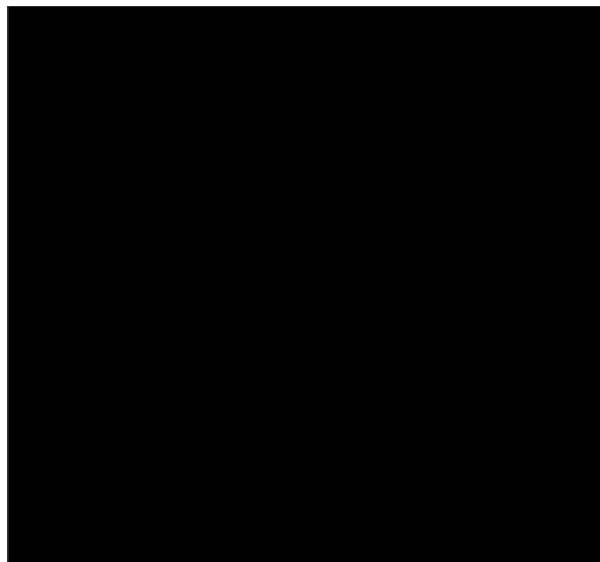


annual
report

*January 2000 -
March 2001*



BANGLADESH LEGAL AID AND SERVICES TRUST (BLAST)



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Published by

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Printed at

Mohanagar Printers Limited

81/1, Nayapaltan, Dhaka-1000

Phone: 8317617

Dhaka

February, 2002

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

1. Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust [BLAST] provides legal aid for establishing valid claims of and protection for the marginalized and the poor through the judicial system of the country. BLAST has now established 18 Unit Offices and 3 Legal Aid Clinics along with Head Office in Dhaka.

2. In the reporting period of January, 2001 to March, 2002 BLAST has received **6,003** complaints and **1,050** complaints were carried over from previous year, making a total of **7,053** complaints. During this period BLAST has initiated a total of **1,286** mediations and **543** have already been settled through mediation.

A total of **3,464** cases were filed in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and various District and Subordinate Courts of the country; **4,500** cases were carried over from the previous year, totaling **7,964** cases dealt with during this period of which **2,617** cases have already been decided and the remaining 5,347 cases are pending for disposal at various stages of the judicial process.

Out of these **3,464** new cases, **3,238** were filed by different Units during the period while the Head Office filed another **208** cases in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. The Head Office also filed **18** cases in districts in which BLAST does not yet have a Unit Office.

3. In the reporting period BLAST engaged total number of **936** lawyers from different parts of the country to litigate on behalf of its clients/beneficiaries.

4. Three Legal Aid Clinics in Gopibag, Mohammadpur in Dhaka city and Hathazari in Chittagong, have undertaken substantial legal literacy and awareness campaigns and arranged mediations of local disputes. In this period Legal Aid

Clinics dealt with **523** complaints, initiated **269** mediations and **155** complaints have already been settled through mediation.

5. BLAST has organized a number of training, workshops, and seminars for the practicing lawyers, human rights activists and others during the reporting period. 1 National Conference, 30 “experiences sharing” meetings, 4 Seminars, 1 Training Programme, 1 Press Conference, 5 In-house Meetings, 1 Open Dialogue, 12 Awareness Workshops and 12 Communication Building Network meetings were held under sponsorship of BLAST during the reporting period. A total of **2,695 participants** took part in these events. We would like to mention that the celebration of the 28th anniversary of the day, in which the nation, through the Constituent Assembly adopted, enacted and gave “to ourselves” the Constitution as the “Constitution Day.”

6. The Mediation Project of BLAST has initiated a total of **1,665** mediations during the period. Of these, **1,484** complaints have already been settled through mediation. The working areas of the project are Barisal, Khulna and Sylhet.

7. During the reporting period of the Public Interest Litigation project has dealt with a leading pollution case, a vagrant case, the Pirojpur bus accident case, a conviction of the children case, illegal shrimp cultivation case and so forth. A number of issues of public concern have been identified in consultation with a number of NGOs and are being prepared for undertaking appropriate legal actions.

8. The Legal Advocacy and Participation of the Civil Society Project has organised workshops, seminars and round table discussions, to facilitate public consultation with interested groups. This project publishes research papers on various aspects of the legislative process, i.e., during the reporting period LAPCS published a booklet in Bengali on the National Human Rights Commission.

9. During the reporting period, the Women Legal and Economic Rights (WLER) Project has received **444** complaints. Out of these **444** complaints; **106** complaints have already been settled through mediation and **79** cases were filed in the Labour court of Bangladesh. This project organized twelve awareness workshops, two experience exchange meetings and one open dialogue with fifty participants.

10. In dealing with **7,964** cases there were **7,964** direct beneficiaries of legal aid in litigation activities during the year, counting plaintiffs or defendants as beneficiaries. However, in most of these cases, the number of actual beneficiaries is much more than that has been mentioned as direct beneficiaries. For example: in a case for maintenance of a deserted wife, it is not only the plaintiff-wife who benefits but also her children, (in almost all of our maintenance cases children are also involved), her parents, who, in the absence of maintenance from her husband, bore the burden of her upkeep. Similarly, in a civil, criminal or writ case, the beneficiary recorded in our registrars may be one, but a successful outcome of the litigation directly and immediately benefits the whole family. In mediations, both sides are benefited.

More importantly, by enabling these beneficiaries to access the judicial system, BLAST is helping to foster rule of law in the country and that, ultimately, is the primary justification for BLAST's activities and programmes.

11. By directly involving elected office-bearers of 18 Bar Associations of the country through our Unit Offices, BLAST has succeeded in engaging the most important traditional lawyers' organisation in institutional legal aid activities.

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Since its inception in 1993 the goal of the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) has been to open up the judicial system to the disadvantaged in Bangladeshi society. Far beyond the need to “do good”, the ideology against which the legal aid work is carried out relies heavily on the principle of the rule of law, its importance in creating a social welfare system and its significance, in turn, in creating a strong democracy. In practical terms its function revolves around legal issues relating to the monitoring and upholding human rights, specifically with reference to the marginalised.

It is understood that an accessible judicial system is unfeasible for the disempowered since the state exempts only the “pauper” from cost of court fees and extends its legal aid and assistance only to criminal cases in which the accused may face a sentence of capital punishment. Apart from this, the complicated procedure for qualifying for the state legal aid system, recently set up to assist the poor, results in the meager 'legal aid' funds being returned to the national exchequer as “unspent”. It is against this background that BLAST is committed to providing legal aid and legal services for the poor.

Mode of Operation: The work of BLAST is carried out from its headquarters in Dhaka; six divisional headquarters; and twelve district units. There are also three legal aid clinics which not only operate as part of the process of making accessibility to law easy and unthreatening but also carry out some mediation work of their own and refer cases to headquarters. The importance of the “training of lawyers” for work in this

field, particularly with reference to mediation work, cannot be over emphasized.

It is encouraging to note that the statistics recording the work done at the divisional and district levels compare well with the Dhaka head office, which is more established and benefits from the experience of lawyers trained in this field. This is demonstrative of the fact that the principle of decentralized units can function effectively without constant monitoring. BLAST is fortunate to be able to draw from a pool of inspired and a hardworking team of lawyers and administrators, consequently, the success of the organization is a tribute to their vitality.

The **purpose of this report** is to evaluate the efficacy as well as the shortcomings of the organization in this period. While a solid, well planned work programme and a dedicated work force are essential for the success of any organization, the means for the realization of future plans, however, remain uncertain, as funding patterns continue to be a cause for continuous insecurity.

It is hoped that through a process of accountability and transparency this organization can continue to build up on the support of its well-wishers and sponsors.

Chapter 2

BLAST AT A GLANCE

This Chapter offers an overview of the organisation and its activities in a tabular form. Details of these activities are offered in Chapters 6 through 9 below. The overview is arranged under several heads, i.e., organisational profile, activities, networking and donor agencies.

2.1. Organisational Profile

Registration as a non-profit Trust	29 th May 1993
Registration with the NGO Affairs Bureau	19 th December 1993 Registration No. 786
Head Office	141/1 Segunbagicha, Dhaka – 1000 Phone: 8317185 and 934 9126 Fax: 9347107 e-mail: blast@bangla.net
Divisional Unit Offices [Six]	Barisal (1994) Chittagong (1994) Dhaka (1994) Khulna (1994) Rajshahi (1994) Sylhet (1995)

District Unit Offices [Twelve] <i>(in chronological order of establishment of the Unit Offices)</i>	Mymensingh (1995) Noakhali (1995) Jessore (1996) Rangpur (1996) Comilla (1996) Bogra (1998) Patuakhali (1998) Pabna (1999) Tangail (1999) Kushtia (1999) Dinajpur (2000) and Faridpur (2000)
Legal Aid Clinics [Three]	Gopibag & Mohammadpur, in Dhaka , Hathazari, in Chittagong.
PRIMARY ACTIVITIES	Free Legal Aid and Related Services
Projects [Four]	? Legal Advocacy and Participation of the Civil Society Project (LAPCS) ? Public Interest Litigation Project (PIL) ? Rural Mediation Project (RM) ? Women Worker's Legal Aid and Economic Rights Project (WELR)
Personnel	159
Engaged Lawyers	936

2.2 Activity Profile

ACTIVITIES	CLASSIFICATION OF THE PRIMARY ACTIVITY	NUMBER
COMPLAINTS	Received	
	Carried over from the previous year	6003
	Total	1050
		7053
CASES (filed, settled and pending)	In the Supreme Court	208
	In District and Subordinate Courts	3256
	Total Cases Filed in this period	3464
	Cases carried over from previous years	4500
	Total cases dealt with during the year	7964
	Cases settled during the year	2617
	In Favour	1073
	Against	182
	Defaulted	644
	Compromised	718
	Total cases pending at the end of the year	5347
MEDIATION (initiated, settled and pending)	At the Head Offices and 18 Unit Offices	
	Mediations Initiated	1286
	Disputes Settled	543
	Mediations Pending	743
	Mediations at the three Legal Aid Clinics	
	Mediations Initiated	269
	Disputes Settled	155
	Mediations Pending	114

	Mediation in rural areas under the Rural Mediation Project (RM)	
	Mediations Initiated	1665
	Disputes Settled	1484
	Mediations Pending	181
TRAINING	Training Programme for Prison Personnel of Bangladesh	
	Number of Courses	1
	Number of Participants	20
SEMINARS	Seminar	
	Number of Seminars	4
	Number of Participants	300
WORKSHOPS	Training Workshop	
	Number of Workshop	12
	Number of Participants	887
Experience Sharing Meeting	Number of Experience Sharing Meeting	30
	Number of Participants	605
In house Meeting, press conference and open dialogue	Number of Meeting	6
	Number of Participants	220
Network meeting	Number of Meeting	12
	Number of Participants	338
NATIONAL CONFERENCE	Constitution Day	1
	Number of Participants	100

It needs to be pointed out that training, conference, seminar and workshop were mostly organised by various Projects of BLAST. Hence, this report of the legal aid and services section of BLAST does not reflect the total dimension of these activities.

2.3 Networking Profile

BLAST recognises the importance of working with other organisations. A process of consultation, co-operation and liaison is crucial for carrying out the activities in a more effective and efficient manner. The following is a list of NGOs and other organisations with whom BLAST has participated in joint activities, arranging campaigns, training, seminars and other programmes during the reporting period:

- ✍ Ain-O-Salish Kendra (ASK)
- ✍ Assosiation Of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB)
- ✍ Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD)
- ✍ Bangladesh Bar Council
- ✍ Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA)
- ✍ Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA)
- ✍ Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA)
- ✍ Bangladesh Mohila Parishad
- ✍ Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha
- ✍ Bangladesh Society for Enforcement for Human Rights
- ✍ British Council
- ✍ Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
- ✍ Consumer Association of Bangladesh (CAB)
- ✍ Coordinating Council for Human Rights In Bangladesh (CCHRB)
- ✍ Department of Law, Chittagong University
- ✍ Department of Law, Dhaka University
- ✍ Department of Women's Affairs, GOB
- ✍ Department of Environment, GOB

- ✍ Disaster Forum
- ✍ District Bar Associations of several districts
- ✍ FORUM - ASIA
- ✍ Institutional Development of Human Rights in Bangladesh
- ✍ Jatiya Ainjibi Parishad
- ✍ Legal Awareness Forum (LAF)
- ✍ Madaripur Legal Aid Association (MLAA)
- ✍ Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
- ✍ National School of Law, University, Bangalore
- ✍ Nijera Kori
- ✍ Nova Consultancy
- ✍ NOVIB
- ✍ Odhikar
- ✍ Penal Reform International (PRI)
- ✍ Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit
- ✍ Save The Children (UK)
- ✍ Sommilita Nari Samaj
- ✍ The Asia Foundation

2.4 Donor Agencies

Legal aid, understandably, is not an income generating activity. Our ability to provide legal aid to the poor and the disadvantaged is dependent on the financial support of partner organisations. During the reporting period, we have received funding support for our legal aid and services and various projects from the following organisations:

- ✍ The Ford Foundation
- ✍ The Asia Foundation
- ✍ USAID
- ✍ NOVIB

Chapter 3

OBJECTIVES

The Main Objectives of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) are:

1. To ensure that the operation of the legal system promotes access to justice; to provide, in particular, free legal aid by suitable schemes; to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen or person by reasons of economic or other disabilities;
2. To administer a Trust Fund in order to establish and maintain legal aid and services Units, to be supported by the grants from BLAST;
3. To establish legal aid or assistance and human rights protection Units in Bar Associations and in different localities of the country, including rural areas;
4. To conduct special training programmes and courses for lawyers and others; and
5. To co-ordinate work of such Units with other bodies including NGOs working in related fields.

Chapter 4

BALANCE SHEET

Balance Sheet as January 2000 to March 2001

Particulars	Free Legal Aid and Socio Legal Services Project	Public Interest Litigation Project	Rural Mediation Project	Women Legal and Economic Rights Project	Legal Advocacy and Participation of the Civil Society
	<u>Taka</u>	<u>Taka</u>	<u>Taka</u>	<u>Taka</u>	<u>Taka</u>
A. Fixed Assets	1,725,442	53,206	121,713	24,092	283,413
B. Current Assets:	8,538,001	-	-	-	-
Advance	30,908	-	-	-	-
Cash in hand	11,027	-	-	-	-
Cash at Bank	8,496,066	-	-	-	-
Current Liabilities:	7,698,064	-	-	-	-
Liabilities for expenses	7,697,814	-	-	-	-
Loan received from Coordinator (Jessore unit)	250	-	-	-	-
Net Current Assets (B-C)	839,937	-	-	-	-
E. (A+D)	2,565,379	53,206	121,713	24,092	283,413
Financed by :					
Locally raised contribution fund	2,948,304				
Fund Account Opening	(382,925)	53,206	121,714	24,092	283,413
Excess /Shortage of income over expenditure	8,420,824	600,307	996,025	(65,192)	1,104,933
Less: Transfer to locally raised contribution fund	(8,803,748)	(472,403)	(694,662)	111,720	(756,486)
Less: Grant Refunded	-	(74,698)	(179,650)	(22,435)	(65,033)
	2,565,379	53,206	121,713	24,092	283,413

Chapter 5

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF BLAST

5.1. Formation

At the national conference of lawyers held in 1992 under the auspices of the Bangladesh Bar Council, the idea of establishing an organisation for providing legal aid and its proposed structure was mooted. Later, in pursuance of this idea, certain steps were taken for establishing a legal aid organisation as a non-profit Trust under the name of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust and the same was incorporated on the 29th May, 1993 with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies of the Government of Bangladesh as a company limited by guarantee. Later, BLAST was registered as an NGO with the NGO Affairs Bureau on 19.12.1993 with registration No. 786.

5.2. Board of Trustees

The Founder Members of the Board of Trustees were:

01. Mr. Sheikh Razzaque Ali
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Former Speaker of Parliament
02. Mr. Aminul Huq (late)
Former Attorney General of Bangladesh
03. Mr. Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Advisor to the Caretaker Government (1996)
04. Dr. Kamal Hossain
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Former Minister of Law and Foreign Affairs
05. Mr. M. Amir-ul Islam
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Vice Chairman, Bangladesh Bar Council
06. Ms. Salma Sobhan
Executive Director, Ain-O-Shalish Kendra

07. Mr. Abdul Muntaquim Chaudhury
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

According to the Articles of Association of BLAST, the Chief Justice of Bangladesh nominated two more Trustees:

08. Mr. Justice A. K. M Sadeque (retired)
Supreme Court of Bangladesh

09. Mr. Justice Naimuddin Ahmed (retired)
Member, Law Commission of Bangladesh

The Board of Trustees in its first meeting co-opted two more Trustees under Article 8 of the Articles of Association of BLAST:

10. Mr. Fazlul Huq
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, and
Secretary, Madaripur Legal Aid Association

11. Ms. Sigma Huda
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, and
Secretary General, Bangladesh Society for
Enforcement of Human Rights.

BLASTees unanimously elected Dr. Kamal Hossain and Mr. Justice Naimuddin Ahmed as the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of BLAST, respectively. Mr. Fazlul Huq has been the Executive Director of BLAST since 1995.

5.3. Head Office and Unit Offices

In 1994, the Head Office of BLAST was established in Dhaka followed by five divisional Unit Offices in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Barisal. In 1995 BLAST expanded its activities by establishing a divisional Unit Office in Sylhet. Thus, by 1995, BLAST had established Unit Offices in all the six divisional headquarters of the country. Thereafter, it was decided to expand the activities of BLAST by gradually establishing one district unit office in each of the divisions, except Sylhet which was the smallest division and did not contain any of the 'old' districts.

In 1995 the first two district units were established in Mymensingh and Noakhali. Three district Unit Offices in

Jessore, Rangpur and Comilla were then established in 1996 to further realise BLAST's nation wide objectives. In 1997 two more Unit Offices were established in Bogra and Patuakhali. In 1999 another 3 Unit Offices were established in Pabna, Tangail and Kushtia. In the year 2000 two(2) Unit Offices established in Dinajpur and Faridpur as part of BLAST's target of reaching all the 19 'old' districts. In addition to the Head Office, BLAST now has 18 Unit Offices.

The addresses of the Unit Offices of BLAST are given in the BLAST directory at the end of this document.

BLAST endeavours to establish its Unit Offices in the respective district court premises and has succeeded in locating most of the Unit Offices in the Bar Association Buildings of the respective district courts. Such location certainly facilitates better liaison with the engaged lawyers and hence better services for the clients. Besides, it also helps co-ordination between the personnel of the Units and the Management Committees, all of whom are advocates and hence spent most of their working hours in court premises. It needs to be recognised that the local Bar Associations have been instrumental in arranging office spaces for BLAST in court premises. In fact BLAST is the only organisation with offices in the Bar Association buildings within the court premises.

5.4. Management of the Unit Offices

The Unit Offices of BLAST have been functioning under the supervision of respective Management Committees. The Presidents and the Secretaries of the respective Bar Associations of the last three years are ex-officio members of the Management Committees of the Unit Offices. These elected Presidents and Secretaries of the local Bar Association, in turn, select and induct another three to five prominent members of the local bar, including representatives of the minority communities and women lawyers, into the Management Committee. The Management Committees, thus, are comprised of well known, respected and prominent members of the local Bar Associations who are also leaders of the Bar as indicated by

the fact they are or were elected Presidents and Secretaries of their respective Bars.

The Management Committee then selects one of its members as the President and another as the Vice President of the Committee. The President and the Vice President, along with the Co-ordinator of the Unit are the joint signatories for all the expenses of the Unit.

BLAST conducts its cases through a panel of lawyers selected by the Unit Management Committees. The fees for the lawyers and other expenses are paid per case, as sanctioned in the budget.

The selection of the panel lawyers are the responsibilities of the Management Committees for the respective Units. Management Committees, comprising of the leaders of the Bar, are best situated to judge the merit and expertise of local lawyers which would be an almost impossible task for the Head Office from Dhaka to perform. The list of panel lawyers, updated periodically, is approved by the Head Office.

5.5. Personnel

At the end of March 2001, a total of one hundred and fifty nine (159) persons were working for BLAST. Most of the personnel were engaged full time, though a small number, particularly for the Projects based at the Head Office, were also contracted on part-time arrangements.

The Head Office is responsible for the over-all supervision of the activities of BLAST (Unit Offices, Projects and Law Clinics) as well as litigation in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Besides, liaison with various NGOs, GoB agencies and institutions, national human rights movements and campaigns, participation in policy forums and other related activities are undertaken by the Head Office. Administrative and accounts personnel are based at the Head Office. The following personnel were based at the Head Office until March 31, 2001:

Table 1

Legal Aid and Services: Head Office Personnel
(Administration, Accounts, Legal Affairs)

Position	Numbers
Executive Director	1
Advisor	1
Legal Advisor	1
Sr. Assistant Director (Legal)	1
Assistant Director (Admn & Accounts)	2
Secretary to BLAST	1
Staff Lawyer	4
Junior Staff Lawyer	1
Junior Evaluation and Monitoring Officer	1
Junior Evaluation and Monitoring Lawyer	1
Junior Administrative Officer	1
Media Officer	1
Information Technology Officer	3
Accountant	2
Assistant Accountant	2
Documentation Officer	1
Administrative Assistant	2
Paralegal	1
Store In charge	1
Court Clerk	1
Vehicle Operator	1
Messenger	5
Total	35

The major functions of the Head Office include filing of cases in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and in those districts where BLAST does not yet have a Unit Offices; supervision and management of the Unit Offices (court cases, personnel and accounts), Projects and Legal Aid Clinics and maintaining the accounts of BLAST. In addition, arranging seminars, workshops and conferences, networking with national and international bodies and institutions and participation in their activities, raising funds for the activities of BLAST, organising

training and staff development are the other major functions of the Head Office performed by the above personnel. Recruitment of personnel for the Head Office and the Unit Offices are also done from Dhaka.

Table 2

Unit Office Personnel [Division (6), District (12)]

Position	Number		
	Division (6 Units)	District (12 Units)	Total
Co-ordinator	6	12	18
Staff Lawyer	1	0	1
Junior Staff Lawyer	6	0	6
Para Legal	0	3	3
Accountant	6	0	6
Office Assistant	6	0	6
Accountant-paralegal- Office Assistant	0	12	12
Messenger	6	12	18
Total	37	51	70

Co-ordinator of the Unit Office is the person responsible for the activities of the Unit who works under the supervision of the respective Management Committee. Until the beginning of the 1999, the Divisional Unit Offices had four personnel and the District Unit Office had three. With the increased workload, including the increasing number of pending cases filed in previous years, one staff lawyer was appointed to the Dhaka Unit Office while the personnel of the other Divisional Unit Offices were increased by a junior staff lawyer in each Unit. The para-legal personnel were appointed to the three District Unit Offices with the highest case load. As a result of the 'affirmative action' programme to increase women personnel at the Unit Office, BLAST all junior staff lawyers and para-legals appointed in 1999 and one coordinator in 2000 were women.

