

REPORT ON

HOSPITAL CARE FOR 350 ACID
VICTIMS IN BANGLADESH (45128)

2024

JANUARY-MARCH





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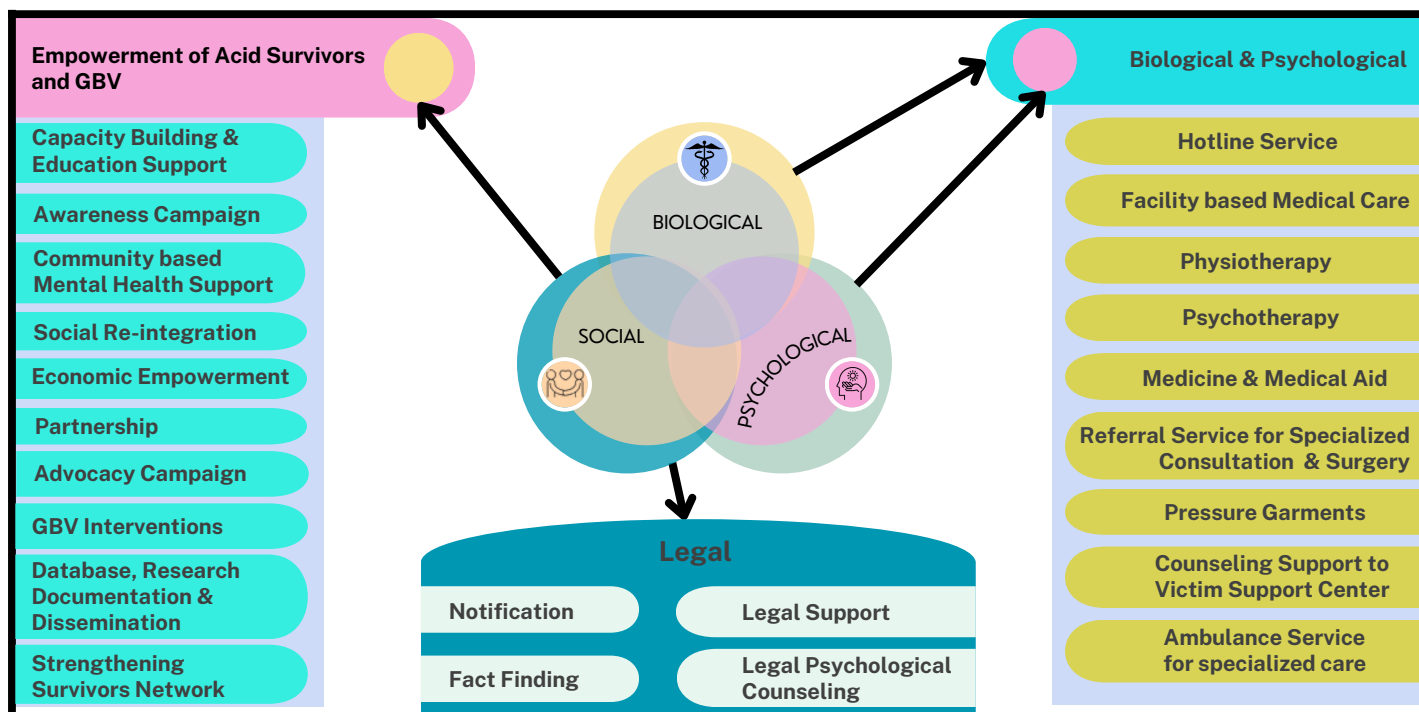
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INTRODUCTION

The Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to supporting survivors of acid attacks and preventing acid violence. Founded in 1999, Over the years the organization established itself as a specialized one-stop-service enter dedicated to the needs of the survivors and advocacy for elimination of acid violence. Utilizing a home-grown bio-psycho-social model, ASF offers comprehensive support services in free of cost to acid survivors, including medical treatment, psychological counseling, legal assistance, empowerment initiatives, awareness campaign, advocacy, and research. In this journey it has engaged government, relevant national, international NGOs, media, civil society forces, private sector, donors, and acid survivors.

