denims Ltd.
- Unilever Bangladesh Ltd.
- Women Entrepreneur Association of Bangladesh (WEAB)

**INDIVIDUALS**

- Aduward John
- AK Masood Ahmed
- Alif
- Almas Zakuddin
- Dr. M Khalilur Rahman
- Farida Salauddin
- Gabi
- Gread
- Humaira Fateema Hamim
- Kanis Almas Khan
- Karli Homay
- Kirty
- Maya Mahjabin
- Mekay Kelly
- Minawar Ali
- Monira rahman
- Nabila Khan
- Nehal
- Nora Obesen
- Parveen Mahmud
- Promita Sengupta
- R. Suman Rockefeller
- Richard Miles
- Rita
- Roger
- Rubina Khan
- SAM Showket Hossain
- Samia Afnan Momez
- Sarah Chiverston
- Shafla
- Shaik Yasin Aziz
- Sonia Afnan Momeg
- Star Faruque
- Syed Durjoy Rahman Joy
- Tania Cassinerio
- Tarif Zafar Siddique
- Tineke Kemena
- Vinay Jha
সারসাবিভারদের জাতীয় সম্মেলন
2008 এর সুপারিশমালা

কর্মশালার অংশগ্রহণকারী সারসাবিভারদের সম্মেলন করা হয়েছে এবং
সংগঠনের সাথে তাদের সম্পর্ক বৃদ্ধি করার জন্য একটি সুপারিশ দিয়েছে। এতে,
এগুলো ও সূচী সমূহের কর্মকর্তাদের অন্তর্ভুক্ত মাধ্যমে এই সুপারিশগুলো ব্যাখ্যা করা হয়ে ছিল।

সম্মেলনের সুপারিশমালা

1. অর্থনৈতিক ধারণাবিন্দু
   - এগুলো সারসাবিভারদের জন্য সমস্ত অনুমতি কর্মরতারের সুযোগ সৃষ্টি এবং
   কর্মের উপাদান পরিবেশে তৈরি।
   - হুর উদ্ধার, সমাজ সেবা, মহিলা অধিকার, পশ সম্পত্তি, জন্মগ্রহণ ও
   এবং পরিশ্রম সম্পত্তির বিষয়ে সুরক্ষা সূচনা।
   - সারসাবিভারদের জন্য নির্দিষ্ট করণ প্রদর্শন করা।
   - সারসাবিভারদের সহজতম প্রবর্তন তত্ত্বের একটি ভাষা করা।
   - সারসাবিভারদের সহজ চলাচলের মাধ্যমে এর কৌশল চালু করা।
   - সারসাবিভারদের ঝড় শরীরের অভিযোগ দিয়ের নির্দিষ্ট করা।
   - সারসাবিভারদের ঝড় শরীরের অধিকার দিয়ে প্রদর্শন করা।
   - সারসাবিভারদের ঝড় শরীরের অধিকার দিয়ে প্রদর্শন করা।
   - সারসাবিভারদের ঝড় শরীরের অধিকার দিয়ে প্রদর্শন করা।
   - সারসাবিভারদের ঝড় শরীরের অধিকার দিয়ে প্রদর্শন করা।

2. সুযোগসুলিক প্রতিক্রিয়া
   - লালের স্বাস্থ্য এবং সারসাবিভারদের সুযোগ সৃষ্টি করা।
   - সারসাবিভারদের সুলভ করা যায়।
   - সমাজ এবং সারসাবিভারদের সুসংস্থায় শরীরের অধিকার করা।
   - সারসাবিভারদের ঝড় শরীরের অধিকার দিয়ে প্রদর্শন করা।
   - সারসাবিভারদের ঝড় শরীরের অধিকার দিয়ে প্রদর্শন করা।
   - সারসাবিভারদের ঝড় শরীরের অধিকার দিয়ে প্রদর্শন করা।
   - সারসাবিভারদের ঝড় শরীরের অধিকার দিয়ে প্রদর্শন করা।

3. আদর্শশীলতা
   - সারসাবিভারদের ঝড় শরীরের অধিকার দিয়ে প্রদর্শন করা।
   - সারসাবিভারদের ঝড় শরীরের অধিকার দিয়ে প্রদর্শন করা।
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   - সারসাবিভারদের ঝড় শরীরের অধিকার দিয়ে প্রদর্শন করা।

