ASAI attends 56th meeting of UN Commission on the Status of Women

Acid Survivors Foundation Receives 2011 Human Rights Prize of the French Republic

Australia provides support to Acid Survivors Foundation

UK’s Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development’s Visit to ASI
ASF attends 56th meeting of UN Commission on the Status of Women

ASF's Executive Director Monira Rahman and ASF Treasurer and Survivor Advocate Foizul Amin participated in an NGO parallel event panel discussion on 'Acid Attacks: Violence against Women and Girls' at the 56th meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held in New York from February 27th to March 9th. Other participants included the Chair of ASST Dr John Morrison, Vice Chair of ASST and founder of Womankind Worldwide Dr Kate Young, Head of Policy at International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims Denmark, Leanne McMillan, Social Development Advisor of DFID Bangladesh, Nazreen Chowdhury and Coordinator of Women's UN Report Network Lison A Herma.

CSW is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is a principal global policy making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. This year's priority theme of the event was 'the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges. The panel provided a range of presentations addressing the nature of acid violence, the growing international response support from DFID and the UNF, the role of ASST and the ground realities of acid violence illustrated by the Bangladesh experience and the witness of a survivor. The input from ASF Bangladesh demonstrated the effective work that has been undertaken in Bangladesh and provided an inspirational model of success for other related organizations to adapt to their own circumstances.'
16 days of Activism

16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign that takes place every year from November 25th, which marks the International Day Against Violence Against Women and December 11th which marks the International Human Rights Day. The campaign encourages participants to act positively to end gender-based violence. Among the participants were survivors and ASF staff.

South Asia Social Forum

ASF participated in the five-day South Asia Social Forum which was held from November 18th to November 22nd at Dhaka University. The ultimate goal of the forum was to create a New South Asia free from poverty and hunger caused by exploitation, deprivation, discrimination and oppression, and establish a common humanity based on equality, freedom and justice. The specific objective of the forum was to create an open space for South Asian civil society, social movements and peoples’ initiatives to exchange alternative ideas and practices, and expressing global solidarity for people’s struggle against injustice. ASF along with other organizations participated in the inaugural rally on November 18th. ASF also set up a stall to share information and materials on ASF’s strategy to combat acid violence in Bangladesh. The stall also highlighted ASF’s three income generating projects for survivors; catering project, tailoring project, and pressure garments project.

Seminars on Effective Strategy to Combat Gender Based Violence - South Asia Perspective

As part of the Forum, ASF and Manusher Jonno Foundation also organized a seminar on “Effective Strategy to combat Gender Based Violence - South Asia Perspective” on November 21st. The seminar gathered experienced and committed human rights activists to exchange ideas and best practices in combating the worldwide problems of violence against women. The panelists for the seminar included: Mr. M.S. Akhter-Program Manager, Cox’s Bazar Ms. Naeem Ahmed-National Program Manager, UN Women; Ms. Mahal Aminuzzaman, Acting Head of Section, Human Rights and Good Governance, DANIDA; Ms. Marriane Bemar, International Program Manager, Joint Program to address UNESCO, and Dr. Abul Hosain, Director, Multinational Programmes, Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs. The session was chaired by Ms. Shahnaz Anam, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation. Each of the panelists gave a brief presentation on strategies implemented by their organizations to combat gender based violence in Bangladesh, the challenges faced, and the lessons learnt. The presentations were followed by a discussion where the issue of greater coordination between NGOs, civil society and government was stressed.

Men & Boys Network also organized a men’s network on November 25th at Tabibbari Shabbari to launch the network’s 16 days of activism campaign. Speakers at the event included: Professor Shafiqul Islam from Dhaka University, Ranjan Karmakar, Executive Director of Steps Towards Development, Monica Rahman, Executive Director of ASF- Specials guests included: Director Anish Acharya, Women Activist Rekha Shaha, Co-Organizer One Singer Mizan Rejib, Mohammad Anisur Rahman and Mahbubul Akhtar Mukti as students gave their speech on the issue of gender justice. Aurth Arken and D. Nur Mohammed from UNFPA also delivered a speech. The cultural program included music from Shauri and musical theatre from Tanamah Rahman and his group to strengthen the message of engaging men and boys to end gender-based violence. The program
Seminar on providing legal support to Survivors of acid violence

As part of its activities, the Asian Society for Freedom of Expression (ASFE) organized a seminar on "Ensuring legal support and removing barriers to attaining justice" for survivors of acid violence on December 2nd, 2011. Among the guests were chief guest Dr. Shireen Sharmi Chaudhury, State Minister of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, special guest Benazi Ahmed, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner, guest Shahid Muktad, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The welcome speech was given by ASFE Co-Chairperson, Dr. Iftekhar Zaman. The seminar ended with an open discussion between public prosecutors, police, bar and law students, and other relevant stakeholders.