Table 3
Legal Aid Clinics Personnel (3 Clinics)

Position	Numbers
Trainee Advisor (part time)	3
Trainee (part time)	9
Messenger (part time)	3
Total	15

Table 4
Rural Mediation Project (RM) Personnel (Head Office and 3 Rural Offices)

Position	Numbers
Co-ordinator (Head Office)	1
Office Assistant (Head Office)	1
Messenger (Head Office)	1
Mediation Supervisor (Rural Office)	3
Mediation Worker (Rural Office)	15
Messenger (Rural Office)	2
Total	23

Mediation is undertaken at three types of sites. First, on many occasions, particularly in family disputes, applicants for legal aid at the Unit Offices are asked whether they would like to have their disputes settled through mediation or at least are willing to try mediation as a way to resolve the dispute, before filing a court case. It has been our experience that most of those who approach us for legal aid for court cases do so after exhausting all other avenues for resolving disputes, including mediation. Nevertheless, occasionally disputes are resolved through mediation and, thus, filings of court cases are avoided.

Secondly, the three legal aid clinics (two in Dhaka city and one in Hathazari thana of Chittagong, near to the Chittagong University) attempt to resolve disputes primarily through mediation.

Thirdly, the Rural Mediation Project (RM), in **six** thanas of the districts of Barisal, Khulna and Sylhet has engaged mediation supervisors and mediation workers to resolve local

dispute in these areas. The Rural Mediation Project has extensively trained its mediation supervisors and mediation workers at Madaripur Legal Aid Association (MLAA). BLAST follows the Madaripur Model of Mediation (MMM) for resolving disputes in the Rural Mediation Project Area. Besides, legal literacy, awareness and mediation techniques training are major component of activities of the Rural Mediation Project. (See chapter 9 below). This project ended its activities in January, 2001.

The activities of the Rural Mediation Project are detailed in a separate Project Report.

Table 5
Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Project Personnel

Position	Numbers
Staff lawyer	2
Junior Staff Lawyer	1
Research Associate	1
Total	4

Table 6
Legal Advocacy and Participation of the Civil Society (LAPCS)
Project Personnel

Position	Numbers
Senior Research Lawyer	1
Junior Research Lawyer	2
Accountant (part time)	1
Office Assistant	1
Computer Operator	1
Messenger	1
Total	7

This Project was initiated in mid-1997 to interact with the legislative process by infusing participation of the civil society in the law making process. The primary goal of the Project is to scrutinise proposed and current laws, suggest law reform and for these broaden the participation of the various sectors and segments of the civil society in the law making process.

The Project had undertaken a good number of research into laws of public importance such as the proposed Human Rights Commission Bill, amendments of the Ombudsman Act, the proposed Labour Code, Nari O Shishu Nirtanan Ain, laws relating to election, particularly election expenses, the Public Safety Bill and published numerous booklets on these and other issues. The Project has held a good number of workshops and seminars in Dhaka and different districts outside Dhaka in widen public interest and stake in the law making process. The legislative process itself and the right to information were other areas of intervention by the Project. Due to funding constraint, the scale of this Project has been drastically reduced from mid-1999. Again, similar to other Projects, details of the activities and successes of this Project are contained in the Annual and other periodic reports of the Project.

The Rural Mediation Project (RM), Public Interest Litigation Project (PIL) and the Legislative Advocacy and Participation of the Civil Society Project (LAPCS) were all funded by the Democracy Partnership Programme of the USAID through the Asia Foundation. All of these projects except Medaition Project winded up in the year 2000.

Table 7
Women Workers Economic and Legal Rights (WELR) Project
Personnel

Position	Numbers
Project Lawyer (part time)	1
Junior Staff Lawyer	1
Field Assistant (part time)	1
Accountant (part time)	1
Total	4

This Project, initiated in 1997, primarily provides legal aid in Labour Cases to the female garment workers. It is worth noting that before the intervention of this Project and by Bangladesh Independent Garment Workers Union Federation (BIGWF), there were hardly any case in the Labour courts in which the claimant were a female garment worker. Over the last three years, this Project has filed almost 300 cases in the

Labour Courts (this number is not included in the total number of cases reported in this Annual Report since activities of Projects are only summarised and not detailed in this Report). The Project has been arranging regular legal literacy and awareness campaigns on labour rights – both legal and economic – among garment workers, published and distributed leaflets and posters on relevant rights and laws and held workshops and seminars on various aspects of our labour laws. This Project has also forged meaningful working relations with a number of labour unions and federations.

This Project, in certain ways partakes in the legal aid activities of BLAST as it offers legal aid to a particular group of vulnerable people, i.e., female garment workers. However, as mentioned, in addition to legal aid, the Project has undertaken extensive activities in terms of awareness campaign on labour rights.

This Project was funded by The Asia Foundation and wended up in December 31, 2000.

Table 8
Consolidated Personnel of all Projects

Name of the project		Total	Gender		Profession	
			Male	Female	Lawyer	Others ¹
Legal Aid and Services	Head Office	35	24	11	10	25
	Unit Offices	70	59	11	28	42
	Legal Aid Clinics	15	10	5	3	12
Public Interest Litigation Project (PIL)		4	2	2	3	1
Legislative Advocacy Project (LAPCS)		7	4	3	3	4
Women Workers Right Project (WELR)		4	3	1	2	2
Oil and Gas Project		1	1	0	0	1
Rural Mediation Project	Head Office	3	2	1	0	3
	Unit Office	20	18	2	1	19
Total		159	123	36	50	109

¹ These include Accounts, Administration, Management, Technical and Support staff.

It is recognised that the male: female ratio of personnel at BLAST is skewed towards a preponderance of male workers. This is largely due to the fact that the legal profession is still predominately a 'male profession'. Also, the location of our Unit Offices in court premises acts as a disincentive for female personnel as the number of female lawyers in district courts are also negligible. This paucity of women lawyers is also reflected in the fact that only around 10% of all the judges of the District Courts are women and our Supreme Court has only one woman Judge. The Supreme Court has around 40 Judges.

Last year we launched a vigorous campaign to induct women personnel in BLAST. As a result, 5 Junior Lawyers and 3 para legals, all of whom are women, have been recruited for Unit Offices. In the year 2000 we have recruited one female coordinator for Dinajpur Unit Office.

At the management level at the Head Office, except the Executive Director, the other four who constitute the upper echelon of management of BLAST (Senior Assistant Director for Legal Affairs, Assistant Director for Administration, Assistant Director for Accounts and the Secretary to BLAST—BLAST does not have a Director yet) are women.

More importantly, for panel lawyers we have reduced the threshold requirement of practising experience of 5 years to 3 years for women lawyers to facilitate participation of women lawyers of District Courts to take up our legal aid cases and the response have been encouraging.

Thus, during this reporting period, BLAST has continued steps to increase the proportion of women personnel in various offices and projects.

5.6. The Library

Considering the need for easy access to legal text, precedents and references both for litigation and research purpose, BLAST has been building up a law library since its inception. By gradually expanding the library facilities it is hoped that not only can the access to law for lawyers be quick but also the

training of staff can be done on an in-house basis. Borrowing facilities for other organisations, particularly with which BLAST has a working relationship, are intended to open up information with greater effectiveness as these institutions, generally speaking, aim to meet common goals.

The BLAST library now subscribes or regularly acquires the following reports:

Table 9: Case Reports and other Serial Publications

Title	Volume	Year
A.I.R.	57-85	1970-2000
A.I.R. Manual	1 – 45 (Except 37, 38)	
B.L.C.	1-5	1996-2000
B.L.D.	I -20	1981-2000
B.L.T.	1-6	1993-1998
Bangladesh Code	I to XI	1836-1938
Bangladesh Gazette	I to XXIX	1972-2000
D.L.R.	I-52	1949 –2000
M.L.R.	1-4	1996-1999
P.L.D.		1975-2000
P.S.C.	Per Year 2	1983-2000
P.S.C. Cr.	Per Year 2	1992-2000
S.C.C.		1980-2000
Pakistan Code	1-21	1836-1988
East Pakistan Code	1-8	1870-1965
50 Years Digest		1901-1965
Quinquennial Digest		1966-1980

A number of other Digests and References, Journals, periodicals and newspapers are also subscribed or regularly procured. Over the last five years law, social sciences and other relevant books have been purchased regularly. As a result, as the table below indicates, more than 4437 separate books have already been purchased or procured for the library.

Table 10: Collected Journals

Title	Volume	Year
Annual Survey of Indian Law	25-34	1990-1998
Bangladesh Journal of Law	1-2	1997-1998
Bangladesh Development Studies	18-25	1990-1997
BIDS Journal		1988-1997 (Except ' 91,' 92)
BISS Journal	1-19	1980-1998 (Except 1987)

Bangladesh Unnayan Samikhhka	5-15	
Delhi Law Review	12-19	1990-1997
Indian Economic & Social History Review	2,3,10,5-17,19-37	1965-66,1968-80,1982-2000
Indian Journal of International Law		1998-1999
Indian Journal of Gender Studies	1-7	1994-2000
Journal of Indian Law Institute	3,5-17,22-26,29,33-39	1961, '63-75, 80-99 (Except 82, 85, 87-90)
Journal of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh	42-44	1996-1999
Journal of Social Studies	3-19 (Except 14)	1981-1997 (Except 92)
Samaj Nirikhon	51-67	1994-1998
Moor' s Indian Apples	1-14	1836-1872
Natinal Law School Journal	1-6	1989-1996
Studies in History	1-14	1985-1998

Table 11: Subject classification of Books at BLAST Library

Subject	Titles
ACT	112
Computer	58
Development, Poverty & Economics	305
Dictionary	53
Environment	178
History , Geography & Literature	270
Human Rights	246
Law	1417
Library Science	45
Others	117
Politics	150
Refugees	57
Sociology & Philosophy	82
Statistics	30
Women & Children	245
Total	3365
Table –09	875
Table –10	197
Total no of Books in Library	4437

The Unit Offices are also supplied with essential law books and case reports. It needs to be mentioned that a good number of books have been donated to BLAST by the Asia Foundation.

The BLAST Head Office Library has been computerised and all the books, reports, journals, periodicals and other publications are now computer programmed for easy access and search.

It needs to be mentioned that for a rapidly growing organisation such as BLAST, the institutional structure are sometimes fluid as demands for new activities necessitate addition or reorganisation. Also accumulated experience and internal reviews also suggest changes in the institutional frameworks and structure to meet the emerging needs and challenges. In light of the above, guidelines for Unit Management Committees were amended by the Board of Trustees and Service Rules were finalised with the help of our auditors. It is recognised that frequent changes in the institutional structures are detrimental to steady growth. Nevertheless, absence of capacity to respond to changing needs and demands stifles the growth potential of any organisation. These two considerations guided our institutional changes during the reporting period.

Chapter 6

ACTIVITIES OF BLAST - OVERVIEW

This Chapter details the legal aid and services activities of BLAST during the reporting period of January, 2000 to March, 2001. We take this opportunity to mention that all the cases that we have dealt with during the year, as in all the past years (1994-1999), are meticulously documented and the figures below indicate the cumulative numerical expressions of this documentation.

The process of providing legal aid starts with a complainant or contacting of our Unit Offices, by one seeking legal aid. The clients are also often referred to us by lawyers, other NGOs and, increasingly, local elected officials.

At the first contact, a printed form is filed up, most often by the office assistant, to record personal details of the clients, including her/his monthly income. The known details about the opposite parties, when applicable, are also documented. A summary of the complaint, grievance and the expected remedy as sought by the client are then recorded and papers or other relevant documents in support of the claim or grievance, if any, are collected and scrutinised.

The next step is for the Co-ordinator to assess the 'merit' through personal interview with the client, perusal of documents, reports of the office assistant, opinion of the referring advocate or organisation. And the last step, at this stage, is referral to an advocate for filing of a case.

The Co-ordinators in charge of our Unit Offices are experienced lawyers, many of whom had been elected Secretaries of the local Bar Association, appointed Public or Assistant Public Prosecutors or Government Pleaders and are well known in the local legal community. In terms of referring to advocates, the clients themselves often express their preference and, if not, their cases are referred to one of the penal lawyers already selected by the Management Committees of the Unit Offices. The lawyer who is engaged for a case receives half of the amount of fees, paid according to a well established and known schedule of fees, after

filing of the case. The other half is paid after the disposal of the case. All these payments are made by account payee cheques drawn in the name of the engaged lawyer.

Mediation is also attempted but more often than not the client herself had already attempted mediation through local social network or other avenues. Commonly, it is only when all these alternatives have failed that she had approached our Unit Office for legal aid. Another important fact, as the table below (Table 17.i) indicates, is that during the period of January, 2000 to March, 2001 only 20% of the complaints were rejected, i.e., not taken up for further processing. This indicates that we hardly receive 'frivolous' application for legal aid or complaints. Amongst the 20% applications 'rejected', many were due to unavailability of proper documents, witness, or access to the judiciary may have been irrevocably excluded by the applicable rules of limitation, and other requirements of procedural law, rather than any doubt about the validity or legality of claim or complaints. Also, the parties would sometimes resolve the dispute themselves after initial contact with us and before we process their complaints, adding to this list of 'rejection', as these parties would not contact us any further. The list of reasons for such 'rejection' are also recorded. However, such reasons vary considerably from case to case and hence not amenable to a presentations in a tabular form. Nevertheless, it is necessary to re-iterate that our clients often approach us as the last resort and hence, after five years of providing legal aid and services, we can confidently assert that the poor do not attempt to abuse the services provided by us.

6.1. Legal Aid Activities

Article 31 of our Constitution provides that:

To enjoy the protection of the law, and to be treated in accordance with law is the inalienable right of every citizen... and... no action detrimental to the life, liberty, body, reputation or property of any person shall be taken except in accordance with law.

And Article 33(1) provides that:

No person who is arrested shall be detained in custody

without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds for such arrest, nor shall he be denied the right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of his choice.

Under the Constitution and The Bangladesh Legal Practitioners and Bar Council Order and Rules, 1972, it is not the responsibility or the duty of an advocate to decide whether a person is guilty or not and hence entitled to legal representation or not. BLAST, similar to any advocate, endeavours to offer legal representation for persons who have been accused of a crime, taking into consideration whether such an accused person can afford to pay for the costs or not of such legal representation. As such, allegation of an offence by itself does not preclude one from being defended by BLAST. Rule 9 of Chapter II of Bangladesh Bar Council Cannons of Professional Conduct and Etiquette states that:

It is the right of an Advocate to undertake the defence of a person accused of crime, regardless of his personal opinion as distinguished from knowledge, as to the guilt of the accused; otherwise innocent persons, victim merely of suspicious circumstances, might be denied proper defence. Having undertaken such defence, an Advocate is bound, by all fair and honourable means, to present every defence that the law of the land permits, to the end that no person may be deprived of life or liberty except by due process of law. (Underline added for emphasis)

Our primary criterion for taking up defence of persons accused of crimes is not the crimes he/she may have been accused of but whether the person, because of financial and other constraints, is entitled to legal aid.

This is not an absolute position and like any advocate, Unit Co-ordinators are entitled to exercise certain discretion in refusing to provide legal representation and such instances are scrutinised by the Head Office on a regular basis as well as the cases in which legal aid have been provided.

6.1.i Complaints Received

During the period of January, 2000 to March, 2001, a total of six thousand and three (6,003) complaints were received by the Head Office and Unit Offices of BLAST. Another one thousand

and fifty (1,050) complaints were carried over from 1999, totalling seven thousand and fifty three (7,053) complaints for the reporting period.

Table 12
Position of the Complaints received during the reporting period and those carried over from the pervious year

Head Office and Unit Offices	Carried Over	Received in Jan, 00 to Mar, 01	Total	Complaints already considered				Total
				Mediation	Cases filed	sent to units	Rejected	
Head Office	83	439	522	8	226	34	120	388
Barisal	21	347	368	12	272	4	47	335
Chittagong	205	537	742	49	302	13	242	606
Dhaka	92	515	607	27	304	8	127	466
Khulna	17	219	236	18	165	1	40	224
Rajshahi	143	641	784	114	326	7	189	636
Sylhet Unit	16	174	190	2	140	2	17	161
Mymensingh	159	552	711	57	282	9	119	467
Noakhali	12	262	274	7	240	5	16	268
Jessore	37	480	517	50	288	65	46	449
Comilla	86	177	263	1	94	1	0	96
Rangpur	71	317	388	35	188	5	113	341
Bogra	70	598	668	41	383	16	136	576
Pabna	17	283	300	65	100	24	76	265
Patuakhali	20	205	225	15	93	0	95	203
Tangail	1	128	219	26	56	1	46	129
Kushtia	0	18	18	10	1	0	0	11
Faridpur	0	16	16	6	4	0	1	11
Dinajpur	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,050	6,003	7,053	543	3,464	195	1,430	5,632

Of the complaints received, three thousand four hundred and sixty four (3,464) cases were filed in different courts of the country including the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and five hundred and forty three (543) complaints were mediated during the reporting period.

BLAST was unable take up one thousand four hundred and thirty (1,430) complaints for reasons such as subsequent non-attendance, financial solvency of the clients, engaging of private lawyers by the clients, non-availability of relevant documents, inadequate (legal) merit, and so on. The reasons for not proceeding with particular complaints are documented and preserved.

Table 13

Complaints received, already considered and pending at the different Units

Head Office and Unit Offices	Complaints dealt with in Jan, 00 to Mar, 01	Complaints already processed	Complaints pending for processing			
			Mediation	Cases to be filed	Waiting for documents etc.	Total
Head Office	522	388	45	60	29	134
Barisal	368	335	16	13	4	33
Chittagong	742	606	43	89	4	136
Dhaka	607	466	79	62	0	141
Khulna	236	224	9	1	2	12
Rajshahi	784	636	126	17	5	148
Sylhet	190	161	17	10	2	29
Mymensingh	711	467	95	146	3	244
Noakhali	274	268	0	6	0	6
Jessore	517	449	24	37	7	68
Comilla	263	96	86	35	46	167
Rangpur	388	341	31	16	0	47
Bogra	668	576	44	28	20	92
Pabna	300	265	33	2	0	35
Patuakhali	225	203	7	2	13	22
Tangail	219	129	76	13	1	90
Kushtia	18	11	6	1	0	7
Faridpur	16	11	5	0	0	5
Dinajpur	5	0	1	4	0	5
Total	7,053	5,632	743	542	136	1,421

During the reporting period one hundred and sixty one (161) complaints were sent to the Head Office by the Unit Offices for filing cases in the High Court Division of the

Supreme Court of Bangladesh and 34 complaints sent to the unit office and other NGO's by the head office for filing cases.

As the table above indicates, Rajshahi Unit dealt with the highest number of complaints and Chittagong and Mymensing district unit received the 2nd & 3rd highest number of complaints among all units. Except Sylhet, the divisional units received more complaints than the district units which probably can also be explained, at least partially, in terms of the comparative size and population of divisional and district towns. Moreover, the units are being opened at the rate of two/three per year and the duration of operation of the unit offices is certainly an important variable in terms of the number of people seeking services offered by BLAST.

Most of the clients of BLAST are women. As the next table indicates, there are some variations, though not significant, among the Units in terms of men: women proportion of the clients.

The Head Office is the only office where more complaints were received from men than women. This is a reflection of the fact that the complainants of all the 135 'detention' cases received by the Head Office were men.

It needs to be pointed out that BLAST is the only organisation which routinely files cases challenging the legality of preventive detention under the Special Powers Act, 1974. All the detainees under the Special Powers Act, 1974 had been men. These cases can only be filed in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court and the lawyers engaged by BLAST for these, primarily *habeus corpus* writs, have been uniformly successful in getting the detentions declared illegal by the Court. Increasingly, the Head Office is receiving applications for such *habeus corpus* writs from all over the country.

It also needs to be mentioned that the fees offered by BLAST to panel lawyers for conducting these *habeus corpus* writs, compared to fees charged privately by advocates engaged in such or similar cases, is nominal. This surely indicates the commitment of our panel lawyers for public service. This, however, must not be construed to mean that other panel lawyers engaged in other types of cases in other

courts have lesser commitment to public service. As already indicated, the Management Committees of the Units, consisting of the most senior and respected lawyers of the districts, perform their functions voluntarily, without any financial benefit what so ever.

Table 14
Men: Women proportion of complaints received and cases filed

Offices/ Unit	Complaints received				Total [B+D]	Cases filed				Total [G+I]
	B	C	D	E		F	G	H	I	
A	Man	%	Woman	%		Man	%	Woman	%	
Head Office	297	68	142	32	439	184	81	42	19	226
Barisal	23	7	324	93	347	15	6	257	94	272
Khulna	12	5	207	95	219	12	7	153	93	165
Rajshahi	43	7	598	93	641	24	7	302	93	326
Chittagong	44	8	493	92	537	11	4	291	96	302
Sylhet	21	12	153	88	174	25	18	115	82	140
Comilla	7	4	170	96	177	1	1	93	99	94
Jessore	117	24	363	76	480	44	15	244	85	288
Rangpur	35	11	282	89	317	24	13	164	87	188
Noakhali	23	9	239	91	262	17	7	223	93	240
Dhaka	89	17	426	83	515	72	24	232	76	304
Mymensing	26	5	526	95	552	12	4	270	96	282
Bogra	130	22	468	78	598	71	19	312	81	383
Patuakhali	12	6	193	94	205	6	6	87	94	93
Pabna	48	17	235	83	283	8	8	92	92	100
Tangail	35	16	183	84	218	3	5	53	95	56
Kushtia	6	33	12	67	18	1	100	0	0	1
Faridpur	1	6	15	94	16	1	25	3	75	4
Dinajpur	2	40	3	60	5	0	0	0	0	0
Total	971	317	5,032	1,583	6,003	531	350	2,933	1,450	3,464

6.1.ii Cases filed

During the period of January, 2000 to March, 2001, three thousand four hundred and sixty four (3,464) cases were filed in different courts of the country including the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Another four thousand and five hundred (4,500) cases were carried over from the previous years, totalling seven

thousand nine hundred and sixty four (7,964) court cases dealt with during this reporting period.

Table 15

Total cases dealt with by the Head Office and different Units during the period of January, 2000 to March, 2001

Office Unit	Cases continued from the past	Cases filed in 2000-2001	Total Cases dealt with
Head Office	327	226	553
Barisal	385	272	657
Chittagong	713	302	1015
Dhaka	586	304	890
Khulna	297	165	462
Rajshahi	356	326	682
Sylhet	163	140	303
Mymensngh	459	282	741
Noakhali	152	240	392
Jessore	208	288	496
Comilla	152	94	246
Rangpur	230	188	418
Bogra	330	383	713
Pabna	34	100	134
Patuakhali	108	93	201
Tangail		56	56
Kushtia		1	1
Faridpur		4	4
Dinajpur		0	0
Total	4,500	3,464	7,964

It needs to iterate that the increase in the volume of cases handed during the year (a total of 7,964) surely indicates not only a growing demand for the legal aid for litigation but increasing confidence in the services provided by BLAST. However, regular and constant monitoring of such a large number of cases, particularly in view of the fact, first, that a single case may involve upto ten, if not more, 'dates', i.e., times it is taken up by the court for various proceedings and, second, due to their poverty and other disadvantaged position many of

the clients often do not have a permanent residence, is putting tremendous pressure on the workload of the staff lawyers and other supervising personnel of BLAST. Also, as these cases are being dealt with by literally hundreds of advocates all over the country, maintaining constant liaison with them to ensure that the clients are receiving the best possible service is a constant challenge.

Idris the name of a “Scape goat”

The dictum is that let hundred criminals be acquitted but not a single innocent should be punished was severely violated against Idris Ali.

Moksed Ali is his step-brother who committed robbery but in his place Idris Ali is languishing in Dhaka central jail for last five years.

