Editorial

An important role of mass media to promote opinion against violence & discrimination and enact public policy is undeniable. During last two decades, the role of media in focusing acid violence in public sphere was especially noteworthy. News media is publishing and broadcasting careful reports one after another on different aspects of acid violence, obstacles to combating the violence, unrighteousness existing in relevant sectors etc. Media is playing a significant role not only to increase awareness of the people, but also for drawing policy makers' attention. ASF has launched Media Award since 2005 to recognize the important role of media. In 2006, 14 journalists were nominated in four categories and 4 were awarded finally. We would like to congratulate all of them on behalf of Voice.

Apart from this, ASF has launched 'ASF Performance Award' for successful acid survivors in different fields. This year 17 acid survivors have got this award. We applaud on behalf of Voice all the survivors who have received or not received award; especially we pay homage to their life struggle.

From this year, ASF has extended its activities up to union level. This initiative is taken to ensure commitment of the local government to eradicate violence against women, especially on acid violence.

We have documented a case-history with successful completion of legal process. Mirash's story is an example to other survivors showing that resolution and courage of the survivors along with support from law enforcement agencies and legal division and local people can bring success.

Wonder-boy Durjoy; his indomitable courage, commitment of ASF's top level officials, support from the conscious quarters of the society and sincere effort by Hong Kong's Prince of Wales Hospital helped Durjoy recover gradually. Durjoy needs more operations, more support.

We would like to convey our best wishes to the readers and well wishers of Voice.
### Statistics of Acid Attack: 1999 to June 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Number of Incidents</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Number of persons attacked</th>
<th>Children (Under 18)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May-Dec 1999</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan, 07</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
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<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>April</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>86</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 name of Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) as source.
- Updated till: 30th June 2007

### ASF's Supports for Acid Survivors: January to June 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Medical Support</th>
<th>Legal Support</th>
<th>Rehabilitation Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>207*</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Exclude the number of outdoor patients)*

### Situation of Acid Attack: Top 5 Districts: January to June 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>No. of Survivors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dhaka</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bogra</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sirajganj</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kurigram</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bagerhat, Barishal, Comilla, Habiganj</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASF Media Award 2006: Creating public opinion against acid violence

They are our mothers or sisters, someone’s wife, someone’s child/your intimate relations with same flesh and blood/Then why this brutality and violence/Good men never throw acid.

Acid Survivors Foundation organized ASF Media Award 2006 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Hall on 12 May, 2007 evening. At the very beginning of the program, eminent singer Shuvro Dev performed this popular song against acid violence along with the acid survivors. The award was first introduced in 2005 with a view to acknowledge the contribution of the media in raising awareness and creating public opinion against acid violence. In 2006, ASF Media Award was presented in four categories of journalism e.g. best report in national/international press/report, best feature, and best photographic. Best contributor in each category was awarded with a certificate, crest, and thirty thousand taka as honorarium.

Judges of the contest included eminent novelist Selina Hossain, President of National Press Club Shawkat Mahmud, short film-maker Manzare Hasan Murad, ASF Trustee Board member Fazlul Nessa, Acting Chairperson SAM Showket Hossain. Head of the judges was Prof. Dr. Shaiikh Abdus Salam, Chair of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of the University of Dhaka.

Nominees of this year’s award were: Tashsina Sadeque (Amader Somoy), Ferdous Faisal (Prothom Alo) and Nazmin Akther (Janakantha) for best newspaper report; Kamrul Hasan Khan (Daily Star), Sayful Islam Jhon (Jugantor), Rita Bhowmick (Bhoire Kago) and Ferdous Faisal (Prothom Alo) for best feature; Romana Rumi (NTV), Ahmed Mushifka Naznin (Bangladesh Television), Shikhera Lalla (Bangla Vision) and Md. Badshah Mia (Channel S) for best TV report; And Shaiful Alam Kiron (published in the Daily Star), Abrir Abdullah (Published in New Nation) and Syed Zakir Hossain (Daily Star) for their photographs. Four journalists among the nominees were awarded.

