

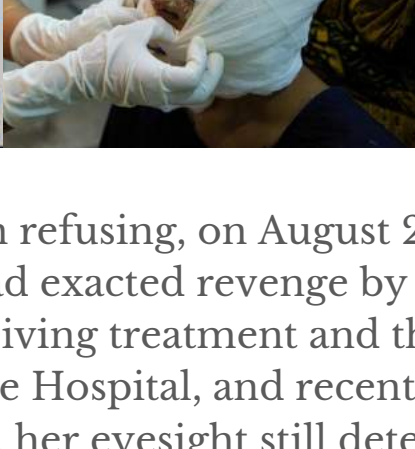


ACID SURVIVORS FOUNDATION

JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER



news



Survivor Moni determined to bring perpetrator to trial

Masuda Akhter Moni was a class 9 student when a local youth had approached her with an unwanted marriage

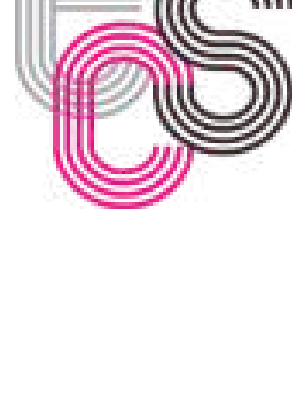
proposal. Upon refusing, on August 2012, the youth and three accomplices had exacted revenge by pouring acid on her. Even after receiving treatment and therapy at ASF, Rangpur Medical College Hospital, and recently at the National Institute of Ophthalmology, her eyesight still deteriorated due to severe acid burns. And even after four surgeries, Moni has yet to regain her vision due to the complicated nature of her injury. Amidst this ordeal, her community had blamed her for being "too extroverted" instead of supporting her and seeking justice.

After interventions by ASF, the perpetrators were caught 21 days later. While one of them received the death penalty in 2014, the main perpetrator was bailed out after only 2 years in jail. Although he has repeatedly requested Moni to settle the case outside of court, Moni is determined to bring her perpetrators to justice and face all challenges that come with it.



The UK Charity Service commits 120k GBD to ASF for 3 Years

The UK Charity service has committed to grant 120,000 GBD across 3 years to be used as unrestricted funds. The donation will be employed to offer medical and other associated services to acid-burn patients.



the Charity Service

service report



MEDICAL SERVICES

- Medical Advice (Physical & Hotline)
- Physio Advice
- Psychotherapy Counselling
- Referral

29 SURVIVORS

05 survivors offered telemedicine consultation and medicine via courier.

01 patient supplied with all the necessary equipment following the successful completion of an eye surgery at the Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital.

- Emergency Food & Medicine
- Social Welfare Fund

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Tk 3,800 distributed among 02 acid survivors for emergency food and medicine costs.

Tk 72,500 disbursed to 05 survivors as financial assistance from the Social Welfare Department of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College & Hospital. ASF nominated the survivors and assisted them with due diligence.

07 SURVIVORS

employee of the month

ASF driver breaking stereotypes

Khursheda Begum, better known by her nickname Khushi which translates to smiling in English, began working with ASF as a driver in 2003, transporting patients and doctors to and from hospitals. Her life had taken a drastic turn when her husband passed away, leaving behind three children for her to raise all alone.

In the days that followed, she endured incredible hardships as she struggled to make ends meet. Her first job paid only Tk 700, all of which she sent back to her family in Dhamrai, while she barely made it through each day. Later her boss offered to teach her driving so she could change to a better-paid job. In the face of strong opposition from her family, Khushi was determined to take the challenge and successfully landed her first job as a driver in Dhaka.

Her family cut her off completely because driving is considered a "man's profession", a dishonorable job for women. One day, while on duty, she returned to her home in Dhamrai, where her boss cleared up her family's and village's misconceptions about her. Following which everyone in the village wholeheartedly accepted and respected her.

"Women drivers face multiple obstacles in society because they often have to work at night, often under male supervision, which is considered disreputable", says Khushi. But she has broken down all barriers and hopes more women take up driving.

Khushi, always beaming with joy, is known for her resilience and strength in breaking down gender stereotypes and social barriers. ASF is inspired by her every day and lucky to have her on the team. Thank you Khushi.



