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Editorial Section

Page 1: Jibonta Hospital

24 Hour Hotline for Reporting Accidents and Referrals
34 Hours Free Treatment
Only Registered Non-Government Hospital
Providing Treatment for Acid Burn

Voice
Quarterly Newsletter • ACID SURVIVORS FOUNDATION
Issue 28, September 2011

Please send your的意见s to:

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Design & Printing:
Bangla Communications Ltd.
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Quality Treatment Ensured - AID aims to ensure that survivors have access to the best possible medical treatment. For this purpose, AID provides medical services from local and international experts. AID strives to ensure that all patients receive the best possible care.

Contribution of Local and International Supporters - From the beginning, AID has been providing services from local and international supporters. AID has received support from various organizations, including the United Nations, the World Bank, and the European Union. AID's efforts have been supported by various organizations, including the United Nations, the World Bank, and the European Union.

Jibonatal Hospital: A Glance

Jibonatal Hospital is a state-of-the-art facility with the latest medical equipment and technology. The hospital is equipped with a range of services, including surgery, radiology, and chemotherapy. Jibonatal Hospital is the first hospital in Bangladesh to offer a wide range of services.

Jibonatal: At a Glance

Jibonatal is a specialized hospital that provides care for burn victims. Jibonatal is equipped with the latest medical equipment and technology, and the hospital is staffed by experienced medical professionals.

AID Hospital Provides Long-Term Care

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Physiotherapy and Splints: Physiotherapy is an essential component of the healing process of acid injuries. Qualified physiotherapists use a wide range of techniques including different exercises and massages as part of the treatment process. Along with physiotherapy, splinting for displaced joints is used to prevent contractures and deformities. Local materials are used to make the splints.

Pressure Garments: Pressure Garment is an important component of a recovering burn patient’s rehabilitation program. The pressure garment production center was started in 2001 and training was provided by experts from England, Netherlands and Australia. ASF’s physiotherapists ensure that the quality of pressure garments is maintained. Pressure garments are made of elasticated fabric such as cotton/lycra that provides a tight custom fit garment and the garment is used to provide constant and equal pressure to provide compression over the healed burn. This compression minimizes development of scarring and deformity. Pressure garments help the burn heal with the least amount of scarring by pressing and flattening the scars. The tightness of a compression garment also helps to stop the itching associated with a healed burn and protect fragile skin.

Counseling: An acid attack leaves a person disfigured for life and the physical and emotional loss inflicted on the person is not completely recoverable. The victim is condemned to a life of trauma. Survivors often lose decision-making ability and courage to face the lengthy treatment. ASF has developed the capacity of some survivors to act as peer counselors. These counselors provide regular counseling to survivors at Jibotara to build survivor’s confidence, strength, and courage to motivate them to find their path to recovery. Qualified clinical psychologists also provide counseling and psychotherapy to survivors and their families.

Music and Art Therapy: To overcome their mental trauma survivors ASF arranges music and art therapy for survivors. The therapy is meant to reduce anxiety, withdrawal symptoms and depression. Through music and art, survivors regain their confidence and self-esteem.

Another Stair in Jibotara-Akash: 10 year old acid victim Akash was struggling with life for 5 years and ASF was able to find him right before Akash was about to give up. Akash was brought to Jibotara hospital to begin his treatment. Prior to starting his treatment at ASF, Akash was admitted to the DMCH Burn Unit. Unfortunately, Akash could not complete his treatment at DMCH because his family was unable to bear the treatment cost. Akash was in critical condition when he was brought to Jibotara. He sustained serious injuries where his eyes, face, neck, and both arms were severely damaged. His left hand was permanently disabled and his right hand was barely functional. Both his eyelids were contracted and his vision was seriously hampered. Plastic surgeons were able to reconstruct his upper and lower eyelids to restore his vision. Doctors were also able to reconstruct both elbow joints and axilla to help him move both hands. When Akash was first admitted to Jibotara he displayed symptoms of depression and withdrawal. Eventually with psychotherapy counseling, nursing, and proper nutrition, he started to show signs of improvement and has returned home with the hope of living the life of a normal ten year old boy.

A step toward tomorrow: From the beginning ASF has been working towards developing the hospital into a centre of excellence for burn care. The hospital is internationally known in the South Asia region for providing specialized burn care treatment. Arani had been receiving treatment in Sri Lanka for acid burns for a year however she had a wound on her forehead which had not completely healed. Arani came to Bangladesh to seek ASF’s medical help. She was grateful to receive treatment that healed the wound on her forehead within a week. Planning to return to her home in Sri Lanka for treatment, Arani learned that ASF and specially ASF’s hospital has received national and international recognition for its unique holistic approach to fighting acid violence. UK’s Minister of State for International Development- Alan Duncan visited ASF and praised ASF’s work in rebuilding the lives of acid victims.

