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## SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1. Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) provides free legal services to the poor and marginalised sections of the society through the judicial system of the country. It has now established Unit Offices in 18 districts and 3 Legal Aid Clinics along with Head office of Dhaka.

2. In the reporting year April, 2001 to March, 2002, BLAST has received **4,447** complaints and **1,599** complaints were carried over from the previous year, making a total of **6,046** complaints. During this period BLAST has organised a total of **1,657** mediations out of which **782** complaints have already been settled. A total of Taka **2,614,364.00** have been recovered through the mediations.

3. A total of **2,157** cases were filed in the Supreme Court and various District and Subordinate Courts of the country. **5,384** cases were carried over from the previous year, which gives a total of **7,541** cases that have been dealt with during this period, out of which **2,225** cases have already been decided. Of these **2,225** cases, court verdicts of **1,000** cases went in favour of our clients and the verdicts of **169** cases went against our clients. **535** cases were dismissed for default and **521** cases were compromised by the clients.

By the end of March, 2002, **5,316** cases remained pending for disposal at various stages of the judicial process at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and at various District and Subordinate Courts of the country.

Out of **2,157** new cases, **1,921** were filed by different Units during the reporting period while the head office filed another **163** cases in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. The head office also filed **73** cases in various District and Subordinate Courts of the country.

4. In the reporting year, BLAST engaged **795** lawyers from different parts of the country to litigate on behalf of its clients/beneficiaries.

5. The 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. During the reporting year, Legal Aid Clinics dealt with **401** complaints, initiated **276** mediations, **145** complaints have

been settled through the mediations. The clinics were also able to reach **6,964** persons through the literacy and awareness campaigns.

6. During the reporting year, BLAST arranged **2 Seminars** which were participated by **350** lawyers and law students. It also arranged **1 Training Programme** on Good Prison Management for **20 Prison Personnel**.

7. During the reporting year the Public Interest Litigation cell has filed 6 cases (see annex for details). 3 cases have already been settled. Moreover, several issues of public concern have been identified in consultation with a number of NGOs. BLAST is now preparing to undertake appropriate legal actions regarding these issues.

8. During the reporting year, the labour cell has dealt with **247** complaints. Out of these **247** complaints, **35** complaints have already been settled through mediation and **59** cases were filed in the Labour court of Bangladesh.

9. In dealing with **7,541** cases there were **7,541** direct beneficiaries of legal aid in litigation activities during the reporting year. However, in most of these cases, the number of actual beneficiaries is much more. 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 were also involved). Other earning members of her family also benefit, since in the absence of maintenance from her husband these members usually bear the cost. Similarly, in other cases, the beneficiary recorded in our registrars may be one individual, but successful outcomes of the litigation directly and immediately benefits the whole family. Also in mediations, both sides benefit.

The collective benefits of Public Interest Litigation (related to environment, consumer rights, housing rights, good economic and political governance etc) are very clear and may not need further elaboration. In general, by enabling various beneficiaries (individual, organisations) to access the judicial system, BLAST is helping to foster rule of law in the country, which is one of the principal rationales of its activities and programmes.

10. By directly involving elected office-bearers of 18 Bar Associations of the country through the Unit Offices, BLAST has succeeded in engaging the mainstream lawyer in legal aid activities.

## **Chapter 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Everyone is concerned about safety and security, but it is the poor people who are more vulnerable to various crimes, violence and damage to their personal property. Their vulnerable condition is further accentuated by the fact that they tend to lack proper access to law enforcement authorities and formal justice system. In the case of poor women, the situation is even worse. As experiences in our country suggest, they enjoy very little personal safety and face constant risk of men-violence inside their home and outside in the community and workplaces.

It is an indisputable fact that justice system in our society, both formal and informal, has a defacto bias towards the needs and interests of the privileged classes. Particularly the formal system enjoys minimal legitimacy among the non-privileged population. Such legitimacy has eroded further in recent times due to increasing corruption and politicisation of the law enforcement agencies. The justice system is also characterized by very low institutional capacity. Moreover, for non-privileged citizen seeking justice, the system tends to present many logistical and practical barriers, for instances, excessive delay, high cost, lack of competent manpower etc.

The informal dispute resolution process (Shalish) is surely more accessible to the poorest members of the community, but still it is largely characterized by lack of fairness (men and elite bias) and accountability. Similar to the formal justice system, poverty and powerlessness tend to determine the nature and extent of access in the informal system. Also, the norms and values of the predominantly patriarchal society heavily influence the outcomes of the dispute resolution processes.

The state has made specific provisions to provide the poor greater access to the formal justice system, but so far state led initiatives have been largely unsuccessful. The reasons are mainly related to inappropriate policies. For instance, the state policy only exempts the 'pauper' in civil suit from paying court fees. Also, state's legal aid and assistance are only offered to individuals who are involved in criminal cases and specifically to those accused who may face a

sentence of capital punishment. In addition, the procedures involved are too cumbersome. Consequently, the state's legal aid funds usually go back to the national exchequer. In the context of this limited accessibility of the justice system and state's failure to remedy such situation, one needs to appreciate the critical role of 'Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust' (BLAST) as a provider of legal services and as an advocate for increased access to justice, for poor women and men in Bangladesh.

Established in 1993, BLAST rapidly evolved into a nationwide network of offices engaged in litigation mediation, research and policy advocacy. Partly due to its positive performances over the years and partly due to its link with local level Bar Associations, BLAST has managed to win acceptance and legitimacy in the legal community throughout Bangladesh in a relatively short period of time. It is now recognized as the leading legal aid organisation in the country.

The founder members of the BLAST, a group of eminent lawyers of the country, had the vision to create a society based on rule of law where individual citizen's human and civic rights will be well protected. BLAST's core focus is to provide free legal services to people who are in need of it. Legal services are given when mediation or other forms of reconciliation attempts fail. The general policy is to provide legal aid to the poor and distressed people. Specific criteria are followed to determine who are eligible for such aid. There are exceptions to this general policy and these are made on the basis of the merits of the specific cases. In addition to legal aid, BLAST has been engaged in relevant policy advocacy and research.

The legal aid service that BLAST provides has two dimensions: individual and structural. In the first type, individuals are given legal support in the forms of advice and assistance to deal with common problems (family issues, disputes related property, physical assaults etc.). The lawyers typically act as advisors or advocates to the clients. The second type refers to the use of legal aid /services which seek solution to macro level policy problems or practices (of the public authorities) that tend to result in collective or individual injustice. Here 'legal aid /service' is utilised to put pressures on largely non-responsive public authorities. For instance, due to BLAST's public interest litigation (PIL) and sustained legal advocacy works, the relevant authorities have made changes in certain legislations

effecting various public policies related to, human and legal rights, good economic and political governance and environmental issues. Examples include, among others, reforms in: a) law regarding 'safe custody' of vulnerable women and children and b) policies related to, consumer protection (PIL against marketing of salt containing insufficient iodine), village council elections and recent court case for MPs to pay back overdue telephone bills etc.

This report aims to provide the readers with a detailed narrative of the BLAST's successes and achievements as well as shortcomings during the reporting period. The report is organized in the following ways: Chapter 2 gives an overview of the organization and its activities. Chapter 3 describes the principal objectives of BLAST. Chapter 4 presents the financial balance sheet of the period covering April 2001 to March 2002, Chapter 5 describes the organizational and structure of BLAST. Chapter 6 describes, in detail, the legal aid/ services activities of BLAST during the reporting year. Chapter 7 gives a quantitative as well as qualitative (case studies) description of legal aid and services rendered by head office, each Unit Offices and clinics. Chapter 8 lists the staff training sessions, workshops and seminars organized by other NGOs where officials of BLAST participated.

## 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 <sup>th</sup> May 1993
Registration with the NGO Affairs Bureau	19 <sup>th</sup> December 1993 Registration No. 786
Head Office	141/1 Segunbagicha, Dhaka – 1000 Phone: 8317185 and 934 9126 Fax: 9347107 e-mail: <a href="mailto:blast@bangla.net">blast@bangla.net</a> web: <a href="http://www.bdblast.org">www.bdblast.org</a>
Divisional Unit Offices [Six]	Barisal (1994) Chittagong (1994) Dhaka (1994) Khulna (1994) Rajshahi, (1994) and Sylhet (1995)

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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)	
Law Clinics [Three]	Gopibag & Mohammadpur, in Dhaka City, Hathazari, Chittagong	
<b>PRIMARY ACTIVITIES</b>		
Additional Activities	? Good Prison Management Training for Prison Personnel of Bangladesh	
Personnel		121
Engaged Lawyers		795

**2.2 Activity Profile**

ACTIVITIES	CLASSIFICATION OF THE PRIMARY ACTIVITY	NUMBER
<b>COMPLAINTS</b>	Received	4,447
	Carried over from the previous year	1,599
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,046</b>

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<b>CASES</b> (filed, settled and pending)	In the Supreme Court	163
	In District and Subordinate Courts	1,994
	Total Cases Filed in this period	<b>2,157</b>
	Cases carried over from previous years	5,384
	Total cases dealt with during the year	<b>7,541</b>
	Cases settled during the year	<b>2,225</b>
	In Favour	1000
	Against	169
	Defaulted	535
	Compromised	521
	<b>Total cases pending at the end of the year</b>	<b>5,316</b>
<b>MEDIATION</b> (initiated, settled and pending)	At the Head Offices and 18 Unit Offices	
	Mediations Initiated	<b>1,400</b>
	Disputes Settled	637
	Mediations Pending	763
	Mediations at the three Legal Aid Clinics	
	Mediations Initiated	<b>257</b>
Disputes Settled	145	
Mediations Pending	112	
<b>TRAINING</b>	Training Programme for Prison Personnel of Bangladesh	
	Number of Courses	1
	Number of Participants	20

<b>SEMINARS</b>	Seminar	
	Number of Seminars	2
	Number of Participants	350
<b>AWARENESS</b>	Awareness at three Legal Aid Clinics	
	Number of Participants	6,964

### **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
- ✍ Association Of Development Agencies in Bangladesh
- ✍ Association for Land Reform and Development
- ✍ Bangladesh Bar Council
- ✍ Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association
- ✍ Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs
- ✍ Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA)
- ✍ Bangladesh Mohila Parishad
- ✍ Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha
- ✍ Bangladesh Society for Enforcement for Human Rights
- ✍ British Council
- ✍ CARE-Bangladesh
- ✍ Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
- ✍ Consumer Association of Bangladesh
- ✍ Coordinating Council for Human Rights In Bangladesh
- ✍ Department of Law, Chittagong University
- ✍ Department of Law, University of Dhaka

- ✍ Department of Women's Affairs, GOB
- ✍ Department of Environment, GOB
- ✍ DFID
- ✍ Disaster Forum
- ✍ District Bar Associations of several districts
- ✍ FORUM - ASIA
- ✍ Institutional Development of Human Rights in Bangladesh
- ✍ Madaripur Legal Aid Association
- ✍ Ministry of Environment and Forestry
- ✍ Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
- ✍ Nova Consultancy Bangladesh
- ✍ NOVIB
- ✍ Odhikar
- ✍ Penal Reform International (PRI)
- ✍ Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit
- ✍ Save The Children (UK)
- ✍ The Asia Foundation
- ✍ The Royal Danish Embassy

#### **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 year, we have received funding support for our legal aid and services from the following organisations:

- ✍ NOVIB
- ✍ The Royal Danish Embassy

## **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 free legal aid 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 for establishing and maintaining legal aid and services Units, to be supported by the grants from the Trust;
3. To establish legal aid/assistance and human rights protection Units in the Bar Associations and in different localities of the country, including rural areas;
4. To conduct special training programmes and courses for lawyers and others;
5. To co-ordinate the works of the Units with other institutions, including NGOs working in related fields;
6. To publish law journal/s containing amongst others, original research article on the various legal subjects, and /or bulletins which may contain reports about such activities of the Bar Council and Bar Associations and other matters which are useful to lawyers;
7. To publish books on various legal subjects;
8. To promote improved legal education, in particular which would promote awareness of lawyers responsibilities to providing legal aid to the poor and disadvantaged and to promote, establish and maintain national institutions for legal education and/or training institutes to impart legal education and training;
9. To organise seminars, symposiums, extension lectures on various law subjects for advocates, teachers, law students and advocates and their participation in international conferences, workshops and training and educational programmes.



**Chapter 4**

**BALANCE SHEET**

Balance Sheet as at March 2002

	Notes	Legal Aid and Related Services Project	Public Interest Litigation Project	Rural Mediation Project	Legal Advocacy and Participation of the Civil Society	Women Legal and Economic Rights Project	Good Prison Management Training Program	Access to Justice Program	Arsenic Program	Book Sale	Total year 2001-2002 (all projects)
Particulars		Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka
Non-current assets	3	1,547,723	27,219	59,624	115,383	19,962	49,200	37,040			1,856,141
Current Assets											
Prepayments	4	23,395									23,395
Cash and cash equivalents	5	16,483,748					81,071	105,539	161,245	53,382	16,884,025
		16,507,143					81,071	105,539	161,245	53,382	16,908,380
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>18,054,866</b>	<b>27,219</b>	<b>59,624</b>	<b>115,383</b>	<b>19,962</b>	<b>130,271</b>	<b>142,579</b>	<b>161,245</b>	<b>53,382</b>	<b>18,764,380</b>
Fund and Liabilities											
Fund											
Fund Account	6	3,983,430	27,219	59,624	115,383	19,962	130,271	142,579	161,245	53,382	4,695,808
Liabilities for expenses	7	7,214,971									7,214,971
Grant Received in Advance	8	6,856,465									6,856,465
Current liabilities		14,071,436									14,071,436
		<b>18,054,866</b>	<b>27,219</b>	<b>59,624</b>	<b>115,383</b>	<b>19,962</b>	<b>130,271</b>	<b>142,579</b>	<b>161,245</b>	<b>53,382</b>	<b>18,764,380</b>



## **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, the Trust 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 Razzak 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 the Trust, 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 the Trust:

10. Mr. Fazlul Huq  
Advocate 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.

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

### **5.3. Head Office and Unit Offices**

In 1994, the national Head Office of the Trust 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 established Unit Offices in all the six divisional headquarters of the country. Later, it was decided to expand the activities of the Trust 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 the 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 Unit Offices established in Dinajpur and Faridpur as part of the Trust's target of reaching all the 19 'old' districts. In addition to the Head Office, the Trust now has 18 Unit Offices.

The addresses of the Unit Offices of the Trust 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 the Trust 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 the Trust 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.

The Trust 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 the 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 2002, a total of one hundred and twenty three (123) persons were working for the Trust. Most of the personnel were engaged full time, though a small number, particularly for the Legal Aid Clinics, were also contacted on part-time arrangements.

The Head Office is responsible for the over-all supervision of the activities of the Trust (Unit Offices, Projects and Law Clinics) as well as litigation in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Besides, the Head Office undertakes liaison with various NGOs, GoB agencies and institutions, national human rights movements and campaigns, participation in policy forums and other related activities. Administrative and accounts personnel are based at the Head Office. The following personnel were based at the Head Office until March 31, 2002.

Table 1

Head Office Personnel (Administration, Accounts, Legal Affairs)

Position	Women	Men	Total
Executive Director	0	1	1
Advisor	0	1	1
Deputy Director (Legal Affairs)	1	0	1
Assistant Director (Legal)	0	1	1
Assistant Director (Admn & Accounts)	2	0	2
Secretary to the Trust	1	0	1
Organisation Development Advisor	1	0	1

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Staff Lawyer	2	3	5
Junior Staff Lawyer	0	2	2
Junior Evaluation and Monitoring Officer	0	1	1
Junior Administrative Officer	1	2	3
Media Officer	1	0	1
Information Technology Officer	0	3	3
Accounts Officer	1	1	2
Junior Accounts Officer	0	2	2
Documentation Officer	0	1	1
Librarian	1	0	1
Paralegal	1	0	1
Store In charge	0	1	1
Court Clerk	0	1	1
Vehicle Operator	0	1	1
Messenger	1	4	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>38</b>

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), and Legal Aid Clinics and maintaining the accounts of the Trust. 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.

Table 2  
Unit Office Personnel

Position	Number					
	Division (6 Units)		District (12 Units)		Total	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Co-ordinator	0	6	2	10	2	16
Staff Lawyer	0	1	0	0	0	1

Junior Staff Lawyer	4	2	0	0	4	2
Para Legal	0	0	3	0	3	
Accountant	1	5	0	0	1	5
Office Assistant	1	5	0	0	1	5
Accountant-paralegal- Office Assistant	0		1	11	1	11
Messenger	0	6	0	12	0	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>58</b>

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 a junior staff lawyer in each Unit increased the personnel of the other Divisional Unit Offices. The para-legal personnel were appointed to the three District Unit Offices with the highest caseload. Because of the 'affirmative action' programme to increase women personnel at the Unit Offices, BLAST, all junior staff lawyers and paralegals appointed in 1999 and two coordinators in 2000 and 2001 were women.

**Table 3**  
Legal Aid Clinics Personnel (3 Clinics)

<b>Position</b>	<b>Numbers</b>		
	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<b>Total</b>
Trainee Advisor (part time)	1	2	3
Paralegal	2	0	2
Trainee (part time)	4	4	8
Messenger	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>

**Table 4**

**Consolidated Personnel of BLAST**

Name of the project		Total	Gender		Profession	
			Women	Men	Lawyer	Others <sup>1</sup>
Legal Aid and Services	Head Office	38	13	25	11	27
	Unit Offices	70	12	58	25	45
	Legal Aid Clinics	15	7	8	3	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>123</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>84</b>

It is recognised that the ratio of men and women personnel at BLAST is biased towards the former. This is largely due to the fact that the legal profession is still predominately a 'men profession'. Also, the location of our Unit Offices in court premises acts as a disincentive for women personnel as the number of women 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. In the Supreme Court, out of a total of 59 judges, only one is a woman.

In the year 1999 we launched a vigorous campaign to induct women personnel in the Trust. 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 women coordinator for Dinajpur Unit Office and in this reporting year 2001-2002 one women coordinator for Rangpur Unit Office.

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

More importantly, for the position of panel lawyers, we have reduced the threshold requirement of practising experience of 5 years to 3 years in case of women lawyers, to promote the participation of women lawyers of the District Courts. The responses of women lawyers to this policy change have been positive.

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<sup>1</sup> These include Accounts, Administration, Management, Technical and Support staff.

## 5.6. The Library

To facilitate easy access to legal text, precedents and references for both litigation and research, 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 easy and fast 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 5**  
Case Reports and other Serial Publications

<b>Title</b>	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Year</b>
A.I.R.	57-87(except 1976, 78)	1970-2000
A.I.R. Manual	1 – 45 (Except 37, 38)	
B.L.C.	1-6	1996-2001
B.L.D.	I -21	1981-2001
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-53	1949 –2001
M.L.R.	1-6	1996-2001
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(C.C.R)	1-14	1901-1950
15 Years Digest	1-14	1951-1965
Quinquennial Digest	I-V	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. So far, as 4,599 books have been purchased or procured for the library (see table-7)

**Table 6**  
Collected Journals

<b>Title</b>	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Year</b>
Annual Survey of Indian Law	25-34	1990-1998
Bangladesh Journal of Law	1-3	1997-1999
Bangladesh Development Studies	18-25	1990-1997
BIDS Research Report		1988-1996
BIDS Working Paper		1993-1996
BIISS Journal	1-19	1980-1998 (Except 19 87)
Bangladesh Unnayan Samikhhkha	5-15	1981-1991
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	38-39	1998-1999
Indian Journal of Gender Studies	1-7	1994-2000
Journal of Indian Law Institute	3,5-17,22-26,29, 33-41	1961, '63-75, 80-99 (Except 82, 85, 88-90)
Journal of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh	41,42,-44	1996, 1997, 1999
Journal of Social Studies	3-19 (Except 14)	1981-1997 (Except 92)
Samaj Nirikhon	51-67	1994-1999
Moor's Indian Apples	1-14	1836-1872
Natinal Law School Journal	1-4, 8	1989-1993, 1996
Studies in History	1-14	1985-1998
Journal of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies	26, 29, 30	1992-93, 1995-97

Criminal Law Journal	1-4	2000
Labour Law Journal	1-2	1993
New Statesman		1999
Exploration Rules Human Rights (Labour Code)		1999
hMj †PZbr		1996
AiBb c†Yq†Y RbM†Yi AskM†nb		1999

**Table 7**  
Subject classification of Books at BLAST Library

Subject	Titles
ACT	128
Computer	53
Dictionary	53
Directory	29
Economic Development	362
Environment	191
History & Literature	224
Human Rights	211
Law	1553
Library Science	38
Others	28
Politics	233
Refugees	59
Sociology & Philosophy	119
Statistics	36
Women,Children and Gender	290
<b>Total</b>	<b>3607</b>
Table – 05	785
Table – 06	207
<b>Total number of Books in Library</b>	<b>4599</b>

The Unit Offices are also supplied with essential law books and case reports.

