# Voice from Bangladesh

## Dr. Shahida Akhter

One month passed by since the acid victim girl has been fighting death with severe burn injuries on her head, face and other parts of the body. She is under intensive care in the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Her face, neck, eyes, arms, hands, parts of her back, stomach and legs are severely damaged. She cannot open her eyes and mouth, cannot speak, and cannot even eat anything. She is in deep trauma! Her condition is critical and her life is not out of danger.

The incident happened on 15 January 2013 inside a marriage registrar's office in the capital city of Dhaka, Bangladesh. The girl is 24 years, an honors final-year student at Eden College, Dhaka. A man, who proposed to marry her, forcibly took her to the marriage registrar's office. She refused to accept marriage proposal. The man became aggressive, and brought out a bottle of acid from his bag and poured it on the girl's head and face. He then stabbed her with a knife while she screamed in pain.

According to the statement of local people, the marriage registrar and the attacker's friend were present in the spot.

Owners and employees of several medicine shops near the place heard a girl screaming and then saw two men running away. The marriage registrar followed them shouting: "Catch, catch."

Within a few minutes, the girl came down the stairs from the first floor screaming with blood oozing out of her body. Local people called the police, who took the girl to the hospital.

Until now, the girl has gone through three surgeries and needs more.

The acid attacker has been arrested and under police custody. Unfortunately, in most cases of violence against women, police and the authorities concerned cannot take strict actions against the perpetrators.

There have been protests by the students of Eden College and men folk for exemplary punishment of the criminal. They also demanded state intervention for the proper treatment of the victim girl.

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