survivor of the month

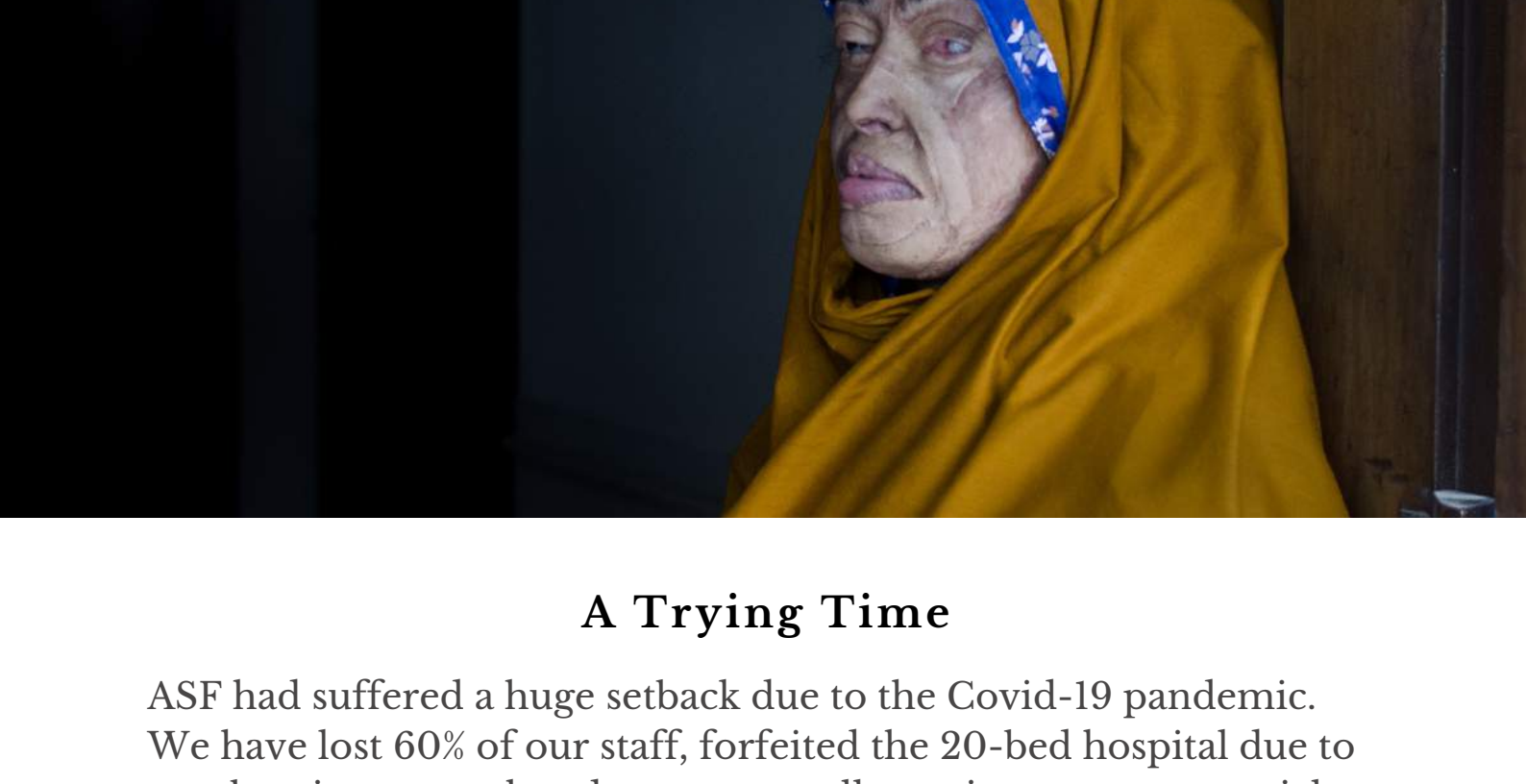
Survivor to surgical attendant: a story of perseverance and triumph

Lilima was only 8 years old when she was married off to a 45-year-old man. When prohibited from taking her into his house, in a fit of revenge, he had violently thrown acid at her. It was a whole day before Lilima was washed with water. As the acid washed away, so did her hair and her face was forever changed. 8 months of horrible treatment followed at Jessore, where Lilima would be constantly terror-stricken, screaming in pain as they brutally dressed her wounds.

With a semi-paralyzed father and four children, Lilima's family quickly became impoverished and was forced to return home, where she spent the next 15 years suffering from an infected ear, blindness, social ostracism, and depression. Some people expressed sympathy but most suggested she committed suicide to end her miserable life. But with a heart full of love, unwavering strength, and willpower, she slowly returned to society and later went on to tutor 45 children in Arabic.

In 2004, Lilima came to ASF, where she underwent 28 surgeries. Underestimated in the beginning, Lilima proved her diligence and perseverance, and worked as an intern at ASF. In 2009, she was appointed patient attendant and proved to be so devoted to her patients, they would request her presence at their surgeries because she gave them strength and hope.

32 years since that fateful incident, Lilima, now aged 40, hopes to keep working with ASF, providing all acid victims with peer-counselling, love, and kindness they so rightfully deserve. She is full of positivity and compassion and continues to be a beacon of hope and strength for all those around her.



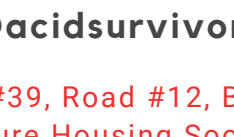
A Trying Time

ASF had suffered a huge setback due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We have lost 60% of our staff, forfeited the 20-bed hospital due to overbearing costs, shut down our small catering entrepreneurial business-Rosoi Ghor, run by survivors, and become limited in implementing our highly acclaimed biopsychosocial model due to a pandemic-induced financial crisis.

Despite all, the ASF team is determined to fight back and advance its mission to eradicate acid violence and uplift survivors in Bangladesh.

Help us spring back to full mode by donating to us!

DONATE



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