The BLAST Head Office Library has been computerised and all library materials can be searched through the computers.

## **Chapter 6**

### **ACTIVITIES OF BLAST- OVERVIEW**

This chapter describes the legal aid and services activities of BLAST during the reporting year (April, 2001 to March, 2002). The cases have been meticulously documented and the tables 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 some 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 Staff lawyer/Co-ordinator to assess the 'merit' through personal interview with the client, perusal of documents, reports of the junior staff lawyer/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 08) indicates, is that during the reporting period only 23% of the complaints were rejected, i.e., not taken up for further processing. This indicates that we hardly accept 'frivolous' application for legal aid or complaints. Amongst the 23% 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' is also recorded. However, such reasons vary considerably from case to case and hence not amenable to 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 not 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 neither the responsibility nor 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 reporting year (April, 2001 to March, 2002), a total of four thousand four hundred and forty seven (4,447) complaints were received by the Head office (legal cell, labour cell, PIL cell, legal aid clinic) and 18 unit Offices of BLAST. Another one thousand five hundred and ninety nine (1,599) complaints were carried over from the previous year, totalling six thousand and forty six (6,046) complaints dealt with for the reporting year.

Of the complaints received, seven hundred and eighty two (782) complaints were mediated, two thousand one hundred and fifty seven (2,157) case are filed, ninety eight (98) 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 fifty three (53)

complaints sent to the unit office and other NGO's by the Head office for filing cases.

**Table 8**  
Position of the Complaints dealt with during the reporting period.

Offices	Carried Over	Received	Total	Complaints already considered				Total
				Media-tion	Case filed	sent to units	Rejec-ted	
Head Office	306	792	1,098	194	236	53	183	666
Dhaka	141	300	441	46	152	1	166	365
Chittagong	136	291	427	35	152	2	119	308
Barisal	33	222	255	10	160	4	60	234
Rajshahi	148	406	554	92	158	4	145	399
Khulna	12	141	153	12	101	1	34	148
Sylhet	29	134	163	19	117	3	16	155
Mymensingh	244	282	526	60	184	6	61	311
Noakhali	6	137	143	11	120	1	0	132
Jessore	70	293	363	62	158	39	66	325
Rangpur	47	229	276	42	109	2	65	218
Comilla	167	148	315	5	67	0	166	238
Potua khali	22	92	114	7	28	0	0	35
Bogra	92	392	484	55	191	20	109	375
Pabna	35	223	258	62	87	11	70	230
Tangail	90	153	243	34	49	1	102	186
Kushtia	11	55	66	10	29	0	8	47
Dinajpur	5	104	109	16	42	0	21	79
Faridpur	5	53	58	10	17	3	13	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,599</b>	<b>4,447</b>	<b>6,040</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>2,157</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>4,494</b>

As the table above indicates, Rajshahi Unit received the highest, Bogra 2<sup>nd</sup> highest and Dhaka 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of complaints.

During the reporting year, the Trust was unable take up one thousand four hundred and four (1,404) 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 9**

Complaints received, already considered and pending at the different offices.

Offices	Complaints dealt	Complaints already processed	Complaints pending for processing			
			for Mediation	for Cases	for documents	Total
Head office	1,098	666	245	116	71	432
Dhaka	441	365	48	28	0	76
Chittagong	427	308	54	64	1	119
Barisal	255	234	6	11	4	21
Rajshahi	554	399	116	30	9	155
Khulna	153	148	3	2	0	5
Sylhet Unit	163	155	2	4	2	8
Mymensingh	526	311	96	117	2	215
Noakhali	143	132	0	9	2	11
Jessore	363	325	14	18	6	38
Rangpur	276	218	29	29	0	58
Comilla	315	238	38	3	36	77
Potua khali	114	35	57	0	22	79
Bogura	484	375	54	19	36	109
Pabna	258	230	15	13	0	28
Tangail	243	186	38	12	7	57
Kushtia	66	47	19	0	0	19
Dinajpur	109	79	26	0	4	30
Faridpur	58	43	15	0	0	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,046</b>	<b>4,494</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>1,552</b>

Of these 1,552 pending complaints, eight hundred and seventy five (875) complaints are pending for mediation, four hundred and seventy five (475) complaints are pending for filing cases and another two hundred and two (202) complaints are pending due to the lack of documents.

Most of the clients of the Trust are women. As the below (table-10) indicates, there are some variations, though not significant, among the Units in terms of men and women ratio.

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 75 'detention' cases received by the Head Office were men and other 13 complaints were received by the PIL cell.

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 is nominal, compared to fees charged privately by advocates engaged in such or similar cases. This clearly 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 suggested, the Management Committees of the Units, consisting of the most senior and respected lawyers of the districts, perform their functions pro bono.

**Table 10**

Men and Women Percentages in Terms of Number of Complaints Received and Cases Filed.

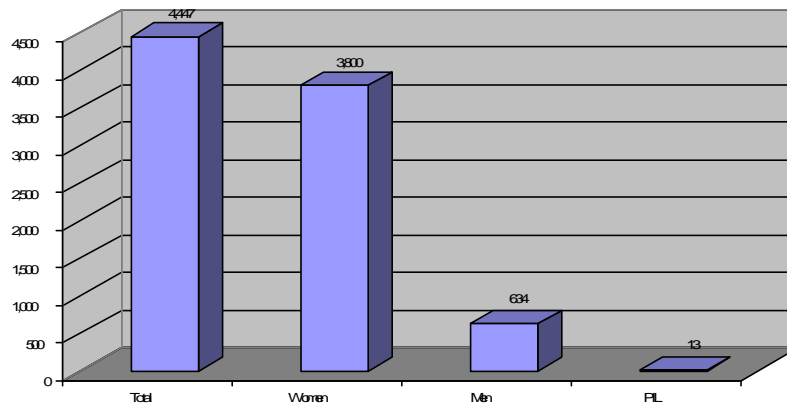
Offices/ Unit	Complaints received				Total <b>B+D</b>	Cases filed				Total <b>G+I</b>	
	A	B	C	D		E	F	G	H		I
	men	%	women	%		men	%	women	%		
Head office	261	34	518	66	779	159	69	70	31	229	
<b>PIL</b>					<b>13</b>					<b>7</b>	
Dhaka	33	11	267	89	300	17	11	135	89	152	
Rajshahi	21	5	385	95	406	8	5	150	95	158	

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Khulna	4	3	137	97	141	2	2	99	98	101
Chittagong	14	5	277	95	291	4	3	148	97	152
Barisal	14	6	208	94	222	9	6	151	94	160
Sylhet	16	12	118	88	134	12	10	105	90	117
Mymensingh	9	3	273	97	282	4	2	180	98	184
Noakhali	9	7	128	93	137	8	7	112	93	120
Jessore	59	20	234	80	293	14	9	144	91	158
Rangpur	14	6	215	94	229	4	4	105	96	109
Comilla	8	5	140	95	148	2	3	65	97	67
Potua khali	14	15	78	85	92	3	11	25	89	28
Bogra	74	19	318	81	392	24	13	167	87	191
Pabna	33	15	190	85	223	4	5	83	95	87
Tangail	13	9	140	91	153	1	2	48	98	49
Kustia	14	25	41	75	55	7	24	22	76	29
Dinajpur	19	18	85	82	104	6	14	36	86	42
Faridpur	5	9	48	91	53	1	6	16	94	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>4,447</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1,861</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2,157</b>

Note: The total percentages add up to 99 since PIL complaints and cases have been excluded from the total counting.

Following chart indicates Men: Women proportion of the clients of complaints.



**6.1.ii. Cases filed**

During the period of April, 2001 to March, 2002, two thousand one hundred and fifty seven (2,157) cases were filed in different courts of the country including the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Another five thousand three hundred and eighty four (5,384) cases were carried over from the previous years, totalling seven thousand five hundred and forty one (7,541) court cases dealt with during this reporting year.

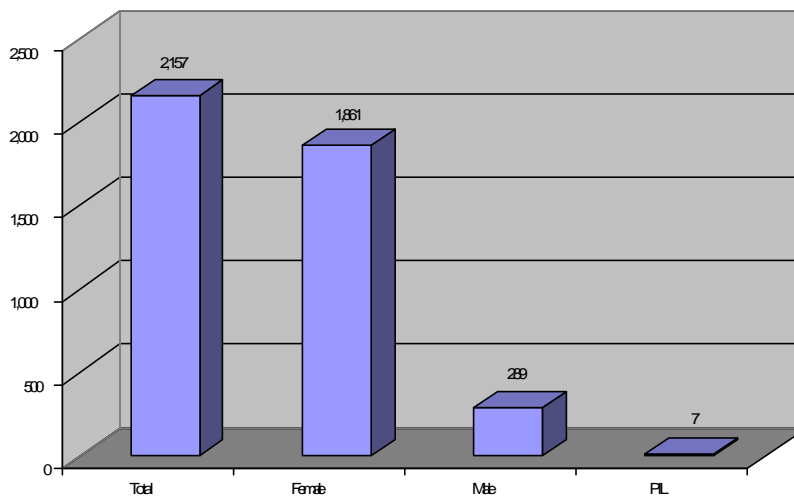
Table 11

Total number of cases in the Head Office and Various Units

<b>Offices</b>	<b>Cases continued from the past</b>	<b>Cases filed in this year</b>	<b>Total Cases dealt with</b>
Head Office	400	236	636
Dhaka	674	152	826
Chittagong	728	152	880
Barisal	404	160	564
Rajshahi	489	158	647
Khulna	266	101	367
Sylhet	207	117	324
Mymensingh	447	184	631
Noakhali	219	120	339
Jessore	324	158	482
Rangpur	187	109	296
Comilla	162	67	229
Potuakhali	150	28	178
Bogra	573	191	764
Pabna	106	87	193
Tangail	44	49	93
Kushtia		29	30
Dinajpur	0	42	42
Faridpur	3	17	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,384</b>	<b>2,157</b>	<b>7,541</b>

It needs to be pointed out that the increase in the volume of cases handled during the year (a total of 7,541) 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 that, first a single case may involve up to 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 the Trust. 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.

Following chart indicates Men: Women proportion of the clients of cases.



In the reporting period BLAST dealt with 7,541 cases. Of these 7,541 cases two thousand two hundred and twenty five (2,225) cases were settled. Out of these, in one thousand (1,000) cases the court verdicts were in favour of our clients while in one hundred and sixty nine (169) cases the court verdicts went against our clients.

**Charges framed against four policemen  
(Report Published in The Daily Star on 29 May 2001)**

The Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka framed charges against four policemen on Sunday in a criminal case.

The accused are Sub-Inspector Mohammad Khorshed Alam, Assistant Sub-Inspector Abdul Hakim, and Constables Amiir Hossain and Abdul Karim of Mohamaddadpur thana in the city.

The ACMM, Muhammad Shafiqul Azim Khan Siddiqui, fixed August 20 for trial.

The accused pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after hearing the charges against them.

The accused took away Sheikh Mohammad Harun a fax-phone trader from the Tajmahal Road in the city, snatched Tk 10,000 and tortured him mercilessly at about 10 am on April 24 in 1999 for which he was in coma for eleven days.

Victim's brother filed a petition case with the CMM's court, Dhaka against them in the same month.

Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman appeared for the accused while Advocates Khondaker Abdul Mannan, Mohammad Abdul Mannan Khan of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) for the complainant.

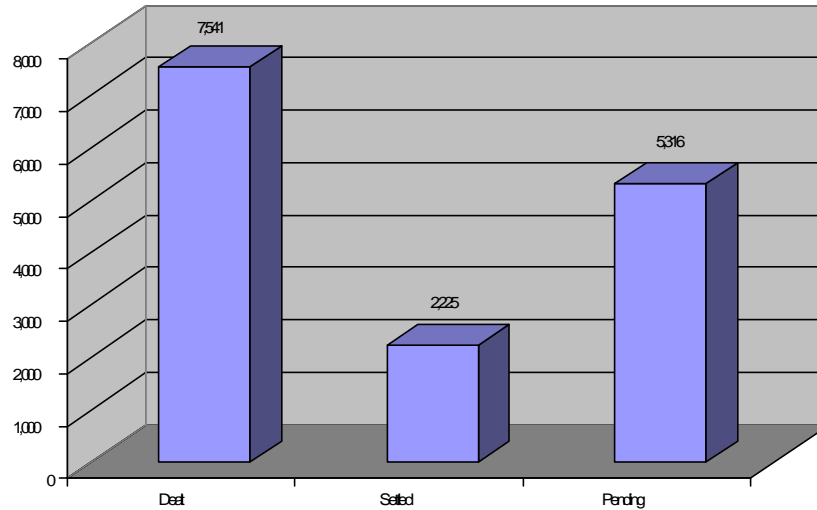
All the accused were present in the court during the hearing.

A total of five hundred and thirty five (535) 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.

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 five hundred and twenty one (521) cases as they could arrive at mutually acceptable compromise.

The chart below shows the status of the cases.



As the number of cases which a Unit can handle is limited by a number of factors, including the availability of resources, it is not the policy of BLAST to actively publicise the services rendered by it for the apprehension that too great a number of prospective litigants may strain the resources and may be detrimental to the quality of services offered. Also, particularly for the older Unit Offices, the demand for legal aid is exceeding the resources available to us.

**Table 12**

The result of the cases dealt with during the reporting period

Unit	Court verdict			Compr omised	Cases settled	Pending for disposal
	For	Against	Defaulted			
Head Office	124	30	14	1	169	467
Dhaka	69	15	49	51	184	642
Chittagong	102	18	90	80	290	590
Barisal	45	16	35	42	138	426
Rajshahi	130	15	37	27	209	438
Khulna	71	4	35	30	140	227
Sylhet	49	9	8	34	100	224

Mymensingh	111	16	47	29	203	428
Noakhali	58	7	17	42	124	215
Jessore	38	14	75	63	190	292
Rangpur	71	2	45	27	145	151
Comilla	27	4	16	24	71	158
Potuakhali	10	7	18	7	42	136
Bogra	47	3	27	37	114	650
Pabna	31	5	19	21	76	117
Tangail	11	3	2	4	20	73
Kushtia	1	0	1	1	3	27
Dinajpur						
Faridpur	5	1	0	1	7	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>2,225</b>	<b>5,316</b>

It is evident that the number of 'defaulted' cases is rather high for Chittagong, and Jessore 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'.

**Table 13**

Cause of the defaulted (535) cases

Sl.	Cause	Number
1	Due to absence of the client	391
2	Due to death of the client	5

3	Subject to proved	17
4	Local Compromise	73
5	Due to improper step of the lawyer	48
6	Other	1
	Total	535

As a rule, BLAST takes up all cases, depending on the merit and the status of the applicant. As a result, the Trust deals with various types of litigation. The types and corresponding numbers of cases dealt with during the year is presented in the Table 14.

Table 14

The types of cases by category, dealt with in April, 2001 to March, 2002

<b>Types of cases filed</b>	<b>Total cases dealt with</b>	<b>Cases settled</b>	<b>Pending at the end of March, 2002</b>
<b>In the District and Sub-ordinate Court</b>			
Family Court Cases	2,442	984	1,458
Family Appeal	143	78	65
Criminal cases	2,572	629	1,943
Criminal Appeal	46	13	33
Bail cases	32	14	18
Criminal Motion & Revision	31	9	22
Session trial cases	224	47	177
Land Cases	476	82	394
Decree execution	709	114	595
Miscellaneous	277	88	189
Labour Court	97	23	74
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>7,049</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>4,968</b>
<b>In the Supreme Court of Bangladesh</b>			
PIL (Writ)	34	3	31
Jail Appeal	22	19	3

Detention	106	87	19
Criminal Revision	75	6	69
Criminal Appeal	46	1	45
Other Writs	22	3	19
Writ[Service]	27	13	14
Civil Revision	141	10	131
Civil Appeal	17	1	16
In Administrative Tribunal	2	1	1
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>348</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7,541</b>	<b>2,225</b>	<b>5,316</b>

As the table above indicates, the highest numbers of cases are those filed in the Family Court and in criminal matters.

Table 15

The results of these cases by types

Types of Cases	In Favour	Against	Defaulted	Compr-omised	Total	Pending
<b>In the District and Sub-ordinate Courts</b>						
Family Cases	512	14	240	218	984	1458
Family Appeal	65	5	3	5	78	65
Criminal Cases	107	51	235	236	629	1943
Cr. Appeal	7	4	0	2	13	33
Bail	13	1	0	0	14	18
Cr. Motion & Revision.	3	4	1	1	9	22
Session Trial	25	19	2	1	47	177
Land Cases	39	16	15	12	82	394
Decree Execution	64	0	14	36	114	595
Labour Court	10	0	12	1	23	74
Miscellaneous	42	26	11	9	88	189
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>4,968</b>

<b>In the Supreme Court of Bangladesh</b>						
PIL (Writ)	3	0	0	0	3	31
Jail Appeal	9	10	0	0	19	3
Detention	87	0	0	0	87	19
Cr. Revision	4	2	0	0	6	69
Cr. Appeal	0	0	1	0	1	45
Writ	2	1	0	0	3	19
Writ [Service]	1	12	0	0	13	14
Civil Revision	5	4	1	0	10	131
Civil Appeal	1	0	0	0	1	16
Admn.Tribunal	1	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>348</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>2,225</b>	<b>5,316</b>

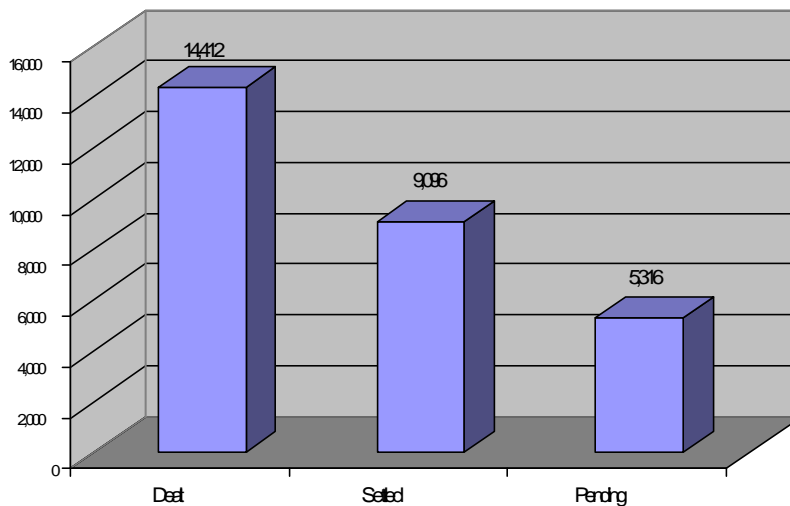
It may be noted that in each and every one of the 106 'detention cases' in which BLAST challenged the legality of such detention under the Special Powers Act, 1974, the 'preventive detentions' were declared illegal (87 cases) by the High Court Divisions and the detainees were ordered to be released by the Court.

From the first full calendar year of activities of BLAST till the 31<sup>st</sup> March of 2002, i.e., from 1994 to March, 2002, a total of fourteen thousand four hundred and twelve (14,412) cases have been filed and nine thousand and ninety six (9,096) 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 fifty nine (761) in 1997 ;
- ? one thousand one hundred and eighty six (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 the period of January, 2000 to March, 2001
- ? **two thousand two hundred and twenty five (2,225) were settled in the period of April, 2001 to March, 2002**

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 the Trust.