Acid Survivors Foundation Receives 2011 Human Rights Prize of the French Republic

ASFE along with other NGOs from different countries received the Human Rights Prize of the French Republic for 2011. The prize, "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," founded in 1988 and awarded every year by the French Human Rights Commission, was handed over to the winners at a ceremony held at the Quai d’Orsay, the Palais des Affaires Etranges in Paris on December 10. The French Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Alain Juppé, handed over the prize to the winners.

Australia provides support to Acid Survivors Foundation

The Acid Survivors Foundation was established in 1990 to provide support to acid survivors in Bangladesh. The organization has been working to improve the lives of acid survivors through various initiatives, including post-operative care, rehabilitation programs, and advocacy for their rights. The Acid Survivors Foundation has received support from various organizations, including the Australian government, to help provide services to acid survivors in Bangladesh.

Acid Survivors Foundation was awarded the 2011 Human Rights Prize of the French Republic for its work in providing legal support and removing barriers to attaining justice for survivors of acid violence. The Acid Survivors Foundation is an organization that works to support acid survivors in Bangladesh. The organization was established in 1990 to provide support to acid survivors in Bangladesh. The organization has worked to improve the lives of acid survivors through various initiatives, including post-operative care, rehabilitation programs, and advocacy for their rights. The Acid Survivors Foundation has received support from various organizations, including the Australian government, to help provide services to acid survivors in Bangladesh.
Legal Justice for Victims of Acid Violence

Acid Survivors Foundation is working towards a vision of Bangladesh free from acid violence by 2015. In addition to providing free medical and rehabilitation services, ASF also provides legal support to survivors. ASF has its own lawyer to help prepare case reports and provide legal advice to survivors. To ensure that the cases are filed properly, ASF maintains regular contact with police authorities (deputy commissioner, superintendent of police, and officer in charge), local administrations (civil surgeons), judges and public prosecutors to facilitate effective investigations and speedy trials. ASF hands over the cases to ASF’s legal aid partner organisations which include: BRAC, Action Aid, Bangladesh National Lawyers Association (BNLWA), Non-Pokho, Jaikiya Mahila Samiti. Bangladesh Manadalikar Bostibayan Sanghi (BOSI), and Bangladesh Legal Aid Services And Trust (BLAST). ASF lawyer refers the cases over to ASF’s legal aid partners. As the legal partners pursue cases for the survivors at the local level, ASF lawyers make follow up visits and correspond with local police, lawyers, and local administration (union parishad, DACC, Civil Surgeon) to speed up investigations and trials. The legal unit also holds discussions and meetings with local law enforcement agencies and conduct capacity development workshops with local ASF partner organizations.

Prior to 2002 there was no provision in the legal framework to prevent acid violence. Acid-related offenses were primarily dealt under the Repression against Women and Children Act. ASF started their relentless lobby with the government to persuade the government to introduce new laws specifically for acid offense. ASF along with other human rights organizations, social activists and pressure groups started their advocacy campaign. BNLWA submitted public interest litigation against easy access to and to the government of Bangladesh. On March 17th, 2002, the president of Bangladesh approved two laws: The Acid Control Act of 2002 and The Acid Crime Control Act of 2002


The Acid Crime Control Act of 2002 is intended to control acid crimes by mandating stringent punishment ranging from between three years and fifteen years and a hefty fine to life imprisonment to a maximum statement of death penalty. The variations of punishment depend on the parts of the body affected. For example, punishment for killing a person by acid or injuring a person resulting in loss of vision, loss of hearing, or damage or disfigurement of the face, breasts, or sexual organs can result in capital punishment or rigorous imprisonment for life and also a fine not exceeding one lakh taka. Damage or disfigurement of any member or joint of his/her body will result in fourteen years of imprisonment but not less than seven years or rigorous imprisonment. Punishment for attempt to throw acid causing no damage or injury may extend to seven years but not less than three years of rigorous imprisonment and also with a fine not exceeding fifty thousand taka. Also, if someone assists to commit the crime of acid throwing, he/she will receive the same punishment as the perpetrators.