Owner of a small tea-stall, Idris Ali aged 40 years, lived with his family in Sawdagarpara area in Bakshigonj thana of Jamalpur district. On August 20, 1996 a police team from Bakshigonj thana went to Idris Ali's tea stall with a warrant showing him as an absconding convict in a robbery case and took him to the thana. Police produced him in court and identified him as Idris Ali alias Moksed Ali. He was then sent to Jamalpur district Jail and from there he was shifted to Dhaka central jail.

He denies that he committed any crime but he was arrested as fugitive convict in a robbery case falsely identifying him as Moksed Ali by police. In fact Moksed Ali, the step brother of Idris Ali was an FIR name accused of Gulshan Police Station case no. 23(2)85. Subsequently it was registered as GR case no. 103 of 85 and Session case no. 298 of 1990 under section 395/397 of the Penal Code.

Moksed Ali was arrested on January 1985 from Gulshan area of Dhaka in connection with this criminal case. Subsequently he made a confessional statement under section 164 of Code of Criminal Procedure Code before the learned CMM of Dhaka suppressing his actual name and used the name of his step brother Idris Ali. He mentioned his name as Idris Ali in the Vokatnama. There after he got bail using the name Idris Ali and absconded. The trial was held in absentia, convicting Idris Ali alias Moksed Ali. Idris Ali was sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of taka 2000 along with others by the 4th Additional Sessions Judge, Dhaka.

Later Idris Ali was arrested and sent to Jail. Then Idris Ali came to know that his step brother Moksed Ali committed the crime. This matter was brought to the notice of senior advocate Khan Saifur Rahman and national daily published reports on this case of false identity and imprisonment of the wrong person. BLAST filed a case on behalf of Idris Ali before the Hon'ble High Court Division under section 561-A of the Code of Criminal Procedure. At the time of motion hearing their lordships Justice Hamidul Huq and Justice Mr. Md. Munsural Haque was pleased to issue a Rule on 23.01.2001 as to why the Judgment passed by the 4th Additional Session Judge, Dhaka relating to Idris Ali should not be set aside and directed to submit a report from the investigating officer in writing and directed the lower court to send the court record.

The petition (502/0120) was heard again by the Hon'ble High Court Division comprising Justice Hamidul Huq and Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and an act-interim bail order for Idris Ali was issued. The court also directed the lower court concerned for sending up the file and issued a rule Nisi upon the Home secretary and Inspector General of Police to show cause as to why actions should not be taken for imprisoning the wrong person.

Tangail Unit was established towards the end of 1999 and after renting of office, recruitment of staff, local publicity and other initial activities, it was well into the middle of 2000 and other three units Kushtia, Faridpur and Dinajpur were established towards the end of 2000 and after renting of office,

recruitment of staff, local publicity and other initial activities, it was well into 2001 that the services offered by this Unit became known. It has been our experience that after opening of a new Unit Office it takes 3 to 6 months for the prospective clients to become confident of the services rendered by BLAST and begin to contact the office.

During this period, as many as two thousand six hundred and seventeen (2,617) cases were settled. Of these, in one thousand and seventy three (1,073) cases the court verdicts were in favour of our clients while in one hundred and eighty two (182) cases the court verdicts went against our clients.

Table 16

The status of the cases dealt during the period of January, 00 to March, 2001.

Unit	Court verdict			Compromised not pressed	Cases settled	Pending disposal
	For	Against	Defaulted			
Head Office	169	12	7	5	193	360
Barisal	59	20	92	82	253	404
Chittagong	87	10	123	67	287	728
Dhaka	99	21	60	36	216	674
Khulna	74	13	33	76	196	266
Rajshahi	114	28	7	44	193	489
Sylhet	44	12	9	31	96	207
Mymensingh	134	22	98	40	294	447
Noakhali	77	13	11	72	173	219
Jessore	48	9	42	73	172	324
Comilla	30	3	16	35	84	162
Rangpur	74	5	98	54	231	187
Bogra	38	10	29	63	140	573
Pabna	7	2	6	13	28	106
Patuakhali	13	1	11	26	51	150
Tangail	5	1	2	1	9	47
Kushtia						1
Faridpur	1				1	3
Dinajpur						
Total	1,073	182	644	718	2,617	5,347

A total of six hundred and forty four (644) cases were defaulted either due to repeated non-appearance of the client on court-dates, or the matter having been already settled by the parties after the initiation of court proceedings, or the clients losing interest in litigation and other similar reasons.

Table 17
Cause of the defaulted (639) cases

Sl.	Cause	Number
1	Due to absence of the client	553
2	Due to death of the client	2
3	Subject to proved	15
4	Local Compromise	31
5	Due to improper step of the lawyer	37
6	Other	6
	Total	644

It needs to be mentioned that sometimes our clients, after having settled disputes by themselves, do not inform the engaged lawyer and hence some of these cases are dismissed under section 247 of the Cr.P.C. Therefore, though these cases are recorded as 'dismissed' in our documents, we are confident that the filing of these cases facilitated settlement of the disputes outside the courts.

The clients withdrew another seven hundred and eighteen (718) cases as they could arrive at mutually acceptable compromise; outside the courts. It is evident that the number of 'defaulted' cases is rather high for Chittagong, Mymensingh, Bogra and Barisal Units. This may be due to a number of reasons including the distance of the residence of our clients from the court premises. Often a case involves a number of attendances by the client in the court which may be too expensive for the client concerned. Also, due to the non-permanent nature of the residence of many of

the clients, it is sometimes difficult to locate them prior to a 'court date'.

Needless to say, all these factors are taken into consideration before filing a case and the client is offered an explanation of the lengthy nature of court proceedings. Moreover, sometimes we do offer nominal financial assistance to enable the clients to attend court. Nevertheless, these and some other reasons, particularly if after filing of the suit the parties had settled the matter outside the court, as it often happens in 'family disputes', they do not inform the concerned Unit Office and consequently, the case is 'defaulted'.

As a rule, BLAST takes up all cases, depending on the merit and the status of the applicant. As a result, BLAST deals with multifarious types of litigation. The types and corresponding numbers of cases dealt with during the year is detailed in the Table below.

Table 18
The types of cases by category, dealt with in this period.

Types of cases filed	Total cases dealt with	Cases settled	Pending at the end of March, 2001
In the District and Sub-ordinate Court			
Family Court Cases	2,613	982	1,631
Family Appeal	149	59	90
Criminal cases	3004	988	2016
Criminal Appeal	51	21	30
Bail cases	51	33	18
Cri. Motion & Rev.	51	30	21
Session trial cases	227	48	179
Land Cases	478	89	389
Decree execution	538	80	458
Miscellaneous	307	109	198
Labour Court	13	5	8
Sub-Total	7,482	2,445	5,038

Types of cases filed	Total cases dealt with	Cases settled	Pending at the end of March, 2001
In the Supreme Court of Bangladesh			
Detention	177	146	31
Criminal Revision	75	12	63
Criminal Appeal	45	5	40
Other Writs	12	0	12
Writ[Service]	30	1	29
Civil Revision	126	8	118
Civil Appeal	14	0	13
In Administrative Tribunal	3	1	2
Sub-Total	482	173	309
Grand Total	7,964	2,617	5,347

It may be noted that in each and every one of the 146 'detention cases' in which BLAST challenged the legality of such detention under the Special Powers Act, 1974, the 'preventive detentions' were declared illegal by the High Court Divisions and the detainees were ordered to be released by the Court.

Table 19

The results of these cases by types

Types of Cases	In Favour	Against	Default	Compromise	Total	Pending
In the District and Sub-ordinate Courts						
Family Cases	491	11	242	238	982	1,631
Family Appeal	56	2	0	1	59	90
Criminal Cases	146	74	356	412	988	2,016
Criminal Appeal	9	8	0	4	21	30
Bail	26	5	1	1	33	18
Cr. Motion & Rev.	18	8	4	0	30	21
Session Trial	28	14	4	2	48	179
Land Cases	47	17	14	11	89	389
Decree Execution	36	2	7	35	80	458
Labour Court	2	0	2	1	5	8
Miscellaneous	57	29	13	10	109	198
Sub-Total	916	170	643	715	2,444	5,038

Types of Cases	In Favour	Against	Default	Compromise	Total	Pending
In the Supreme Court of Bangladesh						
Detention	146	0	0	0	146	31
Criminal Revision	2	9	0	1	12	63
Criminal Appeal	3	1	1	0	5	40
Writ	0	0	0	0	0	12
Writ [Service]	1	0	0	0	1	29
Civil Revision	5	1	0	2	8	118
Civil Appeal	0	0	0	0	0	14
In Administrative Tribunal	0	1	0	0	1	2
Sub-Total	157	12	1	3	173	309
Grand Total	1,073	182	644	718	2,617	5,347

From 1994 to March, 2001, a total of twelve thousand two hundred and eighteen (12,218) cases have been filed and six thousand eight hundred and seventy one (6,871) cases have been settled. Of these:

- ? twenty one (21) cases were settled in 1994;
- ? two hundred seventy three (273) cases were settled in 1995;
- ? four hundred forty six (446) cases were settled in 1996;
- ? seven hundred and sixty one (761) in 1997 ;
- ? one thousand one hundred and eighty eight (1,188) in 1998 and
- ? one thousand five hundred and sixty five (1,565) were settled in 1999.
- ? two thousand six hundred and seventeen (2,617) were settled in this reporting period.

Table 20

The position of cases dealt with during the period of 1994 to March, 2001

Year	Filed	Settled						Upto Mar, 01	Total	Pendi- ng
		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999			
1994	459	21	166	69	34	69	20	26	405	54
1995	727	0	107	206	123	102	53	38	629	98
1996	1037	0	0	171	331	188	75	73	838	199
1997	1452	0	0	0	273	459	226	166	1124	328
1998	2250	0	0	0	0	370	716	450	1536	714
1999	2829	0	0	0	0	0	475	1069	1544	1285
Jan, 00 to Mar, 01	3464	0	0	0	0	0	0	795	795	2669
Total	12,218	21	273	446	761	1,188	1,565	2,617	6,871	5,347

The above figures clearly indicate an increasing number of cases being settled in each succeeding year. This can be attributed to growing expertise, enhanced skill and commitment of panel lawyers, management committees and, mostly importantly, increasing confidence in the services offered by BLAST.

By the end of March, 2001, as already indicated, five thousand three hundred and forty seven (5,347) cases remained pending at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and various District and Subordinate Courts of the country.

6.2 Mediation

Five hundred and forty three (543) complaints were mediated during the period of January, 2000 to March, 2001 and another seven hundred and forty three (743) complaints are now pending for mediation. Five hundred and forty two (542) complaints are pending for filing and another one hundred and thirty six (136) complaints are pending due to the lack of documents.

The figures (Table 21) above reflect the mediations recovered money through Head Office and Unit Offices.

Table 21

Unit	No. of Mediation	Recovered money
<i>Head Office</i>	8	17,000.00
Barisal	12	34,350.00
Chittagong	49	540,500.00
Dhaka	27	247,400.00
Khulna	18	25,000.00
Rajshahi	114	362,058.00
Sylhet	2	87,300.00
Mymensingh	57	54,700.00
Noakhali	7	0
Jessore	50	114,500.00
Comilla	1	0
Rangpur	35	800.00
Bogra	41	189,800.00
Pabna	65	187,400.00
Patuakhali	15	
Tangail	26	
Kushtia	10	
Faridpur	6	
Total	543	1,919,808.00

Mediation by BLAST is undertaken in three, as it was institutional sites and formats. First, the Unit Offices attempt to mediate disputes of persons who had approached the Unit Office of legal aid. This is done, firstly, in family matters and with the consent of the applicant, before filing a case. Often, as already mentioned, the applicants at our Unit Offices have already exhausted all avenues for settlement of their disputes and hence only a few disputes are mediated.

Our other mediations are conducted by the three Legal Aid Clinics, two at Dhaka and one in Chittagong. Mediations by these Legal Aid Clinics are detailed in Chapter 7.

6.3 Lawyers Engaged

As already indicated, the Unit Management Committees select a panel of lawyers for conducting the cases of the Unit. As a rule, only lawyers with practising experience of 5 or more years

are eligible to become a panel lawyer of BLAST. Secondly, it is the policy of BLAST not to engage one lawyer for more than five cases per year (with a very few exception due to the particular expertise and unusual dedication and commitment) to ensure that a large number of lawyers are drawn into providing services to the poor and the marginalised. Also, if a client had a prior contact with an advocate and wants to engage a particular advocate, such preferences are accommodated, as far as possible.

We have engaged as many as **936** lawyers for conducting cases, as the Table 22.i below indicates. The names of Lawyers with the number of court cases dealt by them are provided in Annexure – 1.

Table 22.i: The number of engaged lawyers in this period

Unit Offices	Engaged from previous year	Newly engaged in 1999	Total engaged Lawyers
Head Office (In Supreme Courts)	20	8	28
Head Office (In Subordinate Courts)	3	4	7
Dhaka Unit	46	10	56
Barisal Unit	95	18	113
Chittagong Unit	55	1	56
Khulna Unit	49	12	61
Rajshahi Unit	79	24	103
Sylhet Unit	33	13	46
Mymensingh Unit	60	8	68
Noakhali Unit	57	24	81
Rangpur Unit	42	14	56
Comilla Unit	38	0	38
Jessore Unit	51	23	74
Bogra Unit	40	7	47
Pabna Unit	32	13	45
Patuakhali Unit	20	9	29
Tangail Unit	0	23	23
Kushtia Unit		1	
Faridpur Unit		4	
Total	720	216	936

BLAST engaged nine hundred and thirty six (936) lawyers for conducting the three thousand four hundred and sixty four (3,464) cases that were filed in the reporting period. Out of the nine hundred and thirty six (936) lawyers, seven hundred and twenty (720) were already engaged in previous years and the rest two hundred and sixteen (216) lawyers were newly engaged in the reporting period.

However, it needs to be mentioned that we have not been able to engage as many women lawyers as we would have liked to. This is due to the fact that the numbers of women lawyers in district courts with 5 or more years of experience are still rather limited and we are mindful of the fact that our first obligation is to the client to ensure the highest quality of services rendered to them. Needless to say, to promote empowerment and participation of women lawyers in our activities we have engaged, under our affirmative action policy, women lawyers with less than 5 years of practising experience.

BLAST endeavours to engage as many lawyers in its activities as possible. Needless to say, certain criteria such as commitment to public service, integrity, empathy for the poor and the disadvantaged as well as experience and expertise are taken into account before handing over a case to a lawyer.

Table 22.ii:

The number of engaged lawyers in the period of 1994- March, 2001

Unit Offices	Engaged from previous years	New Engaged	Total Engaged Lawyers
1994		168	168
1995	132	183	315
1996	182	208	390
1997	298	229	527
1998	416	308	724
1999	594	209	803
Jan, 00 to Mar, 01	720	216	936
Total	2,342	1,521	3,863

It is heartening to note that as many as 1,521 lawyers have

now been engaged by BLAST to litigate cases for BLAST's clients. Of the 23,000 or so lawyers enrolled with the Bangladesh Bar Council, we estimate that not more than 10,000 have had regular practising experience as lawyers for 5 years or more. Since almost all the lawyers engaged for litigating cases for BLAST have had 5 years or more of practising experience, we estimate that as many as 10% of all such lawyers of the country have been directly involved with the litigating activities of BLAST over the last five years.

As already indicated, the number of women lawyers are awfully inadequate, and more so with practising experience of 5 or more years. Consequently, BLAST has not been able to engage as many women lawyers as it would have liked to. Nevertheless, constant efforts are underway to induct as many women lawyers into the ambit of activities of BLAST as possible and recently the threshold requirement of experience has been reduced to three years from five for women lawyers.

This overview reflects the legal aid and services activities of BLAST during the reporting period. Of the **12,218** cases dealt with since 1994. **5,285** cases (43%) were for criminal matters, followed by **4,788** (39%) family cases.

This overview is now followed up by details of activities of the Unit Offices of BLAST in Chapter 7.

Chapter 7

LEGAL AID AND SERVICES RENDERED BY UNIT OFFICES

7.1. The Head Office

The function and responsibilities of the Head Office of BLAST, located at 141/1, Segunbagicha, Dhaka – 1000, are as follows:

- ✍ Administration of all Unit Offices, Legal Aid Clinics and Projects of BLAST;
- ✍ Finance and Accounts all Unit Offices, Legal Aid Clinics and Projects of BLAST;
- ✍ Interaction with GoB organisations, including the NGO Affairs Bureau and the Registrar of Companies;
- ✍ Investigation and Documentation;
- ✍ Liaison with donor agencies and responding to their queries and needs;
- ✍ Library;
- ✍ Litigation in the Labour Courts of Dhaka and Administrative Tribunals;
- ✍ Litigation in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh;
- ✍ Litigation in those districts in which BLAST does not yet have a Unit Office;
- ✍ Mediation of disputes;
- ✍ Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Advisory Board, and the Annual General Meeting;
- ✍ Networking, particularly with other civil society organisations;
- ✍ Personnel Management of BLAST;
- ✍ Policy, Planning and Projects;
- ✍ Purchase and Procurement;
- ✍ Report, Evaluation and Monitoring;
- ✍ Research and Publication;
- ✍ Seminar, Workshop and Conference;
- ✍ Staff Development and Training; and
- ✍ Miscellaneous.

As the above indicates, the functions and responsibilities of the Head Office are multi-dimensional. As already mentioned, this report focuses on the legal aid and services activities of BLAST, though other activities are narrated summarily in Chapter 9 below.

A total of five hundred twenty two (522) complaints were dealt with during the year by the Head Office. Of these, four hundred and thirty nine (439) complaints were received in this year and another eighty three (83) were carried over from the previous year. Out of these four hundred and thirty nine (439) complaints, 297 (68%) complainants were men and 142 (32%) were women.

Out of the said 522 complaints, one hundred and eighty two (182) were related matters under the jurisdiction of subordinate courts and the rest, three hundred and forty (340) related to the High Court Division. A total of two hundred and twenty six (226) cases were filed in different courts including the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the Head Office during the reporting period.

7.1.i In the Supreme Court of Bangladesh

Two hundred and ninety three (293) complaints were received in the period of January 2000 to March, 2001 and forty seven (47) complaints were carried over from previous year, making a total of three hundred and forty (340) complaints handled during the period for matters relating to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

Two hundred and eight (208) cases were filed by the Head Office in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. One hundred and seventy three (173) cases were settled during the period. Of the settled cases, one hundred and fifty seven (157) court verdicts were in favour of our clients and twelve (12) went against.

BLAST was unable to take up sixty two (62) complaints due to various reasons, such as subsequent non-attendance, mutual compromise, non-availability of documents, etc., fifty three (53) complaints were pending for filing as court cases and sixteen

(16) complaints were pending at the end of the year due to necessary papers not being available and other reasons.

7.1.ii In the District and Sub-ordinate Courts

One hundred and forty six (146) complaints were received in the period of January 2000 to March 2001 and thirty six (36) complaints were carried over from previous year, making a total of one hundred and eighty two (182) complaints handled by the Head Office during the period for matters relating to the jurisdiction of the District and Sub-ordinate Courts.

Eighteen (18) cases were filed in those District and Subordinate Courts of the country where BLAST does not as yet have a Unit Office. It has been the policy of BLAST to take up cases even for districts where BLAST does not have an office. In such instances the respective Bar Associations of the concerned districts are contacted through the Presidents and/or Secretaries and they are requested to select a lawyer for filing of the case for the client of BLAST. The payment of fees for the engaged lawyer is also made through or with the help of the President and Secretary.

Eighteen (18) cases were filed and fifty three (53) cases were carried over from previous year, making a total of seventy one (71) cases dealt during this period. Of these seventy one cases, twenty (20) cases were settled and in twelve (12) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients.

Another eight (8) complaints were settled through mediation and forty five (45) complaints are now pending for mediation, seven (07) complaints are pending for filing as court cases and thirteen (13) complaints were pending at the end of the year due to necessary papers not being available, etc. and hence decisions in these complaints are yet to be reached.

Thirty three (33) complaints were sent to Unit Offices of BLAST for filing in cases in the respective District and Subordinate Courts. The Head Office could not take up fifty eight (58) complaints due to non-attendance, non-availability of documents, and so on.

A total of one thousand and fifty three (1,053) cases were filed and six hundred and ninety three (693) cases were settled

by the Head Office of BLAST during the period 1994 to March, 2001. Out of these settled cases

- ? six (06) cases were settled in 1994;
- ? thirty five (35) in 1995;
- ? eighty one (81) in 1996;
- ? eighty three (83) in 1997;
- ? one hundred and twenty four (124) in 1998;
- ? one hundred and seventy one (171) cases in 1999; and
- ? one hundred and ninety three (193) cases were settled during this period.

Another three hundred and sixty (360) cases remained pending for disposal.

No other organisation deals with such a number of cases (208) in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. In fact, BLAST is practically the only organisation, which regularly takes up cases of the poor and the disadvantaged for litigation in the highest court of the country. It needs to be recorded that a large number of senior, eminent as well young advocates have unfailingly responded to our requests for taking up our cases. It is their generous support that enabled BLAST to provide legal aid on such a scale in the Supreme Court. BLAST also recognises that the “fee” it provides in such cases are nominal and it is the commitment to public service which is the primary factor for the involvement of these lawyers with the activities of BLAST.

Table 23

Number of Lawyers engaged by the Head Office

Year	Total engaged lawyers	Engaged lawyers from previous year	Newly engaged lawyers in the year
1994	20		20
1995	24	13	11
1996	41	12	29
1997	40	26	14
1998	41	31	10
1999	45	31	14
Jan, 00 to March, 01	35	23	12
Total	246	136	110

In the period between 1994 to March, 2001 the Head Office engaged one hundred and ten (110) panel lawyers for the one thousand and fifty three (1,053) cases.

This is consistent with BLASTs policy of engaging increasingly larger number of committed lawyers in legal aid activities.

7.2 Unit Offices

As indicated, BLAST began by opening Unit Offices in the Divisional headquarters of the country and five Unit Offices were established by the end of 1994. The sixth Divisional Office in Sylhet was established in 1995. Thereafter, one 'old' district was added to each Division for establishment of District Unit Offices which was completed by the beginning of 1997.

Subsequently, BLAST decided to establish Unit Offices in all the 19 'old' districts of the country. By the end of this reporting period Unit Offices in all 'old' districts except Rangamati ? 18 in all ? have been established.

However, it needs mentioning that the most recently established unit office at Faridpur, Dinajpur , Kushtia could not begin it's activities in full earnest by the beginning of 2001 and, hence, it's activities could not be detailed in this Report. Usually it takes about three months for a new Unit Office to become known, accepted and taped for services offered. This period is necessary for the formation of the Management Committee according to our guideline, to complete the recruitment process, renting of suitable premises, procurement of office equipment and furniture, etc. and finalising an initial list of panel of lawyers. These processes for our latest Unit Office was initiated in the last quarter of the year, preceded by a number of exploratory visits by Head Office personnel, as is the practice before establishing a Unit Office, to liaise and explain the goals and objectives of BLAST, it's nature of activities and the institutional framework to the leaders of local Bar. Finally, it is only by the initiative of the local Bar, with the support of the Head Office of BLAST that a Unit Office is established and becomes operational.

In the following we elaborate the legal aid and services activities of the 18 Unit Offices of BLAST.