BIO-PSYCHO-SOCIAL SERVICE MODEL





Leading with Vision, Inspiring Success

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to present this Report, showcasing our remarkable journey and accomplishments throughout the months. As the sole NGO in Bangladesh committed to preventing, addressing, and ultimately eradicating acid violence while safeguarding the rights of them, including men, women, and children, who have suffered from this abhorrent form of violence, ASF stands resolute. Our aspiration is to foster a Bangladesh free from acid violence, where victims, particularly women and children, can lead lives of dignity with peace and happiness.

Services designed in bio-psycho-social model to acid and other burn survivors such as medical consultation, psychotherapy, physiotherapy, medicine couriered, medical referral, tele-medicine service, surgery, medical aid, pressure garments and legal counseling from ASF are provided in timely manner and in perceptions of their needs. It is with immense pride that I reflect on the unwavering support of our valued donors and partners, the dedication and resilience of our team, and the positive impact we have made in the industry.

In the face of unprecedented challenges, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to excellence, donors' satisfaction. Our focus on delivering exceptional services, coupled with our agility in adapting to survivors needs, has been instrumental in our continued growth and success.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our talented team members who have consistently gone above and beyond to exceed expectations and drive our organization forward. Their unwavering passion, expertise, and commitment have been the bedrock of our achievements.

Furthermore, I would like to express my appreciation to our esteemed donors and partners for their trust and collaboration. Your valuable insights, feedback, and loyalty have propelled us to new heights, and we are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to your success.

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to our core values, fostering a culture of innovation, and delivering sustainable value to our stakeholders. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and confident in our ability to navigate the evolving landscape.

On behalf of the entire leadership team, I assure you that we will continue to prioritize transparency, integrity, and responsible growth in everything we do. Together, let us embrace the future with optimism and determination, knowing that our collective efforts will shape a brighter tomorrow.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and I invite you to delve into the following pages of this report to discover the milestones, achievements, and exciting prospects that define our organization.

Sincerely,

Sarder Jahangir Hossain

Executive Director
Acid Survivors Foundation



Acid Attack Statistics 2024 (Jan- March)