In the first part of the program, Executive Director of Acid Survivors’ Foundation Monira Rahman delivered the welcome speech. Head of the Judges Dr. Shaiikh Abdus Salam explained the judgment process. In the award giving session, special guest Shaheen Anam, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, handed over the best report award (newspaper) to Naneen Akhtar of Janakanta. Special guest Anjan Chowdhury, Managing Director of Square Toiletries Limited handed over the award of best feature to Ferdous Faisal of Prothom Alo. Special guest artist Quayyum Chowdhury awarded Kishower Lalla of Bangla Vision for best TV report. Photojournalist Syed Zakir Hossain of the Daily Star received his best photograph award from the chief guest of the program Dr. Geetabirati Safiya Chowdhury, Hon’ble Advisor of the Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. Prothom Alo received Special Award for building public opinion and support for acid victim women. ASF’s Acting Chairperson SAM Showket Hossain handed over a crest of honor to Abdul Quayyam Mukul, Joint-Editor of Prothom Alo.

After the award giving ceremony, singer Mita Huc, Khairul Anam Shakil, Fakir Alamgir and Kanak Champa participated in the thematic cultural program. Hussan Arif and Shimpl Mustafa recited at the occasion. The program concluded through a group dance performance where a scenario of public protection was highlighted. This thematic choreography was conducted by Munmum Ahmed, Actress Tropo Majumder hosted the whole program. The program was supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation, Express One Limited and Square Toiletries Limited.

Khaleda Yasmin Etk
Moments of Media Award: 2006

Introduction

Speakers

Media's role is essential in order to eliminate acid violence and vindicate the rights of acid survivors.

Media has an important role to create public opinion against acid violence.

Acid violence cannot be stopped through mere laws; a social movement is needed.

ASF Media Award 2006

Describing the process of judgment

Chairman, Journalism & Mass communication Dept, DU

Acid violence is a consequence of social disorientation; media and public welfare organisations have to play a strong role.

Managing Director, Square Scales Ltd

Award Receive

Receiving the award

Winners of the award for Best Report in print media

Winners of the award for Best Feature in print media

Winners of the award for Best Report in electronic media

Winners of the award for Best Photography
Moments of Media Award: 2006

Cultural Performance

Click

Performing choreography
Houmam Ahmed

Audience

S. A. M. Sheikhet Hossain with Dipjyoti Chowdhury

Hamidul Majumder and Tripa Majumder with Chief Guest
Geritita Safiya Chowdhury

Shoona Dev & Sahana Nabi

Monica Rahman with Ameena Chowdhury

Availing in-handing over award Ameena After representative of acid survivors

Multimedia presentation during the award
**17 Acid survivors receive ASF Performance Award 2007**

On 10 February 2000, Ferdousi, a girl from Dinaipur, lost her eyesight due to acid attack simply because she was a good student. But that could not stop her to successfully complete her SSG and HSC. And she is now a 1st year student of Dhaka University’s Education and Research Department.

Jhinidah’s Shamima was acid-attacked on the 13th of September 1999, by her husband. Instead of daunting, that incident ignited an aspiration inside her to do something for those women who are lagging behind. She established an NGO named Nari Oikya Kallyan Sangstha in 2004.

A total of seventeen women including Shamima received ASF Performance Award for their relentless spirit in making a way despite being acid-attacked. ASF has organized the program on the afternoon of 10 April 2007 at the VIP Lounge of National Press Club. Winners of the award received crest, certificate and four thousand taka.

Executive Director of Acid Survivors’ Foundation Monira Rahman delivered her welcome speech. Besides, M. Mahmudul Huq, Director of Square Toiletries LTD; SAM Shawkat Hossain, Acting Chairperson of ASF, ASF Trustee Board member AK Masood Ahmed and Ahmed Shafir, Coordinator of the Social Rehabilitation Program of Acid Survivors’ Foundation also spoke on the occasion. Program Officers, Palash Chowdhury and Fatema Parvin Puthul of ASF were the presenters of the program.

Among those who were awarded in the program were Reba Yasmin, trainee at ASF’s catering project of Barisal, Fatenma Begum of Kishoreganj, Jahanara Akter of Chandpur, Sumon Akter Rupa of Manikganj, Asma Akter of Sherpur, ASF’s pressure garments project worker Asma Akter of Kishoreganj, Ayesha Akter (Chittagong), Dolly Akter (Bogra), Shabnaj Akter, working at ASF’s tailoring project (Bogra), Nazma Akter (Mymensing), Taslima Akter (Mymensing), Parul Akter (Dhaka), Ferdousi Akter of education project (Dinajpur); Afroz Akter (Noakhali), Homonni Bosak (Nilphamari), Mehia Akter Bibi (Dhaka) and NGO official Shamima Akter (Jhenidah).
Organization News