The Acid Control Act of 2002 has been introduced to control the import, production, transportation, hoarding, sale and use of acid, and to provide treatment to victims of acid violence, rehabilitate them, and provide legal assistance. The act punishes the unlicensed production, import, transport, storage, sale and use of acid by a jail term of three to ten years and a fine of up to taka 50,000. It established the central government the licensing authority for import licenses and the deputy commissioner as the licensing authority for transport, storage, and seller and user license. The act also requires license holders to keep informational records relating to all acid use. The National Acid Control Council (NACC) and District Acid Control Committees (DACC) were established under this act.

Some important features of the two laws are:

- Establishment of a National Control Council Fund
- Establishment of a Rehabilitation Centre for victims of acid violence
- Treatment for victims of acid violence
- Provision of legal aid for victims of acid violence
- Locking up shops to prevent the sale of acid and banning transport engaged in carrying acid
- Temporary cancellation of acid selling licenses
- The creation of Acid Crime Tribunal in each district where the tribunals have exclusive jurisdiction over acid attacks regardless of the victim's sex

A Tribunal has to complete the whole trial within ninety days of receiving the first written instruction. Once a tribunal starts hearing a case, the hearing will continue every working day until it finishes.

Investigation of any crime under this act must be completed by a police officer within thirty days of being informed or being ordered by a magistrate.

Judgment in the absence of the criminal.

Power of the magistrate to take record of witnesses anywhere.

The defendant can appeal against a decision or order or punishment given by the tribunal to the High Court Division within sixty days of the date on which it is given.
Role of NACC and DACC

The NACC is chaired by the Home Minister and members include the Minister of Women and Children Affairs, secretaries from the Ministries of Commerce, Industry, Home Affairs, Health, Women and Children Affairs, members of civil society and professional associations representing acid-throwing industries such as the garment and jewelry industry. The Acid Control Act requires that the NACC:

- Institute policies relating to the trade of acid
- Enact policies to prevent the misuse of acid
- Enact policies to favor the treatment and rehabilitation of victims
- Adopt measures to raise public awareness of the dangers of acid
- Collect data regarding the use and misuse of acid
- Coordinate the work of the various ministries with respect to acid regulation
- Institute policies relating to proper acid waste management

District Committees are responsible for implementing the national guidelines and enacting local measures to further regulate acid.

The Acid Control Act mandates the creation of a NACC and district committee’s funds to conduct awareness raising campaigns on the negative effects of the misuse of acid and provide assistance to acid survivors for treatment, rehabilitation and legal aid.

Implementation of the laws

Even with such strict laws annual figures of reported incidents of acid violence remain high. According to a study done by ActionAid Bangladesh and C Idaho there are several reasons for prevalence of acid violence and low conviction rate. These reasons include:

- The victims are largely from the poor and the underprivileged and struggle for access to justice, while in the majority of cases the perpetrators are more influential and economically well off
- Lack of a separate, modernized Investigation Department with trained investigators in the police force and overburdened police are unable to carry out their investigation duties properly
- There is hardly any follow-up done on whether business are procuring licenses for the safe and trade of acid
- Many doctors are reluctant to come to court to provide evidence
- Lack of sufficient judges and judicial officers in the lower courts cause delays in hearings and cases are either not heard on time or remain pending
- Constant delays in trial dates frustrate the victim’s family and they often lose interest due to their inability to afford the costs of frequent travelling to the court
- Cases are filed but then the victim’s family lose interest due to threats from the perpetrators and their families

Another study prepared by Dr. Sumaiya Khat for ASF on “Towards Effective Prosecution of Acid-related Cases: The Feasibility of Establishing a Formal Monitoring Process” finds that impediments to effective prosecution of acid-related cases include:

- The existing legal process is too elaborate, time-consuming, and expensive
- Victims are often reluctant to report an offence and assist police officers in investigating a case thoroughly
- Lack of identification of the perpetrator
- Inadequacies in the First Information Report (FIR)
- Slack and flawed investigation
- Deficiencies in charge sheets and in framing of the charge
- Multiplicity of laws
- Ineffectiveness of summons and absence of witness
- Ambiguous or incorrect medical report
- Absence of formal protection for victim and witnesses
- Inefficient court management

Central Monitoring Cell

On July 4th, 2006 a seminar at IDB Bhaban on Justice Delayed Justice Denied - Role of State in Reducing Acid Violence" where ASF presented a Central Monitoring Cell to be established at the Police Headquarters. A Central Monitoring Cell was established to monitor acid-related cases. The reports from the police headquarters show that a large number of cases pending trial.