03

incidents

06

survivors



03

Causes



Family dispute/ Land Disputes/ Rejection of love proposal

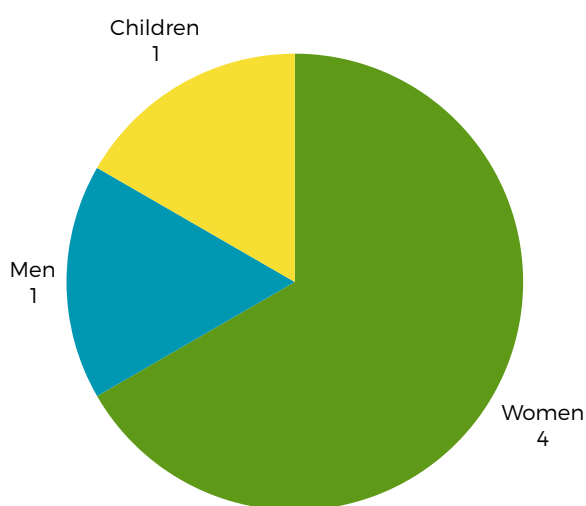


Fig.1: Sex Ratio

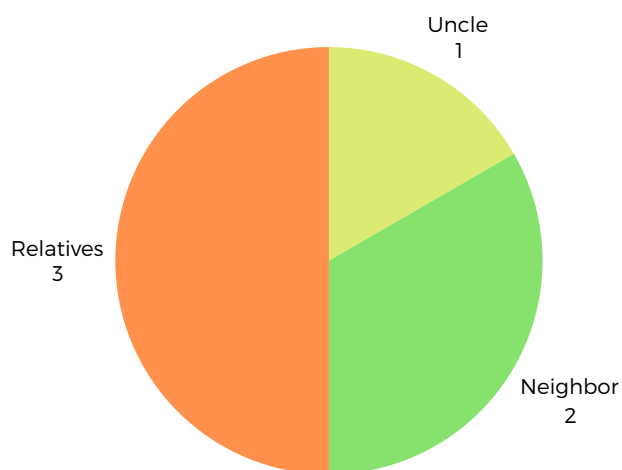


Fig.2: Perpetrators

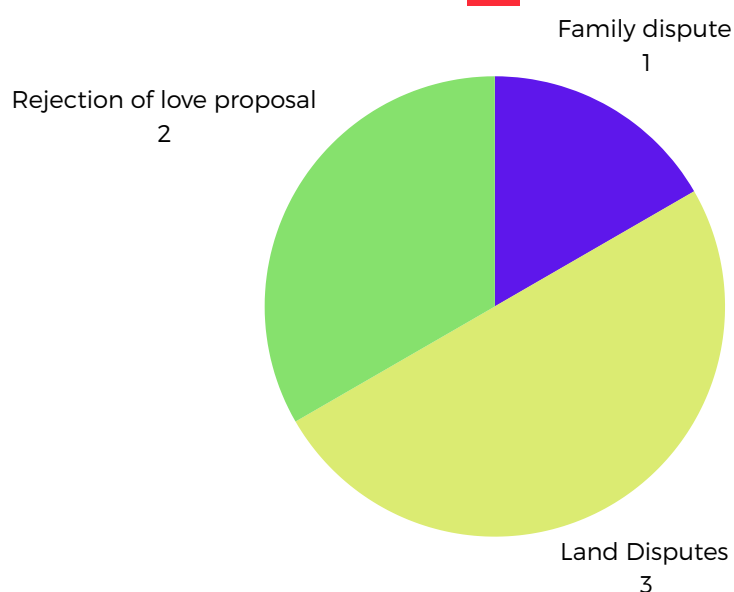


Fig.3: Causes



Completed Activities



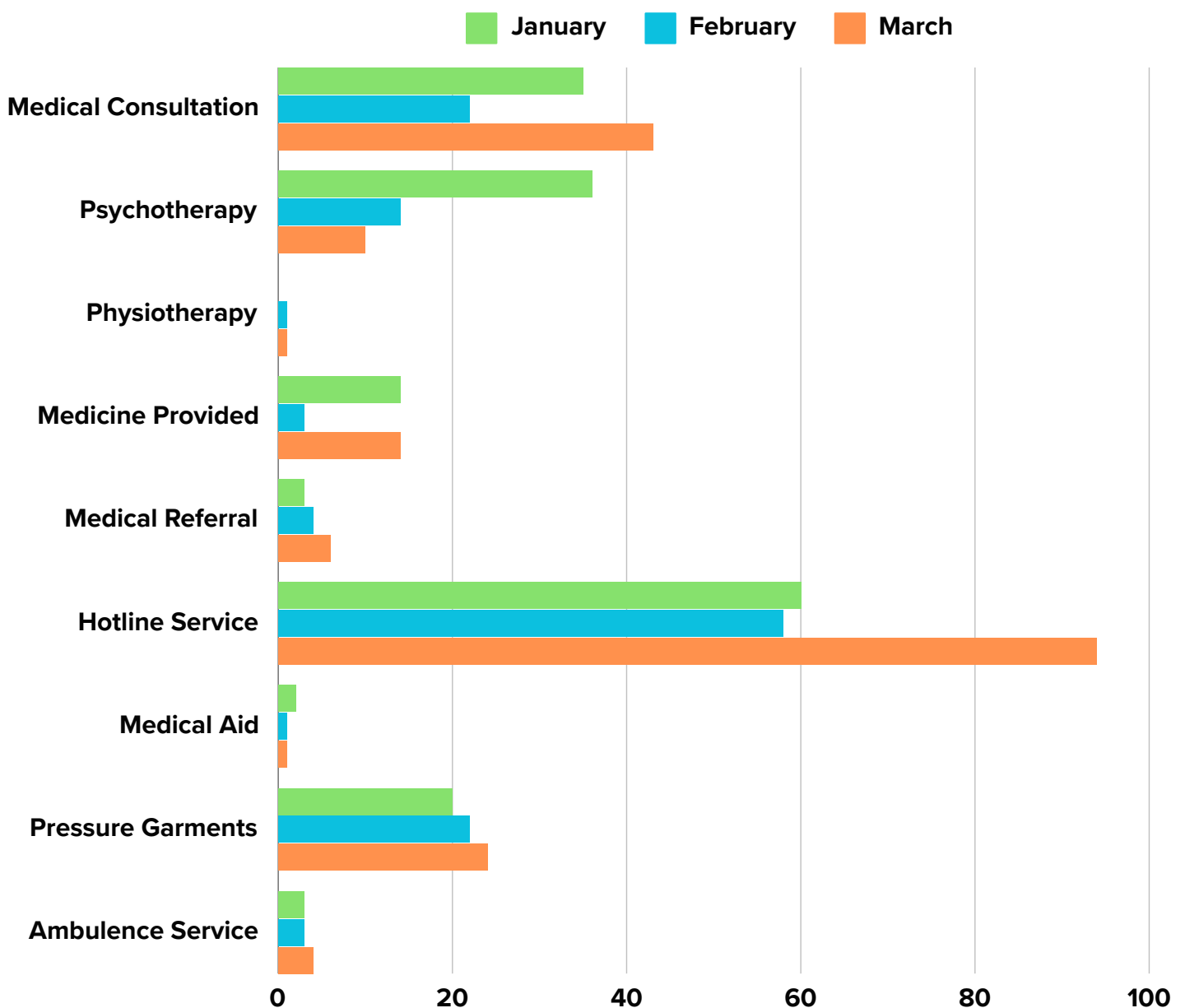
It is a process where the volume of activities grows concurrently with group effort.