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ACID SURVIVORS’ NATIONAL CONFERENCE

In the workshop, acid survivors shared their problems and sufferings and also suggested ways to make life a bit easier for them. One notable feature of these recommendations was identifying an effective strategy to implement these recommendations through participation of government, NGOs and civil society. The recommendations were as follows:

1. Economic self-reliance
   - Create skill-based employment opportunities for the acid burnt with good working environment.
   - Ensure skill development training opportunities of Youth Development, Social Welfare, Directorate of Women, Livestock Ministries and NGOs at a lower or free of cost.
   - Ensure easy accessibility in government services and introduce quota system for the acid burnt.
   - Ensure interest-free loans on easy terms and conditions from government, NGOs and other commercial institutions.
   - Ensure loans, grants, training as well as supply of necessary materials from government, NGOs, and other social and commercial organizations for projects run by acid survivors.
   - Provide Khas land on easy conditions.

2. Combat acid violence
   - Ensure strict monitoring of selling of acid including lower fees for license.
   - Find other alternatives to the use of acid.
   - Ensure sale of acid through the dealers and effective implementation of the law.
   - Include acid violence issue in the text books and ensure voice recording of the survivors during investigation.
   - Ensure neutral and practical conflict resolution roles by the local government and administration.
   - Develop materials and organize workshops by government and NGOs for building awareness of the acid sellers and users.

3. Justice
   - Document correct and proper information during case filing and ensure timely completion of trial and enquiry.
   - Ensure corruption-free roles of government officials and persons engaged in the enquiry and legal processes.
   - Take appropriate steps for rapid trial of the cases at High Court as well as in implementing the verdict.

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Presence of the witnesses at the court should be made mandatory and security of the survivors, their family and the witness should be ensured too.

If anyone files a case against the plaintiff of a acid case, that should be received based on proper enquiry.

Ensure prompt action to arrest the perpetrators along with security of the defendant following the bail of the perpetrators. Take initiative so that the perpetrators cannot flee abroad and in case he does, force him to come back.

Introduce and properly implement strong monitoring system to conduct acid cases.

Ensure support for filing cases through civil society and organizations.

Encourage the witness to give testimony at the court, convince and pursue them not for not to come to terms or any settlement with the perpetrators.

Submit application or memorandum to relevant authority to prevent false cases.

Regular liaison and lobbying with government for providing security to the victims.

Support for arresting the perpetrator and maintain regular contact, follow-up and necessary support with related authority to carry on the cases properly.

Regular sharing and arranging of meeting with media and the survivors.

4. Medical Care

Government needs to ensure medical care for acid victims at Upazilla level. Civil society representatives should continue to influence the government.

Organizations can request free treatment by the government and offer medical care for free or at a low cost on their own.

Provide psycho-treatment at the district level hospital and deploy survivors as counselors.

Allocate two beds at the upazilla level hospital and provide training to the doctors and nurses.

Cooperate to follow-up at local level through partnership and support for bearing treatment expenses.

Bring positive change in behavior of the doctors and nurses through media and group counseling.

5. Family and social relationship

Raise awareness at all levels and ensure participation of acid survivors in social activities e.g. marriage, birthday, religious occasions.

Discuss at different forum and meeting on women and social issues.

Offer the survivors opportunity to access government institutions and attend different programs e.g. conference, meeting and seminars.
Moments: Acid Survivors National Conference 2008

Opening Session

Payara Begum, Survivors’ representative
Acid Survivors’ cultural group
Remembering those who lost their life in Acid Attack

Group Work

Speakers

Shaheen Anam; Executive Director, MJF
Promita Sengupta; Principal Advisor, GTZ
MA Mannan, Program Director, Social Welfare Dept.