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Report of Acid Crime Control Monitoring Cell

To successfully eradicate acid violence in Bangladesh the government must address the availability of access and the impunity of perpetrators. ASF is continuing to work with the government, civil society, authorities, and policy makers to ensure implementation of the two laws and that the NACC and DACCs are active and functioning as per the mandate of the laws under which they were formed.
Survivors Support Network’s Planning and Review Meeting with Partners

ASF’s survivors support network works in collaboration with five NGOs at the grass root level to ‘strengthening psychosocial services for survivors of acid violence.’ The meeting with five partners of survivors support network was held at the ASF conference room in Dhaka on December 4th, 2011. Supported by UNICEF the program aims to increase access to quality psychosocial/psychotherapy services for survivors of acid violence and for children of other forms of violence, and enhance community responsiveness to prevent and protect acid violence and violence against children. Dr. Rebecca Milton, Head of Programs at ASF began the meeting by acknowledging the contributions of partner NGOs and thanking them for their support and dedication to prevent acid violence and protect victims of acid violence. Siddique Rashed, Manager of Survivors Support Network Unit talked about the strong commitment that

made it possible to carry on this work. He also said that through collaboration with partner NGOs it was possible to implement prevention, awareness raising campaigns, legal support, education support and community based rehabilitation support for survivors. School campaigns and community meetings have instigated efforts to eliminate acid violence at the community level. Through partner NGOs the program has successfully been able to raise awareness on acid violence, provide legal and educational support, provide psychosocial services at the community level, established community clinics, established information centre, provided training to community leaders and

government officials as part of their advanced course on Administration and Development (ACAD) from the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) visited ASF on December 7th 2011. A total of 27 officials included secretaries, assistant secretaries, directors, assistant directors, divisional commissioners, and district commissioners visited ASF. Executive Director of ASF Monira Rahman met with the officials to discuss the current situation of survivors of acid violence and discuss how to best meet survivor’s medical and rehabilitation needs.

Planning and review meeting at ASF board room

Government officials at ASF board room

provided life skill training to survivors. These activities will continue in the future. Executive Director of ASF, Monira Rahman concluded the meeting with a discussion on utilizing government funds that is allocated for acid survivors and the need to hold regular meetings with DACCS to ensure that the funds are properly utilized. She also stressed the need to put pressure on NACC. She also shared ASFs future strategic plan to provide training to survivors to act as survivors ambassadors in each district. These survivor ambassadors will establish survivors’ forums and she hopes that these forums will act as self help groups for survivors. She also thinks that the partner organizations will be able to provide support to these forums and she hopes that partner organizations will continue to work to help acid survivors in their districts. She urged the partner organizations to continue to carry on the good work they are doing in providing support to survivors of acid violence and she hopes that by working together acid violence will be eliminated from Bangladesh.

Government officials at ASF board room

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Joint Human Chain
by ASF and Prothom Alo to mark International Women’s Day held

Acid Survivors Foundation and Prothom Alo jointly organised a human chain on the street adjacent to road towards the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka city to observe the International Women’s Day on March 8, 2012. Acid survivors — both men and women — and children and noted personalities took part in the human chain. Taking part in the human chain, columnist Syed Abul Mozumad said the cruelty and ugliness of the acid violence overshadow other forms of repression in society. “It is important that the government enforces the laws to deal with the acid cases with iron hand, without any culture of impunity,” he insisted. ASF Chairperson Dr Iftekharuzzaman said the highest penalty for the acid throwers is death sentence. But thirty-two people who have so far been awarded with capital punishment are not executed till date, he pointed out. Prothom Alo Joint Editor Abdul Qayyum said the campaign launched by ASF and Prothom Alo reached even the remote villages. “As a result, the incidence of acid violence had declined significantly,” he added.

UK’s Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State for International Development Visit to ASF

UK’s Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development Stephen O’Brien along with the Country Representative of DFID Bangladesh Gwin Hines, will visit from DFID’s Human Development Department, Mark Low Head of DFID’s Corporate Business Unit in Bangladesh, and Naweed Chowdhury, DFID’s Social Development Advisor in Bangladesh visited ASF on Friday November 18th, 2011. They were accompanied by Monira Rahman the Executive Director of ASF. The delegation from DFID met with survivors, visited ASF’s hospital as well as ASF’s three income generating projects including catering, tailoring, and pressure garments production centre. DFID is currently providing funding to ASF through Manusher Jonne Foundation.

German
High Commissioner’s tea party.