Activity	Outcome
Medical Consultation(OPD)	100
Psychotherapy	60 29 in-person 31 E-counseling
Physiotherapy	2
Medicine Couriered	31
Medicine for OPD patients	83
Medical Referral	15
Hotline Service	212
Ambulance Service	10
Medical Aid	4
Pressure Garments	66



Services

Month-Over-Month





Medical Hotline



To prevent recurring complications caused by chemical burns, a total of 212 survivors sought medical advice through our hotline service. The services requested included the management of contractures, issues related to feeding tubes, and problems affecting burned eyes and ears.

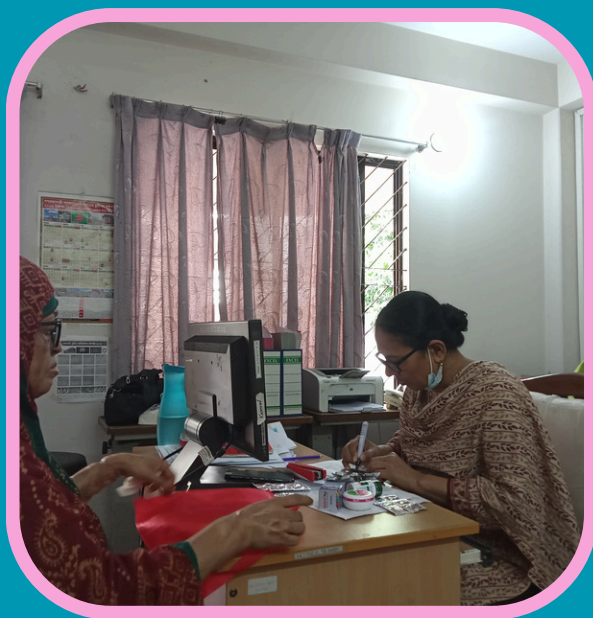
Direct Consultation (OPD)



Survivors received health consultations for recurring complications resulting from chemical burns, including contractures, ophthalmological issues, hearing difficulties, and infections. During the reporting period, a total of 100 survivor patients were served.



Medicine and Medical Aids



Medicine was provided to 114 patients. Among them, 83 received their medication in person from the ASF Service Center, along with a one-way transport allowance. The remaining 31 patients had their medication delivered via courier, as they were unable to visit the center due to reasons such as physical condition, distance, cost, or the lack of an attendant. Additionally, eyeglasses were provided to 4 patients, as their eyes had been damaged by acid burns.

Physiotherapy



Physiotherapy plays a crucial role in the recovery process for burn injuries. If not administered timely, it can lead to complications such as contractures, deformities, and subsequent disabilities.

In this period, 02 patients were treated as a referral service in the SP Hospital, utilizing a variety of techniques such as stretching, massage, and exercise to aid in their rehabilitation.



Psychotherapy



Acid violence has a profound and lasting impact on the mental health of survivors, who are at a heightened risk of developing depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Additionally, children exposed to violence and abuse are more likely to exhibit violent behavior as adults.