ASF union level campaign begins
Local government's commitment against acid violence

To me, acid throwing is a big crime. I want strict punishment to the acid throwers. Those who work with acid or use it, should be alert that nobody could misuse it or hurt anybody - says Sahara Bibi. UP member of Peerob union of Bogra. Another UP member of the same union M. Nazrul Islam said, "We hate acid throwing. We will form acid prevention committee in the neighborhood. We will inform everyone that the highest penalty to acid throwing is death sentence...ASF has already taken an initiative to raise public opinion against acid violence at the grass roots level and side by side to increase commitment of the local government and administration departments. At this stage, sharing meetings have started at the district, upazilla and union levels. Meetings took place at 5 unions of Sirajganj, Bogra, Lalmonirhat and Barisal during test three months. A sharing at Maguraribnun union of Tarash, Sirajganj was held on 6 April. The meeting was presided over by Dobla Bi-Focal High School Headmaster M. Shahidul Alam Talukdar. Chief Guest was Maguraribnun union parishad chair M. Habibur Rahman Hobi. Welcome speech was delivered by organizer and Executive Director of ASP's partner organization Paribartan Abdur Razzaq Razu. Representative of Acid Survivors Foundation Palash Chowdhury presented key note paper. Journalist Ruhul Amin, former UP Chairman Sardar M. Abdul Jabbar, Nazrul Islam Sacchu etc. also spoke in the meeting. Before the meeting, a human chain was formed at Manannagar beside Bishwa Road.

Another sharing meeting was held at Madia union parishad of Shahjahanpur upazilla in Bogra. The meeting held on 12 May was presided over by Madia UP chair M. Abdul Latif Mandal. Chief Guest was Sultanganj Union Parishad chair Ahaji M. Mijanur Rahman. The chief guest in his speech mentioned that he was not aware that acid attack causes so much disaster and harm to the people. He urged all to come forward against this grisly crime. Executive Director Mahfuz Ara Miva delivered welcome speech in the meeting organized by ASP's partner organization Program for Eco-Social Development (PESD). Other speakers were AHM Serwar Murshed from TMSS, teacher Minoti Bishwas, development worker M. Majnu Shah, Dr. Enamul Haque, teacher M. Aminul Islam, UP member Abdus Salit Mandol, Madrasa Super and Imam Abdur Rahman, UP member Jahawara Bulli etc. A human chain was also formed following the meeting at Shahjahanpur union.

ASF's partner Thengemara Mahila Sabuj Shangha (TMSS) organized another sharing meeting at Peerob union of Shishganj upazilla, Bogra on 23 April. Peerob Union Parishad chair M. Majboor Rahman was the chief guest of the meeting. Dr. Masihur Rahman, Superintendent of Rafatullah Community Hospital of TMSS.
প্রধান আধিক্য নিয়ন্ত্রণচুক্তি ও বিপরীত প্রতিষ্ঠান সংস্থা উপসর্গের প্রথম উইফিল্ডে হবিদাচ একটি মূলনীতির ভাষা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। সাধারণ এই অংশের মাধ্যমে প্রথম উইফিল্ডের প্রথম মেমোরিয়াল সম্পদ পরিচয়িত করা হয়েছে। সাক্ষাৎকার করা হয় একটি আরও আমাদের স্মরণীয় মূলনীতির প্রতিষ্ঠান সংস্থা।

মূল বক্তা উইফিল্ডের কর্তৃপক্ষ এক্সন এক্সপ্রেস-এর প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রকাশনার জন্য একটি সারাহার দাবি করেছে। মূলনীতির ঠিক হল দৃশ্যতার নোবেল প্রদর্শনের জন্য শাসনবিধির মূলমন্ত্রী সংসদ এক্সন এক্সপ্রেস।

নগর নির্দেশিত হল কী উপসর্গ প্রকাশনার জন্য শাসনবিধির মূলমন্ত্রী সংসদ এক্সন এক্সপ্রেস।

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নগর নির্দেশিত হল কী উপসর্গ প্রকাশনার জন্য শাসনবিধির মূলমন্ত্রী সংসদ এক্সন এক্সপ্রেস।
Acid Survivors' Foundation receives Rishty Award for special contribution in acid violence protection