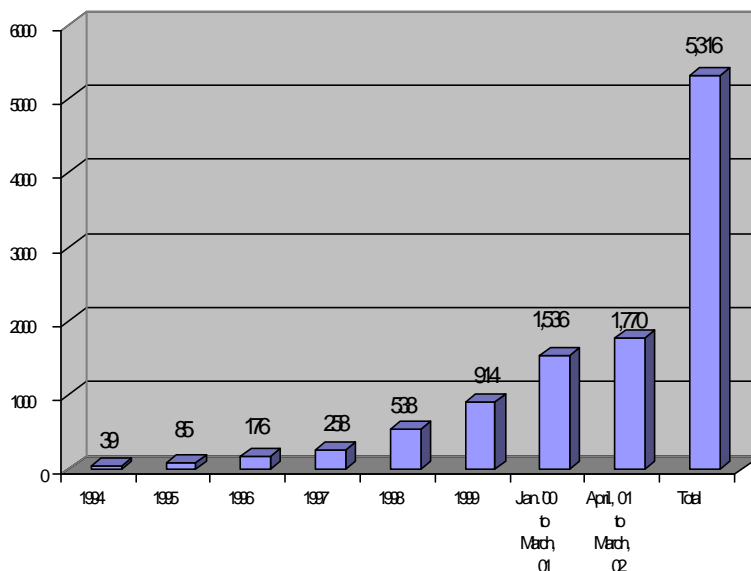
The chart below shows the position of cases in the period of 1994 to March, 2002.



By the end of March, 2002, as already indicated, five thousand three hundred and sixteen (5,316) cases remained pending at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and various District and Subordinate Courts of the country.

The above figures clearly indicate an increasing number of pending cases. The causes for piling up of cases from year to year are due to (i) filing new cases in every year (ii) delay of 2 to 3 years for disposal of Family and criminal cases (iii). mistake of the client to supply correct postal address and (iv) delay of 7 to 8 years for disposal of land dispute cases.

The chart below shows the yearwise number of pending cases (5,316)



### 6.1.iii. Mediation

Seven hundred and eighty two (782) complaints were mediated during the period April, 2001 to March, 2002 and another eight hundred and seventy five (875) complaints are now pending for mediation.

Mediation by BLAST are undertaken in three, as it were, 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 applicant at our Unit Offices has already exhausted all avenues for settlement of their disputes and hence only a few disputes are mediated.

The figures in table 16 show the amount of money recovered through the head office (legal cell, labour cell and three legal aid clinics) and the Unit Offices.

**Table 16**

Unit	No. of Mediation	Recovered money
Head Office	194	9,26,073.00
Barisal	10	
Chittagong	35	3,65,000.00
Dhaka	46	1,88,900.00
Khulna	12	33,000.00
Rajshahi	92	2,43,221.00
Sylhet	19	86,100.00
Mymensingh	60	1,97,850.00
Noakhali	11	
Jessore	62	1,42,000.00
Comilla	5	20,000.00
Rangpur	42	1,000.00
Bogra	55	1,64,000.00
Pabna	62	1,65,070.00
Potua khali	7	
Tangail	34	3,000.00
Kushtia	10	89,500.00
Faridpur	10	
Dinajpur	16	70,100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>26,14,364.00</b>

## **6.2. Lawyers Engaged**

As already discussed, 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.

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 number of women lawyers in district courts with 5 or more years of experience is 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.

We have engaged as many as seven hundred and ninety five (795) lawyers, as the Table 17 below indicates. The names of Lawyers with the number of court cases dealt by them are provided in Annexure – 1.

It needs to be re-iterated that the ‘fees’ paid to the engaged lawyers have been upwardly adjusted only once since 1994. More importantly, in many instances the Co-ordinator assist or supervise complicated cases absolutely free of charge and so is the case with the members of the Management Committees who are excluded from conducting cases as panel lawyers of BLAST. However, there expertise is often drawn upon in difficult cases and they offer their skills and abilities voluntarily for the cause of the poor and the marginalised.

Based on the experience of the last few years and the fact that our Co-ordinators are skilled lawyers, a slight change in the policy of not engaging Co-ordinators as panel lawyers is now being contemplated and in the future they would be permitted to take up a few cases as panel lawyers as well.

In the period April, 2001 to March, 2002 the Trust engaged seven hundred and ninety five (795) lawyers for conducting the two thousand one hundred and fifty seven (2,157) cases. Out of the seven hundred and ninety five (795) lawyers, six hundred and sixty (660) were already engaged in previous years and the rest one hundred and thirty five (135) lawyers were newly engaged in the period.

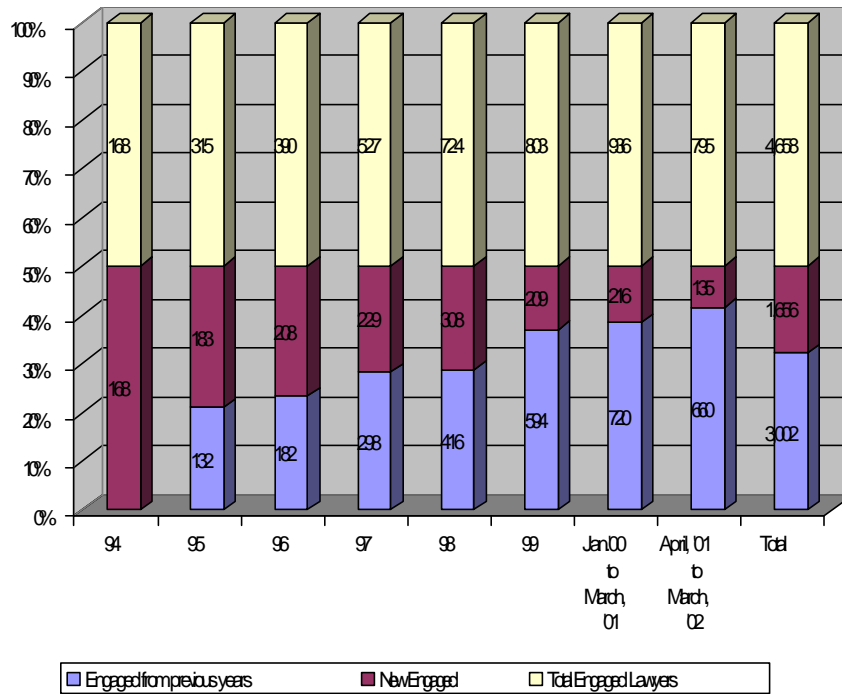
**Table 17**

The number of lawyers engaged for conducting cases in the reporting period

Offices	Engaged from previous year	Newly engaged in the reporting year	Total engaged Lawyers
Head Office (In Supreme Courts)	22	6	28
Head Office (In Subordinate Courts)	12	3	15
Dhaka Unit	42	5	47
Barisal Unit	70	3	73
Chittagong Unit	35	1	36
Khulna Unit	48	3	51
Rajshahi Unit	70	2	72
Sylhet Unit	39	5	44
Mymensingh Unit	51	1	52
Noakhali Unit	56	13	69
Rangpur	39	3	42
Comilla	27	5	32
Jessore Unit	57	19	76
Bogra	23	5	28
Pabna	36	11	47
Patuakhali	14	5	19
Tangail	17	0	17
Kushtia	1	6	7
Faridpur	1	14	15
Dinajpur	0	25	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>795</b>

The Trust tries to engage lawyers as many as possible in its activities. 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. The Unit Management Committees, consisting of the elected leaders of the respective District Bar Associations, are primarily responsible for the selection of the lawyers.

The chart below shows the number of Lawyers engaged during the period of 1994- March, 2002



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 year.

Though the latest exact figures are not readily available, it is our understanding that at any given time there may be as many as 500 to 600 persons in jails of the country who had been detained under the Special Powers Act, 1974. The High Court Division is the only forum

for challenging the legality of detentions under the Special Powers Act, 1974. It is an expensive exercise to file a writ petition challenging the detention and more so for detainees from outside Dhaka. BLAST is the only organisation which provides legal aid in a regular manner for 'detention cases' and the demand for legal aid in such matters is continuously increasing. The High Court Division routinely declares such detention under the Special Powers Act, 1974 as illegal and orders the release of the detainee.

### **Under Trial Prisoner and Jail Appeal**

The under-trial prisoners without legal representations need special legal support. However, given the high number, any measure to provide legal aid to these under-trial prisoners would entail certain selectivity, which would necessarily involve ethical concerns. Under trial prisoners, generally, are not in a position to engage lawyers for their defense at the time of trial. Although there is a provision for engagement of lawyer by the state for the defense of those undefended accused, who are tried for the offence punishable with death, there is no such provision to engage lawyer for any other offence. In fact the trial of these accused are held without any defence lawyers. The Trial Judge, in such situation, find it very difficult to do

#### **RANIKA EXEMPTED FORM THE CHARGE OF SMUGGLING**

Ranika wife of Md. Mojammel Huq of village- Mirjapur, Police Station-Keranigonj, District- Dhaka, was in Rajshahi Central Jail for a long time in connection with a smuggling case (special power case 165/2000) with out facing any trial. This was due to her inability to appoint any lawyer to defend herself in the Court. BLAST Rajshahi Unit appointed a lawyer to defend her in this case. After conclusion of the trial, the tribunal set her free from the charge on 01.12.2001.

#### **PROSECUTION FAILED TO PROVE ALLEGATION AGAINST GOLBAR**

Golbar, who was falsely implicated in a case (cases no. 181/2000) was languishing in Rajshahi central Jail, with out facing any trial. Due to poverty he failed to appoint any lawyer to defend himself. BLAST Rajshahi Unit appointed a lawyer on behalf of Golbar. He eventually was granted bail from the Tribunal. After the end of the trial, he was acquitted from the charge brought against him on 12.04.2001.

justice to the undefended accused as shall be penalize these accused unheard and without the benefit of cross examination of the prosecution witness. This clearly amounts to denial of right of defense of an accused.

It has been the principle of BLAST to provide legal aid to those who approach our offices. We do not advertise our services for the simple reason that our resources wouldn't suffice, if the demand for services increase due to such advertisement. The under-trial prisoners would, however, need to be approached for legal aid, which raises the issue of selectivity in choosing the prisoners who would be aided.

The various dimensions of offering legal aid to under-trial prisoners and formulation of relevant guidelines are under active consideration by the government. In this regard the Law Ministry has initiated dialogue with the civil society organizations. BLAST has made important contribution in this process.

BLAST in the past has rendered assistance and support to under trial prisoners through its legal aid mission. It has provided legal aid to 150 under trial prisoners involving 115 cases. Both the head office and the Unit Officer were involved in providing the aid. Information regarding under trial prisoners was collected from the newspaper, other relevant organization and from the court.

Unlike the provision for engaging lawyer for the accused at the state cost, in a trial for the offence liable for capital sentence, there is no such provision for engaging lawyer for the convict appellant in jail appeal in the High Court Division of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. BLAST, considering such lack of provision as denial of the cardinal maxim of Justice that "none should be condemned unheard" has taken the initiative to provide legal aid to these convict appellants at the time of hearing Jail Appeal, with the permission of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Supreme Court. BLAST has provided legal aid free of cost to the convict appellant in 22 Jail Appeals out of which 9 appeals were allowed, 10 dismissed and 3 are pending.

### **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)**

PIL, an emerging area of protective and interventionist legal process, is designed to enforce accountability of the government through the judicial system and to empower powerless sections of the society.

Since engaging in Public Interest Litigation since mid-1996,

#### **Arrears tele bills of MPs**

##### **Rule nisi issued upon Govt, BTTB authority**

##### **( Report Published in The Bangladesh Observer, Dated 28 May 2001)**

The High Court on Sunday issued rule nisi upon the government and Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) authority to show cause within 6 weeks as to why they should not be directed to take necessary steps and measures for collecting the arrear of telephone bills from the members of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> (present) Parliament and to ensure that the government receives revenue from the telephone services provided by BTTB from the collection of the telephone bills on a regular basis.

The court also directed the BTTB authority to certify and transmit the names of the defaulting Members of Parliament (MP) along with their outstanding dues to the court within one month. A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Shah Abu Nasim Mominur Rahman and Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury passed the order.

A news was published on 29.4.2001 in the Daily Star that Tk 3.21 crore was lying as dues by MPs of the 7<sup>th</sup> Parliament as telephone bills. Earlier another news was published in the Bhorer Kagoj and Pratham Alo that Tk 3.85 crore was lying as dues by the MPs of the 5<sup>th</sup> Parliament as telephone bills. It is learnt that more than two-third of the MPs are defaulters in this regard. It is also learnt all the MPs draw Tk 4,000 each per month for maintaining telephone facilities but they even don't bother to the same to BTTB. But the BTTB authority did not take any action.

However, challenging inaction of the BTTB authority Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) human rights, NGOs filed a writ petition before the High Court on the contention that BTTB authority was legally bound to realise the arrears of the said telephone bills from the MPs by which the government was being deprived of a large amount of revenue.

After hearing, the petitioner's lawyer the court issued the abovementioned rule and direction upon the Secretary, Ministry of Post and Telecommunication, Secretary, Parliament Secretariat, Chairman, BTTB, Chief Accounts Officer (Finance Wing), BTTB and Director (Revenue), BTTB.

Advocate Nizamul Huq Nasim with Advocate Rafiquzzaman appeared for the petitioner.

BLAST has filed a number of PIL cases in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court. The cases include, employment discrimination, set code in public examination, illegal Land Acquisition in Chittagong Hill Tracts, iodine deficiency in edible salt, Illegal construction of buildings, challenging constitutional validity of the Indus Valley-Gulshn Baridhara Lake Development Project, slum evictions in Cox's Bazar and Dhaka, abuse of power by the police and other executive agencies, the *basti eviction* case etc.

During the reporting period PIL cell dealt with the following cases:

1. Writ petition no. 804/2001 (unrealised Public money should be realised from former president H.M. Ershad)
2. Writ Petition no. 2060/2001 (The Telephone bill case).
3. Writ Petition no. 6252/2001 (Illegal eviction of pavement dwelling at Tajgaon Railway).
4. Writ Petition no. 6767/2001 (Challenging the Public Safety Act),
5. Writ Petition no. 3037/1999 (Air pollution).
6. Writ Petition no. 3393/2000 (Maintainability of criminal cases in the labour court).
7. Writ Petition no. 3806/1998 (abuse of power by the police and other executive agencies).
8. Writ Petition no. 1341/2000 (Challenging the trial of children the Juvenile court).
9. Writ Petition no. 3091/2001 (Challenging Shrimp cultivation).
10. Writ Petition no. 1694/2000 (Lead pollution). Among these cases, three cases (sl. no. 8, 9, and 10) have been settled.

These cases were argued by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of BLAST, Dr. Kamal Hossain, Senior Advocate M. I Farooqi, Abdur Razzak Khan with the assistance from the lawyers of BLAST and a number of other activist advocates.

The overview will be followed up by further 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 the Trust, located at 141/1 Segunbagicha, Dhaka –1000, are as follows:

- ✍ Administration of all Unit Offices, Legal Aid Clinics and Projects of the Trust;
- ✍ Finance and Accounts all Unit Offices, Legal Aid Clinics and Projects of the Trust;
- ✍ 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 the Trust;
- ✍ 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 list 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 the Trust, though other activities are briefly described in Chapter 8 below.

A total of six hundred and ninety seven (697) complaints were dealt with during the year by the Head Office. Of these, four hundred and eighty one (481) complaints were received in this year and another two hundred and sixteen (216) were carried over from the previous year. Out of these four hundred and eighty one (481) complaints, 237 (49%) complainants were men, 231 (48%) were women and other 13(3%) complaints were Public interest litigation complaints.

A total of two hundred and thirty six (236) cases were filed in different courts including the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the Head office during the reporting year. Out of these two hundred and thirty six (236) cases, 159 (67%) cases were men, 70 (30%) were women and other 7(3%) cases were Public interest litigation cases.

In this reporting year BLAST dealt with six hundred and thirty six (636) cases. Out of these 636 cases one hundred and sixty nine (169) cases were settled during the year. Of the settled cases, one hundred and twenty four (124) court verdicts were in favour of our clients, thirty (30) went against, twelve(12) cases were dismissed for default, one (01) case was compromised and two (2) not pressed. By the end of March, 2002, four hundred and sixty seven (467) cases remained pending including the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

Head office handled the litigation in three cells; Legal, PIL and labour cell especially for Garments woman worker.

### **Legal and PIL cell**

#### **In the Supreme Court of Bangladesh**

Out of the 697 complaints, one hundred and ninety eight (198) complaints were received in the year April 2001 to March 2002 and sixty nine (69) complaints were carried over from previous year, making a total of two hundred and sixty seven (267) complaints

handled during the year for matters relating to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. One hundred and sixty three (163) cases were filed by the Head Office in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Out of these 163 cases, 7 cases are PIL cases.

BLAST was unable to take up sixteen (16) complaints due to various reasons, such as subsequent non-attendance, mutual compromise, non-availability of documents, etc. Sixty one (61) complaints were pending for filing as court cases and twenty six (26) complaints were pending at the end of the year due to necessary papers not being available and other reasons. One (1) complaint was sent to Unit Offices of the Trust for filing in cases in the respective District and Subordinate Courts.

In this reporting year BLAST dealt with four hundred and ninety two (492) cases. Out of these 492 cases one hundred and forty four (144) cases were settled during the year. Of the settled cases, one hundred and thirteen (113) court verdicts were in favour of our clients, twenty nine (29) went against and two (2) not pressed. By the end of March, 2002, three hundred and forty eight cases remained pending in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Out of these 348 pending cases, 31 cases are PIL cases.

#### **In the District Judge's Court**

One hundred and eighteen (118) complaints were received in the year of April 2001 to March 2002 and sixty five (65) complaints were carried over from previous year, making a total of one hundred and eighty three (183) complaints handled by the legal cell of Head Office during the year for matters relating to the jurisdiction of the District and Sub-ordinate Courts.

Fourteen (14) cases were filed in the District and Subordinate Courts. Of these 14 cases, a few numbers of cases were filed in the different District and Subordinate Courts where BLAST does not as yet have Unit Offices. It has been the policy of the Trust to take up cases even for districts where the Trust 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.

Another fourteen (14) complaints were settled through mediation and sixty six (66) complaints are now pending for mediation, twenty seven (27) complaints are pending for filing as court cases and seventeen (17) 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.

Fifteen (15) complaints were sent to Unit Offices of the Trust for filing in cases in the respective District and Subordinate Courts. The Head Office could not take up thirty (30) complaints due to non-attendance, non-availability of documents, and so on.

In this reporting year forty seven (47) cases dealt with in the District and Subordinates Courts. Of these 47 cases, three (3) cases were settled and forty five (45) cases remained pending in the labour court and District and Subordinates Courts.

### **Labour cell especially for Garments woman worker**

One hundred and sixty five (165) complaints were received in the year of April 2001 to March 2002 and eighty two (82) complaints were carried over from previous year, making a total of two hundred and forty seven (247) complaints handled by the labour cell of Head Office for matters relating to the jurisdiction of the labour Court of Dhaka.

Another thirty five (35) complaints were settled through mediation and sixty seven (67) complaints are now pending for mediation, twenty five (25) complaints are pending for filing as court cases and twelve (12) 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. Another forty nine (49) complaints could not take up due to non-attendance, non-availability of documents, and so on.

In this reporting year fifty nine (59) cases were filed and thirty eight (38) cases were carried over from previous years, making a total of ninety seven (97) cases dealt within the labour court of Dhaka. Of these 97 cases, twenty three (23) cases were settled and seventy four (74) cases remained pending in the labour of Dhaka.

A total of one thousand three hundred twenty nine (1,329) cases were filed and eight hundred and sixty two (862) cases were settled by the Head Office of the Trust during the period 1994 to March, 2002. 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;
- ? one hundred and ninety three (193) cases were settled during the period January, 2000 to March, 2001; and
- ? one hundred and sixty nine (169) cases were settled during the reporting period of April 2001 to March 2002.