7.2.i. Barisal Divisional Unit

A total of three hundred and forty seven (347) complaints were received during the period of January, 2000 to March, 2001 and twenty one (21) complaints were carried over from the previous year, making a total of three hundred and sixty eight (368) complaints dealt with by the Barisal Unit. Out of these 347 complaints, only 23 (6%) complainants were male while an overwhelming majority of 324 (94%) were female.

Of the 368 complaints, two hundred and seventy two (272) cases were filed in this period. Out of the 272 cases women litigants comprised 94% (257) of the total. Another three hundred and eighty five (385) cases were carried over from previous years in the Districts & Subordinate Courts of Barisal. Out of this total of six hundred and fifty seven (657) cases handled during the reporting period, a total of two hundred fifty three (253) cases were settled.

- ? fifty nine (59) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ? twenty (20) cases went against our client;
- ? ninety two (92) cases were dismissed for default;
- ? eighty two (82) cases were settled or withdrawn by the clients.

Of these 253 settled cases, 2 cases were filed in 1994, 11 cases in 1995, 12 cases in 1996, 21 cases in 1997, 40 cases in 1998, 102 cases in 1999 and 65 cases were filed in this period.

Twelve (12) complaints were settled through mediation and sixteen (16) disputes are pending for mediation at the Barisal Unit. Another thirteen (13) complaints were pending for filing cases and four (04) complaints were pending for necessary papers at the end of the reporting period. Because of the lack of appropriate documents and other related causes forty seven (47) complaints could not be proceeded with. Four (04) were sent to the Head Office for filing cases in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

A total of one thousand one hundred and eighty one (1,181) cases were filed and seven hundred and seventy seven (777) cases settled in the period of 1994 to March 2001 by the Barisal Unit of BLAST. Of these,

- ? two (02) cases were settled in 1994;
- ? thirty four (34) cases in 1995;
- ? sixty three(63) cases in 1996;
- ? eighty one (81) cases in 1997;
- ? one hundred and seventy seven (177) cases in 1998;
- ? one hundred and sixty seven (167) in 1999; and.
- ? two hundred fifty three (253) cases were settled in January 2000 to March 2001.

The above figures clearly reflect an increasing rate of disposal of cases.

By the end of March, 2001 four hundred and four (404) cases remained pending at the Barisal District and Subordinate Courts. Of these 404 pending cases, 5 cases were filed in 1994, 4 cases 1995, 5 cases 1996, 15 cases 1997, 51 cases 1998, 117 cases 1999 and 207 cases were filed in this period.

During the period of 1994 to March 2001 the Barisal Unit Office engaged a total of one hundred and ninety three (193) lawyers for the one thousand one hundred and eighty one (1,181) cases filed by the Unit.

Table 24
Number of Lawyers engaged by the Barisal Unit Office

Year	Total engaged lawyer	Engaged lawyer from previous year	Newly engaged lawyers in the year
1994	35		35
1995	62	27	35
1996	51	37	14
1997	64	35	29
1998	79	54	25
1999	105	68	37
Jan '00 to Mar '01	113	95	18
TOTAL	509	316	193

The above substantial number of lawyers engaged in litigations filed by BLAST is surely an encouraging dimension of our activities.

7.2.ii Bogra District Unit

Bogra Unit received the 4th highest number of complaints. This unit received five hundred ninety eight (598) complaints and seventy (70) complaints were carried over from previous year, making a total of six hundred and sixty eight (668) complaints dealt with by the Bogra Unit Office during the period of January 2000 to March 2001. Out of these 598 complaints received during the year, 130 (22%) complainant were male and 468 (78%) were female.

Out of 668 complaints received, three hundred and eighty three (383) cases were filed in different Courts in Bogra. Of these 383 cases, 71 (19%) clients were male and 312 (81%) were female. Another 330 cases carried over from previous years. Thus, the Bogra Unit dealt with a total of seven hundred and thirteen (713) cases during the reporting period. Out of these cases one hundred and forty (140) cases have been settled. Of these, in

- ? thirty eight (38) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ? ten (10) case went against our client;
- ? twenty nine (29) cases as defaulted; and
- ? sixty three (63) cases were withdrawn by the clients.

Out of these 140 settled cases, 1 case was filed in 1997, 10 cases in 1998 and 79 cases in 1999 and 50 cases were filed in this reporting period.

A total of seven hundred and sixty nine (769) cases were filed and one hundred and ninety six (196) cases were settled in the period of 1997 to March, 2001 by the Bogra Unit of BLAST. Of these,

- ? seventeen (17) cases were settled in 1998;
- ? thirty nine (39) in 1999; and
- ? one hundred and forty (140) cases settled in this period.

Five hundred and seventy three (573) cases are now pending for disposal with the Unit Office at the end of March, 2001. Of these 573 cases, 9 cases were filed in 1997, 56 cases in 1998, 175 cases 1999 and 333 cases were filed in this reporting period.

During this period of 1997 to March 2001 the Bogra Unit Office engaged a total of seventy two (72) lawyers for the seven hundred and sixty nine (769) cases filed by the Unit.

Table 25

Number of Lawyers engaged by Bogra Unit Office

Year	Total engaged lawyer	Engaged lawyer from previous year	Newly engaged lawyer in the year
1997	8		8
1998	52	8	44
1999	52	39	13
Jan '00 to Mar '01	47	40	7
TOTAL	159	87	72

7.2.iii Chittagong Divisional Unit

Chittagong Unit has been one of the most active Unit Offices of BLAST. As already indicated, the Chittagong Unit received the 4th highest number of complaints. A total of five hundred and thirty seven (537) complaints were received during the year. Another two hundred and five (205) complaints were carried over from the previous year, making a total of seven hundred and forty two (742) complaints dealt with by the Chittagong Unit Office during the period of January 2000 to March 2001. Out of the 537 complaints, 44 (8%) complainants were male and 493 (92%) were female.

Of the 742 complaints dealt with during January 2000 to March 2001, three hundred and two (302) cases were filed in that period. Another seven hundred and thirteen (713) cases were carried over from the previous years in the Districts and Subordinate Courts of Chittagong. Out of the 302 cases filed during the reporting period by the Chittagong Unit Office, the women and man ratio of the clients was: women 291 (96%) and man 11 (4%).

Thus, the Chittagong Unit dealt with a total of one thousand and fifteen (1,015) cases during the reporting period. Out of these, two hundred and eighty seven (287) cases were settled. Of the settled cases, in

- ? eighty seven (87) cases the court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ? ten (10) cases went against our client;
- ? one hundred and twenty three (123) cases were dismissed for default.; and
- ? sixty seven (67) cases were compromised/withdrawn by the clients.

Of these 287 settled cases till March' 2001, 12 cases were filed in 1994, 17 cases in 1995, 32 cases in 1996, 30 cases in 1997, 64 cases in 1998, 91 cases in 1999 and 41 cases were filed in this reporting period.

Forty nine (49) complaints were settled through mediation

Conviction of Nurul Alam

Mr. Nurul Alam married applicant Ms. Kamrunnahar on 9.10.98, on dower tk. 1,00,000.00. After few days Nurul Alam married Monowara Begum without the written permission of the Arbitration council and stopped the maintenance cost after the 2nd Marriage.

Ms Kamrunnahar came to know about BLAST and its activities as such she came to the Chittagong Unit and complained against her husband and sought a fruitful intervention of BLAST. This matter was taken up the Unit Office with a view to mediate this matter in a peaceful way and accordingly a date was fixed for hearing of the parties. Both the parties attended the mediation meeting and presented themselves. The Unit Office sat several times to mediate but failed.

So a case was filed on 23.12.99 under section 6(5) B of Muslim Family Act 1961 in the 1st Class Magistrate Court of Chittagong. After conclusion of the trial learned court convicted and sentenced Nurul Alam 4 months simple imprisonment and fined Tk. 2000 under section 243 of Cr. PC.

and forty three (43) disputes are now pending for mediation at the Chittagong Unit Office. Eighty nine (89) complaints are pending for filing, and another four (04) complaints are being enquired into for necessary details. Because of the lack of appropriate

documents two hundred and forty two (242) complaints could not be proceeded with. Thirteen (13) complaints were sent to

the Head Office for filing cases in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

The Chittagong Unit filed as many as one thousand two hundred and twenty (1522) cases and seven hundred ninety four (794) cases were settled in the period of 1997 to March, 2001. Of these,

- ? two (02) cases were decided in 1994;
- ? twenty three (23) cases in 1995;
- ? fifty eight (58) cases in 1996;
- ? one hundred and eleven (111) cases in 1997;
- ? one hundred and forty (140) cases in 1998;
- ? one hundred and seventy three (173) cases in 1999; and
- ? two hundred and eighty seven (287) were decided in this reporting period.

At the end of March, 2001, seven hundred and twenty eight (728) cases remained pending at the Chittagong District and Subordinate Courts. Of these 728 pending cases, 7 cases were filed in 1994, 12 cases in 1995, 39 cases in 1996, 96 cases in 1997, 171 cases in 1998 , 142 cases in 1999 and 261 cases were filed in this reporting period.

In the period of 1994 to March 2001 the Chittagong Unit Office engaged a total of one hundred and seventy six (176) lawyers for the one thousand five hundred and twenty two (1,522) cases. In 1999 Chittagong Unit Office engaged fifty six (56) lawyers, out of whom fifty five (55) lawyers were already engaged in pervious years and one (01) panel lawyers was newly engaged in this year. Due to the large number of complaints and cases handled by the Chittagong Unit, and consequent need for space for clients and lawyers, the office (as already mentioned) was shifted to a larger premise and a part time lawyer was engaged to assist the Co-ordinator. A female lawyer, as in 7 other Unit Offices, was also employed at the Chittagong Unit Office.

The large volume of cases handled by the Chittagong Unit necessitated the support of a larger number of panel lawyers, as indicated in the following table.

Table 26

Number of Lawyers engaged by the Chittagong Unit Office

Year	Total engaged lawyers	Engaged lawyers from previous year	Newly engaged lawyers in this year
1994	26	-	26
1995	62	20	42
1996	79	34	45
1997	84	55	29
1998	84	56	28
1999	60	55	5
Jan, 00 to Mar, 01	56	55	1
TOTAL	451	275	176

7.2. iv Comilla District Unit

A total of one hundred seventy seven (177) complaints were received during the year by the Comilla Unit Office of BLAST. Another eighty six (86) complaints were carried over from the previous year, making a total of two hundred and sixty three (263) complaints dealt with by the Comilla Unit Office. Out of the 177 complaints received in January 2000 to March 2001, 7 (4%) complainants were male and 170 (96%) were female.

During the reporting period, ninety four (94) cases were filed in the Districts and Subordinate Court of Comilla. Out of the 94 cases filed during the year, the women and man ratio in the litigation was: women 93 (99%) and man 01 (1%).

Another One hundred and fifty two (152) cases were carried over from previous year. So Comilla Unit dealt with a total of two hundred and forty six (246) cases during the year. Out of these, eighty four (84) cases were settled. Of these cases, in

- ? thirty (30) cases the court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ? three (03) case went against our client;
- ? sixteen (16) cases were dismissed for default; and
- ? thirty five (35) cases were compromised/withdrawn by the clients.

Of these 84 settled cases, 2 were filed in 1997, 25 in 1998, 43 in 1999 and 14 cases were filed in this reporting period.

One (01) complaint was settled through mediation, and another eighty five (85) complaints are pending for mediation. Thirty six (36) complaints are pending for filing cases and forty six (46) complaints are pending for necessary papers. One (01) was sent to the Head Office for filing in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

A total of three hundred and sixty two (362) cases were filed and 200 cases were settled by the Comilla Unit Office in the period between 1997 to March, 2001. Out of these,

- ? ten (10) case was settled in 1997;
- ? thirty three (33) cases in 1998;
- ? seventy three (73) cases in 1999; and
- ? eighty four (84) cases were settled in this period.

At the last day of March, 2001 one hundred and sixty two (162) cases remained pending at Comilla District and Subordinate courts. Out of these 162 pending cases, 9 cases were filed in 1997, 21 cases in 1998, 52 cases in 1999 and 80 cases were filed in this reporting period.

From 1997 to March, 2001 the Comilla Unit Office engaged a total of fifty eight (58) lawyers for the three hundred and sixty two (362) cases conducted by the Unit.

Table 27
Number of Lawyers engaged by the Comilla Unit Office

Year	Total engaged lawyers	Engaged lawyers from previous year	Newly engaged lawyers in the year
1997	26	-	26
1998	37	16	21
1999	37	26	11
Jan, 00 to Mar, 01	38	38	0
TOTAL	138	80	58

Comilla, traditionally, has been one of the districts with a large number of practising lawyers in the District Bar. There are increasing interests among the local Bar for enrolling as panel lawyers of BLAST and we expect, with increasing work

load, to engage more lawyers in the activities of this Unit Office.

7.2.v Dhaka Divisional Unit

Dhaka Divisional Unit has been one of the first Units established by BLAST in 1994.

A total of five hundred fifteen (515) complaints were received and another ninety two (92) complaints were carried over from the previous years, totalling six hundred and seven (607) complaints dealt with by the Dhaka Unit Office. Of the 515 complaints received in January 2000 to March 2001, 89 (17%) complainants were male and 426 (83%) were female.

A total of three hundred and four (304) cases were filed. Out of the 304 cases the women and man ratio in the litigation was women 232 (76%) and man 72 (24%). Five hundred and eighty six (586) cases were carried over from the previous years. Hence, eight hundred and ninety (890) cases in the District and Subordinate Courts of Dhaka were dealt with by the Dhaka Unit Office during this reporting period.

Two hundred and sixteen (216) cases were settled during this reporting period. Of these,

- ? ninety nine (99) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ? twenty one (21) cases went against our clients;
- ? sixty (60) cases were dismissed for default due to the absence of our client; and
- ? thirty six (36) cases were compromised/withdrawn by the clients.

Out of these 216 cases settled, 4 cases were filed in 1994, 2 cases in 1995, 2 cases in 1996, 12 cases in 1997, 46 cases in 1998, 97 cases in 1999 and 53 cases were filed in this reporting period.

During this reporting period, twenty seven (27) complaints were settled through mediation and seventy nine (79) disputes are pending for mediation. Another sixty two (62) complaints are pending for filing cases. As the necessary papers were not available, one hundred and twenty seven (127) complaints could not be proceeded with and another eight (08) cases were

sent to the Head Office for filing in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

A total of one thousand three hundred and one (1301) cases were filed and 627 cases were settled by the Dhaka Unit Office in the period between 1994 to March, 2001. Out of these,

- ? one (01) case was settled in 1994;
- ? thirty six (36) cases in 1995;
- ? forty two (42) cases in 1996;
- ? seventy two (72) cases in 1997;
- ? one hundred and seven (107) cases in 1998; and
- ? one hundred and fifty three (153) cases in 1999; and
- ? two hundred and sixteen (216) cases were settled in this reporting period.

At the end of March 2001, six hundred and seventy four (674) cases remained pending at the Dhaka District and Subordinate Courts. Out of this 674 pending cases, 18 cases were filed in 1994, 36 cases in 1995, 56 cases in 1996, 45 cases in 1997, 100 cases in 1998, 168 cases in 1999 and 251 cases were filed in this period.

During 1994 to March, 2001, the Dhaka Unit Office engaged one hundred and twenty three (123) lawyers for the one thousand three hundred and one (1,301) cases dealt with by it.

Table 28

Number of Lawyers engaged by Dhaka Unit Office

Year	Total engaged lawyer	Engaged lawyers from previous year	Newly engaged lawyers in the year
1994	32	-	32
1995	49	27	22
1996	40	16	24
1997	43	31	12
1998	48	36	12
1999	57	46	11
Jan'00 to Mar'01	56	46	10
TOTAL	325	202	123

Dhaka being the largest Bar Association of the country, understandably the number of lawyers interested to undertake BLAST's legal aid cases is rather high. However, due to the

limited number of cases that BLAST can afford to undertake, our ability to engage advocates who want to work for us is also limited.

7.2.vi Jessore District Unit

The Jessore Unit Office of BLAST received a total of four hundred and eighty (480) complaints in January 2000 to March 2001. Another thirty seven (37) complaints were carried over from the previous year, totalling five hundred and seventeen (517) complaints dealt by the Unit in this period. Of the 480 complaints received in this period, 117 (24%) complainants were male and 363 (76%) were female.

Two hundred and eighty eight (288) cases were filed during the period. Of 288 cases filed during this period, the women and man ratio was women 244 (85%) and man 44 (15%). Another two hundred and eight (208) cases were carried over from 1999, making a total of four hundred and ninety six (496) cases dealt with in the Districts and Subordinate Courts of Jessore by the Jessore Unit Office in this reporting period. Out of these one hundred and seventy two (172) cases were settled. Of these settled cases, in

- ✍ forty eight (48) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ✍ nine (09) cases went against our client;
- ✍ forty two (42) cases were dismissed for default due to absence of our clients; and
- ✍ seventy three (73) cases were withdrawn by the clients.

Of these one hundred seventy two (172) settled cases; 5 cases were filed in 1996, 6 cases in 1997, 22 cases in 1998, 59 cases in 1999 and 80 cases were filed in this period.

Fifty (50) complaints were settled through mediation and twenty four (24) cases are pending for mediation. Another thirty seven (37) complaints are pending for filing and seven (7) complaints are pending for necessary papers. Due to different reasons forty six (46) complaints could not be proceeded with and as many as sixty five (65) complaints were sent to the Head

Office for filing in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

It may be mentioned that most of these 65 cases sent by Jessore Unit to the Head Office concerned detainees under the Special Powers Act, 1974 and BLAST filed habeas corpus writs in all these instances.

A total of six hundred and eighty nine (689) cases were filed and 365 cases were settled in the period of 1996 to March, 2001 by the Jessore Unit Office. Of these,

- ✍ thirty four (34) cases were settled in 1997;
- ✍ seventy eight (78) cases were settled in 1998; and
- ✍ eighty one (81) cases were settled in 1999.
- ✍ one hundred and seventy two (172) cases were settled in January 2000 to March 2001.

At the end of March 2001, three hundred and twenty four (324) cases remained pending at the Jessore District and Subordinate Courts. Of these 324 pending cases 3 cases were filed in 1996, 12 cases in 1997, 27 cases in 1998, 74 cases in 1999 and 208 cases were filed in this reporting period.

The Jessore Unit engaged sixty nine (69) lawyers for the six hundred and eighty nine (689) cases.

Table 29

Number of Lawyers engaged by Jessore Unit Office

Year	Total engaged lawyer	Engaged lawyer from previous year	Newly engaged lawyers in the year
1996	14	-	14
1997	28	16	12
1998	47	31	16
1999	45	41	4
Jan, 00 to Mar, 01	74	51	23
TOTAL	208	139	69

Again, like Units, Jessore Unit Office has also engaged a good number of lawyers over the years to litigate BLAST's legal aid cases.

7.2.vii Khulna Divisional Unit

A total of two hundred and nineteen (219) complaints were received and seventeen (17) complaints were carried over from the previous year, making a total of two hundred and thirty six (236) complaints dealt with by the Khulna Unit Office during January 2000 to March 2001. Of the 219 complaints received during the year, 12 (5%) complainants were male and 207 (95%) were female.

One hundred and sixty five (165) cases were filed in this reporting period. Of the 165 cases the women and man ratio was: women 153 (93%) and man 12 (7%). Two hundred and ninety seven (297) cases were carried over from the previous year, making a total of four hundred and sixty two (462) cases dealt with in the Districts and Subordinate Courts by the Khulna Unit Office. Out of these one hundred and ninety six (196) cases were settled. Of the settled cases, in

- ✍ seventy four (74) the court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ✍ thirteen (13) cases went against our clients;
- ✍ thirty three (33) cases were dismissed for default due to absent of our client and
- ✍ seventy six (76) cases was withdrawn by the clients.

Of these one hundred ninety six (196) settled cases, 2 cases were filed in 1994, 7 cases in 1995, 3 cases in 1996, 10 cases in 1997, 46 cases in 1998, 101 cases in 1999 and 27 cases in this period.

Eighteen (18) complaints were settled by the Khulna Unit through mediation and nine (09) complaints were pending for mediation. One (03) complaints are pending for filing as a court cases. Due to different reasons, forty (40) complaints could not be proceeded with and one (01) complaint was sent to the Head Office for filing in the High Court Division of the Supreme Courts of Bangladesh.

A total of nine hundred and thirty eight (938) cases were filed and 672 cases were settled in the period of 1994 to March, 2001 by the Khulna Unit Office. Of these,

- ✍ nine (09) cases were settled in 1994;

- ✍ eighty seven (87) in 1995;
- ✍ seventy nine (79) in 1996;
- ✍ sixty five (65) in 1997;
- ✍ one hundred and seven (107) in 1998;
- ✍ one hundred twenty nine (129) cases in 1999
- ✍ one hundred and ninety six (196) cases were settled in this period.

Like most other units, the record of Khulna Unit indicates and increasing number of settled cases per year. Despite frequent complaints about long delays in disposing old cases, the fact that Khulna Unit succeeded in disposing as many as 196 cases during the reporting period thus offer grounds for certain amount of confidence in the functioning of the judiciary. At the same time however it needs to be pointed out that many of these settled cases were filed quite sometime ago, and not necessarily in 1997 or 1999. Of the settled cases during this period, 27 were filed during the same year.

At the end of March, 2001 two hundred and sixty six (266) cases remained pending at the Khulna District and Subordinate Courts. Out of these two hundred and sixty six (266) pending cases 6 cases were filed in 1994, 7 cases in 1995, 13 cases in 1996, 15 cases in 1997, 26 cases in 1998, 61 cases in 1999 and 138 cases in this period.

Table 30

Number of Lawyers engaged by Khulna Unit Office for legal aid cases:

Year	Total engaged lawyer	Engaged lawyer from previous year	Newly engaged lawyer in the year
1994	23	-	23
1995	37	17	20
1996	30	26	4
1997	32	24	8
1998	49	26	23
1999	71	39	32
Jan, 00 to Mar, 01	61	49	12
Total	303	181	122

In the period of 1994 to March 2001 the Khulna Unit Office had engaged one hundred and twenty two (122) lawyers for the nine hundred and thirty eight (938) cases litigated.

7.2.viii Mymensingh District Unit

Among the Unit Offices of BLAST, the Mymensingh Unit received the second highest number of complaints. A total of five hundred and fifty two (552) complaints were received and one hundred and fifty nine (159) complaints were carried over from previous years, making a total of seven hundred and eleven (711) complaints handled by the Mymensingh Unit Office during this reporting period. Out of these 552 complaints received during the year, 26 (5%) complainants were male and 526 (95%) were female.

Two hundred and eighty two (282) cases were filed in this reporting period. Out of the 282 cases the women and man ratio in the litigation was: women 270 (96%) and man 12 (4%). Another four hundred and fifty nine (459) cases were carried over from previous years making a total of seven hundred and forty one (741) cases dealt with in the Districts and Subordinate Courts by the Mymensingh Unit Office. Of these cases, two hundred and ninety four (294) were settled. Of the settled cases, in

- ? one hundred and thirty four (134) cases the court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ? twenty two (22) cases went against our clients;
- ? ninety eight (98) cases were dismissed default due to absent of the client and
- ? forty (40) cases were withdrawn by the clients due to compromise, and other reasons.