The Rishty Shilpo Goshti gave special award to Acid Survivors' Foundation for special contribution in acid violence prevention. The award was given at the launching ceremony of Gonosangit Shilpi (mass people's song) Fakir Alamgir's new album titled Bhalobashi Dhaka on 29 May, 2007 at the Shishu Academy auditorium. Acid survivors Jahanara Akter, Lulu Mansura and Hasina Akter received the award from Fakir Alamgir led by ASF's Executive Director Monira Rahman. It is mentionable that Fakir Alamgir is an active member of Star Against Acid Thrower – a national forum of stars/performers who are against acid violence. He is playing a role in building public opinion against acid violence through his music.

Orientation course on immediate treatment of acid burnt at Gajipur

Acid Survivors' Foundation and Gajipur Civil Surgeon Office jointly organized an orientation course on the issue of immediate treatment of acid-burnt at the Civil Surgeon Office conference room from 18 to 21 June 2007. Gajipur District Commissioner Syed Mizanur Rahman was the Chief Guest of the program. Special Guest was Additional Police Super Saifullah Al Mamun. In addition, Deputy Director of Jilla Samajsheba Abdur Rab Khan, ASF's Executive Director Monira Rahman and acid survivor Peyysara Begum also spoke at the occasion.

District Civil Surgeon Dr. M. Hafizur Rahman Khan presided over the orientation and professor of the plastic surgery department of Dhaka Medical College A.J.M Salek was present as instructor. A total of 208 doctors and nurses of Gajipur district participated at this orientation. Participants expected that proper orientations could reduce the extent of physical damage of the acid-burnt. The program was coordinated by Dr. Rebecca Milton, Manager, ASF Medical Unit.
Contributions to the ASF (April–June, 2007)

**Individuals**
- Jashim & Rahat
- Antara Rahaman
- Téhmina Enayet
- Jahidul Hasan & Mr. Sabbir Ahmed
- Marium Bibi
- Humaira Fatima Hamim
- Verena Grimm
- MDM Chung Yuet Ching

**Organizations**
- Square Toiletries Ltd.
- BRACNET
- Marie Curie School
- American School
- Living Stone

Contributing the Marie Curie School
Case History

Support for all in the legal process to help establish justice

Mirash (20) is a girl of Bhadeshwarpur village of Shaestagunj thana of Habiganj district. She was having an affair with Motalab, her sister's brother-in-law, who convinced her to marry him. However, the situation got worse when, later, Mirash asked Motalab to marry her. He as well as his family denies the relation. Mirash becomes victim to unwanted pregnancy.

Despite asking for justice at different places, Mirash did not get any support. Then she filed a case at Shaestagunj thana according to the Women and Children Repression Act. Motalab got angry when he heard about the case and put pressure on Mirash to withdraw the case. However, Mirash was strict to her decision. Meanwhile, Mirash gave birth to a girl child, whom she called Seema. Motalab came to the child, but not to hear her baby calling him 'daddy', rather to stop her voice forever.

It was 9 March 2004. Motalab along with some of his fellows went to Bhadeshwar village and broke into the house to throw acid onto Mirash, her mother and her child Seema. Mirash, with severe pain could open her eyes and recognized Motalab and some of his fellows.

Later on, Mirash, her mother and Seema were taken to Habiganj Hospital with the help of the neighbors. As their condition was getting worse, on 13 March 2004 ASF brought them to its own hospital with the help of BRAC. Jibannara Hospital saved Mirash and Seema's life. Though they are still alive, their future is now uncertain.

While Mirash was receiving treatment at the hospital, the case was going on in the court. She was even threatened to withdraw the case, just by virtue of her indomitable spirit, she did not give up. She wants the perpetrators to receive exemplary punishment. In the next three years, Mirash shifted from her decision due to severe physical and mental pain, anxiety of an unstable future, economic hardship and intolerable familial and social pressure. The accusation was finally proved overcoming all hindrances, following proper scrutiny and analysis by the court and public prosecutor. The court gave verdict on 9 May 2007 of both imprisonment and monetary penalty to the 5 accused persons.

We do not want any other Mirash or Seema become victims of acid attack. We want exemplary punishment to the real criminals. No criminals should be forgiven after committing such hatred acts of violence and brutality. Let no more Seema experience such cruelty and viciousness.

A. K. Azad