Another four hundred and sixty seven (467) cases remained pending for disposal.

Of these 1,329 cases, 1092 cases were filed in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. No other organisation deals with such a number of cases (1092) 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, 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.

In the period between 1994 to March 2002 the Head Office engaged one hundred and nineteen (119) panel lawyers for the one thousand three hundred and twenty nine (1,329) cases.

**Table 18**

Number of Lawyers engaged by the Head Office for legal aid cases

Years	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
Janu, 00 to Mar, 01	35	23	12
April, 01 to Mar, 02	43	34	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>119</b>

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

## **7.2. Unit Offices and Legal Aid Clinics**

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

Two legal aid clinics (Gopibug and Mohammadpur) were established by the end of 1994 and another (Hathazari,) was established by the beginning of 1999.

In the following we elaborate the legal aid and services activities of 18 Unit Offices and 3 Legal Aid Clinics of the Trust.

### **7.2.i. Barisal Divisional Unit**

A total of two hundred and twenty two (222) complaints were received during April, 2001 to March, 2002 and thirty three (33) complaints were carried over from the previous year, making a total of two hundred and fifty five (255) complaints dealt with by the Barisal Unit. Out of these 222 complaints, only 14 (6%) complainants were men while an overwhelming majority of 208 (94%) were women.

Ten (10) complaints were settled through mediation and six (6) disputes are pending for mediation at the Barisal Unit. Another eleven (11) complaints were pending for filing cases and four (04) complaints were pending for necessary papers at the end of the reporting year. Because of the lack of appropriate documents and other related causes sixty (60) 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.

Of the 255 complaints, one hundred and sixty (160) cases were filed. Out of the 160 cases women litigants comprised 94% (151) of the total. Another four hundred and four (404) cases were carried over from previous years in the Districts & Subordinate Courts of Barisal. Out of this total of five hundred and sixty four (564) cases handled during the reporting year, a total of one hundred thirty eight (138) cases were settled in April 2001 to March 2002. Of these, in

- ? forty five (45) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ? sixteen (16) cases went against our client;
- ? thirty five (35) cases were dismissed for default;
- ? forty two (42) cases were settled or withdrawn by the clients.

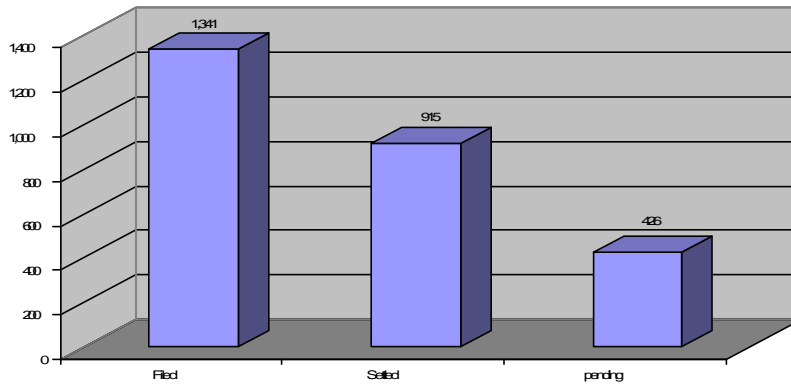
Of these 138 settled cases, 1 cases were filed in 1994, 1 cases in 1995, 1 cases in 1996, 7 cases in 1997, 13 cases in 1998, 22 cases in 1999, 80 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 13 cases were filed in this period.

A total of one thousand three hundred and forty one (1,341) cases were filed and nine hundred and fifteen (915) cases settled in the period of 1994 to March 2002 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;
- ? two hundred fifty three (253) cases were settled in January 2000 to March 2001; and

? one hundred and thirty eight (138) cases were settled in April 2001 to March 2002.

The chart below shows the status of the cases filed by the Barisal Unit during 1994 to March 2002.



By the end of March, 2002 four hundred and twenty six (426) cases remained pending at the Barisal District and Subordinate Courts. Of these 426 pending cases, 4 cases were filed in 1994, 3 cases 1995, 4 cases 1996, 8 cases 1997, 38 cases 1998, 95 cases 1999, 127 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 147 cases were filed in this period.

During the period of 1994 to March 2002 the Barisal Unit Office engaged a total of one hundred and ninety six (196) lawyers for the one thousand three hundred and forty one (1,341) cases.

It has been the policy of BLAST to continuously increase the number of panel lawyers engaged to provide legal aid to the poor and the disadvantaged. This policy is premised on the goal of including a larger number of lawyers of the Local District Bar with the activities of BLAST and gradually prepares a pool of lawyers who would be motivated for public welfare services. Needless to say, as the quality of services rendered to our clients and partners are the primary criteria for selection of lawyers, all engaged lawyers must have a practising experience of 5 years or more. However, to encourage involvement of women lawyers, we have recently reduced the threshold requirement to 3 years for them.

**Table 19**

Number of Lawyers engaged by the Barisal Unit Office for legal aid cases

Years	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
Apr'01 to Mar'02	73	70	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>196</b>

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**

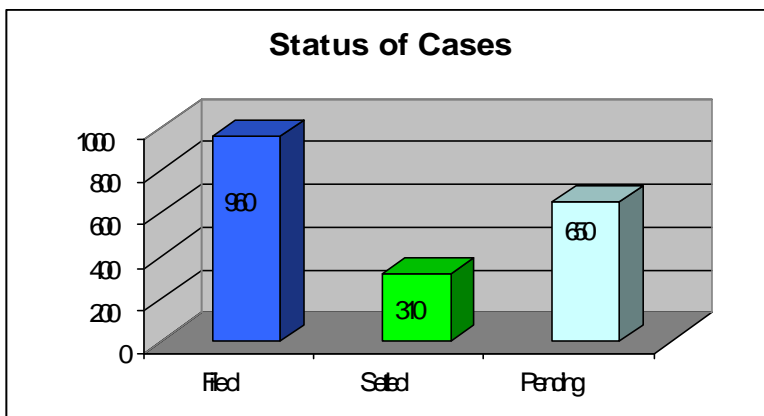
Due to non-availability of space, Bogra is one of the few Unit offices which could not yet be located in the Bar Association Building. However, owing to increased demand of the services, the Unit had to relocate to a larger premise during the year, a few yards away from the older premise in the vicinity of the court premises.

Among the Unit Offices of BLAST, the Bogra Unit received the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of complaints. Bogra unit received three hundred and ninety two (392) complaints during April 2001 to March 2002 and ninety two (92) complaints were carried over from previous year, making a total of four hundred and eighty four (484) complaints dealt with by the Bogra Unit Office. Out of these 484 complaints received during the year, 74 (19%) complainant were men and 318 (81%) were women.

Fifty five (55) complaints were settled through mediation and fifty four (54) disputes are pending for mediation at the Bogra Unit. Another nineteen (19) complaints were pending for filing cases and thirty six (36) complaints were pending for necessary papers at the end of the reporting year. Because of the lack of appropriate documents and other related causes one hundred and nine (109)

complaints could not be proceeded with. Twenty (20) were sent to the Head Office for filing cases in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

Out of 484 complaints received, one hundred and ninety one (191) cases were filed in different Courts in Bogra. Of these 191 cases, 24 (13%) clients were men and 167 (87%) were women. Another 573 cases carried over from previous years. Thus, the Bogra Unit dealt with a total of seven hundred and sixty four (764) cases during the year. Out of these cases one hundred and fourteen (114) cases have been settled. Of these, in



- ? thirty forty seven (47) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ? three (3) case went against our client;
- ? twenty seven (27) cases as defaulted; and
- ? thirty seven (37) cases were withdrawn by the clients.

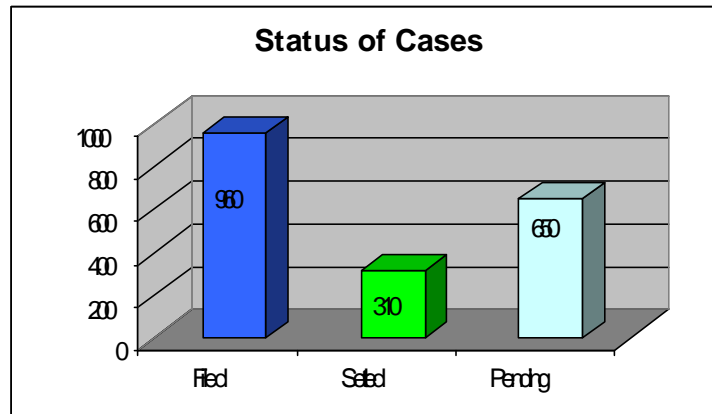
Out of these 114 settled cases, 4 cases were filed in 1997, 5 cases in 1998 and 11 cases in 1999 and 57 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 37 were filed in this reporting period.

A total of nine hundred and sixty (960) cases were filed and three hundred and ten (310) cases were settled in the period of 1997 to March, 2002 by the Bogra Unit of BLAST. Of these,

- ? seventeen (17) cases were settled in 1998;
- ? thirty nine (39) in 1999;

- ? one hundred and forty (140) in January 2000 to March 2001; and
- ? one hundred fourteen (114) cases settled in this period.

The chart below shows the status of the cases filed by the Bogra Unit during 1997 to March 2002.



Six hundred and fifty (650) cases are now pending for disposal with the Unit Office at the end of March, 2002. Of these 650 cases, 5 cases were filed in 1997, 51 cases in 1998, 164 cases in 1999 and 276 cases in January, 2000b to March, 2001 and 154 cases were filed in this reporting period.

During the period of 1997 to March 2002 the Bogra Unit Office engaged a total of seventy seven (77) lawyers for the nine hundred and sixty (960) cases.

**Table 20**

Number of Lawyers engaged by Bogra Unit Office for legal aid cases

Years	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
April'01 to Mar'02	28	23	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>77</b>

### 7.2.iii. Chittagong Divisional Unit

Chittagong Unit has been one of the most active Unit Offices of BLAST. Due to the increased demand for the services rendered, the office of the Unit had to be shifted to a larger premise. Owing to the hard work of the Management Committee, a spacious premise for the Unit Office was secured in the Zilla Parishad Bhavan of Chittagong, at the foothill of the District Court Buildings.

As already indicated, the Chittagong Unit received the 5<sup>th</sup> highest number of complaints. A total of two hundred and ninety one (291) complaints were received during the year. Another one hundred and thirty six (136) complaints were carried over from the previous year, making a total of four hundred and twenty seven (427) complaints dealt with by the Chittagong Unit Office. Out of the 291 complaints received in April 2001 to March 2002, 14 (5%) complainants were men and 277 (95%) were women.

#### **BADSHA MIA CONVICTED UNDER DOWRY PROHIBITION ACT**

Rehena Akhter and Badsha Mia got married on April 4, 1997 through proper registration. At the time of registration dower was determine Taka 1,00,000.00. They had a son of 3 years old. On 5.12.1999 Badhsa Mia assaulted Rehena Akhter, demanded dowry and finally kicked her out with her child. Having no other alternative, Rehena filed a complaint in the BLAST Chittagong Unit office. The office tried to settle the case through mediation but they failed to do so due to Badsha's deliberate absence. Finally, the Unit office filed a C.R. case before the learned Chief Metropolitan Magistrate. At the time of the trial, Badsha was arrested and brought to the trial. After conclusion of the trial, the learned Magistrate sentenced Badsha for 1 year rigorous imprisonment under the Dowry Prohibition Act.

Thirty five (35) complaints were settled through mediation and fifty four (54) disputes are now pending for mediation at the Chittagong Unit Office. Sixty ffive (65) complaints are pending for filing cases. Because of the lack of appropriate documents one hundred and nineteen (119) complaints could

not be proceeded with. Two (02) complaints were sent to the Head Office for filing cases in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

One hundred and fifty two (152) cases were filed during the reporting period by the Chittagong Unit Office. Of these 152 cases the women and man ratio of the clients was: women 148 (97%) and man 4 (3%). Another seven hundred and twenty eight (728) cases were carried over from the previous years. Thus, the Chittagong Unit dealt with a total of eight hundred and eighty (880) cases. Out of these, two hundred and ninety (290) cases were settled. Of the settled cases, in

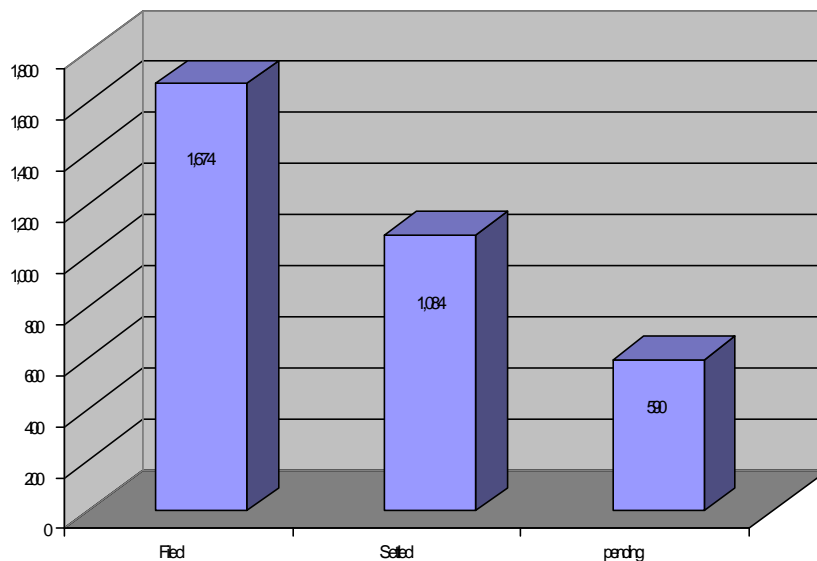
- ? one hundred and two (102) cases the court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ? eighteen (18) cases went against our client;
- ? ninety (90) cases were dismissed for default.; and
- ? eighty (80) cases were compromised/withdrawn by the clients.

Of these 290 settled cases till March' 2002, 2 cases were filed in 1994, 2 cases in 1995, 11 cases in 1996, 20 cases in 1997, 62 cases in 1998, 58 cases in 1999 and 115 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 20 were filed in this reporting period.

The Chittagong Unit filed as many as one thousand six hundred and seventy four (1,674) cases and one thousand and eighty four (1,084) cases were settled in the period of 1994 to March, 2002. 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) cases in January 2000 to March 2001
- ? two hundred and ninety (290) were decided in this reporting period.

The chart below shows the status of the cases filed by the Chittagong Unit during 1994 to March 2002.



At the end of March, 2002, five hundred and ninety (590) cases remained pending at the Chittagong District and Subordinate Courts.

Of these 590 pending cases, 5 cases were filed in 1994, 10 cases in 1995, 28 cases in 1996, 76 cases in 1997, 109 cases in 1998, 84 cases in 1999 and 146 cases in January 2001 to March 2002 and 132 cases were filed in this reporting period.

In the period of 1994 to March 2002 the Chittagong Unit Office engaged a total of one hundred and seventy seven (177) lawyers for the one thousand six hundred and seventy two (1,674) cases. In this reporting year Chittagong Unit Office engaged thirty six (36) lawyers, out of whom thirty five (35) lawyers were already engaged in previous years and one (01) panel lawyers was newly engaged in this year. 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 21**

Number of Lawyers engaged by the Chittagong Unit Office for legal aid cases

Years	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
Janu, 00 to March,01	56	55	1
April' 01 to March' 02	36	35	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>177</b>

#### **7.2. iv. Comilla District Unit**

A total of one hundred forty eight (148) complaints were received during the reporting year by the Comilla Unit Office of BLAST. Out of the 148 complaints were men and 141 (95%) were women Another one hundred and sixty seven (167) complaints were carried over from the previous year, making a total of three hundred fifteen (315) complaints dealt with by the Comilla Unit Office.

Five (05) complaints were settled through mediation, and another thirty eighty (38) complaints are pending for mediation. Thirty nine (39) complaints are pending for necessary papers.

During the reporting year, sixty seven (67) cases were filed in the Districts and Subordinate Court of Comilla. Out of the 67 cases, the women and man ratio in the litigation was: women 65 (97%) and man 02 (3%).

Another One hundred and sixty two (162) cases were carried over from previous year. Thus Comilla Unit dealt with a total of two hundred and twenty nine (229) cases during the year. Out of these, seventy one (71) cases were settled. Of these cases, in

- ? twenty seven (27) cases the court verdicts were in favour of our clients;

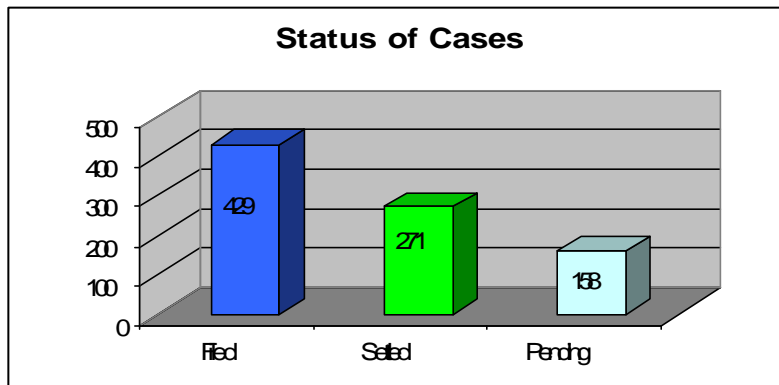
- ? four (04) cases went against our client;
- ? sixteen (16) cases were dismissed for default; and
- ? twenty four (24) cases were compromised/withdrawn by the clients.

Of these 71 settled cases, 1 were filed in 1997, 4 in 1998, 11 in 1999, 39 in January 2000 to March 2001 and 16 cases were filed in this reporting period.

A total of four hundred and twenty nine (429) cases were filed and 271 cases were settled by the Comilla Unit Office in the period between 1997 to March, 2002. Out of these,

- ? ten (10) case was settled in 1997;
- ? thirty three (33) cases in 1998;
- ? seventy three (73) cases in 1999;
- ? eighty four (84) cases in January 2000 to March 2001; and
- ? seventy one (71) cases were settled in this period.

The chart below shows the status of the cases filed by the Comilla Unit during 1997 to March 2002.



At the end of the year one hundred and fifty eight (158) cases remained pending at Comilla District and Subordinate courts. Out of these 158 pending cases, 8 cases were filed in 1997, 17 cases in 1998, 42 cases in 1999 and 40 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 51 were filed in this reporting period.

From 1997 to March 2002, the Comilla Unit Office engaged a total of sixty three (63) lawyers for the four hundred and twenty nine (429) cases conducted by the Unit.

**Table 22**  
Number of Lawyers engaged by the Comilla Unit Office for legal aid cases

Years	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, 2000 to March, 2001	38	38	0
April, 2001 to March, 2002	32	27	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>63</b>

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 the Trust 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. With the continuously increasing number of case load, Dhaka Unit Office, housed in a comparatively small room at the Court House Building within the premises of Dhaka District court, faced perennial shortage of space. In addition to space for the personnel, clients and lawyers, increased case load also meant need for increased space for preservation of briefs, documents and records. Renting premises, understandably, is an expensive affair in Dhaka. Besides, suitable premise in and around the Dhaka District Court area is hard to come by. It was only towards the end of this reporting year that arrangements were being finalised for a larger office premise for the Dhaka Unit.

A total of three hundred (300) complaints were received in April 2001 to March 2002. Of the 300 complaints received, 33 (11%) complainants were men and 267 (89%) were women.

Another one hundred and forty one (141) complaints were carried over from the previous years, totalling four hundred and forty one (441) complaints dealt with by the Dhaka Unit Office.

During the year, forty six (46) complaints were settled through mediation and forty eight (48) more disputes are pending for mediation. Another twenty eight (28) complaints are pending for filing cases. As the necessary papers were not available, one hundred and sixty six (166) complaints could not be proceeded with and another one (01) cases were sent to the Head Office for filing in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

A total of one hundred and fifty two (152) cases were filed. Of these cases women and man ratio was women 135 (89%) and man 17 (11%). Another six hundred and seventy four (674) cases were carried over from the previous years. Hence, eight hundred and twenty six (826) cases in the District and Subordinate Courts of Dhaka were dealt with by the Dhaka Unit Office during the reporting year.