Dr. Firoz Mia, Asst. Director Health Ministry
Ashiqul Haq Chowdhury, Executive Director- STL
Dr. MMA Saishuddin Quasir, Asst, Professor BSMMU
Moments: Acid Survivors National Conference 2008

AGM Badruzzaman, Deputy Director, Program, Social Welfare Dept.
Shukmon Shaha, Sector Specialist, Social Development, BRAC
Kohinoor Begum, Senior Counselor, ASK

Habibur Rahman, RDRS
Parveen Mahmood, Treasurer, Member BOT, ASF
Syeda Farzana Rahim, Member BOT, ASF

Different Click

STOP ACID VIOLENCE

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Moments: Acid Survivors National Conference 2008

Cultural Program

Dr. M. Khalikur Rahman, Member BOT, ASF
Singer Topu with Fazlaturrhana, Member BOT, ASF
Child Survivor Sably

Acid Survivors Cultural Group
Folk Singer, Kajoli Dewan
Folk Singer, Ripon Dewan

Recitator, Ashraful Hasan Babu
Singer, ATM Mostofa
Drummers
Moments: Acid Survivors National Conference 2008

Closing Session

SAM Showket Hossain, Chairperson, ASF
Lally Begum, Survivors Representative
A.K. Azad Conducting the ceremony

CRUELTY OF ACID COULD NOT STOPPED SHAMSUL HOQ'S LIFE

When Thakurgaon's Shamsul Hoq was admitted to the Acid Survivors Foundation with more than half of his body burnt, his whole body was swelling and face badly burnt that took a dark hue. His eyes also burned like coal. That was 10th of July 2007. Immediately after his admission to ASF, he had been taken to the City Hospital Burn ICU where he stayed for the next two and a half months. His eyes could not be rescued. Shamsul Hoq still lives today, thanks to the doctors' tireless efforts and timely medical care. Meanwhile, following the treatment at ASF, Shamsul Hoq returned to his native village and started rebuilding himself.

Shamsul Hoq was one of the hundreds of survivors who joined the Survivors' Conference. On the closing day, he performed a song written and composed by him. He dedicated the song to his mother as an illustration of the agony of being acid burnt while he was under treatment at ASF. All the survivors present inside the auditorium burst into tears during his singing. Many guests including journalists could not control their emotion. Here is Shamsul's song for our readers.

ঐসিডের নিদ্রার ধ্যানিতে দিতে পারেনি শামসুল হোকের জীবন
শ্রীরের অর্জনের বেশি পোড়া, সমস্ত শরীরের মুলে ওঠা, মুখধন্ত পুরে কালার মাটি, দুই চোখ তুলে পাথরের মতো। এমনই এক ভাবে এসিডের অপরাধ নিয়ে ১০ জুলাই, ২০০৭ এসিড সার্ভিকোয়া পোকেশনে বর্জি হয়েছিল ঠাকুরগাঁওর শামসুল হক। এসিড-এর বর্জি হওয়ার পর পরই তাকে নির্মাণ শাস্তির বার্ষিক আইন-কিতে প্রশঙ্কা করা হয়। সেখানে আড়াই মাস চিকিৎসা চলে শামসুল হকের। দুইমাসের মিডিয়া তুকায় এর লাইনের মতো লোক হয় থাকায় তিনি মাস পর তা পড়া শেষ হয়। এসিডের এই ভাবের অধিনে পত্র শামসুল হক এসন বেঁচে যাওয়া কিন্তু ষড়যন্ত্রের উপর প্রশ্ন আর সমীক্ষক বিক্ষিপ্ত ফলে। ইতেমধ্যে এসিড-এর চিকিৎসা চলে শামসুল হক তার নিজ প্রাণের কিছু নিয়ে নিয়ে নিয়ে গড়ে তুলে।

আমাদের সার্ভিকোয়ার সম্প্রদায়ে শতাধিক সার্ভিকোয়ারদের মধ্যে শামসুল হক ছিল একজন। সবাদের সমস্ত অনুষ্ঠানে শামসুল হক নিজের নেপথ্য এবং সব করা একটি গান পরিবেশন করে। এসিড-এর চিকিৎসালীন সময়ে তার দশ জীবনের পথে তুলা ধরা জন্য মায়ের উদ্দেশ্যে লিখিতে যে গান। পাতার পরিবেশনের সময় ছিলানুক্ত উপাত্ত সব সার্ভিকোয়ারার শোষণ চেষ্টা পাড়ে। অবাধ হয়ে যাতে পারেনি অনেক সংবাদিক এবং অভিজাত। পাতার জন্য শামসুল হকের গানের অনেকটা তুলে ধরা হল।
My dear mother, you would not recognize me any more