Acid violence is still a prevalent form of violence in Bangladesh. Although, the number of incidents have decreased in the last couple of years there have been increasing reports of other burn related violence including fire, kerosene, and gas incidents. There is only one public hospital in Bangladesh which has a 100 bed capacity to treat burn victims however one public hospital with burn care facilities is not sufficient to cater to the needs of all burn victims in a country with a population of 160 million. There is a great need for establishing an ASF Burn Clinic (Model Hospital) using a bio-psycho-social model. British Minister of State for International Development Alan Duncan met with the Prime Minister (Source: Daily Jugantor; Ittefaq, Daily Star) to request the Goll to secure a plot of land where the British Government will help ASF to build an ASF Burn Complex. The Prime Minister responded positively to this request. This pledge by the British Government and the Goll to build an ASF Burn Complex will not only fulfill the needs of victims of acid violence but also fulfill the needs of victims of other burn related violence.
এসিড সহিংস্ততা প্রতিটিকে গাজীপুর জেলার কমিউনিটির সাথে 
এসিড সাহায্যচরিত্রের সম্মান অনুষ্ঠিত

এসিড সহিংস্ততার এক দিকে একদল সহিংস্ততার কারুকাজ, অপর দিকে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে 

কর্মকাণ্ডের সাথে এমন একদিন যাদের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে প্রতিটি মানুষের মাঝে 

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Acid Survivors Meeting With Government Officials and Community Members in Gazipur

Acid Survivors met with members of the District Acid Control Committee (DIACC) and community members on 25th September 2011 in Gazipur. The agenda of the meeting was to lobby with DIACC to ensure social and economic rehabilitation of the survivors. The procession to the DIACC office started at 10 am with a message to 'turn around and stand up'. Participants of the rally carried banners with various slogans and proceeded to the Upazila George Court from the District Office. 100 people attended the rally including 30 survivors from Gazipur.

The discussion part of the rally meeting started at 11.00 am in the Bhalai meeting room. The meeting was chaired by the Executive Director of ASF: Monira Rahman. The chief guest at the meeting was Additional District Magistrate Dr. Dewan Muhammad Humayun Kabir, special guest was Senior A.S.P Md Abul Hossain, B.PM Shohor Gazipur Bhonsali Misto represented donor agency Monosher Jonno Foundation. Among other guests there was Deputy Director of Social Welfare Begum Luftumnessa, Executive Magistrate Tazina Sarwar, Chairman of District Women Organization and Chairperson of District Awami League Dhinkupa Falak, District Information Officer Nasima Khatun, Upazila Women and Child Affairs Officer Raima Khan and Local Coordinator Sazzad Hossain from BRAC’s Social Development Program. The participants discussed how to strengthen the linkages between survivors and the Government, how to ensure that survivors are receiving what they are entitled to from the Government. Survivors specially face problems accessing loans and stipend from the Ministry of Social Welfare because the resources are allotted under the disability category and many survivors do not fall in that category.

During the discussion acid survivors Peyara Begum and Monira Akther talked about the need to support survivors in their ongoing lives for them to be able to reintegrate into mainstream society. The discussion was facilitated by A.K Azad from ASF. At one point in the discussion the Chief Guest presented Tk. 11,000 to 18 survivors.

The Chief Guest Muhammad Humayun Kabir said that DIACC will continue to give money to survivors every year with the expectation that the survivors will utilize the money properly. The Chief Guest also said that the DIACC will follow up with survivors who have received financial aid and DIACC will meet regularly where a Survivor Ambassador will attend the meeting as an observer. The Chief Guest also provided assurance that the DIACC will provide all kinds of help to access legal and other aid from different government offices. He raised the issue of illegally selling acid in local markets and emphasized the need for more research in this area.

Monira Rahman expressed her gratitude to the participants and guests and stated her expectations that the commitments will be fulfilled. She also stated that ASF will continue to work with the government to ensure that survivors needs be better met.
এসএসএফর প্রশিক্ষণ কার্যক্রম
এনটি সারাইনজের সংগঠনের “সারাইনজ নেটওয়ার্ক ইনস্টিটিউট” দিয়ে সারাইনজ এর কর্মীদের সমূহকে কেন্দ্রেজাত বোধ এবং সারাইনজের বিষয়ে প্রশিক্ষণ এবং কানাডার বিভিন্ন কার্যক্রমকে প্রশিক্ষণ করা হয়। সুতরাং এটি প্রশিক্ষণ দিয়ে, প্রশিক্ষণের ফলে সমাজের জন্য সারাইনজের অংশগ্রহণ প্রচেষ্টা হয়। অংশগ্রহণ ও সারাইনজের সাক্ষরতার উন্নয়ন করা হয়, যার ফলে ছুটি পরিবেশ সারাইনজ এর বিষয়ে অধ্যয়নকে সহায়তা করে।

ASF Training Activities
ASF through its Survivors Network Unit conducts various nationwide training programs. Acid survivors and ASF staff receive training on how to help survivors by ensuring that their rights are being met, and that they have access to government resources by raising awareness and sensitizing the community and by reintegrating survivors into mainstream society wherever they can continue to live their lives with dignity.

Psychosocial Skill Development Training for Community Leaders
ASF with the help of its partner NGO-Aid Comilla conducted psychosocial skill development training for community leaders on August 14th 2011. The community leaders received training in medical and legal needs of acid survivors and raising awareness on the issue of acidviolence. A total of 42 people participated in the training including chairmen of different upazilas in Comilla, vice chairmen, Union Parishad chairmen, members, educators, and journalists. Trainer Rikeya Begum Shafiq from Aid Comilla conducted the training session. The trainer was assisted by A.J. Azad and Animesh Sarkar from ASF.