One hundred and eighty four (184) cases were settled in April 2001 to March 2002. In

- ? sixty nine (69) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ? fifteen (15) cases went against our clients;
- ? forty nine (49) cases were dismissed for default due to the absence of our client; and
- ? fifty one (51) cases were compromised/withdrawn by the clients.

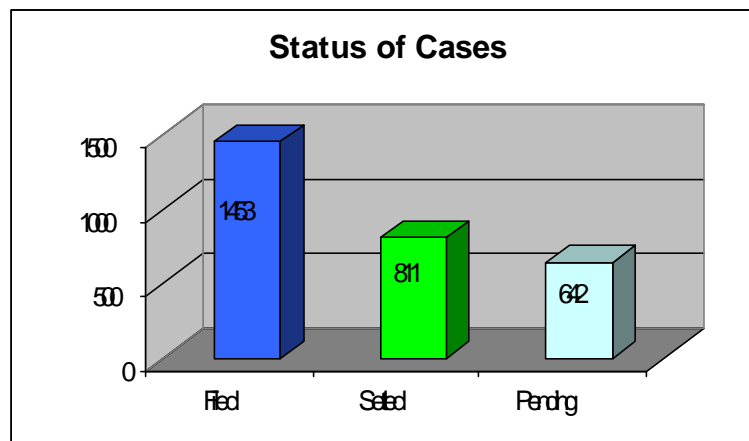
Out of these 184 cases settled, 8 cases were filed in 1994, 5 cases in 1995, 7 cases in 1996, 2 cases in 1997, 12 cases in 1998, 41 cases in 1999, 91 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 18 cases were filed in this reporting year.

A total of one thousand four hundred and fifty three (1,453) cases were filed and 811 cases were settled by the Dhaka Unit Office in the period between 1994 to March 2002. 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;

- ? one hundred and fifty three (153) cases in 1999;
- ? two hundred and sixteen (216) cases in January 2000 to March 2001; and
- ? one hundred eighty four (184) were settled in this reporting period.

The chart below shows the status of the cases filed by the Dhaka Unit during 1994 to March 2002.



At the end of March 2002, six hundred and forty two (642) cases remained pending at the Dhaka District and Subordinate Courts.

During 1994 to March 2002, the Dhaka Unit Office engaged one hundred and twenty eight (128) lawyers for one thousand four hundred and fifty three (1,453) cases.

**Table 23**

Number of Lawyers engaged by Dhaka Unit Office for legal aid cases

Years	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
April '01 to March '02	47	42	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>128</b>

## 7.2. vi Jessore District Unit

### **INNOCENT SWAROJIT GOT RELEASE FROM JAIL**

Swarojit Biswas son of Meghnath Biswas of village Hariarghop, Police Station- Kalia, District- Narail was in Jail for 1 year and 2 months. He was falsely implicated in a case (Special Tribunal Case No. 137 of 1995 under section 25 B of the Special Powers Act, 1974). But he was not an accused at all in this case. This has been an unfortunate case of mistaken identity. His name was very much similar to the accused of the case. The name of the accused of the case was Swarojit Chandra, who was son of Shubash Chandra of village Hariarghop, Police Station- Kalia, District- Narail. Swarojit Chandrawas convicted and sentenced for 2 years rigorous imprisonment in the aforesaid case in absentia. As a result, a warrant of arrest was issued against him. Later on December 2000, police arrested Swarojit Biswas and sent him to Jessore Central Jail. He was in custody until March 20, 2002.

Ain-o- Shalish Kendra requested BLAST Head Office to handle the Swarojit's case and BLAST Head Office requested its Jessore Unit office to take-up the case. On March 20, 2002 advocate Ishaq, Coordinator of BLAST Jessore Unit, filed an application before the Special Tribunal no. 6, the counselor agreed that Swarojit Biswas was not an accused of the relevant case. (Case no. 137 of 1995), and his father's name was different from the name of the real accused Swarojit Chandra. Both of the addresses were similar but their voter numbers were different and as such he was entitled to be acquitted. He also submitted some important documents in support of his submission. The learned tribunal passed an order to set him free immediately. The tribunal also passed order to take necessary action against the police officer who arrested Swarojit Biswas.

Swarojit Biswas was eventually set free from the Jail.

The Jessore Unit Office of BLAST received a total of two hundred and ninety three (293) complaints in April 2001 to March 2002. Another seventy (70) complaints were carried over from the previous year, totalling three hundred and sixty three (363) complaints dealt with by the Unit in April 2001 to March 2002. Of the 293 complaints received in April 2001 to March 2002, 59 (20%) complainants were men and 234 (80%) were women.

Sixty two (62) complaints were settled through mediation and fourteen (14) cases are pending for mediation. Another twenty four (24) complaints are pending for necessary papers. Due to different reasons sixty six (66) complaints could not be proceeded with and as many as thirty nine (39) complaints were sent to the Head Office for filing in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

One hundred and fifty eight (158) cases were filed during the year. Of the 158 cases filed during April 2001 to March 2002, the women and man ratio was women 144 (91%) and man 14 (9%). Another three hundred and twenty four (324) cases were carried over from the pervious year, making a total of four hundred and eighty two (482) cases dealt with in the Districts and Subordinate Courts of Jessore by the Jessore Unit Office in April 2001 to March 2002. Out of these one hundred and ninety (190) cases were settled.

Of these settled cases, in

- ✍ thirty eight (38) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ✍ fourteen (14) cases went against our client;
- ✍ seventy five (75) cases were dismissed for default due to absence of our clients; and
- ✍ sixty three (63) cases were withdrawn by the clients.

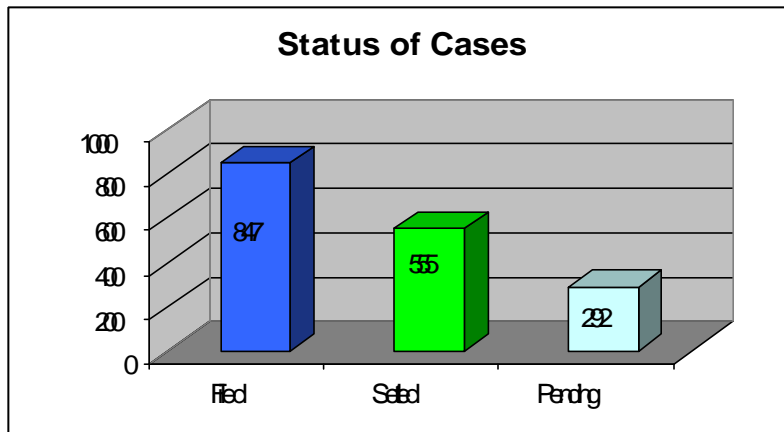
Of these one hundred ninety (190) settled cases; 6 cases in 1997, 11 cases in 1998, 24 cases in 1999, 114 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 35 were filed in this period.

A total of eight hundred and forty seven (847) cases were filed and 555 cases were settled in the period of 1996 to March 2002 by the Jessore Unit Office. Of these,

- ✍ thirty four (34) cases were settled in 1997;
- ✍ seventy eight (78) cases were settled in 1998;
- ✍ eighty one (81) cases were settled in 1999;
- ✍ one hundred and seventy two (172) cases were settled in January 2000 to March 2001; and
- ✍ one hundred and ninety (190) cases were settled in this period.

At the end of March 2002, two hundred and ninety two (292) cases remained pending at the Jessore District and Subordinate Courts. Of these 292 pending cases 3 cases were filed in 1996, 7 cases in 1997, 15 cases in 1998, 50 cases in 1999, 94 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 123 cases were filed in this period.

The chart below shows the status of the cases filed by the Jessore Unit during 1996 to March 2002.



The Jessore Unit engaged eighty eight (88) lawyers for the eight hundred and forty seven (847) cases.

Table 24

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

Years	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
April 2001 to March 2002	76	57	19
TOTAL	284	196	88

Again, like others 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 one hundred and forty one (141) complaints were received during April 2001 to March 2002 and twelve (12) complaints were carried over from the previous year, making a total of one hundred and fifty three (153) complaints dealt with by the Khulna Unit Office of BLAST. Of the 141 complaints received during the year 4 (3%) complainants were men and 137 (97%) were women.

Twelve(12) complaints were settled by the Khulna Unit through mediation and five (05) complaints were pending for mediation . Due to different reasons, thirty four (34) complaints could not be

### **AMENA GOT THE DECREE OF HER DOWER MONEY**

Amena Begum was married Md. Borhan Ali Shaikh through proper registration. Dower was mentioned Tk. 40,000.00 in her Kabinbama. **Unfortunately, Borhan married Amena suppressing his earlier marriage.** After 9 months Borhan kicked out Amena from his house since she failed to meet his demand for dowry. Findings no other alternative, Amena filed a complaint to the BLAST Khulan Unit office. In May, 1999 Khulan unit office filed a family Suit before the Family Court, Khulna demanding her maintenance and dower money (Case no. F.C. 4/1999). After hearing both the parties the Court decreed in favour of Amena Begum. Subsequently Amena filed a Decree Execution case (case No. 2/2000) . After hearing, the Learned Judge passed Judgment and Order of conviction against Borhan and sentence him for 45 days of simple imprisonment. Learned Judge further passed order that accused will remain in Jail until the decreed money recovered.

proceeded with and one (01) complaint were sent to the Head Office for filing in the High Court Division of the Supreme Courts of Bangladesh

One hundred and one (101) cases were filed in April 2001 to March 2002. Of the 101 cases the women and man ratio was: women 99 (98%) and man 2 (2%). Two hundred and sixty six (266) cases were carried over from the previous year, making a total of three hundred

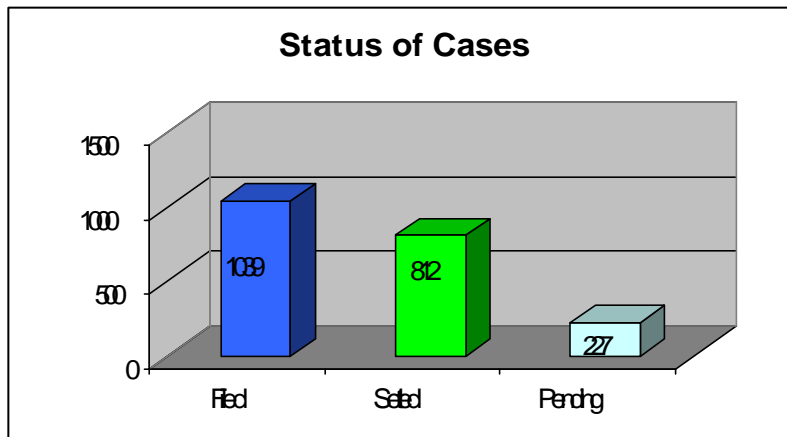
and sixty seven (367) cases dealt with in the Districts and Subordinate Courts by the Khulna Unit Office. Out of these one hundred and forty (140 cases were settled. Of the settled cases, in

- ✍ seventy one (71) the court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ✍ four (4) cases went against our clients;
- ✍ thirty five (35) cases were dismissed for default due to absent of our client and
- ✍ thirty (30) cases was withdrawn by the clients.

Of these one hundred forty (196) settled cases, 3 cases were filed in 1994, 2 cases in 1995, 5 cases in 1997, 6 cases in 1998, 32 cases in 1999 and 81 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 11 in this period.

A total of one thousand and thirty nine (1,039) cases were filed and 812 cases were settled in the period of 1994 to March 2002 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 in January 2000 to March 2001; and
- ✍ one hundred forty (140) 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 140 cases during the reporting year 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 the many of these settled cases were filed quite sometime ago, and not necessarily in 1997 to March 2002. Of the settled cases during this period, 101 were filed during the same year.

At the end of March 2002, two hundred and twenty seven (227) cases remained pending at the Khulna District and Subordinate Courts. Out of these two hundred and twenty seven (227) pending cases 3 cases were filed in 1994, 5 cases in 1995, 13 cases in 1996, 10 cases in 1997, 20 cases in 1998, 29 cases in 1999, 57 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 90 cases in this reporting period.

In the period of 1994 to March 2002 the Khulna Unit Office had engaged one hundred and twenty five (125) lawyers for one thousand and thirty nine (1,039) cases.

Table 25

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

Years	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
Apr, 01 to Mar, 02	51	48	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>125</b>

### 7.2.viii Mymensingh District Unit

A total of two hundred and eighty two (282) complaints were received by the Mymensingh Unit during the reporting period. Another two hundred and forty four (244) complaints were carried over from previous years, making a total of five hundred and twenty six (526) complaints handled by the Unit Office during the reporting year. Out of these 282 complaints received during the year, 9 (3%) complainants were men and 273 (97%) were women.

#### **JAYANTI GOT THE PROTECTION OF LAW**

Jayanti Chanda, a poor woman from Purohitpara, Mymensingh, was married to Nilanjan Bose. The couple had a daughter. They were passing their time happily but after some days Nilanjan got addicted to drugs and started abusing (both mentally and physically) Jayanti and demanded dowry. In September, 2001 Jayanti filed a complaint (complaint no. 128/01) in the BLAST Mymensingh Unit Office. The unit office tried to settle the case through mediation but they failed to do so due to Nilanjan's non-cooperation. Meanwhile, Nilanjan dissolved their marriage through affidavit. The Unit Office filed a criminal case against Nilanjan on behalf of Jayanti before the 1<sup>st</sup> class Magistrate, Mymensingh (case no. 1580/2001). The Learned Magistrate passed an order for proper investigation and warrant of arrest after the investigation. Nilanjan later proposed for a peaceful settlement through the Unit Office. Finally all concerned parties came to a decision that Nilanjan must pay Jayanti Tk. 1,00,000 as one instalment for her and her daughter's maintenance and she would withdraw her case. Nilanjan paid accordingly and they were separated.

As many as sixty (60) complaints were settled by the Mymensingh Unit through mediation and ninety six (96) disputes are pending for mediation. Another one hundred and seventeen (117) complaints are pending for filing and two (2) complaints pending for necessary papers. Due to different reasons sixty one (61) complaints could not be proceeded with and six (06) complaints were sent to the Head Office for filing cases in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

One hundred and eighty four (184) cases were filed in the reporting period. Out of the 184 cases the women and man ratio in the litigation was: women 180 (98%) and man 4 (2%). Another four hundred and forty seven (447) cases were carried over from the

previous year making a total of six hundred and thirty one (631) cases dealt with in the Districts and Subordinate

Courts by the Mymensingh Unit Office. Of these cases, two hundred and three (203) were settled. Of the settled cases, in

- ? one hundred and eleven (111) cases the court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ? sixteen (16) cases went against our clients;
- ? forty seven (47) cases were dismissed default due to absent of the client and
- ? twenty nine (29) cases were withdrawn by the clients due to compromise, and other reasons.

Out of these two hundred and three (203) settled cases 6 cases in 1997, 20 cases in 1998, 29 cases in 1999, 113 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 35 cases in this period.

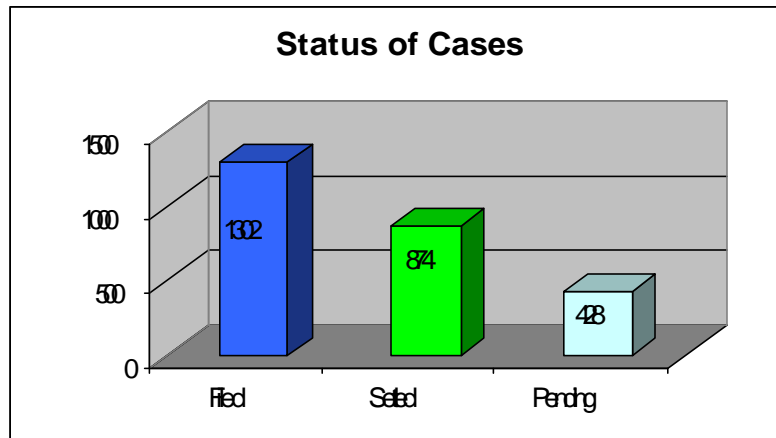
A total of one thousand three hundred and two (1,302) cases were filed and 874 cases were settled by the Mymensingh Unit in the period of 1995 to March 2002. Of these,

- ? two (02) cases were decided in 1995;
- ? twenty three (23) in 1996;
- ? eighty nine (89) cases in 1997;
- ? one hundred (100) cases in 1998;
- ? one hundred and sixty three (163) cases in 1999;
- ? two hundred and ninety four (294) cases in January 2000 to March 2001; and
- ? two hundred and three (203) cases settled in April 2001 to March 2002.

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 2002 four hundred and twenty eight (428) cases remained pending at the Mymensingh District and Subordinate Courts. Of these 428 pending cases 1 were filed in 1995, 26 cases in 1996, 42 cases in 1997, 55 cases in 1998, 63 cases in 1999, 92 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 149 cases were filed in this period.

The chart below shows the status of the cases filed by the Mymensingh Unit during 1995 to March 2002.



In the period of 1995 to March 2002, the Mymensingh Unit Office engaged one hundred and two (102) lawyers for the one thousand three hundred and two (1302) cases .

**Table 26**

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

Years	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
Jan, 00 to Mar, 01	68	60	8
Apr, 01 to Mar, 02	52	51	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>102</b>

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, nor 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 one hundred and thirty seven (137) complaints were received during the year and six (06) complaints were carried over from the previous year, making a total of one hundred and forty three (143) complaints dealt with by the Noakhali Unit Office of BLAST. Out of these 137 complaints received in April 2001 to March 2002, 9 (7%) complainants were men and 128 (93%) were women.

Eleven (11) complaints were settled by the Noakhali Unit through mediation, eleven (11) complaints are pending, and one (01) complaint was sent to the Head Office for filing cases in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

One hundred and twenty (120) cases were filed in April 2001 to March 2002 by the Noakhali Unit. Of the 120 cases the women and man ratio of the Trust's clients was: women 112 (93%) and man 8 (7%). Another two hundred and nineteen (219) cases were carried over from the previous year. Thus, three hundred and thirty nine (339) cases in the Districts and Subordinate Court of Noakhali were handled by the Unit Office. Out of these, one hundred and twenty four (124) cases were settled. Of these settled cases, in

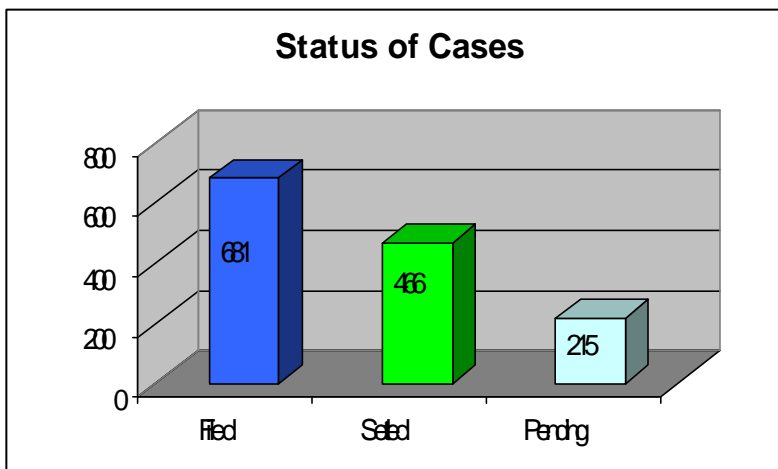
- ? fifty eight (58) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ? seven (07) cases were against our client;
- ? seventeen (17) cases were defaulted due to absent of our clients;
- ? forty two (42) cases were withdrawn as compromised; and for other reasons.

Of these one hundred and twenty four (124) settled cases 2 cases were settled in 1996, 4 cases in 1997, 2 cases in 1998, 16 cases in 1999 and 81 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 19 cases were settled in this period.

A total of six hundred and eighty one (681) cases were filed and 466 cases were settled in the period of 1995 to March, 2002 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;
- ✍ one hundred and seventy three (173) cases were settled in January 2000 to March 2001; and
- ✍ one hundred and twenty four (124) cases were settled in April 2001 to March 2002.

The chart below shows the status of the cases filed by the Noakhali Unit during 1995 to March 2002.



