

Vow to resist acid attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A unique rally was held at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday where teachers, lawyers, businessmen, journalists, artists, and students -- all of them are males -- made a vow to resist acid attacks and expressed their solidarity with the campaign against acid violence.

Victims of acid violence also attended the rally and narrated their plights through drama, recitation and songs.

The Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) organised the rally to mark the International Women's Day.

Wearing white T-shirts and caps, carrying banners, festoons and placards and chanting slogans against acid violence, around 5,000 people converged on the Shaheed Minar and lit candles to raise social awareness.

Speakers at the rally called on the government to form a separate monitoring committee to keep the track of all criminal cases under the acid law.

The acid law came into effect in March 2002, but the retail sale of acid could not be contained as expected, they said.

Loopholes in investigations and the lack of coordination among the ministries concerned are creating obstacles to proper enforcement of the acid law, said Matiur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud said strict enforcement of the acid law and raising massive awareness are a must to curb acid violence.

Advocate Sigma Huda said



PHOTO: STAR

Victims of acid violence hold placards at a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. The Acid Survivors Foundation organised the rally to mark the International Women's Day.

99 percent of acid victims are women and girls, but men should come forward to stop such attacks.

Representatives from about 20 non-government organisations also joined the programme.

Cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar read out the keynote paper while Munira Rahman, executive director of ASF, conducted the

programme.

Founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, writer Anisul Huq, National Press Club President Reazuddin Ahmed, The Hunger Project Country Director Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, Trade Union Kendra General Secretary Dr Wajedul Islam Khan, drama-

tist Mamunur Rashid, artist Rafiqun Nabi, Group Theatre Federation President M Hamid, FBCCI Vice-President Dewan Sultan Ahmed and singers Ayub Bachchu, Fakir Alamgir, Shubhra Dev and Suja Islam were also present.

Black Eyes, a music band, Udichi and singers Shubhra Dev and Fakir Alamgir also performed at the programme.

1,171 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,171 people on various charges from different parts of the country in last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law-enforcers also recovered 11 firearms, one other weapon and 23 bullets.

UGC submits report to president

Bss, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said the government has undertaken extensive programmes for expansion and improvement of the education system.

He urged all to come forward to

ensure quality education.

The President said this when a seven-member delegation of the University Grants Commission (UGC) submitted its annual report-2004 at Bangabhaban.

UGC Chairman Prof Dr M Asaduzzaman led the team.

The delegation members apprised the President of their activities and highlighted the programmes of different government and private universities in the country.