Leadership Training for Acid Survivors
Leadership training for Acid Survivors

Social Skills Training for Acid Survivors
ASF organized a three day social skills training for acid survivors from June 2nd to June 5th. The training took place at the Dhaka Manobkhel Kendra. A total of 25 acid survivors from 15 districts participated in the training. The survivors received training on confidence building, conflict management, self-empowerment, self-reliance, advocating for rights, coping with social pressures and barriers. Psychiatrist Zahir Uddin and Hosena Ara Begum conducted the training. Siddique Rubel from ASF assisted the training.

Leadership training for Acid Survivors
ASF arranged leadership training for acid survivors from 25 to 26th August. 21 survivors from 13 districts participated in the training which was held at the Dhaka Manobkhel Kendra. Survivors received training in gender, masculinism, violence against women, etc. The purpose of the training was for survivors to take an active role in advocating for their rights and raising awareness among individuals and communities to help create an environment where survivors can effectively reintegrate into mainstream society. The training was facilitated by Zahirul Islam with the assistance of ASF staff Siddique Rubel.

Acid Survivors Receive Life Skills Training
Acid Survivors Foundation conducted life skills training in Gaipur from August 24th to August 31st. 10 survivors participated in the training which took place at the Kaphania Upazila Parishad. The survivors received training in communications and peer support. The training was intended to develop the capacity of survivors to best cope with their changed situation and help each other by providing peer support. The training was conducted by Psychiatrist Ruma Khadem and Social Worker Tahmina Islam. ASF's Peer Educators Peyara Begum and Monira Akhter arranged the training session.
Students Against Acid Violence

ASF has been implementing nationwide school and college campaigns through a network of students to promote zero tolerance to violence against women and protect the rights of acid survivors. Through ASF’s Survivors Network Program campaigns have been implemented in 46 schools in Bogura, Sirajgonj, Gazipur, Narshingdi, and Comilla with the participation of 5,519 students and more than 100 teachers. The campaigns raised awareness on why attacks take place, the consequences of such attack, what to do immediately after an attack, and the services that victims are entitled to from the Government and other NGOs.

American International School Dhaka (A-ISD) through their service learning provides an opportunity for students to give back and make a difference to the lives of those in need in Bangladesh. A-ISD stands strongly behind its vision statement of preparing students to become stewards of just and sustainable world. A-ISD students when visit ASF to spend time with the survivors, A-ISD has arranged field trips for survivors to visit their school where the students arranged various recreational activities for the survivors including sports, movies, arts and crafts.

“We hesitated to come out when we have a simple scar in our face while these survivors have to roam around with disfigurement rest of their life. We can’t imagine their suffering. Yet, the courage that they show not to give up but stand against all hurdles and win is truly inspiring. I have learnt a lot from working with them and look forward to be a part in my future life.”

Leena Dayal
A-ISD

“Acid violence is a horrible act, there are some people in our society who have been involved in illegal activities and commit this horrible crime. We should ensure that people in our society are aware of the damaging effect of this act and that the perpetrators face legal consequences if the perpetrators face correct punishments others will not dare to commit this crime. We can save our society from this horrendous crime.”

Rahena Akter (Class 9)

Afifa Khanum
Highschool (Muradongar, Comilla)

“We should all pledge to never commit acid attacks. We should ensure that our friends, family members, and people in our communities are aware of this issue so we can create a society free of acid violence.”

Ibne Reza (Headmaster)
Gapti Rampershwar High School, Bogura

Generous Support from a long term friend, Standard Chartered Bank

Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) once again came forward to help ASF with a generous donation of 30,000,000 (thirty lakh taka) from Saadidq, their Islamic Banking Section. The cheque was handed over to Ms. Monira Rahman, Executive Director of ASF at the head office of the bank. The event was attended by SCB’s Country Chief Executive Officer Mr. M. McQuaid, SCB’s Head of Consumer Banking, and SCB’s Head of Corporate Affairs. SCB expressed the desire to extend the relationship even further by exploring new grounds (Job Placement, experience sharing, and training) to help survivors of acid violence.

Grameen Solutions Ltd., Preparing survivors for Job Market

Grameen Solutions Ltd. (GSL), a sister concern of Grameen Bank Ltd., joined hands with Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) in the endeavor to prepare survivors for the job market by proving ICT training and corporate grooming sessions. As a part of a member of the Grameen Family, Naloo Chowdhury – CEO GSL, mentioned their commitment to help the survivors for effective social reintegration through these trainings. Under the partnership GSL shall provide free of cost high quality trainings to the acid violence survivors to enable them to compete in the job market. Nobel laureate, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, visited a training session and spent some time with the survivors who were delighted to be given the opportunity to meet the Nobel Laureate.

Sewing Machine Handover by Humaira Hamlin

Humaira Hamlin donated 15 sewing machines to ASF. She was happy to be able to do something for the survivors.