At the end of March 2002, two hundred fifteen (215) cases remained pending at the Noakhali District and Subordinate Courts. Out of these 215 pending cases 1 cases were filed in 1996, 3 cases in 1997, 8 cases in 1998, 24 cases in 1999, 78 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 101 cases in this period.

During the period of 1995 to March 2002, the Noakhali Unit Office engaged one hundred and six (106) lawyers for the six hundred and eighty one (681) cases.

**Table 27**

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

Years	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
Apr, 01 to Mar, 02	69	56	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>106</b>

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

#### **7.2. x. Rajshahi Divisional Unit**

Rajshahi Unit received the highest number of complaints. A total of four hundred and six (406) complaints were received during the year and one hundred and forty eight (148) complaints were carried over from the previous year. Thus, a total of five hundred and fifty four (554) complaints were dealt with by the Rajshahi Unit Office of BLAST during April 2001 to March 2002. Out of the 406 complaints received in April 2001 to March 2002, 21 (5%) complainants were men and 385 (95%) were women.

Rajshahi Unit is the highest number disputes were settled through mediation. Ninety two (92) complaints were settled through mediation and another one hundred and sixteen (116) complaints are pending for mediation. Thirty (30) complaints are pending for filing and nine (09) complaints are pending due to the lack of documents. For the same reason one hundred and forty five (145) complaints

could not be proceeded with and another four (04) 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 Jessore, Pabna and Mymensingh Unit, has succeeded in setting a large number of disputes 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,

**CHANDAN FAILED TO CHEAT AJIRONNECHA**

Ajironnecha, a muslim woman, was married to Khorshedul Islam of Magura. Later it was revealed that 'Khorshed' was a hindu. At the time of marriage he also provided false permanent address. He was actually from Naogan District. They were married according to Muslim law through proper registration. Ajironnecha used to work as domestic help. She was married before, but her previous husband was a drug addict and she had a very unhappy married life. Later she met Khorshed, got married to him and had a son. Suddenly Khorshed, actually Chandan, left his wife and child and became a fugitive. After a long search Ajironnecha came to know that Khorshed alias Chandan, is actually a Hindu and he married her by giving her false name and address. Also he has been living with another Hindu lady. When Ajironnecha went to him and demanded maintenance for her and her child, he refused to comply. Later, Ajironnecha came to BLAST Rajshahi Unit office for legal aid for herself and her son. The office tried to settle this matter through mediation but Chandan, alias Khorshed, failed to appear in the office. So having no other alternative, the office filed a case in the court for cheating Ajironnecha. Eventually Khorshed agreed to settle the case through Rajshahi unit office. In the presence of both parties the matter was settled and Khorshed agreed to pay tk. 60,000.00 for Ajironnecha and her son and they got divorced.

reducing the possibility and scope for mediation.

One hundred and fifty eight (158) cases were filed in April 2001 to March 2002 by Rajshahi Unit of BLAST. Of the 158 cases the women and man ratio of the Trust's clients was: women 150 (95%)

and man 8 (5%). Another four hundred and eighty nine (489) cases were carried over from previous years; totalling a six hundred and forty seven (647) cases dealt with in the Districts and Subordinate Court of Rajshahi during the reporting year.

Two hundred and nine (209) cases were settled in the District and Subordinate Courts of Rajshahi during the reporting year. Of these, in

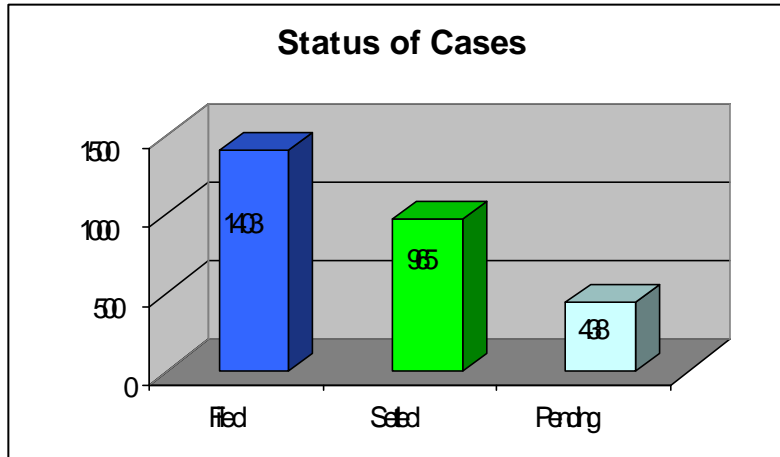
- ? one hundred and thirty (130) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ? fifteen (15) cases went against our client;
- ? thirty seven (37) cases were dismissed for default due to absent of our client; and
- ? twenty seven (27) cases were withdrawn by the clients following compromise; and other reasons.

Of these two hundred nine (209) settled cases 1 case was filed in 1994, 2 cases in 1995, 5 cases in 1997, 10 cases in 1998, 45 cases in 1999, 130 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 16 cases in this period.

A total of one thousand four hundred and three (1403) cases were filed and 965 cases were settled in the period of 1994 to March 2002 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;
- ✍ one hundred and ninety three (193) cases were settled in January 2000 to March 2001; and
- ✍ two hundred and nine (209) cases were settled in April 2001 to March 2002

The chart below shows the status of the cases filed by the Rajshahi



Unit during 1994 to March 2002.

At the end of March 2002, four hundred and thirty eight (438) cases remained pending at the Rajshahi District and Subordinate Courts.

Out of these 438 pending cases 2 cases were filed in 1994, 3 cases in 1995, 6 cases in 1996, 5 cases in 1997, 10 cases in 1998, 45 cases in 1999, 130 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 16 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 2002 the Rajshahi Unit Office engaged a total of one hundred and forty (140) lawyers for one thousand four hundred and three (1,403) cases.

**Table 28**

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

Years	Total engaged	Engaged lawyers from	New engaged lawyer during

	lawyers	previous year	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
Apr, 01 to Mar, 02	72	70	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>140</b>

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 two hundred and twenty nine (229) complaints were received during the year by the Rangpur Unit Office of the Trust and forty seven (47) complaints were carried over from the previous year. Thus, a total of two hundred and seventy six (276) complaints were dealt with by the Rangpur Unit Office of BLAST during April 2001 to March 2002. Out of these 229 complaints, 14 (6%) complainants were men and 215 (94%) were women.

Forty two (42) complaints were settled through mediation and twenty nine (29) complaints were pending for mediation at the end of the reporting year. Another twenty nine (29) complaints are pending for filing cases. Two (02) complaints were sent to the Head Office for filing cases in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. As many as sixty five (65) complaints could not be proceeded with in this Unit, a figure much large than other Units.

One hundred and nine (109) cases were filed in April 2001 to March 2002 in the Districts and Subordinate Court of Rangpur and one hundred and eighty seven (187) cases were carried over from the previous year. Therefore, a total of two hundred and ninety six (296) cases were dealt with by the Rangpur Unit Office of BLAST during

April 2001 to March 2002. One hundred and forty five (145) cases were settled in April 2001 to March 2002, in which

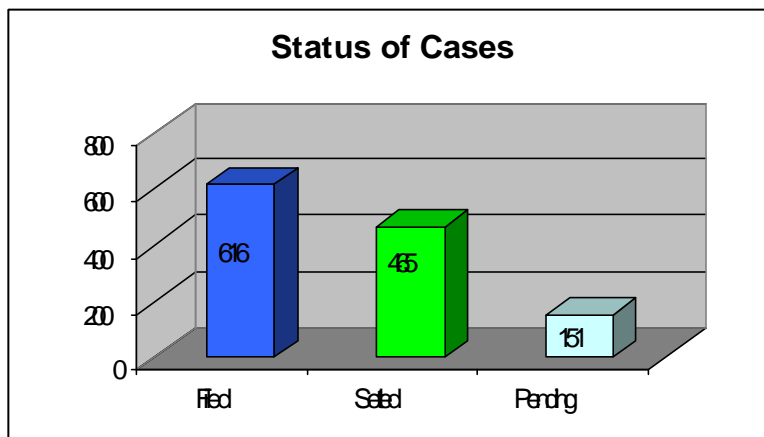
- ✍ seventy one (71) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ✍ two (02) cases went against our client;
- ✍ forty five (45) cases were defaulted due to absent of our client;
- ✍ twenty seven (27) cases were withdrawn by the clients following compromise; and other causes and reasons.

Of these one hundred and forty five (145) settled cases 4 cases were filed in 1997, 13 cases in 1998, 27 cases in 1999 and 69 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 32 in this period. The rate of settled cases could be better for this Unit and efforts are underway to enhance the rate of settlement of cases by this unit.

A total of six hundred and sixteen (616) cases were filed and 465 cases were settled during this period of 1997 to March, 2002 by the Rangpur Unit. Of these,

- ✍ sixteen (16) cases in 1997;
- ✍ thirty three (33) cases in 1998;
- ✍ forty (40) cases in 1999;
- ✍ two hundred thirty one (231) cases in January 2000 to March 2001; and another
- ✍ one hundred forty five (145) cases were settled in this period.

The chart below shows the status of the cases filed by the Rangpur Unit during 1997 to March 2002



At the end of March 2002 one hundred and fifty one (151) cases remained pending at the Rangpur District and Subordinate Courts. Of these pending cases 6 cases were filed in 1997, 6 cases in 1998, 16 cases in 1999 and 69 cases were filed in January 2000 to March 2001 and 77 cases were filed in this period.

During the period of 1997 to March 2002 the Rangpur Unit Office engaged sixty eight (68) lawyers for its six hundred and sixteen (616) cases.

Table 29

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

Years	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
Apr, 01 to Mar, 02	42	39	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>68</b>

#### 7.2. xii Sylhet Divisional Unit

A total of one hundred and thirty four (134) complaints were received during April 2001 to March 2002 by the Sylhet Unit office of BLAST and twenty nine (29) complaints were carried over from previous year, making it a total of one hundred and sixty three (163) complaints dealt with by the Unit Office. Out of these 134 complaints, 16 (12%) complainants were men and 118 (88%) were women.

Nineteen (19) complaints were settled through mediation and another two (02) complaints are pending for mediation. Six (06) complaints are pending due to unavailability of documents. As necessary papers were not available another sixteen (16) complaints could not be proceeded with and three (03) were sent to the Head Office for filing in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

One hundred and seventeen (117) cases were filed by the Sylhet Unit. For the 117 cases filed during the year, the woman: man ratio was woman 105 (90%) and man 12 (10%). Another one hundred and two hundred and seven (207) cases were carried over from previous years, making a total of three hundred and twenty four (324) cases dealt with in the Districts and Subordinate Court of Sylhet during the reporting year.

Out of these three hundred and twenty four (324) cases, one hundred (100) cases were settled during April 2001 to March 2002, Of the 100 settled cases, in

- ✍ forty nine (49) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ✍ nine (09) cases went against our clients;
- ✍ eight (08) cases were defaulted;
- ✍ thirty four (34) cases were withdrawn by the clients following compromise and reasons

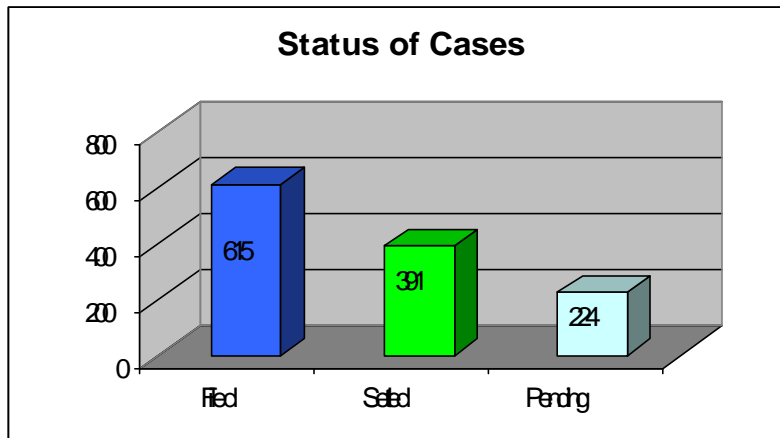
Of these one hundred (100) settled cases 1 case were filed in 1996, 2 cases in 1997, 7 cases in 1998, 27 cases in 1999 and 52 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 14 cases in this period.

A total of six hundred and fifteen (615) cases were filed and three hundred and ninety one (391) cases were settled in the period of 1995 to March, 2002. 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;
- ✍ ninety six (96) cases were settled in January 2000 to March 2001; and
- ✍ one hundred (100) cases were settled in April 2001 to March 2002.

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

The chart below shows the status of the cases filed by the Sylhet Unit during 1995 to March 2002.



Two hundred and twenty four (224) cases remained pending at the Sylhet District and Subordinate Courts at the end of the reporting year. Of these pending cases 4 cases were filed in 1996, 11 cases in 1997, 14 cases in 1998, 34 cases in 1999, 58 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 103 cases in this period.

During the period of 1995 to March 2002 the Sylhet Unit Office engaged eighty four (84) lawyers for its six hundred and fifteen (615) cases.

**Table 30**

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

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
Apr, 01 to Mar, 02	44	39	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>89</b>

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 ninety two (92) complaints were received during April 2001 to March 2002 and twenty two (22) complaints were carried over from previous years, making it a total of one hundred and fourteen (114) complaints dealt with by the Patuakhali Unit Office. Out of these, 92 complaints, 14 (15%) complainants were men and 78 (85%) were women.

Seven (07) complaints were settled through mediation and fifty seven (57) complaints are pending for mediation. Twenty two (22) complaints are pending due to unavailability of documents.

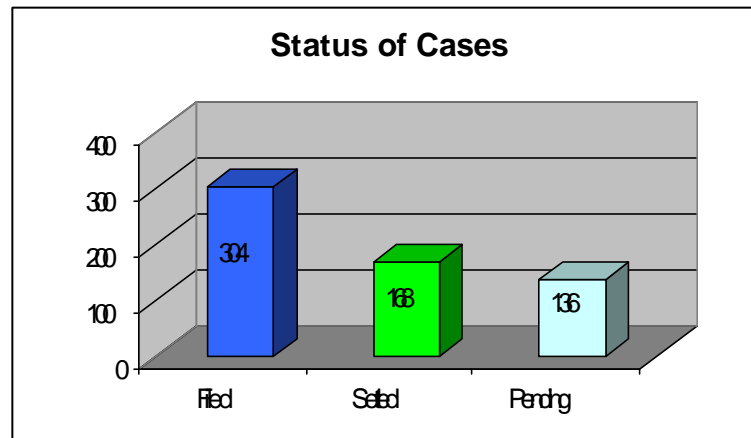
Twenty eight (28) cases were filed in April 2001 to March 2002 by the Patuakhali Unit office of BLAST. In these 28 cases, the woman: man ratio was woman 25 (89%) and man 03 (11%). one hundred and fifty (150) were carried over from previous year and a total of one hundred and seventy eight (178) cases dealt with the Districts and Subordinate Courts of Patuakhali during the reporting year.

Forty two (42) cases were settled during April 2001 to March 2002. Of the 42 settled cases, in

- ✍ ten (10) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ✍ seven (07) cases was against;
- ✍ eighteen (18) cases were defaulted;
- ✍ seven (7) cases were withdrawn by the clients following compromise and other reasons

In the period of 1998 to March 2002 this unit filed three hundred and four (304) cases and 168 cases were settled. Now one hundred and thirty six (136) cases are pending at the various stages of the judicial process. Of these 136 pending cases 25 cases were filed in 1998, 38 cases in 1999 and 48 cases in January 2000 to March 2001 and 25 in this period.

The chart below shows the status of the cases filed by the Patuakhali Unit during 1998 to March 2002.



During the period of March, 1998 to March 2002 the Patuakhali Unit Office engaged fifty three (53) lawyers for its three hundred and four (304) cases.

**Table 31**

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

Years	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
Apr, 01 to Mar, 02	19	14	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>53</b>

#### 7.2. xiv Pabna District Unit

A total of two hundred and twenty three (223) complaints were received during the reporting period. Out of these, 223 complainants; men were 33 (15%) and 190 (85%) were women. Another thirty five (35) complaints were carried over from the previous year, making a total number of two hundred and fifty eight (258) complaints dealt with by the Pabna Unit Office.

As many as sixty two (62) complaints were settled through mediation and fifteen (15) complaints are pending for mediation. Thirteen (13) complaints are pending for filing. As necessary papers were not available, seventy (70) complaints could not be proceeded with and eleven (11) were sent to the Head Office for filing in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

Eighty seven (87) cases were filed by the Pabna Unit. In the 87 cases filed during the year, the woman: man ratio was woman 83 (95%) and man 04 (05%). Another one hundred and six (106) cases were carried over from the previous year, making a total of one hundred and ninety three (193) cases dealt with the Districts and Subordinate Courts of Pabna during the reporting year.

Out of these one hundred and ninety three (193) cases, seventy six (76) were already settled by the end of the year, Of the 76 settled cases, in

- ✍ thirty one (31) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ✍ five (05) cases were against our clients;
- ✍ nineteen (19) cases were dismissed for default; and
- ✍ twenty one (21) cases were withdrawn by the clients following compromise.

In the period of 1999 to March 2002 this Pabna unit filed two hundred and twenty four (224) cases and one hundred and seven (107) cases were settled. Now one hundred and seventeen (117) cases are pending at the various stages of the judicial process.

During the period of 1999 to March 2002 Pabna Unit Office engaged fifty two (52) lawyers for its two hundred and twenty four (224) cases. This reflects the policy of BLAST of engaging as many advocates of the local bar in our legal aid cases as possible.

Table 32

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

Years	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

Apr, 01 to Mar, 02	47	36	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>52</b>

## 7.2. xv Tangail District Unit

A total of one hundred and fifty three (153) complaints were received during April 2001 to March 2002. Out of these, 153 complainants; men were 13 (08%) and 140 (92%) were women. Another ninety (90) complaints were carried over from the previous year, making a total number of two hundred and forty three (243) complaints handled by the Tangail Unit Office.

As many as thirty four (34) complaints were settled through mediation and thirty eight (38) complaints are pending for mediation. Twelve (12) complaints are pending for filing. As necessary papers were not available, one hundred and two (102) 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.

Forty nine (49) cases were filed in April 2001 to March 2002 and forty four (44) cases was carried over form the previous year making a total of ninety three (93). Out of these ninety three (93) cases during the year, twenty (20) were already settled by the end of the year, Of the 20 settled cases, in

- ✍ eleven (11) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ✍ three (03) cases were against our clients;
- ✍ two (02) cases were dismissed for default; and
- ✍ four (04) cases were withdrawn by the clients following compromise.

In the 49 cases filed during the year, the woman: man ratio was woman 48 (98%) and man 01 (02%).

In the period of 2000 to March 2002 this Pabna unit filed one hundred and five (105) cases and thirty two (32) cases were settled. Now Seventy three (73) cases are pending at the various stages of the judicial process.

During the period of January 2000 to March 2001 Tangail Unit Office engaged twenty three (23) lawyers for its fifty six (105) cases.

### 7.2. xvi Faridpur District Unit

A total of fifty three (53) complaints were received during April 2001 to March 2002 by the Faridpur Unit Office and another five (05) complaints were carried over from the previous year. Out of these, 53 complainants; men were 5 (09%) and 48 (91%) were women.

In this period ten (10) complaints were settled through mediation and fifteen (15) complaints are pending for mediation. As necessary papers were not available, thirteen (13) complaints could not be proceeded with and three (03) were sent to the Head Office for filing in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

Twenty (20) cases were dealt with in this reporting period. Out of these twenty (20) cases, seven (07) were already settled by the end of the year, Of the 07 settled cases, in

- ✍ five(05) cases court verdicts were in favour of our clients;
- ✍ one (01) case was against our clients;
- ✍ one (01) case was withdrawn by the clients following compromise.

In the period of 2000 to March 2002 this Faridpur unit filed twenty one (21) cases and eight (08) cases were settled. Now thirteen (13) cases are pending at the various stages of the judicial process.

During the period of 2000 to March 2001 Faridpur Unit Office engaged eighteen (18) lawyers for its twenty one (21) cases.