Out of these two hundred and ninety four (294) settled cases 7 cases were filed in 1996, 23 cases in 1997, 63 cases in 1998, 123 cases in 1999 and 78 cases in this reporting period.

As many as fifty seven (57) complaints were settled by the Mymensingh Unit through mediation and ninety five (95) disputes are pending for mediation. Another one hundred and forty six (146) complaints are pending for filing and three (3) complaints pending for necessary papers. Due to different

reasons one hundred and nineteen (119) complaints could not be proceeded with and nine (09) complaints were sent to the Head Office for filing cases in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

A total of one thousand one hundred and eighteen (1,118) cases were filed and 671 cases were settled by the Mymensingh Unit in the period of 1995 to March, 2001. Of these,

- ? two (02) cases were decided in 1995;
- ? twenty three (23) in 1996;
- ? eighty nine (89) cases in 1997;
- ? one hundred (100) cases in 1998; and
- ? one hundred and sixty three (163) cases were settled in 1999; and
- ? two hundred and ninety four (294) cases were settled in this reporting period.

The rate of settlement of cases by Mymensingh Unit clearly reflects a pattern of increasing number of cases in each succeeding year.

By the end of March 2001 four hundred and forty seven (447) cases remained pending at the Mymensingh District and Subordinate Courts. Of these 447 pending cases 1 were filed in 1995, 26 cases in 1996, 48 cases in 1997, 75 cases in 1998, 93 cases in 1999 204 cases were filed in this period.

Table 31
Number of Lawyers engaged by Mymensingh Unit Office

Year	Total engaged lawyers	Engaged lawyers from previous year	New engaged lawyers during this year
1995	9	-	9
1996	32	9	23
1997	40	21	19
1998	64	32	32
1999	66	56	10
	68	60	8
TOTAL	279	178	101

In the period of 1995 to March 2001, the Mymensingh Unit Office engaged one hundred and one (101) lawyers for the one

thousand one hundred and eighteen (1118) cases filed during the period.

Over the years the Mymensingh Unit, as the above figures indicate, has been one of our most effective units. However, our own evaluation and monitoring could not indicate a pattern or reason for the high number of clients for this unit or any comparative dimension for somewhat lesser number of applicants for legal aid in some other units. For the fact that we are able to handle only a few hundred cases for a population of millions in a district, it is next to impossible to find causes of variations in numbers, positing a number of few hundred applicants for legal aid to the total population of the district.

7.2.ix Noakhali District Unit

A total of two hundred and sixty two (262) complaints were received and twelve (12) complaints were carried over from the previous year, making a total of two hundred and seventy four (274) complaints dealt with by the Noakhali Unit Office of BLAST during the reporting period. Out of these 262 complaints 23 (9%) complainants were male and 239 (91%) were female.

Two hundred and forty (240) cases were filed in this reporting period by the Noakhali Unit. Of these 240 cases, the women and man ratio of BLAST's clients was: women 223 (93%) and man 17 (7%). Another one hundred and fifty two (152) cases were carried over from the previous year. Thus, three hundred and ninety two (392) cases in the Districts and Subordinate Court of Noakhali were handled by the Unit Office during the reporting period. Out of these, one hundred and seventy three (173) cases were settled. Of these settled cases, in

- ? seventy seven (77) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ? thirteen (13) cases were against our client;
- ? eleven (11) case was defaulted due to absent of our client;
- ? seventy two (72) cases were withdrawn as compromised; and for other reasons .

Of these one hundred and seventy three (173) settled cases 4 cases were settled in 1996, 8 cases in 1997, 20 cases in 1998, 60 cases in 1999 and 81 cases were settled in this period.

A total of five hundred and sixty one (561) cases were filed and 342 cases were settled in the period of 1995 to March, 2001 by the Noakhali Unit. Of these,

- ✍ four (04) cases were settled in 1995;
- ✍ twenty (20) cases in 1996;
- ✍ forty nine (49) cases in 1998;
- ✍ ninety six (96) cases were settled in 1999; and
- ✍ one hundred and seventy three (173) cases were settled in January 2000 to March 2001.

At the end of March 2001, two hundred nineteen (219) cases remained pending at the Noakhali District and Subordinate Courts. Out of these 219 pending cases 3 cases were filed in 1996, 7 cases in 1997, 10 cases in 1998, 40 cases in 1999 and 159 cases in this period.

During the period of 1995 to March 2001, the Noakhali Unit Office engaged ninety three (93) lawyers for the five hundred and sixty one (561) cases filed during the period by the unit.

Table 32
Number of Lawyers engaged by Noakhali Unit Office

Year	Total engaged lawyers	Engaged lawyers from previous year	New engaged lawyer during this year
1995	2	-	2
1996	28	0	28
1997	38	26	12
1998	53	31	22
1999	51	46	5
Jan, 00 to Mar, 01	81	57	24
Total	253	160	93

Noakhali Unit, compared to other units, has been somewhat conservative in terms of engaging lawyers. The fact that this unit has filed comparatively less number of cases, obviously, is the major reason for engagement of less number of advocates by the units.

7.2.x Rajshahi Divisional Unit

Rajshahi Unit received the highest number of complaints. A total of six hundred and forty one (641) complaints were received and one hundred and forty three (143) complaints were carried over from the previous year. Thus, a total of seven hundred and twenty four (724) complaints were dealt with by the Rajshahi Unit Office of BLAST during January 2000 to March 2001. Out of the 641 complaints received in this period, 43 (8%) complainants were male and 598 (92 %) were female.

Three hundred and twenty six (326) cases were filed in this reporting period by Rajshahi Unit of BLAST. Of the 326 cases the women and man ratio of BLAST's clients was: women 302 (93%) and man 24 (7%). Another three hundred and fifty six (356) cases were carried over from previous years; totalling a work load of six hundred and eighty two (682) cases in the Districts and Subordinate Court of Rajshahi during the reporting period.

One hundred and ninety three (193) cases were settled in the District and Subordinate Courts of Rajshahi during the reporting period. Of these, in

- ? one hundred and fourteen (114) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ? twenty eight (28) cases went against our client;
- ? seven (07) cases were dismissed for default due to absent of our client; and
- ? forty four (44) cases were withdrawn by the clients following compromise; and other reasons.

Of these one hundred ninety three (193) settled cases 3 cases were filed in 1994, 2 cases in 1995, 4 cases in 1996, 7 cases in 1997, 39 cases in 1998, 96 cases in 1999 and 42 cases in this period.

Rajshahi Unit highest number disputes were settled through mediation. One hundred and fourteen (114) complaints were settled through mediation and another one hundred and twenty six (126) complaints are pending for mediation. Seventeen (17) complaints are pending for filing and five (05) complaints are pending due to the lack of documents. For the same reason one hundred and eighty nine (189) complaints could not be proceeded with and another seven (07) complaints were sent to

the Head Office for filing in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

The Rajshahi Unit similar to the Mymensingh and Pabna Unit has succeeded in setting a large number of disputes

Registered elder brother's name suppressing own name in the Kabinnama

Mr. Barababu and Mrs. Masuda Begum of Rajshahi loved each other and ran away from their village. On 4.11.98 they got married with dower Tk. 5,000.00 only. The notable factor is that Mr. Babu suppressed his name and intentionally registered his elder brother's name Md. Kashem Ali in the Kabinnama. A child was born in this family and difficulties arose in their family life.

In perspective of the application of Mrs. Masuda Begum, BLAST Rajshahi Unit called mediation on 26.6.2000. The Quazi was also asked to attend in the mediation with original volume of the Kabinnama. After a long discussion they apologized for their false information and agreed to continue their family life as usually. They also agreed to rectify the mistakes in the previous Kabinnama and make a new with dower Tk. 29,999.00 in lieu of dower Tk. 5,000.00.

through mediation whether mediating a dispute is possible or not depends on a number of factors, including the nature of dispute. Hence, the fact that some units have dissolved only a few disputes through mediation may not necessarily

indicate a lack of

effort but the fact that the nature of disputes may not have been amenable to mediation, reducing the possibility and scope for mediation.

A total of one thousand two hundred and forty five (1,245) cases were filed and 756 cases were settled in the period of 1994 to March, 2001 by the Rajshahi Unit. Of these,

- ✍ one (01) case was settled in 1994;
- ✍ fifty six (56) cases in 1995;
- ✍ seventy four (74) cases in 1996;
- ✍ one hundred and thirty nine (139) cases in 1997;
- ✍ one hundred and fifty seven (157) cases were settled in 1998;
- ✍ one hundred and thirty six (136) cases were settled in 1999; and
- ✍ one hundred and ninety three (193) cases were settled in January 2000 to March 2001.

At the end of March 2001, four hundred and eighty nine (489) cases remained pending at the Rajshahi District and Subordinate Courts. Out of these 489 pending cases 3 cases were filed in 1994, 5 cases in 1995, 6 cases in 1996, 17 cases in 1997, 54 cases in 1998, 120 cases in 1999 and 284 cases in this period. In terms of disposal of cases, Rajshahi Unit clearly indicates a fast rate of disposal as reflected in the small number of pending cases from 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997

In the period of 1994 to March 2001 the Rajshahi Unit Office engaged a total of one hundred and thirty eight (138) lawyers for the one thousand two hundred and forty five (1,245) cases conducted during the period.

Table 33
Number of Lawyers engaged by Rajshahi Unit Office

Year	Total engaged lawyers	Engaged lawyers from previous year	New engaged lawyer during this year
1994	32	-	32
1995	69	28	41
1996	55	47	8
1997	59	48	11
1998	73	59	14
1999	82	74	8
Jan, 00 to Mar, 01	103	79	24
TOTAL	473	335	138

Commensurate with the number of cases filed by the Rajshahi Unit during the last few years it is not surprising that this Unit has engaged a substantial number of local advocates for the legal aid cases of BLAST.

7.2.xi Rangpur District Unit

A total of three hundred and seventeen (317) complaints were received and seventy one (71) complaints were carried over from the previous year. Thus, a total of three hundred and eighty eight (388) complaints were dealt with by the Rangpur Unit Office of BLAST during this reporting period. Out of these 317 complaints, 35 (11%) complainants were male and 282 (89%) were female.

One hundred and eighty eight (188) cases were filed in the Districts and Subordinate Court of Rangpur and two hundred and thirty (230) cases were carried over from the previous year. Therefore, a total of four hundred and eighteen (418) cases were dealt with by the Rangpur Unit Office of BLAST during January 2000 to March 2001. Two hundred and thirty one (231) cases were settled. In which,

- ✍ seventy four (74) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ✍ five (05) cases went against our client;
- ✍ ninety eight (98) cases were defaulted due to absent of our client;
- ✍ fifty four (54) cases were withdrawn by the clients following compromise; and other causes and reasons.

Of these two hundred and thirty one (231) settled cases 40 cases were filed in 1997, 40 cases in 1998, 87 cases in 1999 and 64 cases in this reporting period.

Thirty five (35) complaints were settled through mediation and thirty one (31) complaints were pending for mediation at the end of the reporting period. Another sixteen (16) complaints are pending for filing. Five (05) complaints were sent to the Head Office for filing in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. As many as one hundred and thirteen (113) complaints could not be proceeded with in this Unit, a figure much large than other Units.

A total of five hundred and seven (507) cases were filed and 320 cases were settled during this period of 1997 to March, 2001 by the Rangpur Unit. Of these,

- ✍ sixteen (16) cases in 1997;
- ✍ thirty three (33) cases in 1998;
- ✍ forty (40) cases in 1999; and another
- ✍ two hundred thirty one (231) were settled in this period.

At the end of March, 2001 one hundred and eighty seven (187) cases remained pending at the Rangpur District and Subordinate Courts. Of these pending cases 9 cases were filed in 1997, 20 cases in 1998, 35 cases in 1999 and 123 cases were filed in this period

Table 34

Number of Lawyers engaged by Rangpur Unit Office

Year	Total engaged lawyer	Engaged lawyer from previous year	New engaged lawyer during this year
1997	31	-	31
1998	26	16	10
1999	38	28	10
Jan, 00 to Mar, 01	56	42	14
Total	151	86	65

During the period of 1997 to March, 2001 the Rangpur Unit Office engaged sixty five (65) lawyers for its five hundred and seven (507) cases.

7.2.xii Sylhet Divisional Unit

A total of one hundred and seventy four (174) complaints were received and sixteen (16) complaints were carried over from previous year, making it a total of one hundred and ninety (190) complaints dealt with Sylhet Unit during the period of January 2000 to March 2001. Out of these, 174 complaints, 21 (12%) complainants were male and 153 (88%) were female.

One hundred and forty (140) cases were filed in this reporting period by the Sylhet Unit. For the 140 cases filed during the year, the woman: man ratio was woman 115 (82%) and man 25 (18%). Another one hundred and sixty three (163) cases were carried over from previous years, making a total of three hundred and three (303) cases dealt with in the Districts and Subordinate Court of Sylhet during the reporting period.

Out of these three hundred and three (303) cases, ninety six (96) were settled during the period of January 2000 to March 2001, Of the 96 settled cases, in

- ✍ forty four (44) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ✍ twelve (12) cases went against our clients;
- ✍ nine (09) cases were defaulted;
- ✍ thirty one (31) cases were withdrawn by the clients following compromise and reasons

Of these ninety six (96) settled cases 3 cases were filed in 1996, 3 cases in 1997, 23 cases in 1998, 37 cases in 1999 and 30 cases in this period.

Two (02) complaints were settled through mediation and seventeen (17) complaints are pending for mediation. Ten (10) complaints are pending for filing and another two (02) are pending due to unavailability of documents. As necessary papers were not available another seventeen (17) complaints could not be proceeded with and two (02) were sent to the Head Office for filing in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

A total of four hundred and ninety eight (498) cases were filed and two hundred and ninety one (291) cases were settled in the period of 1995 to March, 2001. Of these:

- ✍ twenty two (22) cases were settled in 1996;
- ✍ forty one (41) in 1997;
- ✍ fifty seven (57) cases were decided in 1998;
- ✍ seventy five (75) cases were settled in 1999; and
- ✍ ninety six (96) cases were settled in January 2000 to March 2001.

Sylhet Unit has a good record in terms of increasing number of settled cases in each passing year.

Two hundred and seven (207) cases remained pending at the Sylhet District and Subordinate Courts at the end of the reporting period. Of these pending cases 5 cases were filed in 1996, 13 cases in 1997, 21 cases in 1998, 58 cases in 1999 and 110 cases in this reporting period.

During the period of 1995 to March 2001 the Sylhet Unit Office engaged eighty four (84) lawyers for its four hundred and ninety eight (498) cases.

Table 35
Number of Lawyers engaged by Sylhet Unit Office

Year	Total engaged lawyer	Engaged lawyer from previous year	New engaged lawyer during this year
1995	1	-	1
1996	20	1	19
1997	34	16	18
1998	45	20	25
1999	44	36	8
Jan, 00 to Mar, 01	46	33	13

Total	190	106	84
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As indicated earlier, the number of cases in the Sylhet Unit is comparatively less than many other Units which are reflected in the number of advocates engaged by this Unit over the years.

7.2. xiii Patuakhali District Unit

A total of two hundred and five (205) complaints were received and twenty (20) complaints were carried over from previous years, making it a total of two hundred and twenty five (225) complaints dealt with by the Patuakhali Unit Office during the period of January 2000 to March 2001. Out of these, 205 complaints, 12 (6%) complainants were male and 193 (94%) were female.

Ninety three (93) cases were filed by the Patuakhali Unit office of BLAST. In these 93 cases, the woman: man ratio was woman 87 (94%) and man 06 (06%). one hundred and eight (108) were carried over from previous year and a total of two hundred and one(201) cases dealt with the Districts and Subordinate Court of Patuakhali during the reporting period.

During the reporting period fifty one (51) cases were settled. Of these 51 settled cases 2 cases were filed in 1998, 26 cases in 1999 and 23 cases were in this reporting period. Of the 51 settled cases, in

- ✍ thirteen (13) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ✍ one (01) cases was against;
- ✍ eleven (11) cases were defaulted;
- ✍ twenty six (26) cases were withdrawn by the clients following compromise and other reasons

In the period of 1998 to March 2001 this unit filed two hundred and seventy six (276) cases and 126 cases were settled. Now one hundred and fifty (150) cases are pending at the various stages of the judicial process.

Of these 150 pending cases 30 cases were filed in 1998, 50 cases in 1999 and 70 cases in this period.

Fifteen (15) complaints were settled through mediation and seven (07) complaints are pending for mediation. Two (02) complaints are pending for filing and another thirteen (13) are pending due to unavailability of documents. As necessary papers were not available, ninety five (95) complaints could not be proceeded with.

During the period of March, 1998 to March 2001 the Patuakhali Unit Office engaged forty eight (48) lawyers for its two hundred and seventy six (276). It needs to be mentioned that Patuakhali Unit became operational in 1998.

Table 36
Number of Lawyers engaged by Patuakhali Unit Office

Year	Total engaged lawyer	Engaged lawyer from previous year	New engaged lawyer during this year
1998	26	-	26
1999	22	9	13
Jan, 00 to Mar, 01	29	20	9
Total	77	29	48

7.2.xiv Pabna District Unit

A total of two hundred and eighty three (283) complaints were received and another seventeen (17) complaints were carried over from the previous year making a total number of three hundred (300) complaints by the Pabna Unit Office during the period of January 2000 to March 2001. Out of these, 283 complainants; male were 48 (17%) and 235 (83%) were female.

One hundred (100) cases were filed and another thirty four (34) cases were carried over from the previous year by this new unit office. Out of these one hundred and thirty four (134) cases, twenty eight (28) were already settled by the end of the year, Of the 28 settled cases, in

- ✍ seven (07) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ✍ two (02) cases were against our clients;
- ✍ six (06) cases were dismissed for default; and

≈ thirteen (13) cases were withdrawn by the clients following compromise.

In the 100 cases filed during this reporting period, the woman: man ratio was woman 92 (92%) and man 08 (08%).

As many as sixty five (65) complaints were settled through mediation and thirty three (33) complaints are pending for mediation. Two (02) complaints are pending for filing. As necessary papers were not available, seventy six (76) complaints could not be proceeded with and twenty four (24) were sent to the Head Office for filing in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

During the period of 1999 to March 2001 Pabna Unit Office engaged forty one (41) lawyers for its one hundred and thirty seven (137) cases. This reflects the policy of BLAST of engaging as many advocates of the local bar in our legal aid cases as possible.

Table 37

Number of Lawyers engaged by Pabna Unit Office for legal aid cases:

Year	Total engaged lawyer	Engaged lawyer from previous year	New engaged lawyer during this year
1999	28		28
Jan, 00 to Mar, 01	45	32	13
Total	73	32	41

7.2.xv Tangail District Unit

A total of two hundred and eighteen (218) complaints were received and another one (01) complaint was carried over from the previous year making a total number of two hundred and nineteen (219) complaints by the Tangail Unit Office during the period of January 2000 to March 2001. Out of these, 218 complainants; male were 35 (16%) and 183 (84%) were female.

Fifty six (56) cases were filed in the period of January 2000 to March 2001 by the Tangail unit office. Out of these fifty six (56) cases during the year, nine (09) cases were already settled by the end of the year, Of the 09 settled cases, in

- ✍ five (05) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ✍ one (01) cases were against our clients;
- ✍ two (02) cases were dismissed for default; and
- ✍ one (01) cases were withdrawn by the clients following compromise.

In the 56 cases filed during the year, the woman: man ratio was woman 53 (95%) and man 03 (05%).

As many as twenty six (26) complaints were settled through mediation and seventy six (76) complaints are pending for mediation. Fourteen (14) complaints are pending for filing. As necessary papers were not available, forty six (46) complaints could not be proceeded with and one (01) was sent to the Head Office for filing in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

During the period of January 2000 to March 2001 Tangail Unit Office engaged twenty three (23) lawyers for its fifty six (56) cases.

7.2.xvi Faridpur District Unit and Dinajpur District Unit

Faridpur Unit and Dinajpur unit were opened with three permanent members of the staff who began work from the October, 2000. The personnel were provided training, as is the practice during the initial phase of opening a new Unit, at the Head Office.

So, these Unit offices are the newest Unit of BLAST. As with other units, the leadership of the local District Bar Association was conducted first; a committee according to our guidelines, consisting of the present and past president and the secretaries of the Bar along with five other members were then formatted for the unit. These were followed by advertisement in the local newspaper for personnel for the unit and selection process was duly concluded. The Bar Association allocated a room in the Bar Building for the Unit Office.

As the Unit operated for only a few weeks and the fact that December is the period of annual vacation of District and Subordinate Courts, the Unit's legal aid activities could not

begin in full steam year 2000. However, networking and dissemination of the services offered by the Unit were undertaken during the reporting period.

Upto 31 March, 2001 Faridpur Unit received a total of sixteen (16) complaints, and filed 4 cases through four panel lawyers in this period. Dinajpur Unit also received a total of five (05) complaints.

7.2.xvii Kushtia District Unit

As for Kushtia Unit Office, contacts with the Kushtia District Bar Association were initiated in the second quarter of 1999. Often District Bar Association are not familiar with institutional structures and operational methods of NGOs and, consequently it may involve a lengthy process of discussion and negotiation before concrete measures can be taken in terms of setting up a Unit Office. The Executive Director of BLAST made a number of trips of Kushtia for discussions with the leadership of the BLAST Association for setting up of the Unit there.

Preparatory stage was completed during the fourth quarter and an advocate was temporarily selected for formalizing arrangements for setting up of the Unit. Sadly, his sudden demise could not but set back the finalization process of this Unit.

Upto 31 March, 2001 Kushtia Unit received a total of eighteen (18) complaints, and filed one (01) case.

7.3 Legal Aid Clinics

With the aim to provide legal literacy, awareness and mediation services for the local residents, two Legal Aid Clinics in Gopibag and Mahammadpur were established in Dhaka and another Legal Aid Clinic has become operational in Chittagong.

The legal aid clinics began as pilot projects, have proved to be an effective method of serving the very poor as most of the clients of these clinics are the neighbouring slum dwellers. Another important purpose for setting up of one of these

clinics (Mohammadpur) was to engage senior students of the Law Department of Dhaka University to provide them an opportunity to become familiar with the legal services required by the very poor as well as for them to gain an understanding of the functioning of the legal system at the level of the extremely marginalised segments of people.

During the reporting period, two batches of 3 senior students each worked at Mohammadpur and Hathazari (Chittagong) clinics. The students undertook legal literacy campaign among slum dwellers and arranged mediation of their disputes. Their work is supervised by a trainee-advisor, experienced lawyer for the two clinics at Dhaka and the Assistant Professor, Law for the Chittagong Clinic. Mediations sessions are organised twice a week – on Fridays and Saturdays – and the rest of the days are spent on literacy and awareness campaign and for background work for the ensuing mediation. In instances when mediation attempts fail or are not appropriate, the dispute is referred to the Head Office for Dhaka and the Chittagong Unit Office for the Hathazari Clinic for litigation, if necessary.

7.3.i Gopibagh Clinic

The Gopibag Legal Aid Clinic started functioning from 1st August, 1994, in association with *Mohila Parisad*, a women's organisation, at 89/3-A Ramkrishna Mission Road, Dhaka.

The following table reflects the mediation activities of the Gopibagh Clinic during the period of January, 2000 to March, 2001.