You held me in your womb for ten months and ten days
I could not do anything to repay you
You brought me up through great sufferings and struggles
And cooked a meal that you fed me twice and more a day

Every mother brings up her child with so many hopes
Did you do so only to get pain in your heart?
One year has gone
But I still could not see you with my eyes

All acid victims who are living in urban and rural areas
Know how the pain of acid burnt is like

The face God has given to your son
Has now become disfigured and black
We frequently talk over mobile phone
You talk to your son with great misery
You continue to shed tear while talking
Then I feel like I shall die

I could not give you anything
The tears of my eyes I am giving
My dear mother, you would not recognize me any more

Lyrics, Composition & Singer: Shamsul Haq
তহবিল সংগ্রহে এএসএফ চ্যারিটি বল ২০০৮

এবিসিইএসর পাশে এসিশি অসার আদালত

গত অগাস্ট মাসের দিনে রাইডিয়ন ওয়াটার গার্ডেন হোটেলে অয়েজিয়ে এক সমাবেশ সংগঠনে এএসএফ চ্যারিটি বল আয়োজনের মুখ্য ভূমিকা পালন করেছিল। এসিশি অসার আদালত এর সাক্ষাৎকার ছুড়ে দেওয়া হয়। সমাবেশের মাধ্যমে উদ্যোক্তা সংগঠন এবং সহযোগীদের নিয়ে আলোচনা হয়।

ভাবনা চৌধুরী
ASF CHARITY BALL 2008 TO COLLECT FUND

Urge to come forward beside acid victims

Declaration of organizing ASF Charity Ball was done on 25 August Monday afternoon at Radisson Water Garden Hotel. An urge to come forward against acid violence was done as well at the press conference organized by ASF. SAM Shawkat Hossain, Chairperson of ASF; Monira Rahman, Executive Director of the organization, Public Relations Manager Sabrina Rahman on behalf of Radisson Water Garden, fashion designer Emdad Hoq, beautician Kaniz Almas Khan, sponsor group organization ABN group director Syed Sadat Ahmed, Janata Jute Mills Managing Director Nazmul Hoq, Corporate Affairs Senior Manager of Standard Chartered Bank Sarwaat Ahmed, Ball Project Co-ordinator Tinika Kimana and others. Speakers said there is no alternative to creating public opinion against acid violence. In view of achieving that, there is a need for everybody, as happened in recent times, to come forward and take collective initiatives to prevent acid violence.

In the press conference, Executive Director Monira Rahman said that acid attack has increased alarmingly in recent times. Only in the month of July, 19 people including women, children and men were victim. Even infants were not spared. She expressed her concern over the fact that, 4 members of the same family including a 5-months old girl child Rija in Bholai district and in Narshingdi district a mother with her kid on the lap were acid burnt. Terming this as a crisis, she requested all allies to come forward against acid throwing. Emphasizing the importance of forming public opinion, she informed that, ASF Ball 2008 will be held for fundraising as part of ASF’s series of efforts to that end. ABN Group is supporting the event as the main sponsor and Standard Chartered Bank, Janata Jute Mills and Sadaat Jute Industries as co-sponsors. Also, Radisson Water Garden Hotel is a partner to that.

It should be mentioned that, ASF has been providing assistance to the acid burnt since 1999 including necessary rehabilitation and legal support side by side taking total responsibilities of medical care. Acid violence is increasingly being used as a weapon as a tool of violence against women. ASF is taking different preventive measures to combat that and the funds raised through different ways including ASF Ball 2008 are spent for medical treatment, social rehabilitation, legal actions and campaign programs for the acid attacked. It was informed in the press conference that the upcoming ASF Ball will include a fashion show supported by Banglar Melia’s fashion designer Emdad Hoq and Kaniz Almas Khan, musical performance by Pentagon and DJ Prince, souvenir distribution, and colorful raffle draw. The press conference appealed that even a simple contribution by a person can make a huge difference to an acid survivor's life.