### 7.2. xvii Kushtia District Unit

A total of fifty five (55) complaints were received during April 2001 to March 2002 by the **KUSHTIA** Unit Office and another eleven (11) complaints were carried over from the previous year. Out of these, 55 complainants; men were 14 (25%) and 41 (75%) were women.

In this period ten (10) complaints were settled through mediation and nineteen (19) complaints are pending for mediation. As necessary papers were not available, eight (08) complaints could not be proceeded with.

Thirty (30) cases were dealt within this reporting period by the Kushtia Unit. Out of these Thirty (30) cases, three (03) were already settled by the end of the year.

In the period of 2000 to March 2002 this Kushtia unit filed thirty (30) cases and three (03) cases were settled. Now twenty seven (27) cases are pending at the various stages of the judicial process.

During the period Kushtia Unit Office engaged Seven (07) lawyers for its thirty (30) cases.

## **7.2. xviii Dinajpur District Unit**

A total of one hundred and four (104) complaints were received during the period of April 2001 to March 2002 by the Dinajpur UNIT Office and another five (05) complaints were carried over from the previous year. Out of these, 104 complainants; men were 19 (18%) and 85 (82%) were women.

In this period sixteen (16) complaints were settled through mediation, twenty six (26) complaints are pending for mediation four complaints are pending for necessary documents. As necessary papers were not available, twenty one (21) complaints could not be proceeded with.

Forty two (42) cases were filed and engaged twenty five (25) lawyers in this reporting period by the Kushtia Unit.

## **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 and these proved to be effective method of serving the poor since most of the clients of these clinics are the neighbouring slum dwellers. Another important purpose for setting up of one of these clinics was to engage senior students of the Law Department of Dhaka University. The idea is to provide them an opportunity to become familiar with the legal services required by the poor as well as to gain an understanding of

the functioning of the legal system with regard to extremely marginalised segments of people.

During the reporting year, two batches of three senior students worked at Mohammadpur and Hathhazari (Chittagong) clinics. It needs to be mentioned that the Legal Aid Clinic in Chittagong was set up with the active support of the Faculty of Law, Chittagong University, particularly the Dean of Faculty Professor Md. Shah Alam.

The students undertook legal literacy campaign among slum dwellers and arranged mediation for the settlement of disputes. Their work is supervised by a trainee-advisor, an experienced lawyer in the case of two clinics at Dhaka and an Assistant Professor of 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 cases where mediation attempts fail or are not appropriate, the disputes are referred to the Head Office (for Dhaka) and Chittagong Unit Office for litigation.

### 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 shows the mediation activities of the Gopibagh Clinic during the reporting period.

Table 33

#### Activities of Gopibagh Legal Aid Clinic

Nature of complaints	From last year	Received this year	Total	Mediated	To Head Office	Not processed & rejected	pending for mediation
Family dispute	14	58	72	24	3	22	23
2 <sup>nd</sup> Marriage	7	18	25	11	3	8	3
Dowry	1	15	16	7	2	3	6

Cruelty to women	5	5	10	5			3
Miscellaneous	2	5	7	1		2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>39</b>

### 7.3.ii Mohammedpur Clinic

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

Table 34

#### Activities of Mohammadpur Legal Aid Clinic

Nature of complaints	From last year	Received this year	Total	Mediated	To Head Office	Not processed & rejected	pending for mediation
Family dispute	22	66	88	30	14	23	21
2 <sup>nd</sup> Marriage		1	1		1		
Dowry	9	34	43	15	5	12	11
Cruelty to women	1		1				
Miscellaneous	1	6	7	1	2	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>

### 7.3.iii Chittagong Clinic

The Chittagong clinic at Hathazari, Chittagong started in May, 1999. The following table shows the mediation activities of the Chittagong Clinics during the reporting period.

Table 35

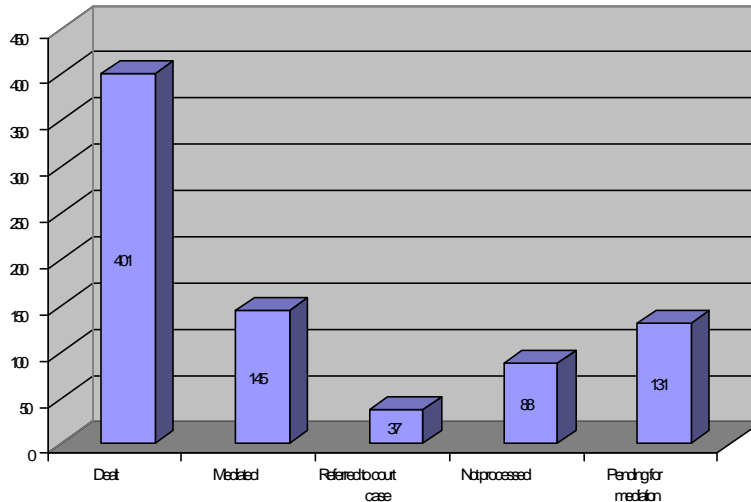
#### Activities of Chittagong Legal Aid Clinic

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Nature of complaints	From last year	Received this year	Total	Mediated	Sent to Head Office	Not processed & rejected	pending for mediation
Family dispute	16	69	85	38	5	7	35
2 <sup>nd</sup> Marriage	1	3	4	1	1		2
Dowry		1	1		1		
Cruelty to women	7	18	25	5		8	12
Land Matter	3	2	5	1		1	3
Miscellaneous	1	10	11	6			5
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>57</b>

These three Law Clinics have undertaken substantial works. During the reporting period they received three hundred and eleven (311) complaints and ninety (90) complaints were carried over from the previous year making a total of four hundred and one (401) complaints. Among these, 311 complainants; 24 (08%) were men and 287 (92%) were women

The chart below shows the status of the complaints dealt with by the three legal aid clinic during the period.



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 related to dowry, maintenance, etc. are explained to them.

Three legal aid clinic jointly aware six thousand nine hundred and sixty four (6,964) persons during the reporting period. Out of these, (6,964) persons were male 1,524 (22%) and 5,440 (78%) were female.

**Table 36**

The number of participants of Legal awareness activities by three Law Clinics of the Trust during the period..

AREA COVERED BY CLINIC	No. of House	Members
MOHAMMADPUR CLINIC	3,192	3,558
Mohammadpur, Agargawn B.N.P Bazar Bosti, Mohammadpur Bari Bandh Bosti, Kollanpur Bosti, Ring road, Bashbari, Adabar, Dhaka Housing Zananatbug and Bijli Moholla, Jahuri Moholla.		
Gopibag Clinic	2,112	3,283
Gopibag, Golapbug, Kazirbug, Maniknagar		
Chittagong Clinic	63	106
Tavagahamar and Madan Hat		

Total	5,367	6,964
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The clinics also use leaflets to publicize 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 Offices. 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

The experiences of BLAST suggest that we need to conduct more training sessions and organise more workshops, seminars, both for our own employees and beneficiaries as well as for the other related organizations.

#### 8.1. Staff Training and Development

To enhance skill and professional capacity of the staff, BLAST has arranged several training sessions. In addition, staff members participated in various workshops and seminars organised by BLAST and other organisations. The lists of such training sessions and workshops, seminars and conferences are given below.

##### 8.1.i. Training / Workshop / Seminar / Conference Organised by Other Organisation:

? **Environment and Environmental Law Training:**

Mr. Jafrul Hasan Sharif, Junior Staff Lawyer, participated in the above course. The training was organised by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association [BELA] from November 4 to 8, 2001.

? **Workshop on “Jail visitor’s role in Protecting the Rights of the Juvenile Prisoners “**

Ms. Shanaz Babli participated in this workshop organised by Save the Children (U.K) on 2 March 2002 at Dhaka.

? **National Consultation on the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): Exploring Advocacy and Legal Strategies for the Realization of the Human Rights of Women**

Ms. Shanaz Babli participated in this workshop organised by Save the Children (U.K) on 5-6 February 2002 at Dhaka.

? **International Conference on “Dowry: Realities and Strategies for Intervention: Working together for the change in 21**

**Century”**

Ms. Farida Yeasmin, Deputy Director (Legal Affairs) of BLAST participated in the International Conference on “Dowry: Realities and Strategies for Intervention: Working together for the change in 21 Century” organised by the British Council and Women for Women from 30 -31 January 2002 in Dhaka.

**8.1.ii. Training / Workshop / Seminar / Conference Organised / Facilitated by BLAST**

? **Training on Good Prison Management**

BLAST organised Good Prison Management Training in collaboration with Penal Reform International (PRI) held on 14 to 17 January 2002 with the cooperation of the Department of Prisons and the Ministry of Home Affairs of Bangladesh. In this training programme, the participants were 20 Prison Officials from twenty prisons in our country. The resource persons were from India and London.

? **Training for Garment Workers**

Working Women Education Centre (WWEC) organised Educational and Informational Training Programme for Garment Workers throughout the year. BLAST facilitated on “Grievance Handling and Court Procedure and Workers’ Rights and Labour Laws” as a part of this training. During the period of April 2001 to March 2001 1,307 garment workers participated from 147 factories.

? **Seminar organised by Unit Offices of BLAST**

Kushtia Unit Office organised a seminar on “Parliament Election, the Existing Laws: Obstacles and Suggestion” in collaboration with the Law Department of Islamic University of Kushtia on 11 August 2001 at Zill Parishad Auditorium, Kushtia. The Vice Chancellor of Islamic University Dr. Md. Lutfar Rahman was the chief guest.

Khulna Unit organised a seminar on “The Role of BLAST towards the Establishment of Human Rights” held on 27 March 2002. Mr. ATM Fazle Rabbi, District and Session Judge in Khulna was the Chief Guest.

## Annexure 1

### List of Engaged Lawyer reporting year April 2001-March 2002

#### Head Office

List of Engaged Lawyers in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh

<i>Name of the Lawyers</i>	<i>Name of the Lawyers</i>
1. Dr. Kamal Hossain	15. Mr. Md. Mozibur Rahman
2. Mr. Nizamul Haque Nasim	16. Mr. Md Nazrul Islam
3. Mr. M. I. Faruki	17. Ms. Shanaz Babli
4. Mr. Abdur Rezzak Khan	18. Mr. Pankaj Kumar Kundu
5. Mr. Subratta Chowdhury	19. Ms. Promila Biswas
6. Mr. Moazzam Hossain	20. Ms. Zinat Akter
7. Mr. Idrisur Rahman	21. Mr. Nasiruddin
8. Mr. Muzibur Rahman	22. Ms. Halima Ferdous
9. Mr. Khurshid Alam Khan	23. Mr. Syed Ziaul Hasan
10. Ms. Farida Khan	24. Mr. Abdul Mannan khan
11. Mr. Sharifuddin Chakladar	25. Mr. Abul Bashar
12. Ms. Farida Yeasmin	26. Ms. Zakia Ahmed
13. Mr. Harun -ur-Rashid Khan	27. Ms. Purobi Shaha
14. Mr. Ruhul Kuddus Babu	28. Ms. Masuda Rehana

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

<i>Name of the Lawyers</i>	<i>Name of the Lawyers</i>
1. Mr. S.A.Huq	8. Mr. Syed Moshiur Rahman
2. Mr. Idrisur Rahman	9. Mr. Syed Ziaul Hasan
3. Mr. Abdul Kuddus	10. Mr. Sohorab Hossan Polash
4. Mr. Abdul Mannan Khan	11. Ms. Farida Yeasmin
5. Mr. Selim Ahasan Khan	12. Ms. Shanaz Babli
6. Mr. Abu Bakar Siddique	13. Mr. Jafrul Hasan Sharif
7. Mr. Monirul Islam Nezam	14. Mr. Ibrahim Bhuyan

### Dhaka Unit

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

<b>Name of the Lawyers</b>	<b>Name of the Lawyers</b>
1. Mr. Md. Moniruzzaman Khan	24. Mr. Abdus Sattar Khan
2. Mr. A.K.M. Shahidullah	25. Mr. Md. Aminul Haque
3. Ms. Marzina Khatun	26. Mr. Anwar Hossen
4. Mr. A.N.N. Mahmood Hossen	27. Mr. Syed Yamun Nabi
5. Ms. Begum Tahmina	28. Mr. Md. Salimullah Khasru
6. Mr. Abdur Rouf Khan	29. Ms. Zannatul Ferdous Islam
7. Mr. A.S.M. Iqbal Hossen	30. Mr. Md. Jamal Khan
8. Mr. Md. Awlad Hossen Mollah	31. Mr. Golam Mortuza Reja Bhuiyan
9. Mr. M.A. Rahim	32. Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam Khan
10. Mr. Md. Feroz Mia	33. Mr. A.K.M. Sohel Ahmed
11. Mr. M.A. Razzak	34. Ms. Rokeya Akter
12. Mr. Md. Siddiqur Rahman	35. Ms. Syeda Parvin Akter
13. Mr. Md. Tajuddin Ahmed	36. Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam
14. Mr. Khan Md. Mahfuzul Haque	37. Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman
15. Mr. Syed Nurullah	38. Mr. Md. Amzad Hossain
16. Ms. Rahima Khatun	39. Mr. Md. Moshiur Rahman-2
17. Ms. Umme Kulsum	40. Mr. Md. Farukuzzaman Tipu
18. Mr. Md. Mozammel Haque	41. Mr. Md. Safiuddin Biswas
19. Mr. Md. Moshiur Rahman(1)	42. Mr. Md. Sarwar Alam
20. Ms. Suchorita Sen Gupta	43. Mr. Md. Nurul Islam Matubbar
21. Mr. F.A. Mannan	44. Mr. Abdul Latif Biswas
22. Mr. Md. Moshiur Rahman-3	45. Mr. Kalipad Chowdhury
23. Mr. Zahidur Rahman	46. Mr. Md. Omar Faruque
	47. Ms. Nasima Akter

**Barisal Unit**

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Barisal.

<b>Name of the Lawyers</b>	
1. Mr. Alal Islam Khan	31. Mr. Md. Ishaque
2. Mr. Anisuzzaman	32. Mr. Selim Reza Chowdhury
3. Mr. Ismail Hossain Negaban	33. Mr. Golam Kabir
4. Mr. Fazlur Rahaman Khan	34. Mr. A. Khaleque Howlader
5. Mr. Mansur Uddin Howlader	35. Mr. Khan Md. Alauddin
6. Ms. Selina Sultana	36. Mr. A.Z.M. Sekander
7. Mr. Nirmal Kanti Sarker	37. Mr. Ratan Kumar Chaklader
8. Mr. Masudul Haque Khan	38. Mr. Md. Mojibur Rahman Nantoo
9. Mr. Jibon Krisna Sarker	39. Mr. A.K. Noor uddin Ahmed
10. Mr. Saiful Alam Gias	40. Mr. Tariqul Islam
11. Ms. Shahida Talukder	41. Mr. Kazi Enayet Hossain
12. Mr. A.Z.M. Sahiduzzaman Khan	42. Mr. Samir Kumar Datta
13. Ms. Lila Chakraborti	43. Mr. Gias Uddin
14. Ms. Mamotaj Begum	44. Mr. Zahidur Rahaman
15. Mr. Nezamul Haque	45. Mr. Zakir Hossain Kazi
16. Mr. Abu Taher	46. Ms. Afifa Begum
17. Mr. Mojibul Haque	47. Mr. A.B.M. Fakar Uddin
18. Mr. Abul Kasem Khan	48. Ms. Hasina Momataj
19. Mr. Haridas Biswas	49. Mr. A. Mannan Mridha
20. Mr. A.K.M. Samsul Haque	50. Mr. Md. Mamun Or Rashid
21. Mr. A. Khaleque Molla	51. Mr. Gauranga Lal Chakrabarti
22. Mr. Moslem Uddin Miah	52. Mr. Md. Shahid Asgar Khan
23. Mr. M.K.M. Abul Hossain	53. Mr. Fayzul Haque
24. Mr. Abul Kalam Azad	54. Mr. Sarder Abul Hasem
25. Mr. Lutfor Rahaman Molla	55. Mr. Anis Uddin Ahmed
26. Mr. Md. Zakir Hossain	56. Ms. Salina Parvin
27. Mr. M. Sultan Hossain	57. Mr. Md. Faridur Rahaman
28. Mr. M. Fazlul Haque	58. Mr. A. Mannan Akondh
29. Mr. Moklesur Rahman Khan	59. Ms. Kazi Manjuara Begum
30. Mr. Habibur Rahaman Sarder	

60. Mr. T.M. Muzaffar Hossain
61. Mr. Md. Abdul Hye
62. Mr. G.M. Azmol Hossain
63. Mr. Md. Shahid Hossain
64. Mr. Abdur Rahim Sarder
65. Mr. Md. Shahadat Hossain
66. Mr. Sk. Humayoon Kabir
67. Mr. Jalal Uddin Howlader

68. Mr. Keramat Ali Howlader
69. Mr. K.B.S. Ahmed Kabir
70. Mr. Jagadish Chandra Sarker
71. Mr. A. Khaleque Bhuiyan
72. Mr. A.K.M. Abdul Matin
73. Mr. Habibur Rahaman Khalifa

### **Bogra Unit**

List of Engaged Lawyers in the District & Subordinate Courts of Bogra.