Table 38
Activities of Gopibagh Legal Aid Clinic

Nature of complaint	From last year	Received this year	Total	Mediated	To Head Office	Not processed & rejected	Local compromise	pending for mediation
Family dispute	27	69	96	24	12	38	4	18
2 nd Marriage	11	21	32	5	5	10	1	11
Dowry	18	25	43	8	2	15	6	12
Cruelty to women	4	10	14	5		2	1	6

Land matter		2	2					2
Miscellaneous	3	13	16	3		5	3	5
Total	63	140	203	45	19	70	15	54

7.2.ii Mohammedpur Clinic

The Mahammadpur legal aid clinic at 13/11 Babar Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka was founded in October, 1994. The following table reflects the mediation activities of the Mohammadpur Clinics during this period.

Table 39

Activities of Mohammadpur Legal Aid Clinic

Nature of complaint	From last year	Received this year	Total	Mediated	To Head Office	Not Processed & rejected	pending for mediation
Family dispute	44	85	129	31	21	55	22
2nd Marriage	2		2			2	
Dowry	10	28	38	5	8	16	9
Cruelty to women	4	1	5			4	1
Miscellaneous		4	4	1	2		1
Total	60	118	178	37	31	77	33

7.2.iii Chittagong Clinic

The Chittagong clinic at Hathazari, Chittagong was founded in May, 1999. The following table reflects the mediation activities of the Chittagong Clinics during this reporting period.

Table 40

Activities of Chittagong Legal Aid Clinic

Nature of complaint	From last year	Received this year	Total	Mediated	To Head Office	Not processed & rejected	pending for mediation
Family dispute	12	64	76	28	12	19	178
2nd Marriage		3	3	2		1	
Dowry	1	6	7	5	1	1	
Cruelty to women	4	18	22	12	1	3	6

Land Matter	4	14	18	3		12	3
Miscellaneous	2	14	16	8	1	6	1
Total	23	119	142	58	15	42	27

These three Law Clinics have undertaken substantial work. In this reporting period they jointly received three hundred and seventy seven (377) complaints and one hundred and forty six (146) complaints carried over from previous year making a total of five hundred and twenty three (523) complaints dealt with by the three law clinics. Out of these, one hundred and forty (140) disputes were settled through mediation in our office and fifteen (15) disputes were locally settled. One hundred and fourteen (114) are pending for mediation. Another sixty five (65) complaints were sent to the Head Office for filing cases. As necessary papers were not available, another one hundred and eighty nine (189) complaints could not be proceeded with.

The legal awareness campaign is carried out in the local area by the clinic workers. Through discussion the residents are made aware about the work of the clinic. Basic legal issues in area of family law, laws relating dowry, maintenance, etc. are explained to them.

Table 41

The number of participants of Legal awareness activities in this reporting period by three Law Clinics of BLAST

NAME OF THE CLINIC	Families	Members
Mohammadpur, B.N.P Bazar Bosti, Mohammadpur Bari Bandh Bosti, Kollanpur Bosti and Nilkhet Bosti	1949	3002
Gopibag Clinic		
Gopibag, Golapbug, Kazirbug, Maniknagar	2560	3664
Chittagong Clinic	45	285
Total	4554	6951

The clinics also have leaflets to advertise their work, but word of mouth is by far the most effective tool when dealing with the people within and around their target areas. The three clinics estimate that they have reached more than five thousand persons through literacy and awareness campaigns as well as mediation activities during the year.

As indicated in this Chapter, at one level the activities of our Unit Offices are somewhat uniform in so far as the Offices cater to similar kinds of needs through providing legal aid in court cases. As evident from the Tables, which we have used in our Reports for the previous years as well, BLAST maintains a standard format for information and reports from Unit Officers. The category of cases as listed in the Tables are also utilised for our token fees for the engaged panel lawyers. These 'fees' vary, depending on the nature of the litigation. The range, however, is between Taka 2,500 to Taka 4,000 for all expenses of a 'legal aid' case.

We have already mentioned that it is the support of the local legal communities which enable us to provide our legal aid and related services to our clients. Without the active support, manifested in the participation of the elected leaders of local Bar Associations in the Management Committees, provision of office space for BLAST in Bar Association buildings, and many other facilities and privileges offered to BLAST offices by the Bar Association, it would have been impossible to carry out our work in the districts.

Chapter 8

STAFF TRAINING, WORKSHOP, SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE

BLAST's experience indicates that we need to strengthen the training, workshop, seminar, both for its own employees as well as for the benefit of other related organizations. BLAST has organized a number of training, workshop and seminar for the practicing lawyers, human rights activists and other during the reporting period 1 National Conference, 30 experiences sharing meeting, 3 Seminars, 1 Training Programme, 1 Press Conference, 4 In-house Meeting, 1 Open Dialogue, 12 Awareness Workshop and 12 Communication Building Network meeting were held during the reporting period and a total **2,695 participants** took part in these events.

8.1. Staff Training and Development

To enhance skill and overall working capacity of the staff, BLAST has arranged for participation of its personnel in the staff training and development activities. The following lists the courses and personnel who attended these courses.

8.1.i. In Country Course/Training

A. In Country Course/Training

Environment and Environmental Law Training:

Ms. Shanaz Babli, Staff Lawyer and Mr. Syed Ziaul Hasan, Junior Evaluation and Monitoring Lawyer, participated the above course. The training was organised by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association [BELA] from January 30 to February 3, 2000.

Report Card Methodology Workshop:

Mr. Syed Ziaul Hasan, Junior Evaluation and Monitoring Lawyer, participated the above workshop on local Accountability mechanisms. The workshop was organised by

the Transparency International-Bangladesh from March 21-23, 2000 at BARD, Comilla.

Resource Mobilisation Workshop:

Ms. Taufiqah Rahman, Secretary to BLAST, participated in the above workshop. The course was organised by the Ashoka Innovators for the public from April 25-29, 2000

Refugee Law Training Programme:

Mr. Syed Ziaul Hasan, Junior Evaluation and Monitoring Lawyer participated in the above course. This course was organised by the Legal Education and Training Programme of Bangladesh Bar Council from August 8-10, 2000

Training on Advocacy and Human Rights:

(i) Ms. Khaleda Jahan Siddiqah, Junior Staff Lawyer, Chittagong Unit, (ii) Ms. Sultana Rahman, Junior Staff Lawyer, Khulna Unit, (iii) Ms. Mahmuda Begum, Junior Staff Lawyer, Rajshahi Unit and (iv) Ms. Shahida Talukder, Junior Staff Lawyer, Barisal Unit, participated the above course. The course was jointly organised by the International Women Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific and Ain O Salish Kendra from September 3-7, 2000.

Mediation Training:

Total 14 staff (Coordinator, Paralegal Officer and Office Assistant) of BLAST participated in the above Mediation Training Programme organized by Madaripur Legal Aid Association from October 23-25, 2000. Among them 6 were newly recruited staffs of new unit offices (Dinajpur, Faridpur, and Tangail) of BLAST.

B. Overseas Training/Workshop

Workshop on Domestic Application of International Human Rights Law-Problems and Prospects; Mr. Md. Rafiquzzaman,

Staff Lawyer, Public Interest Litigation Project, participated in the above workshop. The Forum Asia conducted the course from July 21-25, 2000 at Sri Lanka.

8.2 Workshop

We define, for the purpose of this Report, Workshop as those exercises which involved imparting of training, experience sharing and awareness on law and law related issues.

Most of our workshops were conducted by the Rural Mediation Project. As a number of workshops, primarily for mediation workers of this Project along with Members of the Rural Mediation Committees were planned under the Rural Mediation Project. The legal aid and services project did not undertake any workshop. We report the workshop here to indicate another dimension of BLAST's law related activities. The reports on workshop also shown in the tabular form for an overview (Table 42).

8.3. Seminar and Conference

Constitution Day, 4 November 2000

BLAST organized the 28th anniversary of the Constitution Day on the 4th November, 2000 at the Sheraton Hotel. This celebration was presided over by Dr. Kamal Hossain and Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed who delivered the Constitutional Day Lecture. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Honourable, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, was the Chief Guest on that occasion.

In fact all the seminars, conference, training experience sharing meeting listed on the following table had been reported by the print media.

**WORKSHOP/SEMINAR/TRAINING ORGANIZED BY BLAST
FROM JANUARY 2000 TO MARCH 2001**

Sl No	Title	Project	Duration	Venue/Place	Participants
1	Total 29 "Experience Sharing Meeting on Mediation and Legal Awareness "	Rural Mediation	January 2000 to May 2000	Barisal, Khulna and Sylhet Division	Chairmen and Members of the U Teachers, Social Workers, Village I
2	Total 12 " Awareness Workshop" on women workers' rights	WELR	January 2000 to December 2000	Slum area of Dhaka City	Garments Worker
3	Seminar on "Promoting Legal Rights to Women Workers"	WELR	30 May 2000	CIRDAP Auditorium	NGO Workers
4	Experience Exchange	WELR	12 April 2000	BLAST Library	The Asia Foundation, Nepal
5	Press Conference on Migrant Workers	WELR	21 December 2000	Dhaka Reporter's Unity	Migrant workers and Reporters
6	Open Dialogue on "Duties and Responsibilities of the Garment Workers	WELR	29 March 2000	CIRDAP	Leaders and Representatives of Garment Factories and Garment W
7	Seminar on Election Expenses and Code of Conduct	Legal Advocacy	10 th March 2000	Zilla Parishad Auditorium, Mymensingh	Lawyers of the local Bar Associati Rights Activists, Local Leaders
8	Seminar on National Human Rights Commission	Legal Advocacy	6 th April, 2000	CIRDAP, Dhaka	Members of the Parliament, Lawy Representatives and Academicians
9	Seminar on National Human	Legal Advocacy	29 th May, 2000	CIRDAP, Dhaka	Members of the Parliament, Lawy

	Rights Commission				Representatives and Academicians
10	Training on Good Prison Management for the Prison Personnel of Bangladesh	BLAST, PRI, Paris and British High Commission	10 th to 13 th September, 2000	BRAC Center Inn	20 Senior Prison Personnel of Bangladesh, British Secretary Rt. Hon. and Law Minister, Trustees of BLAST, High Commissioner of the British, Dhaka, PRI Chairperson were present and Closing session of the Training
11	Constitution Day: 28 th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Bangladesh Constitution	Legal Aid and Related Services	4 th November, 2000	Hotel Sheraton	President of Bangladesh, Trustee Members of the Parliament, Senior Court, Journalists, NGO and Academicians
12	12 Communication Building Network Meeting	Legal Aid and Related Services	January to December 2000	At 12 Unit Offices	ADAB affiliated NGOs
13	3 In house Discussion Meetings on Public Safety Act	Legal Advocacy	1, 23 February and 29 June 2000	BLAST Library	Lawyers and Representatives of the
14	1 In house Discussion on Commission of Inquiry Act 1956	Legal Advocacy	13 August 2000	BLAST Library	Lawyers and Representatives of the

Chapter 9

PROJECTS PROFILE

9.1. Public Interest Litigation (PIL)

PIL, an emerging area of protective and intervention legal process, is designed to enforce governmental accountability and, through the judicial system, empower certain identifiable but powerless segments of society.

Since engaging in Public Interest Litigation from mid-1996, BLAST has steadily filed a number of PIL cases in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court. The subject matters of these cases include employment discrimination, set code in public examination, illegally in Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Acquisition, iodine deficiency in edible salt, illegal construction, challenging constitutionality of the Local Government (Gram Parishad) Act 1997, illegality of the Indus Valley-Gulshn Baridhara Lake Development Project, slum evictions on Cox's bazar and Dhaka, abuse of power by the police and other executive agencies etc.

During the reporting period the project has dealt with lead pollution case, vagrant case, Pirojpur bus accident case, conviction of the children, illegal shrimp cultivation etc.

Since inception, this project has been supported by The Asia Foundation through the Democracy Partnership programme of the USAID. This project ended in December, 2000.

9.2 Rural Mediation Project (RM)

BLAST began a joint mediation programme with Madaripur Legal Aid Association (MLAA) in 1996. A total of twenty three (23) persons have been engaged for mediation in, initially, three (3) thanas and twenty one (21) unions of Barisal, Khulna and Sylhet districts under this Project which deals with disputes relating to family matters, second marriage, dowry, land, etc. and settles these through local mediation.

This Project performed three primary functions:

- ☞ training of Mediation Workers, Mediation Supervisors and Members of Mediation Committees on law and mediation techniques and process;
- ☞ legal awareness campaign among different sections of the rural population in the project area ; and
- ☞ resolving local disputes through mediation by the member of the mediation committees.

Training of the Mediation Worker and Mediation Supervisors were conducted at the Training and Resource Centre of the Madaripur Legal Aid Association while training for the Member of the Mediation Committees, consisting of representatives from local elected body, school and madrasa teachers, women, local elite, etc. were conducted in the respective areas.

A good number of local disputes, as indicated in the table below, were resolved through mediation under this Project. In a few instances where mediation was not possible or inappropriate, the disputes were referred to the nearest BLAST Unit Office for filing of court cases.

The activities of this Project in terms of setting disputes during the period of January to December 2001 are shown in the following tables while training workshops of the Project have been outline in the previous chapter.

Table 43

Complaints received by the Rural Mediation Project

Unit	Pending from 1999	Application received in 2000-2001	Total
Barisal	188	555	743
Khulna	108	494	602
Sylhet	40	280	320
Total	336	1329	1665

Table 44
Disputes Settled by the Rural Mediation Project

Unit	Mediated	Referred to court	Not dealt with	Total	Pending
Barisal	488	17	151	656	87
Khulna	435	57	57	549	53
Sylhet	232	17	30	279	41
Total	1155	91	238	1484	181

The Rural Mediation Project (RM) is supported by The Asia Foundation, through the Democracy Partnership Programme of the USAID. This is the largest Project of BLAST, besides our primary activity, i.e., legal aid and services. Mediation also resolves disputes, as does court cases. However, disputes are resolved locally through an informal procedure under the Rural Mediation Project.

The Rural Mediation Project follows the Madaripur Model of Mediation (MMM) and worker are trained, as mentioned, by the Training and Resources Centre of Madaripur Legal Aid Association.

It needs to be re-iterated, as detailed in Chapter 7 above, that mediation is also an important function of the Units, and more so for the three Legal Aid Clinic, However, for rural mediation, our approach is different and is based on the MMM.

9.3 Legal Advocacy and Participation of the Civil Society Project (LAPCS)

From May, 1997 BLAST has engaged a team of lawyer and researchers to scrutinise current and proposed laws with a view to enhance awareness about these laws and advocate legal reform. The Project arranges workshop and seminar to facilitate public consultation with interested groups and publishes research papers on various aspects of the legislative process.

This Project was supported by The Asia Foundation through the Democracy Partnership Programme of the USAID and completed on 31 August 2000.

During the reporting period this Project undertook the following categories of activities, all related to various laws or proposed laws and for law reform:

- ✍ Organising workshops and seminars;
- ✍ publication ; and
- ✍ lobbying, campaign and networking for law reform.

Implement and/or reform of provisions regarding election expenses as mandated by the relevant law, i.e., Representation of People's Order, 1972 has been one of the continuous agenda of the Project since 1997. A number of surveys regarding on public opinion of election expenses were carried out and a booklet was published by the Project earlier.

As a part of the continuing effort a seminar on Election Expenses and code of Conduct was arranged at Zilla Parishad Auditorium, Mymensingh on 10 March 2000. The participants included lawyer of the local bar, journalist, human rights activists, local leaders. In this seminar Dr. Anwarul Islam, Vice Chancellor of Agricultural University was the Chief Guest.

The Project continued to work on the issue of a law for a national human right commission and formation of the commission after the enactment of the law. To pressurise the government and the garner support for the proposed Commission two seminars were organised in Dhaka on 6 April and 29 May 2000.

Three (3) round table discussions on Public Safety Act- 2000 were arranged by the Project at BLAST head office on 1, 23 February and 26 June 2000 with participation from various NGO's, women's organisations, lawyers and activists.

LAPCS undertook a programme on Commission of Inquiry Act 1956 to discuss its various aspects and share views with the other organisations and a meeting under this programme was held at BLAST Library on 13 August 2000. The participants included prominent lawyer and representative of the leading NGOs of the country.

As a part of the activity of the project during the reporting period LAPCS published a booklet in Bengali on National Human Rights Commission.

The project, to conclude, initiated and popularised the process of informed discussions about impending legislation, articulated the need for law reform in issues particularly relevant for good governance. The project succeeded in drawing inputs from policy makers (Ministers, M.Ps, senior advocates, scholars) to activists level and through distribution of publication containing concrete reform proposal, indicated a transformation of legislative advocacy to a professional level.

9.4 Women Legal and Economic Rights Project (WLER)

The Project, from July 1997, concentrates on women worker's rights with particular focus on the garments industry. Various types of activities such as in-house meetings with the workers and lawyers, receiving complaints, filling cases in Labour Courts, advocacy, investigation and publication are the primary activities of this Project.

In many ways, the focus of this Project is also legal aid, but unlike the legal aid and services activities the legal aid under this Project is proactive, involving not only providing assistance to, primarily, female garment workers, but also engaging in awareness campaign, advocacy and legal literacy, along with networking with other organisations, associations and trade unions involved with the economic and legal rights of female workers.

The seminars and workshops organised by the WELR Project have been briefly outlined in Chapter 8 above, while the following table gives an account of the litigation related activities during the reporting period.

Table 45
Litigation related activities of the WELR Project

Activities	Number
Complaints Received	444
Application Cancelled	149
Settled through mediation	80
Already Settled through Court	26
Cases Filed	79
Pending for various reasons (mediation cases)	110

As mentioned above, in addition to filling labour cases in the Labour Courts, the WELR Project arranged the following awareness activities.

Table 46
Awareness Activities of the WELR Project

ACTIVITIES	NUMBER	PARTICIPANTS
Awareness Workshop	12	887
Meeting with NGOs	1	20
Experience Exchange with the delegates from The Asia Foundation, Nepal	1	12
Press Conference	1	50
Open Dialogue	1	50

It needs to be mentioned that most of the complaints of female garment workers relate to their unpaid wages, non-payment of overtime, dismissal without applicable procedure and layoff.

Increasingly, after receiving a complaint from a worker on the above matters we, first, try to contact the concerned employer for an amicable settlement of the complaint. It is heartening for us that after working for around two years, the employers (garments factories) are responding positively to our requests for setting the claim without recourse to the formal process of the Labour Court. Quite often, the demand of the garment worker arising out of unpaid wages or overtime payments, sometimes after negotiations and certain adjustments, would be paid by the employer (often through his

management-personnel) to the worker concerned in our office. Needless to say, such transactions are duly recorded and signed by both parties involved.

Sometimes, after our contact and detailed discussion of the claim over telephone, we would direct the garment worker to meet and receive her payments. The initial (i.e., during the first year and a half) scepticism and non-response of the employers are now increasingly being replaced by ready co-operation and we have been able to settle, as the table above indicates, a good number of claims through mediation. The employers are also recognising the fact that contesting such claims, as these often do not involve large sums of money, through court is time consuming and expensive affairs for them and it is much easier to settle out-of-court.

This project organised a number of seminars. It may also be added, were participated by employers and their representatives through BGMEA and this has helped to establish a working relation with many of the garment factories.

The Project also printed and distributed leaflets and brochures.

9.5 Publications

BLAST published a booklet on National Human Rights Commission during the reporting period.

Annexure 1

List of Engaged Lawyer and Number of Cases for January 2000- March 2001

Head Office

List of Engaged Lawyers in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh

Name of the Advocate	No. of Cases
Dr. Kamal Hassain	1
Mr. Nijamul Haque Nasim	3
Mr. Khan Saifur Rahman	1
Mr. Moazzam Hossain	4
Mr. Idrisur Rahman	20
Mr. Rezal Huq	1
Ms. Farida Khan	3
Mr. Fazlul Haque	2
Mr. Shahdeen Malik	1
Mr. Khurshid Alam Khan	18
Ms. Farida Yeasmin	23
Mr. Harun -ur-Rashid Khan	13
Mr. Md. Mojibur Rahman Mia	6

Ms. Seema Zahur	1
Mr. Md Nazrul Islam Talukder	5
Ms. Shanaz Babli	16
Mr. Pankaj Kumar Kundu	26
Ms. Sarwat Binte Islam	19
Mr. Sarker Khurshid Alam	8
Ms. Promila Biswas	3
Mr. Mojibur Rahman	3
Mr. Nasiruddin	3
Mrs. Halima Ferdous	3
Mr. Ziaul Hasan	9
Mr. Abdul Mannan khan	7
Mr. Rafikuzzaman	3
Mr. Syed Mahfijur Rahman	6
Total	208

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Dhaka

Name of the Advocate	No. of Cases
Mr. S.A. Huq	1
Mr. Abdul Mannan Khan	9
Mr. Md. Zahirul Islam	2

Mr. Monirul Islam Nezam	2
Mr. S Moshir Rahman	2
Mr. Idrisur Rahman	1
Syed Ziaul Hasan	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>18</i>

Dhaka Unit

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Dhaka Unit

Name of the Lawyers	No. of Cases
S.M. Nazmul Islam	4
Syed Nurullah	10
Abdur Rouf Khan	14
Md. Ali Hossain	4
M.A. Razzak (1)	8
Begum Tahmina	5
M.A. Rahim	8
Safiuddin Biswas	8
Tajuddin Ahmed	8
M.A. Razzak (2)	3
Mst. Marjina Khatun	5
M. Siddiqur Rahman	15
Nazrul Islam Khan	17
Jannatul Ferdous Islam	8
Shamsul Haque	7
A.K.M. Sohel Ahmed	8
Mohiuddin Dewan	3
Rahima Khatun	8
Ranojit Kumar Sen	3
Mozzammel Haque	5
Aslam Mia	3
F.A. Mannan	12
Awlad Hossain Molla	6
Farida Yeasmin	3
M. Khalilur Rahman	1
M.A. Jalil	1
Fakhruzzaman Tipu	4
Sarwar Alam	5
Johra Akter Khatun	3
Nazmul Huda Khan	1

A.S.M. Iqbal Hossain	10
Feroz Mia	7
Moniruzzaman Khan	3
A.N.M. Mahmood Hossain	7
Amzad Hossain	5
Salimullah Khasru	7
Mahfuzul Haque Chanchal	6
Aminul Haque	10
Sahidul Hasan	5
Abdul latif Biswas	6
Golam Mortuza Reza Bhuiy.	3
Samsuddoha	3
Md. Mashiur Rahman (2)	2
Md. Jamal Khan	4
Nurul Islam Matabbar	1
Md. Amir Hossain	1
Anwar Sarder	1
Umme Kulsum Srity	7
Abul Kalam Md. Shaffullah	2
Habibur Rahman	3
Md. Moshiur Rahman (1)	6
Anwar Hossain Reza	2
Suchorita Gupta	3
Md. Fazley Rabbi	2
Md. Zahidur Rahman	2
Md. Hafizur Rahman	2
Md. Farukuzzaman Bhuiyan	1
Syed Bashir Hossian	1
A.K.M. Shahidullah	1
Khan Md. Mahfuzul Haque	1
Total	304

Barisal Unit**List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Barisal Unit**