On November 1st 2011 German High Commissioner’s wife, Ms Hilary Michael, organized a fund raising tea party at her residence. She arranged for selling various handicrafts and ornament items to raise money to help the Acid Survivors. The participants, many diplomats, important business persons and their family, had an wonderful social time at the ASF organised cultural performance by the survivors. Group song by the survivors and dance performance by Ibbie touched hearts of all involved. The event successfully raised BDT 5,00,000 (Five Lacs Taka) which was later donated by Ms Hilary and her coorganizers, Ms Claudia and Ms Joyce.

German High Commissioner selling various handicraft

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Survivors fight for their rights in seven districts

Acid survivors, from recent rallies and conferences in seven districts, called for ensuring public and private services to acid victims, creating massive public awareness to prevent violent acts of throwing acid and stop the use of acid as means of violence. Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) and its associate organisations, with assistance from Mosharaf Jannar Foundation, organised the rallies and conferences in Satkhira, Gabtangha, Jamalpur, Comilla, Mymensingh, Netrokona and Kishore. Deputy Commissioners (DCs), Superintendents of Police (SPs), Additional DCs, Additional SPs, Civil Surgeons, Deputy Directors of Social Welfare Department, Women Affairs Officers, representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and businessespeople, media professionals, local elites and many acid victims and their family members attended the gatherings.

Agragati Sanghatana Satkhira organised the conference of acid survivors of the district at Lipajala Parishad auditorium on February 23, 2012. DC of Satkhira Dr M Anowar Hossain inaugurated the function by releasing colourful balloons. He handed over an amount of Tk 30,000 for an assistance package offered by ASF to each of 20 acid survivors there to help them start income-generating activities. President of Agragati Sanghatana's Executive Director Abdus Sattar Bismaw, addressed the meeting. The meeting was also addressed by Vice Chairman of Tala Upazila Union: Sultana Pahid, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Satkhira Sheikh Nazrul Islam, Vice Chairman of Satkhira Sadar Upazila Shahjung, Parvin Mill, Jatiya Mahila Parishad President Reelat Amin and Manager (Survivor Support) of ASF Rubel Siddique. About 200 people including acid victims joined the gathering.

I enjoy attending various functions but the one organised for acid victims today made me feel very sad. I am extremely upset knowing that there are 150 acid victims in Satkhira. It is definitely not the responsibility of NGOs alone but a moral obligation of all of us to prevent acid violence in society.” — The Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira

Surrounding the gathering, the acid survivors are fighting for their rights in the seven districts.
Another regional conference of acid survivors, organised by BRAC Jamalpur, was held on February 29, 2012. The conference called for united movement against acid violence and made a pledge to stand by the side of the acid victims. A total of 65 acid victims joined the gathering. Seventeen of them were provided with cheques of assistance of Tk 30,000 each for undertaking income generating schemes. Held at the conference room of the DC, the meeting was chaired by BRAC district representative Golam Mohammad, DC Md. Sirajuddin Ahmed attended as chief guest. The conference was also addressed by Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department ASM Jalaluddin, Vice President of District unit of Awami League party Syed Afiqu Rahman Sana and District AL General Secretary Faruk Ahmed Chowdhury. Earlier, Additional District Magistrate AHM Kamal inaugurated a colourful rally from Doyanagi Ground in the district town.

Sabalamby Unnayan Samiti organised the conference of the acid survivors and rally in Natore District on March 14, 2012. DC (in-charge) Anwar Hossain Chowdhury addressed the conference as chief guest. Presided over by SP Joydev Kumar Bhadra, the meeting was also addressed by Civil Surgeon Shahid Udدين Ahmed, Sabalamby’s Executive Director Begum Rukaya, ASR Representative Tahmina Islam, Sabalamby’s Kohnar Begum, survivors Angura and Nurunnahar and local representatives of media organisations and elites of the town. As many as 29 men and women, who were victims of acid throwing on them, were given cheques of Tk 30,000 each to start income generating activities.
Member of Parliament from Comilla-6 constituency AKM Behuuddin Bashar inaugurated the conference of acid survivors in Comilla on March 18, 2012 with a slogan “Now is the Time to Resist”. DC Md. Reazul Ahsan led a colourful rally organised on the occasion that ended near Town Hall. At the gathering there, the DC handed over cheques of Tk 500,000 to each of six acid survivors to help them start a business. ASFT Trustee Board’s Treasurer Fazilatun Nessa dwelt on the allocation at the district level and said an amount of Tk 5,000 or Tk 10,000 was not adequate to ensure rehabilitation of the acid survivors. The DC announced that he would hold a meeting with the rich and philanthropists of the locality to raise funds for the acid victims. Instantly, District Jewellery Association donated Tk 20,000, advocate Jahanara Begum Tk 5,000 and advocate Shamima Akhter Tk 2,000 for the purpose. Among others, National Acid Council Comilla branch Member-Secretary and Assistant SP Illut Mish, Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department Farid Uddin Ahmed, Model Sadar UPO Ayasha Akhter, AID Comilla Executive Director Rekaya Begum Shaffi, Acid Violence Resistance Committee Comilla President Dilashki Monsoon and local elites were present at the function.