Psychotherapy services, including counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation for survivors and their families, have been proven to mitigate the negative psychological effects of violence and reduce the likelihood of re-victimization. In total, our psychotherapist served to 60 acid survivors, with 29 conducted in person and 31 through e-counseling.

Referral Care for specialized consultation and surgery



A total of 15 patients were referred to various hospitals for specialized advanced care, including the National Institute of Ophthalmology Hospital, Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital, Ispahani Islamia Eye Hospital, the National Institute of Mental Health & Hospital, Dhaka Medical College & Hospital.

Ambulance service to carry referral cases

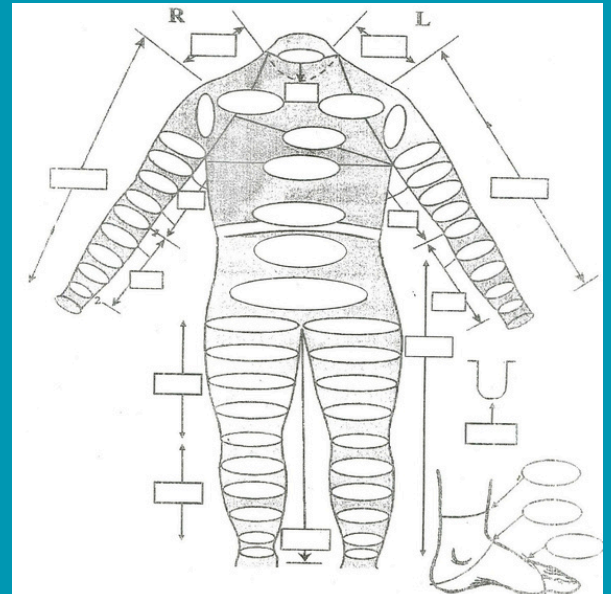


A total of 10 referred patients were provided with ambulance service to transport them to the hospital.



Pressure Garments

Pressure garments (PGs), also known as compression garments, are useful protecting components for burn injury management. These are specialized pieces of clothing made of elasticized fabric called Lycra. PGs are used for keeping the burn area tightly fitting in order to prevent the skin from scar formation and protect the skin from the development of contracture from the maturing scar and ensuing disability conditions.



The tightness of PGs has multiple benefits. It helps stop the itching associated with healing burns, provides support and protection for fragile skin, and reduces swelling, and relief from pain while promoting healing. They also help to reduce discomfort caused by burns. Additionally, they help improve the range of motion in burned areas by providing support during movement.

PGs are tailored to meet each survivor's specific needs based on the physician's advice. ASF operates two survivor-run pressure garment manufacturing unit in Dhaka Medical College & Hospital (DMCH), and another at the ASF Service Center. In the reporting period, ASF provided pressure garments to 66 survivors including 1 acid burn and 65 other burn survivors.



Pressure Garments Gallery





We Mourn

Mehruba Mukti

(Passed Away - 11th January 2024)



Mehruba Mukti, an acid survivor, on 11th January 2024, passed away while staying with her family in Portugal (Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilaihi Raziun). She was suffering from blood cancer since 2022. Her hometown is in Bogura. She served as Peer Counselor in Acid Survivors Foundation from 7th May, 2001 to 31st July, 2011. The ASF family is deeply shocked and saddened by her sudden death. ASF expresses deep condolences to her bereaved family.



RIMA KHATUN

DURDURIA, LALPUR, NATORE

19 DECEMBER 2023

A woman and her 4 years old niece became under acid attack

On the evening of December 19, 2023, at approximately 9:00 PM, Rima Khatun, a 23-year-old woman, tragically became the victim of an acid attack in Durduria, Lalpur, Natore. She was receiving medical treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, while her four-year-old niece, Maimuna Khatun, also sustained minor burns during the incident as she was present with Rima at the time.

Rima had filed for divorce from Mohammad Zia four months prior, citing his drug addiction and incarceration as reasons for the dissolution of their marriage. When Rima informed Zia of her decision to divorce him on that fateful day, he flew into a rage and maliciously threw acid at her.

Neighbors responded to Rima's screams and promptly transported her to Bagha Health Complex, from where she was later referred to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for further treatment.