Name of the Lawyers	No. of Cases
A. Gaffar Khan	1
A. Halim Howlader	1
A. Latif	1
A.B.M. Fakar Uddin	1
A.F.M. Hemayet Uddin	1
A.K. Noruddin Ahmed	2
A.K.M. Abdul Matin	1
A.K.M. Alamgir Hossain	3
A.K.M. Shamsul Haque	1
A.Z.M. Sekender	5
A.Z.M. Shahiduzzaman Khan	1
Abdul Khaleque Bhuiyan	2
Abdul Khaleque Howlader	3
Abdul Khaleque Molla	3
Abdul Motaleb	1
Abu Taher	8
Abul Kalam Akon	1
Abul Kalam Azad	2
Abul Kashem Khan	4
Afifa Begum	4
Ahsanuddin Sarder	6
AK. Nooruddin	1
Anisuddin Ahmed	1
Anisuzzaman	2
Asit Ranjan Das	1
Azizul Haque	3
Babu Lal Ghosh	1
Debasish Das	1
Debojti Ghose	2
Dilip Kumar Chatterjee	1
Fani Vusan Das	2
Faridur Rahman	4
Fatema Begum Lucky	4
Fayzul Haque	1
Fazlur Rahman Khan	6
Firoj Howlader	4
G.M. Azmil Hossain	1
Gauranga Chandra Shil	2

Gaurangul Chakrabarti	2
Golam Kabir	1
Golam Rabbani	1
Habibur Rahman	1
Habibur Rahman Sarder	2
Harendra Nath Adhikery	3
Haridas Biswas	4
Hasina Momtaj	1
Humayun Kabir Chowdhury	2
Humayun Kabir Younus	2
Ismail Hossain Negaban	4
Jagadis Ch. Sarker	4
Jahidur Rahman	1
Jalal Uddin Howlader	2
Jalilur Rahman	1
Jashim Uddin Akhand	1
Jiban Krishna Sarker	2
K.B.S. Ahmed Kabir	2
Kamrul Ahsan Saheen	1
Kazi Belal Hossain	1
Kazi Monjuara Begum	1
Khan Alauddin	2
Lila Chokrabarti	3
Lutfur Rahman Molla	2
M. Fazlul Haque	7
M. Shah Alam	1
Mamun ar Rashid	1
Mannan Mridha	1
Mansur Uddin Howlader	3
Masudul Haque Khan	5
Md. Abdul Hye	2
Md. Alauddin	2
Md. Ishaque	5
Md. Khalilur Rahman	2
Md. Liaquat Ali Khan	1
Md. Sahid Hossain	1
Md. Shah Alam	1
Md. Shahid Hossain	4
Mehedi Hasan	1
Momtaj Begum	5

Moslim Uddin Miah	2
Munira Begum	1
Muzibul Haque	5
Muzibul Haque Biswas	1
Muzibur Rahman Nantu	2
Nasir Ahmed Miah	2
Nasir Uddin Ahmed	2
Nezamal Haque	3
Nirmal Kanti Sarder	4
Nizam Uddin Sarder	1
Nurul Islam Sarder	3
Pankaz Kr. Singh	2
Ratan Kr. Chaklader	3
S.M. Abdullah	1
Safiullah	4
Samir Kumar Dutta	1
Samsul Huda Zinnat	1
Sarder Abul Hossain	3
Sarder Jalal Ahmed	3
Sattya Ranjan Roy	2

Sawpan Kumar Dutta	1
Selim Reza Chowdhury	2
Selina Akter	4
Selina Parveen	2
Selina Sultana	4
Shahadat Hossain	1
Shahid Asgar Khan	2
Shahida Talukder	12
Sk. Humayun Kabir Masud	1
Suklal Acharzayee	1
Sunil Chandra Sarder	3
Syed Obadullah	2
T.M. Muzaffar	6
Talukder Md. Younus	1
Taposh Kumar Sarker	2
Tariqul Islam	1
Zahidur Rahman	2
Zakir Hossain Kazi	2
Total	272

Bogra Unit

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Bogura

Name of Lawyers	No. of Cases
Zahurul Haque Jafar	14
Kabir Uddin Mondol	7
Nur-A-Azam Babu	32
Shafiqul Islam	38
Sabbir Ahmed	5
Dulal Kundu	7
Dipika Rani Shaha	25
Ila-Rani-Kundu	13
Kazi Nazrul Islam	10
Nazim Uddin	6
Utpal Kumar Bagchi	29
M.A. Malek	5
Nripendra Nath Dev Barman	10
Mahabubur Rahman	2
Zahidul Bari Khokon	1
Abdur Rashid Sultan	6

Solaiman Ali Tara	7
Yeasinali	3
Rezaul Karim	2
Amir Hossain	2
Sopon Kumar Guho Roy	5
Sakil M.S.H. Rafique	1
Shahadat Hossain	1
G.R.M. Khayruzzaman	1
Aslam Angur	4
G.A. Habibur Rahman	3
Sufia Begum	33
Ahasan Habib (4)	1
S.M. Altamas	7
Sadrul Anam Ranju	16
Amirul Islam	5
A.K.M. Samsul Abedin	5
Lutfar Rahman (2)	16
Abdul Kader Maznu	22

Rasadur Rahman Moris	7
Nivedita Roy	5
Ahsan Habib (1)	5
Nazmul Haque Benu	3
Jotirmoy Nath	1
Kollani Mojumder	3
Nargis Begum	1

Abdul Bari	1
Fajlul Bari Intu	6
Arafat Khatuna Zannath	2
Al-Mahmud	1
Thobibur Rahman	2
Ekramul Haque	2
Total	383

Chittagong Unit

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Chittagong Unit

Name of the Lawyers	No. of Cases
Sadhan Chandra Baidya	8
Shiek Md. Ohidunnabi	1
Md. Golzer Hossain	18
Balaram Kanti Das	17
Goutam Kumar Banik	48
Md. Kamaluddin	18
Keshab Chandra Nath	14
Md. Abdul Kader	8
Nargis Sultana	1
Ezhar Hossain	17
Biplob Das	6
Moktader Billah	15
Sudhir Ranjan Barua	2
Nurul Anowar Chowdhury	2
Tarun Kishor Deb	2
Shamsuddin Ahmed Siddiqui	1
Md. Ziauddin	7
Md. Mujibur Rahman Chow.	1
Abul Kashem Chowdhury	4
Md. Mujibul Huq	1
Ajit Naryan Adhiakri	3
Farid Ahmed	10
F.M.A. Razzak	2
Afzal Ahmed	1
Sree Arpan Paul	2
Md. Abdus Sattar	1
Md. Liakat Ali Chowdhury	14
H.S. Abul Hasan	1
Kazi Md. Nazmul Huq	3

Md. Lokman Hossain Chowdhury	1
Kazi Mohiuddin Ahmed	5
Uday Sankar Dhar	5
Nasiruddin	1
A.J.M. Shahidullah	2
Md. Mohibur Rahman	17
Lutfun Nahar	11
Md. Nazrul Islam	2
Zahrul Hasan	4
Md. Abu Taher	2
M.A. Mamun Chowdhury	2
Md. Abul Salam	1
Nishat Sultana	2
Sreepati Kanti Paul	1
Ajoy Bosh	1
Md. Zafar Ullah	1
Md. Rezaul karim	1
Dipak Kumar Barua	2
Harun-Al-Rashid	1
Ranjit Kumar Sheel	1
Nepoleon Bhattacharjee	1
Nurul Alam Chowdhury	4
Bankim Chandra Das	1
Ashish Baran Barua	2
Anupam Chakrabarti	1
Biswajit Chowdhury	1
Sujit Bikash Dutta	1
Total	302

Comilla Unit

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Comilla Unit

Name of the Lawyers	No. of Cases
Md. Ezaz Ahmed Chowdhury	4
Md. A. Mannan	1
Israfal Aman	4
Hasina Aktar	4
Shuvach Ch. Biswas	4
Syeda Nilufa Akter	1
Abdul Kader	3
Atiqur Rahman Abbasi	3
Shahin Chowdhury	2
Promod Ranjan Bhoumik	3
Nurul Islam	2
Mushfiqur Rahman	2
Yeakub Chowdhury	1
Ram Prasad Das	4
Shahida Akter	4
Golam Sarwar Khan	4
M.A. Mannan	1
Ali Akkas	1
Abul Tazul Islam	3

Ayesha Begum	4
Mafizul Islam	7
Aslam Mazumder	2
Safiqur Rahman Sarker	1
Sirajul Kabir	1
Ashok Kumar Majumder	2
Sahidul Huq	2
Shamima Akter	4
Mostafizur Rahman	1
Shirajul Islam	1
Syeda Nilufa Akter	2
Setara Parvin	5
Salma Akter	3
Qubbaidur Rahman Chow.	1
Dilip Kumar Nandi	1
Jahan Ali Begum	1
Bimol Chandra Shaha	1
Rafiqul Islam	2
Syed Mustafa Ali	1
Rustom Ali	1
Total	94

Jessore Unit

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Jessore Unit

Name of the Lawyer	No. of Cases
A. Kader Azad	4
A.K.M. Firoj Akter	1
Abdul Gafur Dulal	10
Abdul Hai Mollah	8
Abdul Latif Morol	4
Abdur Rahman Swapan	6
Abul Khayer Chowdhury	5
Afzal Hossain	6
Alamgir Mia	9
Alamgir Siddique	4
Aminur Rahman	5
Anowar Hossain	1
Asadur Rahman Khan	3

Ashim Kumar Ghosh	2
Ashraful Bari	5
Azizul Islam	4
Bodiuzzaman Khan	2
Dherandra Nath Paul	5
Ezaradar Fazlur Rahman	1
Gagat Narayan Ghosh	1
Gazi Mahfuzur Rahman	6
Golam Hekmat Alam	6
Golam Rahman Biswas	5
Harendranath Das	8
Harun-ur-Rashid	1
Hasanur Rahman (Asad)	5
Hossain Md. B. Selim	7
Jafar Hasan Mahmud	4

Kamrul Islam	4
Kh. Delwar Hossain	4
Kh. Moazzam Hossain	6
M.A. Sattar	4
Mahbub Alam Bachu	4
Mahbuba Alam Bachchu	3
Mahbuba Hasnat (Sheuly)	8
Mahbubur Rahman	3
Mahfujur Rahman	3
Masud Faruque Khan	5
Md. Abdul Ali	3
Md. Abdul Latif (Lata)	3
Md. Abdur Rahman	4
Md. Abul Hossain	5
Md. Abul Hossain-3	2
Md. Abul Khaer	5
Md. Ainal Hossain	4
Md. Alamgir Mia	3
Md. Ali Shahed	1
Md. Azizur Rahman	3
Md. Ilias Tota	2
Md. Ishaque	3
Md. Jafar Sadek	1
Md. Lutfur Rahman	2
Md. Mojibur Rahman Pintu	4
Md. Monowar Hossain	1
Md. Monsur Ali	3
Md. Moqbul Hossain	2
Md. Mostafijur Rahman	4
Md. Nazrul Islam	4

Md. Nojibur Rahman	1
Md. Nuruzaman	2
Md. Robiul Islam-2	3
Md. Salahuddin	3
Md. Shahidur Rahman	3
Md. Sirajul Islam	1
Mirja Shahed Ali	4
Mojijur Rahman	1
Moslem Ali Molla	5
Nurul Islam Siddique	4
Pizush Kanti Vattractarja	4
Rabiul Islam	3
Sabia Khanam	3
Saleha Begum	3
Sawpan Kumar Vadra	1
Setara Khatun	2
Sharifa Begum	2
Shekh Golam Rasul-1	2
Shontosh Kumar Mondol	2
Slahuddin Swapan	1
Syed Mokarram Hossain	2
Syeda Masuma Begum	2
Syeda Sabina Ahmed	1
T.M. Omar Farukh	2
Md. Ismat Basir	1
Kazi Faridul Islam	1
Samir Ghose	1
Montaje Kur Rahman	1
Total	288

Khulna Unit

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Khulna Unit

Name of Lawyers	No. of Cases
S.K. Soyeb	2
Dulal Chandra Shill	2
Chitta Ranjan Dewan	6
Pabitra Kumar Biswas	3
S.M. Kesmot Ali	3
Howlader Mizanur Rahman	5
A.S.M. Arif Hasan	1

Shamim Hossain	1
M. Jamanul Islam	4
Nihar Ranjan Biswas	2
Md. Jahangir Alam Mia	1
Sarder Himmat Ali	5
Md. Mohiuddin	3
Bijon Bihari Mondol	3
Sk. Akhtar Hossain	4
Abdul Malek Howlader	3

Ahsan Habib	5
Prosanta Sharker Roy	2
Sarder Abdul Jalil	3
K.M. Jennath	1
F.M. Akhtaruzzaman	4
Samir Kumar Bhattacharjoo	2
Sarder Abul Hossain	2
Dilip Kumar Kundu	3
Samar Chandra Mondol	3
Chanchal Kumar Ghosh	2
Munsi Abdul Hamid	2
Moniruzzaman Moni	3
Jahangir Alam Mia	1
Nobo Kumar Chakrabarti	3
Anurag Banerjee	4
K. Haiderul Haque	1
S.M. Mahfuzur Rahman	4
Moklesur Rahman	4
Mohosin Jamader	3
Pizus Kanti Halder	7
Shaikh Abu Talib	1
Nikhil Kumar Roy	6
Muhammed Mohiuddin	1
Shaikh Shoib	2
Golam Mostafa Farazi	1
Shaikh Akhtar Hussain	2
Shirin Akhtar	4
Taslima Khatun	1
Narayan Chandra Mohalder	2

Subbroto Kumar Kundu	2
Abdur Rob Khan	6
M. M. Mojibur Rahman	1
Ms. Sita Rani Debnath	2
Sk. Haidarul Haque	1
Sunil Chandra Das	1
Mollah Masum Rashid	1
Shatya Prashad Bagchi	1
A.F.M. Arif Hossain	3
Shamim Mosarraf	2
A.B.M. Omar Ali	1
Nihar Roy Biswas	1
Shabendra Nath Dey	1
Ruhul Amin	1
Jennath Ali	1
Shamvunath Mondol	1
K.M. Iqbal Hossain	1
Syed Asgar Ali	1
Safiqur Rahman	1
B.M. Faroque	1
Tushar Kanti Bosh	1
Satya Prasad Bakshi	1
S.K. Abdus Sattar	2
Sunite Rani Roy	2
Kazi Aminul Islam	1
Bhivuti Bushon Golder	1
Total	165

Mymensingh Unit

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Mymensingh Unit

Name of the Lawyers	No. of Cases
Sawkat Osman	12
A.K.M. Abdul Malek	6
Md. Mokhlesur Rahman	8
Gias Uddin Ahmed	2
Mohammed Sirajul Islam	7
Md. Abdul Aziz	2
Md. Abul Quashem Musa	12
Md. Anowar Aziz Tutul	1

Md. Shohidul Islam	10
Emdadul Haque Millat	4
Motaleb Sarker	8
Munir Hossain Khan	8
Md. A.B. Siddique	6
Muntasir Billah	7
Swapan Kumar Mistri	4
A.F.M. Saidur Rahman	2
Saidur Rahman Akand	4
Syed Ashraful Haque	6

Md. Azizur Rahman	9
Md. Atahar Hossain Sabuj	4
A.K.M. Raihan Uddin	8
Israt Fatema	8
Abu Hanif Khan	11
Md. Mozammel Haque	5
Md. Nazrul Bhuiyan	3
Md. Ruhul Amin Sarker	2
Oshok Kumar Ghosh	5
Mamun Mahfuz	6
Manjurul Alam Majumder	1
Monka Ghosh	5
Goutam Paul	8
Md. Nurul Islam Nuru	5
Md. Mustafijur Rahman	2
Md. Rejaul Haque	5
S.M. Majharul H. Talukder	8
Md. Mahabubul Alam Farid	3
Maksud Hossain Masum	4
Md. Abul Hashem Badal	2
Md. Bazlur Karim Chow.	2
Habibuzzaman Khurram	2
Nazrul Islam Chunnu	3
Khalid Hasan Akand	3
Md. Delwar Hossain	2
Habibur Rahman Khan	5

Md. Abul Hossain	2
Mir Imran Ali	6
S.M. Abul Hossain	1
Md. Ali Haider Khan	3
A.K.M. Fazlul Haque Mollah	2
Riajul Jinnat Begum	1
Md. Enamul Haque	7
Md. Abdul Hye	2
Kazi Israel	2
Shafiq Ahmed Suja	2
Md. Nurul Amin	2
S.I.M. Manjurul Haque	1
Md. Jalal Uddin	1
Swapan Kumar Das	2
Sanaur Rahman Toslim	1
Md. Shamsul Islam	2
Mahmudur Rahman	2
Roma Sarker	6
Rehena Akter	1
Md. Kamal Uddin	1
Md. Abdur Rashid	2
Dilip Chandra Roy	1
Md. Moshir Rahman	1
Ruhul Amin Khan	1
Total	282

Noakhali Unit

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Noakhali Unit.

Name of the Lawyers	No. of Cases
Shafiullah	6
Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan	7
A.S.M Shasul Alam	7
Shohid Hossain	4
Abdul Haque	5
Abdur Rahim	10
Mijanur Rahman Siddiqi	7
Hasanuzzaman	1
Shamsul Haque	1
Serajul Islam	3
Humayun Kabir (3)	5

Nuruzzaman	6
Swapan Chandra Paul	10
Taksir Hossain	3
Keshab Ranjan Nath	2
Golam Rasul	5
Nurer Rahim	7
Abu Jafar	3
Golam Akbar	2
Nirmal Chandra Devnath	3
Rafiq Ullah	4
Nirmal Chandra Majumder	8
Gobinda Chandra Das	4
Afaj Uddin Ahmed	5

Ojit Kumar Dhar	5
Tofael Ahmed	3
Mansurul Haque Khasru	3
Jahangir Alam	5
A.T.M. Karim Hossain	2
Sudhangsu Ranjan Paul	4
Mijanur Rahman -1	6
Mahmud Hassan	2
Mohiuddin Kochi	1
Azizul Haque Boxy	3
Kazi Anowar Azam	2
Sana Ullah	4
Kausar Niaji	2
Md. Yousuf	2
Babul Kanti Majumder	5
Khalilur Rahman	1
Debabrata Chakrabarti	6
Abdul Gofran Bhuiyan	2
Jafar Uddin Bablu	1
Abu Syed	1
Mizajur Rahman-2	1
Abdul Auwal	2
Abdul Karim	1
Azam Khan	3
A.K.M. Siraj Uddin	1
Saiful Haque	1
Sohid Ullah	2
Khoshed Alam	1
Badsha Alam	2
Mostafizur Rahman	1

Abdul Kuddus	2
Abul Kasem	1
Rakhal Chandra Majumder	1
Abu Rela Belal Uddin	2
Monjurul Kabir	1
Kazi Mir Hossain	2
Sheikh Ahmed Bhuiyan	1
Shadat Hossain	3
Bahar Uddin	1
Shamsul Faruq	1
Ahsan Ullah Pappu	3
Alamur Rahman	1
Sirajuddoulla	1
Abdullah Mohammed Taher	3
Sahadat Ullah	4
Shamsuddin Ahmed	1
Rafiqul Islam	1
Anowarul Azam	1
A.K.M. Shohidul Islam	1
Jahangir Hossain Khan	3
Ismail Mahmud	3
G.M. Nasir Uddin	1
Fazle Azam	2
Md. Hanif	2
Abul Kalam Azad	1
Belal Chowdhury	2
Kamrul Islam	1
Shekh Md. Abdul Hye	1
Total	240

Pabna Unit

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Pabna Unit

Name of Lawyers	No. of Cases
Md. Aminul Islam Mia Tarek	4
Md. Mokbul Hossain	2
Md. Ibrahim Hossain	2
Aksinara Khanam	3
Syed Golam Rasul	1
Md. Sohrab Ali	1
Mohammed Ali	4

Md. Abdur Rouf Nister	4
Sikder Md. A. Bari	2
Abdul Majid Majed	1
A.K.M. Idris	7
Md. Idris Ali (1)	4
Kazi Sajjat Iqbal	3
Md. Ayub Ali	4
Nurun Nahar	3
Saib Malek	1

Shafiqul Islam Shibli	2
Sayed Ali Reja	4
Ananta Kr.Kundu	1
Kh. A. Jahid Rana	2
Saleh Ahmed	2
Md. Ayejuddin	2
Md. Golam Mostofa	1
Md. Entaj Ali	4
Md. Saifur Rahman	1
Md. A. Razzaque (2)	3
Dewan Majnul Haque	1
Md. Abdul Hamid (5)	1
Ahindro Ku mar Das	4
Sh. Nazmul Kabi	3
A. Rashid Razu	1
M.A. Motin Moni	1

Abul Kalam Azad	2
Md. Samsur Rahman	2
S. Biswas Helal	1
Billal Hossain	2
Syed Asfaq Hossain	3
Abul Hossain (4)	1
Abdul Hamid (4)	2
Abdur Raham Chowdhury	2
Md. Aezoddin	1
Md. Abdur Rahim	1
A.K.M. Shamsul Huda	1
Md. Abul Hossain (3)	1
Md. Moktur Hossain	1
Md. Israil Alam	1
Total	100

Patuakhali Unit

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Patuakhali Unit

Name of the Lawyers	No. of Cases
Bashonti Debonath	4
Abdus Salam (1)	8
Kazi Abdul Khaleque	3
Kala Chan Shaha	2
Abdur Sattar	1
Kamal Hossain	16
Md. Zakir Hossain	2
Mojibur Rahman Totaon	2
Shanker Lal	6
Monir Hossain	2
Shahi Dulal Karmaker	1
Abdul Berek	7
Abdus Sattar (4)	2
Jalal Uddin	3

Alamgir Hossain	1
Mahbub Bin Nur	3
Shuvas Chandra	3
Shohidur Rahman	3
Ansar Ali Khan	4
Fazlul Karim Khan	3
Kazi Abdul Khaleque	3
Syed Altaf Hossain	4
Shekh Mofazzel Hossain	2
Motiur Rahman Khan	1
Abdul Aziz	1
Syed Kamrul Islam	2
Abul Kashem	2
A.K.M. Hossain	1
Abul Kalam Azad	1
Total	93

Rajshahi Unit

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Rajshahi Unit

Name of the Lawyer	No. of Cases
Mashum Ahmed Tipu	3
Osit Kumar Sen	9

Hasna Hena	6
Md Bayezid Bostami	3
Md. Mobarak Hossain	6

Mirja Kamrul Hasan	4
Md. Khaja Mainuddin	7
Md. Abu Bakar	7
Md. Kayes	10
Md. Shohidul Haque	4
Nasrin Akter Mita	5
Md. Nazmul Haque Mintu	4
Shamina Begum	4
Md. Adib Imam	3
Mohon Kumar Shaha	3
Md. Saidur Rahman	3
Ayesha Begum	4
Md. Amzad Hossain (3)	3
Abul Hossain Khan	5
Nazim Uddin Khan	3
Momena Khatun	5
Bazle Touhid Al Hasan	5
Md. Enamul Haque	1
Md. Helal Uddin Chowdhury	2
Kunal Kumar Roy	2
Syeda Marjina Khatun	8
Md. Jainal Abedin	8
Md. Abul Kashem	7
Md. Altaf Hossain SK	4
K.M. Ilias	5
Mohammed Ismail	3
Enamul Haque	3
Md. Ziaur Rahman	2
Rabiur Haque Kakar	2
Md. Khaiur Alam	5
A.N.M. Shaiful Alam Shely	5
Abdul Alim Chowdhury	1
S.M. Mofazzal Haque	3
Rafiqul Hasan	6
Md. Lutfur Rahman	3
Saifur Rahman Khan	4
Abdul Kuddus Mia	4
Entajul Haque Babu	5
Nur-E-Aftab Hossain	5
Md. Shahidullah Sarker	2
A.K.M. Fazlul Haque	4
Md. Masud Hasan Chow.	3
Md. Mahabubul Islam	4