The day-long regional conference of the acid survivors of Mymensingh was organised by Brac district chapter on March 22, 2012. Jointly inaugurated by DC Lehman Hossain Miah and SP Golam Kibria, a rally brought out by the organisers paraded the main roads of the district town. At the thematic discussion, chaired by ASFT Programme Chief Dr Rebecca Milton, Additional DC (Revenue) Farid Ahmed spoke as chief guest. District Brac official Farhana Milty gave welcome address. Some 10 acid survivors were given cheques of Tk 30,000 each for starting income generating activities. AK Ahsan of ASFT moderated the discussion which was also addressed by Jewellery Association President Mallick Mohammad Hussain, Social Welfare Officer Fatemuzzohra, acid survivor Surya Akter Doloi, Deputy Civil Surgeon Sanib Kumar Chakraborty and Additional SP Abu Rahan. During the open discussion, acid victims raised various problems faced by them while filing cases. They sought cooperation from all concerned in this regard.
Campaign

to prevent acid violence

Acid Survivors Foundation launched a publicity campaign to make the country's masses especially students and youths aware about incidence of acid violence. As part of it, ASF organized a variety of programmes at 28 schools and baazars in Sathkhira, Gabashba, Jamalpur, Comilla, Mymensingh, netrakona and Khulna recently. Issues relating to emergency services required for acid victims, role of students in preventing such violence, existing laws to address acid violence and punitive measures stipulated in the laws were highlighted during the campaign. ASF pointed out its role in preventing and addressing the acid throwing incidents in society. An ASF-prepared drome "Chhlo" was displayed through multi-media projector to define reasons, context and consequence of acid violence in Bangladesh. Brac organized musical concert and street drama to despict acid violence. People of all walks of life including students and teachers shared their experience and expressed views during the open discussion. They pledged to work for acid survivors, especially for preventing acid violence, for ensuring primary healthcare for acid victims and rehabilitating the victims with due respect in society. The campaign was facilitated by Brac Jamalpur, Brac Gaurabdia, Brac Mymensingh, Jagoreto Juba Sangha Khalna, AIO Comilla, Agropol: Sangita Saktivena and Salabansby Urryanaan Sanity Netrokona.
An unexpected death! We are shell-shocked!

A dream embraces death as a life comes to halt. And a nation loses a young girl, promising until last minute. The victim is Mieranu Marifa, a brilliant mind at Chittagong University. Protecting sexual harassment by her classmate, she swallows poisonous acid. Fighting death for long she finally breathed her last on February 26. For a stigma, Marifa couldn’t win the struggle for existence of life. Such death is never unwanted to any of us. Let us take her sorrow and turn it into our strength.

Remembering Kakali Adhikary

On September 28th 2011 ASF lost a friend, a care giver, and a dedicated employee. Kakali Adhikary (42) worked at ASF as Operation Theatre- In Charge from 2001 till a few months before she passed away. She succumbed to her death after a long battle with cancer. Kakali has left behind her parents, her husband, brother and sisters. Kakali will be remembered for her work and her dedication remains an inspiration for all of us at ASF.

নর্তকী মৃত্যু: একটি অনন্য কাহিনী!

বন্ধুরা শোক করে…

কাকলী অধিকারি হানি মৃত্যু সংবাদটি পেলে শোক জাগিয়ে নেন। তিনি বন্ধুরা হানি মৃত্যুর কারণে শোক করেন।

নীরামুন মরিফা: অধিকারী মহিলার মৃত্যু

নিকট রাজ্য চিত্রাঙ্কন একাডেমীর সেরা শিক্ষক নীরামুন মরিফা মৃত্যু ঘটল। তিনি প্রখ্যাত মহিলা কলাকর্মী ছিলেন।

কাকলী অধিকারি: মৃত্যুর পর শোক

কাকলী অধিকারি মৃত্যুর পর শোকে নিজেদের মৃত্যুর পর হামলার জন্য চিন্তা করেন।