-Palash Chowdhury
Gender Book Fair

On 18 July 2008, a three-day Book Fair has been organized by Women and Gender Studies Department of Dhaka University. Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Mr. SMA Fayez inaugurated the Fair. Different materials published by ASF were displayed and distributed at the Fair.

Those who lost their life due to acid attack

Rokeya Begum (45), a resident of Lalmohon Upazila of Bhoja district lost her life on 19 July 2008 while she was being treated at the ASF Hospital after being acid attacked. She fought to survive for more than two months on the hospital bed after she had been severely burnt with acid by perpetrators on 12 May as a result of family dispute. Six-months old girl child Rajia died on 9 September 2008 while she was brought by ASF at the City Hospital for treatment. On August 5, due to a dispute over land, 5 members of the same family including Rajia, her parents and two sisters were victim to acid throwing. Among those attacked, Rajia’s condition was the most alarming. Rajia, whose 50% of the body was severely burnt, finally gave up and died following a month-long terrible sufferings. We do not know how to express our sorrows on these two deaths at a quick succession. We demand exemplary punishment of the perpetrators.
**ASTI: Positive Prevention, Rebuilding Lives**

Acid Survivors Trust International is a charity based in the UK that supports organisations working in countries where there is a problem of acid violence. We work with those organisations to:

- Ensure survivors of acid burns have the best available medical treatment
- Offer legal support and advice to survivors of non-accidental burns and their families
- Assist in the rehabilitation, education and training of survivors
- Reduce and eventually eliminate acid attacks while highlighting the broader issue of domestic violence

ASTI also recruits teams of volunteer plastic surgeons, nurses and physiotherapists to not only treat the survivors but help to train local staff to be able to deal with acid attacks.

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**Survivor Story Pakistan: Shamim**

Shamim, a young widow living in a small village of district Muzzafar Garh with her three children, was punished for her modesty by an influential person of her own community. In late 1993, she was sleeping along her 8 months old daughter when Abdul Rahman and Rab Nawaz attacked her with acid. As a result of this attack, both Shamim and her daughter were badly burnt. Shamim was taken to the nearest hospital where only the first aid treatment was done. Shamim's father fought a court case against the attackers, but when Shamim's father died, there was no one to further pursue the case, following the criminals were both granted bail and were freed from jail. Due to social pressure, Shamim had to get married to the same person who attacked her. The accused married her on the condition that Shamim would withdraw the case against him. She did the same but the accused did not take any responsibility. Despite her hard lock, Shamim still worked in the fields to feed her four children and herself.

In January 2007, a field coordinator from ASF Pakistan approached Shamim and offered her medical treatment, as she never had any surgery before. Shamim was brought to the nursing care centre of ASF-P on 5th February, 2007 where free surgeries of her neck and eyelids were performed. Medical follow-ups and psychological treatment were provided. As a result, Shamim is now able to handle her household affairs very adequately and also earns enough income to provide for her four children by rearing the livestock and working in the fields. ASF-P also supported her to renovate her broken house and installed a hand pump in her house.

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**Survivor Story Uganda: Paddy**

Paddy was a career politician in his home town. One day he was relaxing in a bar when he was attacked with acid by someone who thought he was having an affair with his wife. After the attack, the attacker realized he had attacked the wrong man in a case of mistaken identity. Paddy was rushed to hospital where he was to stay for the next year. His injuries were very serious and he cannot see. Paddy struggles financially, having no means of income at all. There is no social security in Uganda. He helps with ASF-U's training sessions where he speaks eloquently and passionately against acid attacks. Paddy's attacks was sentenced to life imprisonment.

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**Survivor Story Cambodia: Samphoas Sun**

Samphoas Sun, now a 25 year old mother of two, became a survivor of an acid attack at the age of 21. Married to a man who she assumed loyal and faithful, her assumption was proven wrong when her husband's first wife's son poured acid on her face and neck. Samphoas was blinded by the attack. Following the attack, Samphoas left the familiarity of her home in Kompong Cham for Phnom Penh to pursue the medical treatment and social support she needed, which she found at CASC. She is now in the process of being trained in crocheting so she can start earning an income through the "babs" project. By developing a skill and a means of income, Samphoas is on a path toward self-sufficiency, a goal that CASC promotes for all of the survivors with whom they work.
Special Moments from Survivors Conference