Md. Jarjis Alam	3
Md. Habibur Rahman Habib	4
Osit Kumar Sannyal	2
Shontosh Kumar Tolapatra	2
Momtaz Khanam	5
Md. Kasir Uddin	2
Md. Kaiser Parvej	3
Md. Shariful Islam	5
Mantaur Raihana	3
Siraji Sawkat Salehin Alane	1
Md. Abdus Salam	2
A.N.M. Kamaruzzaman	5
Md. Nowshad Ali	3
Dil Setara Chuni	5
Monowara Begum	2
Ismat Ara Begum	3
Md. Abdur Razzaque Sarker	3
Mohammed Shahjahan	2
Md. Mostafijur Rahman	1
Azra Hossain	1
Md. Mijanul Islam	3
Md. Abdul Wahab Jems	2
Md. Nur A Kmaruzzaman	1
A.R.M. Hasanuzzaman	1
Munsi Md. Abul Kalam Azad	3
Syed Nurul Islam	3
Md. Shahinul Haque Moon	1
Momtaz Uddin Ahmed	1
Md. Nurul Islam Sarker	3
Md. Jamshed Ali	3
Rawshan Ara Begum Poppy	2
Md. Khorshed Alam Siddiqui	1
Mst. Monjuara Khatun	2
Mia Md. Nuruzzaman	2
Md. Masud Sarder	1
Md. Aminul Haque	2
Abdur Rashid Dewan	1
Mahmuda Nargis	3
Mst. Nasira Banu	2
Md. Zillur Rahman	1
Syed Ekramul Haque	1
Md. Shohidul Islam	1
Md. Abdul Alim (2)	3

Punrima Bharyacharja	3
Md. Al-Mamun Chowdhury	1
Md. Abdul Hamid	2
Shekh Md. Shahin Kabir	2
Mst. Sayera Khatun	1
Md. Abdur Razzaque	2

Md. Ahsan Habib Ranju	3
Md. Abdul Mottaleb	2
A.S.M. Helal Uddin	1
Md. Majaharul Hannan	1
Md. Golam Faruq	1
Total	326

Rangpur Unit

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Rangpur Unit

Name of the Lawyers	No. of Cases
Md. Abdul Baten Mia	8
Md. Abdul Mannaf	13
Md. Abdus Salam (3)	6
Md. Atoarul Islam	6
Md. Solaiman Ali	3
Md. Badrul Islam	10
Md. Abul Kalam Azad (1)	6
Mir Mosaddek Ali Firoj	10
Md. Abdul Hadi	10
Mrs. Rukhsana Hossain	1
A.K.M. Nazrul Islam Aple	3
Jetandra Nath Roy	11
Bidhu Ranjan Roy	3
M.M. Abu Bakar Siddique	4
Md. Moshiar Rahman	6
Md. Shofiqul Islam	1
Md. Moazzem Hossain	4
Md. Shamsul Alam	1
Md. Saidul Kabir	4
Arun Chandra Sarker	3
Md. Mohsin	8
Md. Abu Farhad	1
S. J. Md. Fazle Rabbi Akand	5
Tushar Kanti Roy	1

Md. Mofazzal Hossain	4
Khairul Alam Kalam	2
S.M. Parvej	4
Md. Mostafizur Rahman	3
Md. Abdur Rauf	2
Md. Golam Mawla	10
Nasima Khanam	9
Rejaur Rahman Reza	2
Md. Masud-Ul-Zaman	1
Md. Shafiqul Islam (3)	2
Ashotush Kumar Sarker	2
Mrs. Shufia Khatun	1
Mrs. Rejeka Sultana	2
Md. Nurul Islam	1
Md. Abul Bashar	2
Mrs. Halida Akhter	2
Abu Syed Md. Sharif Uddin	3
Mrs. Monowara Khan	2
Md. Rafiqul Islam	1
Ms. Rebeka Sultana Ferdousi	1
Md. Afsar Ali Sarker	1
Md. Moniruzzaman	2
Md. Abdul Kaium Mondol	1
Total	188

Sylhet Unit

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Sylhet Unit

Name of the lawyers	No. of Cases
Farhana Yeasmin Chow.	13
Bonani Das	3
Md. Abdul Basith Chowdhury	1
Shah Mudabbir Ali	2
Md. Abdul Hamid	9
K.H.M. Jalal	3

Nazim Uddin Chowdhury	6
Niher Ra. Purkayastha	3
Amalendu Dhar	2
M.A.S. Abdullah Chowdhury	4
Md. Akhter Uddin Ahmed	1
Jayanti Shyam Chowdhury	1
Md. Nasar Ahmed	3
Deena yeasmin	14

Subash Chandra Bhowmick	3
Syeda Shirin Akhter	4
Shah Ashraful Islam	6
Bedananda Bhattacharja	1
Syed Nazrul Islam	4
Md. Anowar Hossain	1
Nargis Sultana	4
Md. Shamsul Islam	4
Jamirul Islam Chowdhury	4
Jashim Uddin Ahmed	1
Md. Abdul Muktedir	1
Md. Atiqur Rahman	3
Md. Irfanuzzaman Chow.	1
Iqbal Afruz Chowdhury	3
Md. Lutfur Rahman	2
Md. Musaddeka Akhter	1
Khukon Kumar Dutta	4

Abdur Rashid	4
Ferdous Ara Begum	2
Md. Mukhlisur Rahman	2
Mohammed Zakir Hussain	2
Md. Abdul Mannan	2
Aleya Begum	2
Md. Nasir Uddin	2
Shanker Chandra Delo	1
A.K.M. Somiul Alam	2
Md. Saleh Uddin Chowdhury	1
Ayesha Begum	1
Md. Abdul Mutlib Chowdhury	2
Mr. Kutub Uddin Ahmed	2
Md. Kamal Hussain	2
Md. Lala	1
Total	140

Tangail Unit

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Tangail Unit

Name of Lawyers	No. of Cases
S.M. Rafiqul Islam	2
A.K.M. Abdur Rahman	1
Md. Mojibur Rahman	8
Dinesh Chandra Dev	1
Jaynal Abedin Talukder	5
Ahsan Habib	2
Lutfur Rahman	4
Shah A Matin Ahmed Babul	8
Abdul Hakim Miah	1
Abu Bakar Abdulla	1
Abdul Hai Reza	5
Golam Mostafa	1
Mst. Mahmuda Khatun	2
Shree Porimol Kumer Roy	1
Abu Bakar Siddiqi	2
Md. Bazlur Rashid	2
Mrs. Sajeda Begum	2
Md. Bazlur Rahman	1
Md. Ayesha Khatun	1
Md. Mosharaf Hossain	1
Jebun Nessa Chowdhury	1
Johur Azhar Khan	1
Mohammed Nuruzzaman	1
Total	56

Annexure 2

LIST OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DHAKA UNIT	
Mr. Sayed Rezaur Rahman	President
Ms. Mahmuda Begum	Vice President
Mr. Sarder Md. Suruzzaman	Member
Md. Shahabuddin	Member
Mr. Enayet Hossain Khan	Member
Mr. M. Sajawar Hossain	Member
Md. Nuruzzaman Noni	Member
Mr. Md. Abdullah Abu	Member
Mr. Md. Mohsin Mia	Member
Mr. Momtaz Uddin Mehedi	Member
Mr. Shattendra Chandra Bhaktya	Member

BARISAL UNIT	
Mr. Talukder Mohammed Yunus	President
Mr. Masudul Huq Khan	Vice President
Mr. Golam Abbas Chawdhury	Member
Mr. Kamrul Ahsan Saheen	Member
Mr. Ismail Hossain Negaban	Member
Mr. Fazlur Rahman Khan	Member
Mr. Abdul Gaffar Khan	Member
Mr. Manobendra Batbal	Member
Mr. Shanti Ranjan Chakrabarti	Member
Ms. Kazi Manjuara Begum	Member
Ms. Lila Chakrabarti	Member

BOGRA UNIT	
Mr. Golam Mostafa Khan	President
Mr. A.K.M. Samsul Abedin	Vice President
Mr. Al Mahmud	Member
Mr. B.R.M. Kairuzzaman	Member
Mr. Altaf Ali	Member
Mr. S.M.A. Baki	Member
Mr. Md. Reza	Member
Ms. Nibedita Roy	Member
Ms. Sufia Begum	Member
Ms. Arafat Khatun-e Jannat	Member

COMILLA UNIT

Mr.M.A. Khair	President
Mr. Md.Abdul Motaleb	Vice President
Mr. Md. Ishmail	Member
Mr.Md. Rezzaqul Islam Khasru	Member
Mr.Kalipado Sarker	Member
Mr. Md. Jahirul Islam Selim	Member
Mr. Md. Moazzem Hossain	Member
Mr.Rezzaqul Islam	Member
Mr.Nazmus Sadat	Member
Ms. Samsunnahar	Member
Ms.Sipra Rani Das	Member
Ms. Jesmin Sultana	Member

CHITTAGONG UNIT

Mr. Subhash Chandra Lala	President
Mr. A. K. M. Emdadul Islam	Vice President
Mr. Abul Kalam Azad	Member
Mr. Nurussofa Talukder	Member
Mr. Ahmed Sagir	Member
Mr. Md. Saleh Jahur	Member
Mr. Rana Das Gupta	Member
Mr. Md. Khorshed Alam Chaw.	Member
Mr. Md. Ibrahim Hossain Chaw.	Member
Mr. Akhter Kabir Chawdhury	Member
Mr. Md. Delwar Hossain Chaw.	Member
Mr. Md. Kafil Uddin Chaw.	Member
Mr. Md. Akhter Jahan Huq	Member

DINAJPUR UNIT

Mr. Khatibuddin Ahmed	President
Mr. Md. Yusuf Ali	Vice President
Mr. Md. Ishaq	Member
Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman	Member
Mr. Profulla Kumar Roy	Member
Mr. Abdus Sayeed	Member
Mr. Aminul Huq Putul	Member
Mr. A.B.M. Shafiqur Rahman	Member
Ms. Nasima Akhter	Member
Mr. Md. Liakat Ali	Member
Mr. Md. Rafiqul Amin	Member

FARIDPUR UNIT

Mr. Alhaj Sarwar Jan Mia	President
Mr. Ahmed Hossain Mia	Vice President
Mr. Md. Zahidul Huq	Member
Mr. Md. Asadur Rahman Khan	Member
Mr. Rafiqul Huq Chawdhury	Member
Mr. Afser Uddin Ahmed	Member
Mr. Abdur Razzak Mia	Member
Mr. Shubal Chandra Shaha	Member
Mr. Sahidunnabi	Member
Mr. Alhaj S. M. Khasruzzaman	Member
Mr. M. A. Salam	Member
Ms. Samsunnahar Naim	Member
Ms. Shirin Sultana	Member

JESSORE UNIT

Mr. Faraji Shahadat Hossain	President
Mr. Kazi Tauhidur Rahman	Vice President
Mr. Sayed Mokarram Hossain	Member
Mr. Bibhash Chandra Biswas	Member
Mr. Zahur Ahmed	Member
Mr. Debashish Das	Member
Mr. Moshiar Rahman	Member
Mr. Md. Mainul Huq	Member
Ms. Anwara Khan	Member
Mr. Tushar Kanti De	Member
Ms. Saleha Begum	Member

KHULNA UNIT

Mr. Monjurul Imam	President
Mr. Kazi Badsha Mia	Vice President
Mr. M Firoz Ahmed	Member
Mr. M.M. Muzibur Rahman	Member
Mr. S.R Faruq	Member
Mr. Gazi Abdul Bari	Member
Mr. Parvez Alam Khan	Member
Mr. A. M. Ahmed Ullah	Member
Mr. Bijon Krishna Mondol	Member
Ms. Aloka Nanda Das	Member
Ms Sayeda Sabiha Khatun	Member

KUSHTIA UNIT

Mr.Siraj-ul Islam	President
Mr. Md. Abdul Quadir	Vice President
Mr. Abdur Rahim	Member
Mr. Md. Harun-ur Rashid	Member
Mr. Azizul Huq	Member
Mr. Liaqat Ali	Member
Mr. Anup Kumar Nandi	Member
Mr. Nurul Islam Dulal	Member
Mr. A.S.M. Akhtaruzzaman	Member
Mr. Kartik Chandra Sarker	Member
Ms Monjuri Begum	Member

MYMENSINGH UNIT

Mr.Mostafa M.A. Matin	President
Mr. Md. Wazedul Islam	Vice President
Mr. Anil Kumar Ghosh	Member
Mr.G.M. Anowar Hossain	Member
Ms. Rokeya Begum	Member
Mr. Giasuddin	Member
Mr. Anisur Rahman	Member
Mr. Manjur Anam	Member
Mr. Mirza Nazmul Huq	Member
Ms. Nilufar Begum	Member
Mr Moazzem Hossain Babul	Member

NOAKHALI UNIT

Mr. Abul Khair	President
Mr. Chittya Ranjan Rai Chaw.	Vice President
Mr. Abul Kalam Chawdhury	Member
Mr. A. K. M. Samsul Islam	Member
Mr. Tofael Ahmed	Member
Mr. Moin Uddin Ahmed Khasru	Member
Mr. Habibur Rasul Mollah	Member
Mr. Abdur Rahman	Member
Mr. Golam Akber	Member
Ms. Jannatul Ferdous	Member
Ms. Sharmin Akter	Member

PABNA UNIT

Mr. Alhaj Zahir Ali Kaderi	President
Md. A. Motin Mia	Vice President
Mr. Tofazzal Huq	Member
Mr. Golam Mohiuddin	Member
Mr. Md. Shahjahan Ali	Member
Mr. Sayed Sariful Islam	Member
Mr. Mirza Azizur Rahman	Member
Ms. Iti Hossain Swapna	Member
Mr Anil Chandra Chawdhury	Member
Mr. Md. Mohiuddin	Member
Ms. Kaniz Fatema Putul	Member

PATUAKHALI UNIT

Mr. Golam Ohid Chawdhury	President
Mr. Abdul Huq Farazi	Member
Mr. Abul Kashem	Member
Mr. Md. Altaf Hossain	Member
Mr. Fazlul Karim	Member
Mr. Kazi A. Khaleq	Member
Mr. Motiur Rahman Khan	Member
Ms. Amena Begum	Member
Ms. Nargis Akhter Chawdhury	Member
Mr. Shachi Dulal Karmoker	Member
Ms. Bashanti Debhnath	Member

RAJSHAHI UNIT

Mr. Alhaj Md. Abul Kashem	President
Mr. Syed Ekramul Rasul	Vice President
Mr. Md. Zillur Rahman	Member
Mr. Alhaj Md. Al-Mamun Chaw.	Member
Mr. A.N.M. Saiful Alam Shelly	Member
Ms. Momena Khatun	Member
Mr. Md. Enamul Huq	Member
Mr. Bholanath Mazi	Member
Mr. Mokbul Hossain Ranju	Member
Ms. Ismat Ara Begum	Member
Ms. Dil Setara Begum Chuni	Member

RANGPUR UNIT

Mr. Md. Abdul Gani	President
Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam Mandal	Vice President
Mr. Alhaj Md. Taleb Ali	Member
Mr. A.E. Md. Sarowar-ul Alam	Member
Mr. Md. Motiur Rahman	Member
Mr. Khairul Anam	Member
Mr. Md. Abul Kashem	Member
Mr. Md. Abdus Salam	Member
Mr. Md. Rustam Ali	Member
Mr. Md. Mohosin	Member
Mr. Md. Nurul Islam Mondol	Member
Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman	Member
Mr. Rathish Chandra Bhawmik	Member
Ms. Rezeka Sultana	Member

SYLHET UNIT

Mr. Fakhruddin Ahmed	President
Mr. A.S.M.A. Mubin	Vice President
Md. Mohosin Bakht	Member
Mr. Delwar Golam Rabbani Chaw.	Member
Mr. Md. Azizur Rahman	Member
Mr. Md. Nazimuddin Chawdhury	Member
Ms. Jayanti Shyam Chawdhury	Member
Ms. Farhana Yeasmin Chawdhury	Member
Mr. Prasun Kanti De	Member
Mr. Abdus Sabur Chawdhury	Member
Mr. A.K.M. Shibli	Member

TANGAIL UNIT

Mr Golam Sarowar Khan	President
Mr. Abdul Baki Mia	Vice President
Mr. A.K.M. Abdur Rahman	Member
Mr. Mia Mohammed Aslam	Member
Mr. S.M. Fayejur Rahman	Member
Mr. Sri Bakul Chandra Bhaumik	Member
Mr. K. Faekuzzaman Najib	Member
Mr. Bazlur Rashid	Member
Mr. Mofizur Rahman Mia	Member
Mr. Sayed Azmal Haider	Member
Mr. Sri Bangshi Binod Goswami	Member
Mr. Khan Md. Khaled	Member
Ms. Chobi Roy	Member

Annexure 3

BLAST DIRECTORY

Head Office and Unit Offices

<p>Head Office Fazlul Huq Executive Director</p> <p>Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust 141/1, Segunbagicha Dhaka-1000 Tel: 8317185, 9349126 Fax: 9347107 e-mail: blast@bangla.net</p>	<p>Chittagong Unit Adv. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury Coordinator</p> <p>Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Zilla Parishad Bhaban Court Road, Chittagong</p>
<p>Bogra Unit Adv. Sadrul Alam Ranju Coordinator</p> <p>Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Khaza Bari (behind the Zilla Parishad Bhaban) Bogra</p>	<p>Dhaka Unit Adv. Khandokar Abdul Mannan Coordinator</p> <p>Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust 51/12 Jonshon Road (2nd floor) Beside Azad Cineman Hall Dhaka-1000</p>
<p>Barisal Unit Adv. Mansur-ul Alam Coordinator</p> <p>Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building (1st floor), Barisal</p>	<p>Dinajpur Unit Adv. Sirajum Munira Coordinator</p> <p>Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building, Dinajpur</p>
<p>Comilla Unit Adv. Md. Mofizul Islam Coordinator</p> <p>Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building Comilla</p>	<p>Faridpur Unit Adv. Rafiqur Rahman Coordinator</p> <p>Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Court Masque House (1st floor), Abd-Allah Zahir Uddin Sarak, Court Compound, Faridpur</p>

<p>Jessore Unit Adv. Md. Ishaq Coordinator Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Build. (1st floor) Jessore</p>	<p>Khulna Unit Adv. Ashoke Kumar Saha Coordinator Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust 64, Paura Super Market Khulna</p>
<p>Kushtia Unit Adv. Shankar Majumder Coordinator Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building (1st floor), Kushtia</p>	<p>Mymensingh Unit Adv. A.H. Habib Khan Coordinator Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building (1st floor), Mymensingh</p>
<p>Noakhali Unit Adv. Abdur Rahim Coordinator Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building Majidhi Court, Noakhali</p>	<p>Pabna Unit Adv. Md. Alamgir Hossain Coordinator Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building (1st floor), Pabna</p>
<p>Patuakhali Unit Adv. Shahabuddin Ahmed Coordinator Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building (1st floor), Patuakhali</p>	<p>Rajshahi Unit Adv. Abdus Samad Coordinator Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Kabil Manson (3rd floor), Malopara, Shaheb Bazar, Rajshahi</p>
<p>Rangpur Unit Adv. Nasima Khanam Coordinator Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building (1st floor), Rangpur</p>	<p>Sylhet Unit Adv. Md. Irfanuzzaman Coordinator Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Sylhet Bar Association (2nd floor) Sylhet</p>
<p>Tangail Unit Adv. Md. Mojibor Rahman Coordinator Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust 3708 Lake View Road, Zilla Sadar (Bot-tola), Tangail</p>	

The Legal Aid Clinics

Legal Aid Clinic

Adv. Masuda Rahana Begum
Clinic Coordinator

Bangladesh Legal Aid and
Services Trust
89/1-A Ram Krishna Mission
Road,
Gopibagh, Dhaka

Legal Aid Clinic

Adv. Harun-ur-Rashid Khan
Clinic Coordinator

Bangladesh Legal Aid and
Services Trust
13/11, Babar Road
Mohammedpur
Dhaka

Legal Aid Clinic

Adv. Mohiuddin Khaled
Clinic Coordinator

Bangladesh Legal Aid and
Services Trust
Madan Hat, Hathajari
Chittagong

Mediation Units

There are no offices at the local level and the work is conducted from the homes of the workers and supervisors. The addresses below are the three divisional units of BLAST under which the Rural Mediation Project is carried out.

Barisal Unit

Mr. Syed Naim-E-Nur
Mediation Supervisor

Bar Association Building (1st
floor), Barisal
Ghosal Raj Compound
Bogura Road, Barisal

Sylhet Unit

Sylhet, Md. Adv. Ayub Ali
Mediation Supervisor

Bar Association Building (1st
floor), Sylhet

Khulna Unit

Mr. Shahjahan K abir
Mediation Supervisor

64, Paura Super Market
Khulna

evsj vñ k wj M'ij GBW GÜ mwfñm Uvñ (evñ) Gi cKvkbv

OCCASIONAL PAPER 1-7

evsj vñ k RvZxq gubewAKvi Kvgkb: Avñe` b

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Avqvñ i Z`Rvvi AwAKvi

cñvi cñ 2

AvBb cñqñ RbMñyi AskMñY

Tabassum Dana

Hospital Waste management in Dhaka

An Exploration in Search of Policy: Guidelines and Rules

weñ I Zvj vK ti vRñ: Rbt cñqvRbxq Z`

BLAST Annual Report 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999

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Shahnaz Huda

Registration of Marriage and Divorce: A Study on Law and Practice

Dhaka, 1999; Soft Cover, pp.vii+90; Price 40 taka

Naim Ahmed

Public Interest Litigation: Constitutional Issues and Remedies

Dhaka, 1999; Hard Cover, pp. ix+190; Price 150 taka

KvnbvR ù v

weñ I Zvj vK ti vRñ: Rb AvBbt mmeR chñj vPbv

XvKv 1999; mdU Kfvi, cñv iv+56, gj` 50 UvKv

evsj vñ ñki Rb`ñj evi ñKvWt ñcñvU I cñqvRb

XvKv 1999; mdU Kfvi, cñv ii+96, gj` 50 UvKv

Shahdeen Mailk (Ed)

LACUNAE IN LABOUR LAWS

Towards Timely Disposal of Labour Cases

Dhaka, 1999; Soft Cover, pp vii+97; Price 70 taka

Avj Zvd cvi ñR

Kvi vRxb Kvi ve`v Kvi weñ ñt Abyñ vb I chñj vPbv

XvKv 2000; nW^Kfvi, cñv xvii+190, gj` 120 UvKv

evsj vñ k wj M'ij GBW GÜ mwfñm Uvñ

141/1, ñm, bewMPv, XvKv-1000

ñdvt 9349126, 8317185, d'v t 9347107

BñBj t blast@bangla.net

I ñet www.bdblast.org