In response to this horrific act, Rima's father took legal action by filing a case against the perpetrator at Lalpur Police Station. The Legal Officer of the Acid Survivors Foundation also intervened, initiating communication with the Officer-in-Charge of Lalpur Police Station. Reassuringly, the Officer-in-Charge confirmed that the investigation is progressing smoothly and that the perpetrator has been captured.



NAJMA BEGUM

Kaharul , Dinajpur

21 December 2023

Najma Begum, aged 41, went to Vennabari market in Kaharul, Dinajpur district, on December 21, 2023, around 6:30 PM. While there, she encountered her stepson, Rabbi, aged 20. As he approached, she noticed he was holding what appeared to be glass. Suddenly, Rabbi threw acid at her, causing Najma to shield her face. The perpetrator then fled the scene.

Immediately following the attack, Najma sought shelter in a shop within the market, where bystanders rushed to her aid by pouring water over her. Upon hearing of the incident, Najma's son Nahid swiftly transported her to Kaharul Health Complex. Subsequently, she was referred to Dinajpur Hospital where she received treatment for a duration of 10 days. Upon recommendation from medical professionals, Najma was advised to seek advanced care at Rangpur Medical College Hospital. A lawyer from Dinajpur Court reached out to BLAST- a civil society organization, who then referred the case to ASF. Following ASF's guidance, Najma was directed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital. With the invaluable assistance of ASF, Najma was admitted to DMCH on January 24, 2024, and remains under medical care there.

It has come to light that Najma's husband, Saiful, aged 45, had been issuing threats to her for several days. Notably, Najma is Saiful's second wife. Following their marriage, Saiful failed to provide any form of support or maintenance to Najma and their two children. At a certain juncture, Najma took legal action by filing a dowry case against her husband. Subsequently, Saiful intensified his threats towards her, culminating in the aforementioned incident as a revenge. They have filed a case in the court with the assistance of an Advocate of Dinajpur Court.



JANNATI

BORISHAL

26 JANUARY 2024

DARKEST NIGHT BECAME MORE DARKEST FOR THE CHILD JANNATI



On the darkest night of January 26, 2024, a one-and-a-half-year-old Jannati descended into even deeper darkest shadows. She, along with her father Riyaz (38) and mother Khadiza (20), was in sleep at their home in Borishal when suddenly, assailants hurled acid through their window, engulfing them in searing pain. The harrowing screams of the family drew the attention of neighbors, who rushed to their aid and transported them to Borishal Sher-e Bangla Medical College and Hospital for urgent care.

Riyaz revealed that they had been embroiled in a land dispute with a relative prior to the attack. Determined to seek justice, they are now preparing to file a case against the perpetrators. Authorities have launched an investigation into the incident while efforts to apprehend the fugitive culprits are underway.

In a glimmer of hope amidst the darkness, a representative from the ASF visited the survivors at the hospital, extending an advice to receive advanced treatment from Dhaka and remain connected with ASF for any support.



A new acid incident at Old Dhaka

DOHAR, DHAKA

11 DECEMBER 2023

In an incident on December 11, 2023, a woman in Dhaka was subjected to a public acid attack. The survivor alleged that the assailants intended to kill her due to a land dispute. Following the incident, a case was filed, but even after two weeks, the police had not managed to apprehend any of the three accused individuals.

The accused were identified as Raihan Mujib (25), Alamgir Hossain (47), and Ranu Begum (45). Raihan, who is the survivor's cousin, and his brother-in-law Alamgir were considered the main perpetrators in the case. Ranu, an acquaintance of the victim, was also implicated. All three individuals reside in the Dohar area of Dhaka.

Shakila Akhter

Satkhira

11 DECEMBER 2023

A New acid incident took place in Satkhira over land related disputes

At approximately 7 pm on January 29, 2024, Shakila Akhter, aged 28, became a victim of an acid attack in Satkhira, Bangladesh. The attack stemmed from a land dispute she had been embroiled in with her maternal uncle for several days prior. As she was returning home on the day of the incident, an assailant threw acid on her before fleeing the scene.

Shakila Akhter received medical treatment at Satkhira Sadar Hospital, while police investigations into the attack were underway. Recognizing the need for legal assistance, the Acid Survivors Foundation reached out to her and referred her case to the Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) for support.



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