<b><i>Name of the Lawyers</i></b>
1. Ms. Dipika Shaha
2. Ms. Sufia Begum
3. Mr. Nripandra Nath Dev.
4. Mr. A.K.M. Sumsul Abadin
5. Mr. Kazi Nazrul Islam
6. Mr. Fazlul Bari Entu
7. Mr. Utpal Kumar Bagchi
8. Mr. Solaiman Ali Tara
9. Mr. Shofiqul Islam
10. Mr. Al. Mahamud
11. Mr. Dulal Kundu
12. Mr. Tobibur Rahman
13. Mr. Sadrul Anam Ranju
14. Mr. Abdul Kader Moznu

<b><i>Name of the Lawyers</i></b>
15. Mr. Sowpon Guho Roy
16. Mr. Mahabubur Rahman
17. Ms. Arafat Khatuna Jannat
18. Mr. M.A. Mallick
19. Mr. Sabbir Ahmed
20. Mr. Ahsan Habib (1)
21. Mr. S.M. Altamas
22. Mr. Nazmul Haque Benu
23. Mr. Zahurul Haque Zafar
24. Ms. Nibedita Roy
25. Mr. G.R.M. Khairuzzaman
26. Mr. Nur-A-Azam Babu
27. Mr. Babul Rabi Dash
28. Mr. Idris Ali

### **Chittagong Unit**

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

<b><i>Name of the Lawyers</i></b>
1. Mr. Kazi Md. Nazmul Huq

<b><i>Name of the Lawyers</i></b>
2. Mr. Arpon Ghosh

3. Mr. Sheikh Md. Ohidunnabi
4. Mr. Pradip Kumar Dutta
5. Mr. Abul Kashem Chowdhury
6. Mr. Kanti Bikash Barua
7. Mr. Goutam Kumar Banik
8. Mr. Md. Kamaluddin
9. Mr. M.A. Mamun Chowdhury
10. Mr. Md. Abu Taher
11. Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam
12. Mr. Balaram Kanti Das
13. Mr. Md. Ejhar Hossain
14. Mr. Md. Muhibbur Rahman
15. Ms. Lutfun Nahar
16. Mr. Ajoy Kumar Karmakar
17. Mr. Somesh Chandra Das
18. Mr. Dipak Chowdhury
19. Mr. Biplab Das

20. Mr. Mr. Golzer Hossain
21. Mr. Jahrul Hasan
22. Mr. H.S. Abul Hasan
23. Mr. Uday Sankar Dhar
24. Mr. Dipak Kumar Barua
25. Mr. Liakat Ali Chowdhury
26. Mr. F.M.A. Razzak
27. Mr. Shadhan Chandra Baidya
28. Mr. Sujit Bikash Datta
29. Ms. Nishat Sultana
30. Mr. Md. Ziauddin
31. Ms. Nasima Akter Chowdhury
32. Mr. A. M. Moazzem Hossain
33. Mr. Ajit Narayan Adhikary
34. Mr. Abdul Kader
35. Mr. Anupam Chakrabarti
36. Mr. Ashis Baran Barua

### Comilla Unit

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

<b>Name of the Lawyers</b>
1. Ms. Shataraya Parvin
2. Mr. Ejaj Ahmed Chowdhury
3. Mr. Siddiqur Rahman Bhuiyan
4. Mr. Faslur Rahman Khan
5. Ms. Hasina Akhter
6. Mr. Shamsul Alam Khan
7. Mr. Yeakub Chowdhury
8. Mr. Shirajul Kabir
9. Mr. Sherajul Islam

10. Ms. Salma Aktar
11. Ms. Shamima Akter
12. Mr. Ram Prasad Das
13. Ms. Shahida Akter
14. Mr. Promod Ranjan Bhoumik
15. Mr. Md. Mafizul Islam
16. Mr. Md. Mafizur Rahman Majumder
17. Mr. Musfiqur Rahman
18. Mr. Subhash Chandra

Biswas	25. Mr. Shafiqur Rahman Sarker
19. Mr. Ali Akkas	26. Mr. Syed Mustafa Ali
20. Ms. Ayesha Begum	27. Mr. Bashirul Islam Khan
21. Mr. Shaheen Chowdhury	28. Mr. Md. Mahabub Ali
22. Mr. Bimol Chandra Shaha	29. Mr. Md. Abdus Samad
23. Ms. Jahan Ara Begum	30. Mr. Dilip Kumer Nandi
24. Mr. Ashok Kumar Mazumder	31. Mr. A. B.M Anawarul Huq
	32. Ms. Roksana Chowdury

### Jessore Unit

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

<i>Name of the Lawyers</i>	<i>Name of the Lawyers</i>
1. Mr. Robiul Islam-2	18. Mr. G.M. Abul Kalam
2. Mr. Masud Rana Md. Hafiz	19. Mr. Hossain Md. Borhan (Salim)
3. Mr. Khandoker Moazzeim Hossain	20. Mr. Md. Ishaque
4. Mr. Md. Abul Kayes	21. Mr. Harun ar Rashid
5. Ms. Setara Khatun	22. Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam
6. Mr. Kazi Masrur Murshid (Bapi)	23. Mr. Md. Azizur Rahman
7. Mr. Harendranath Das	24. Mr. Jafar Hasan Mohmud
8. Mr. Jagot Narayon Ghosh	25. Mr. Kazi Nuruzzaman
9. Ms. Sayeda Sabina Ahmed	26. Mr. Badiuzzaman Khan
10. Mr. Md. Abdul Hai Molla	27. Mr. Gazi Tamij Uddin Ahmed
11. Mr. Gazi Md. Mahfuzur Rahman	28. Ms. Mahbuba Hasnat (Shealy)
12. Mr. Md. Abu Musa	29. Mr. Md. Alamgir Mia
13. Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman	30. Mr. A.S.M. Nazrul Islam
14. Mr. Md. Shahidur Rahman	31. Mr. Md. Asadur Rahman Khan
15. Mr. Md. Lutfur Rahman	32. Mr. Syed Kamrul Islam
16. Mr. Md. Mustafijur Rahman	33. Mr. Md. Altaf Hossain-2
17. Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman	34. Mr. Md. Azizul Islam

35. Mr. Md. Golam Mostofa-2
36. Mr. Md. Abdur Kader (Azad)
37. Mr. T. M. Omar Faruque
38. Mr. Md. Masud Faruque Khan
39. Mr. Md. Aminur Rahman
40. Mr. Md. Sirajul Islam
41. Mr. Ashim Kumar Ghose
42. Mr. Illias Tota
43. Mr. A.K.M. Hasanur Rahman
44. Mr. S.K. Ghulam Rasul-1
45. Mr. Moslem Ali Molla
46. Ms. Ismat Hashar
47. Mr. Md. Abul Hossain-2
48. Mr. Chirantan Mallick
49. Mr. Mirza Shahed Ali (Chanchal)
50. Mr. Md. Mozizur Rahman (Pintu)
51. Mr. Md. Nojibur Rahman (Khokon)
52. Ms. Saleha Begum
53. Mr. Md. Shohidul Islam-3
54. Mr. Golam Hekmot Alam
55. Mr. Md. Salahuddin

(Swapan)
56. Mr. Piyush Kanti Bhattacharya
57. Mr. Santosh Kumar Mondol
58. Mr. A.Q.M. Feroze Akhtar
59. Ms. Syeda Masuma Begum
60. Mr. Md. Abdul Latif Lata
61. Mr. Md. Alomgir Siddique
62. Mr. Shapon Kumar Bhadro
63. Mr. Md. Mahabub Alam (Bachu)
64. Mr. Md. Afzal Hossain
65. Mr. Md. Abdul Latif Morol
66. Mr. Golam Rahman Biswas
67. Mr. Khandaker Delwor Hossain
68. Ms. Sabia Khnom
69. Mr. A.K.M. Akram Hossain
70. Ms. Shahanaz Akter
71. Ms. Sharifa Begum
72. Mr. Sheikh Abdul Mohaymen
73. Mr. Md. Anisur Rahman
74. Mr. Md. Abdul Khayer Chowdhury
75. Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman
76. Mr. Nurul Islam Siddique

### **Khulna Unit**

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

<i>Name of the Lawyers</i>
1. Mr. Sunil Chandra Das
2. Mr. Sarder Himmat Ali

3. Ms. Sherin Akter
4. Mr. Chitto Ranjan Dewan
5. Mr. Ahsan Habib

6. Mr. Pabitra Kumar Biswas
7. Mr. Dulal Chandra Shil
8. Mr. Gopal Chandra Mondol
9. Mr. S.M. Mahafuzur Rahman
10. Ms. Sultana Rahman
11. Mr. Satya Narayan Saha
12. Mr. Anurag Banarjee
13. Ms. Sita Rani Debnath
14. Mr. Shaikh Akhtar Hossain
15. Mr. Shamim Mosarrof
16. Ms. Suniti Rani Roy
17. Mr. S.M. Kesmot Ali
18. Mr. Satya Proshad Bagchi
19. Mr. Tusar Kanti Basu
20. Mr. Md. Howlader Mijanur Rahman
21. Mr. M. Jamanul Islam
22. Mr. K.M. Jinnat Ali
23. Mr. Mokhlesur Rahman
24. Mr. SK. Soyeb
25. Mr. Keramot Ali Sarker
26. Mr. Posupoti Roy
27. Mr. Abdur Rob Khan
28. Mr. Pizush Kanti Halder
29. Mr. Mumammed

Mohiuddin
30. Mr. Sheikh Abu Talib
31. Ms. Sumala Dhar
32. Mr. A.F.M. Akteruzzaman
33. Mr. Nihar Ranjan Biswas
34. Mr. M. M. Ruhul Amin
35. Mr. Samir Kanti Bhattacharjee
36. Mr. Nobo Kumar Chakroborti
37. Mr. Abdul Malek Howlader
38. Mr. Moniruzzaman Moni
39. Mr. Parvez Islam
40. Mr. Dilip Kumar Kundu
41. Mr. A.S.M. Arif Hasan
42. Mr. Prodish Kumar Halder
43. Mr. Nikhil Kumar Roy
44. Mr. Jahangir Alam Mia
45. Mr. Bijan Bihari Mondol
46. Mr. Samar Chandra Mondol
47. Mr. Syed Azgar Ali
48. Mr. Syed Jahangir Ali
49. Mr. Mohsin Jomaddar
50. Mr. Abdul Latif Sheikh
51. Mr. Mollah Md. Masum Rashid

### Mymensingh Unit

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

<b>Name of the Lawyers</b>
1. Mr. Md. Mahmudur Rahman
2. Mr. S.I.M. Manjurul Haque
3. Ms. Roma Sarker

4. Mr. Abu Hanif Khan
5. Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam Bhuiyan
6. Mr. Md. Akram Hossain

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7. Mr. Md. Mozammel Haque
8. Ms. Riajul Jinnat Begum
9. Mr. Sawkat Osman
10. Mr. Muhammed Sirajul Islam
11. Mr. Muntasir Billah
12. Mr. Saidur Rahman Akand
13. Mr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman
14. Mr. Md. Azizur Rahman
15. Mr. Munir Hossain Khan
16. Mr. Mir Emran Ali
17. Mr. Md. Shahidul Islam
18. Mr. Md. Ruhul Amin Khan
19. Mr. S.M. Mazharul Haque Talukder
20. Ms. Chowdhury Hosne Ara
21. Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman Khan
22. Mr. Md. Enamul Haque
23. Mr. Md. Ali Haider Khan
24. Mr. Md. Abdul Aziz (1)
25. Mr. Bazlul Karim Chowdhury
26. Mr. Syed Anowarul Haque
27. Mr. Mamun Mahfuz
28. Mr. Mozammel Haque Khan

29. Mr. A.K.M. Fazlul Haque Molla
30. Mr. Mahbubul Alam Farid
31. Mr. Md. Ruhul Amin Sarker
32. Mr. Dilip Chandra Roy
33. Mr. Sonoka Ghosh
34. Mr. Md. Nurul Islam Nuru
35. Mr. Md. Abdul Hye
36. Mr. Ashok Kumar Ghosh
37. Mr. Goutom Paul
38. Mr. Atahar Hossain Sabuj
39. Mr. A.B. Siddique
40. Mr. Md. Abul Hossain Bahar
41. Mr. Md. Mostafijur Rahman
42. Mr. Abul Kashem Musa
43. Mr. A.K.M. Abdul Malek
44. Mr. Khalid Hasan Akand
45. Mr. A.K.M. Raihan Uddin
46. Mr. Sanaur Rahman Toslim
47. Mr. Md. Shamsul Islam
48. Mr. A.F.M. Saidur Rahman
49. Mr. Motaleb Sarker
50. Mr. Swapan Kumar Mistri
51. Ms. Rehena Akter
52. Mr. Jatish Chandra Chakrabarti

**Noakhali Unit**

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

<i>Name of the Lawyers</i>
1. Mr. Jafar Uddin Bablu
2. Mr. Kausar Niaj

<i>Name of the Lawyers</i>
3. Mr. Alamur Rahman
4. Mr. Muhammed Shamsul

Farooq	34. Mr. Humayun Kabir (3)
5. Mr. Md. Hanif	35. Mr. Nurer Rahim
6. Mr. Golam Rasul	36. Mr. Abdul Quddus
7. Mr. A.S.M. Shamsul Alam	37. Mr. Abdul Latif
8. Mr. Gobinda Chandra Das	38. Mr. Mahab uddin Bhuiyan
9. Mr. Shahid Ullah Gazi	39. Mr. Ahsan Ullah Pappu
10. Mr. Azam Khan	40. Mr. Shahadat Ullah
11. Mr. Debabrata Chakrabarti	41. Mr. Abu Reza Belal Chow.
12. Mr. A.T.M. Karim Hossain	42. Ms. Kalpana Rani Das
13. Mr. Abul Kalam Azad	43. Mr. Shafi Ullah
14. Mr. Hasanuzzaman	44. Mr. Mahbub Uddin Tapan
15. Mr. Nuruzzaman	45. Ms. Shukla Shaha
16. Mr. Golam Akbar	46. Mr. Mahbubur Rashid Babu
17. Mr. Mahmud Hasan	47. Mr. G.M. Saifuddin (Rashed)
18. Mr. Rafiq Ullah	48. Mr. Mijanur Rahman
19. Mr. Rafiqul Islam	49. Mr. Borhan Ahmed
20. Mr. Ojit Kumar Dhar	50. Mr. Azizul Hoq Bokshi
21. Mr. Sana Ullah	51. Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed
22. Mr. Kazi Anower Alam	52. Mr. Tofael Ahmed
23. Mr. Kamrul Islam	53. Mr. Mahi Uddin Kachi
24. Mr. Mijanur Rahman Siddique	54. Mr. Abdul Awal
25. Mr. Shahadat Hossain	55. Mr. Delowar Hossain Mollah
26. Mr. Afaj Uddin	56. Mr. Tuhin Chowdhury
27. Mr. Abdul Gofran Bhuiyan	57. Mr. Abdullah Md. Taher
28. Mr. Nirmal Chandra Devnath	58. Mr. Shohid Hossain
29. Mr. Babul Kanti Majumder	59. Mr. Md. Yusuf
30. Mr. Khorshed Alam	60. Mr. Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan
31. Mr. Abdul Haque	61. Mr. Belal Chowdhury
32. Mr. Kazi Md. Monsurul Haque Khasru	62. Mr. Sirajuddollah
33. Mr. A.K.M. Siraj Uddin	63. Mr. Mrinal Kanti Paul
	64. Mr. Jahangir Alam
	65. Mr. Karim Hossain

66. Mr. Sirajul Islam
67. Mr. Fazle Azam

68. Mr. Bashir Mahmud
69. Mr. Nur Nabi

**Pabna Unit**

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

<b>Name of the Lawyers</b>
1. Ms. Nurun Nahar
2. Mr. Md. Ayej Uddin
3. Mr. Md. Abdur Rouf Nister
4. Mr. Kh. Abdur Jahid Rana
5. Mr. A.K.M. Idris
6. Ms. Aksinara Khanam
7. Mr. Kh. Masud
8. Mr. M.A. Bakar
9. Mr. Md. Belal Hossain
10. Mr. Md. Entaj Ali
11. Mr. Md. Aminur Rashid Raju
12. Mr. Md. Mokter Hossain
13. Mr. Md. Abul Hossain (3)
14. Mr. Syed Ali Reja
15. Mr. Md. Shohidullah Biswas
16. Mr. S.A. Nazmul Kabi
17. Mr. Md. Aminul Islam Mia
18. Mr. Syed Ashfaq Hossain
19. Mr. Hossain Shahid Sarwardi
20. Mr. Md. Golam Mostofa (2)
21. Mr. Mohammad Ali
22. Mr. Md. Abdur Razzak (2)
23. Mr. Md. Abdur Rahim (2)
24. Mr. Israil Alam Al Mazi
25. Mr. Idris Ali (1)

<b>Name of the Lawyers</b>
26. Mr. Dewan Majnul Haque
27. Mr. Md. Mokbul Hossain
28. Mr. Saleh Ahmed
29. Mr. Ataur Rahman Chowdhury
30. Mr. Md. Ayub Ali
31. Mr. Md. Shamsur Rahman
32. Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid (4)
33. Mr. A.K.M. Shamsul Huda
34. Mr. Md. Nuruzzaman Munshi
35. Mr. Md. Ayenul Haque
36. Mr. Md. Abul Hossain (2)
37. Ms. Jinat Ara Chowdhury
38. Ms. Tasmin Ara Bulbul
39. Mr. Kazi Saidur Rahman
40. Ms. Moshfeqa Jahan Konika
41. Ms. Begum Amina Ahmed
42. Mr. Sree Ahendra Kumar Das
43. Mr. Abdul Haque Khan
44. Mr. Md. Shariful Islam Selim
45. Mr. Md. Obaidul Haque
46. Mr. Sree Ananta Gopal Kundu
47. Mr. Md. Abdul Aziz Biswas

### Patuakhali Unit

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

<i>Name of the Lawyers</i>	<i>Name of the Lawyers</i>
1. Mr. Shekh Mofazzel Hossain	11. Mr. Abdul Khalaq (7)
2. Mr. Ansar Ali Khan	12. Mr. Kalachan Shaha
3. Mr. Shohidur Rahman	13. Mr. Shuvas Chandra Karmaker
4. Mr. Syed Altaf Hossain	14. Mr. M. Shahabuddin
5. Mr. Humayun Kabir (2)	15. Ms. Biva Rani Shaha
6. Mr. Md. Eunos (5)	16. Mr. Shankar Lal Dash
7. Mr. Socidulal Karmakar	17. Mr. Md. Kamal Hossain
8. Mr. Mahabubul Alam	18. Mr. Abdul Jabbar (1)
9. Mr. Mujahidul Islam	19. Ms. Basonti Debnath
10. Mr. Abdul Aziz	

### Rajshahi Unit

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

<i>Name of the Lawyers</i>	
1. Ms. Monowara Begum	Dewan
2. Mr. Md. Khairul Alam	16. Mr. Osit Kumar Sen
3. Ms. Hasna Hena	17. Mr. Md. Masud Hasan Chow.
4. Mr. Md. Aminul Haque	18. Mr. Bazle Touhid Al-Hasan
5. Mr. Md. Shahidullah Sarker	19. Mr. Syed Ekramur Rasul
6. Mr. A.N.M. Kamaruzzaman	20. Mr. Khaja Mainuddin
7. Ms. Manjuara Khatun	21. Mr. Md. Nowshad Ali
8. Mr. Md. Nurul Islam Sarker	22. Ms. Nasrin Akhter Mita
9. Mr. Md. Abul Quashem	23. Mr. Munshi Md. Abul Kalam Azad
10. Mr. K.M. Ilias	24. Ms. Samina Begum
11. Mr. Md. Bayezid Bostami	25. Mr. Md. Abul Hossain Khan
12. Ms. Momotaz Khanam	26. Mr. Md. Kayes
13. Mr. Md. Jamsed Ali-1	27. Mr. Md. Lutfar Rahman
14. Mr. Md. Amzad Hossain (3)	
15. Mr. Md. Abdur Rashid	

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28. Mr. Md. Adib Imam	Kabir
29. Mr. Md. Abdus Salam	53. Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman Habib
30. Mr. Md. Abdur Razzaque	54. Mr. Masum Ahmed Tipu
31. Mr. Mainul Ahsan (2)	55. Mr. Md. Shariful Islam
32. Mr. Md. Enamul Haque	56. Mr. Md. Shahinul Haque Mun
33. Mr. Md. Nur-E-Kamruzzaman	57. Mr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman
34. Mr. Md. Mahbubul Islam	58. Mr. Mohammed Ismail
35. Ms. Nasira Banu	59. Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid
36. Mr. Md. Abu Bakar	60. Mr. Md. Abdul Mottalib
37. Mr. Md. Abdul Alim (2)	61. Ms. Mantaour Raihana
38. Mr. Md. Ahsan Habib Ranju	62. Ms. Rawshan Ara Begum
39. Ms. Mahmuda Begum Nargis	63. Mr. Md. Abdur Razzaque Sarker
40. Mr. Syed Ali Hasan	64. Mr. Shekh Md. Abdur Rashid
41. Mr. Rabiul Haque Kakar	65. Mr. Md. Abdul Alim Chow.
42. Mr. Md. Nur E Aftab Hossain	66. Mr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed
43. Mr. Nazmul Haque Mintu	67. Ms. Ismat Ara Begum
44. Ms. Momena Khatun	68. Mr. Jaur Rahman
45. Mr. S.M. Mofazzal Haque	69. Mr. Kaiser Parvej
46. Mr. Md. Jane Alam	70. Ms. Dil Setara Chuni
47. Ms. Syeda Marjina Khatun	71. Mr. Md. Mozharul Hannan
48. Mr. Syed Nurul Islam	72. Mr. Md. Mobarak Hossain
49. Mr. Md. Jarjish Alam	
50. Mr. A.K.M. Fazlul Huq	
51. Mr. Md. Jainal Abedin	
52. Mr. Shekh Md. Shahin	

**Rangpur Unit**

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

<i>Name of the Lawyers</i>	<i>Name of the Lawyers</i>
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Mr. Mir Mosaddek Ali Feroj
1. Mr. Md. Rafet Ali
2. Mr. Md. Moniruzzaman
3. Mr. Md. Abdul Hadi
4. Mr. Abu Syed Md. Sarifuddin
5. Mr. Md. Golam Mowla
6. Mr. Md. Mohsin
7. Mr. Jitendra Nath Roy
8. Mr. A.K.M. Nazrul Islam Apel
9. Ms. Rebeka Sultana
10. Mr. Md. Abdul Mannaf
11. Mr. Md. Abdur Rouf
12. Mr. Md. Atoarul Islam
13. Ms. Rebeka Sultana Ferdousi
14. Mr. M.M. Abu Bakar Siddique
15. Mr. Md. Mustafijur Rahman
16. Mr. Md. Abu Farhad
17. Mr. Shah Jahangir Md. Fazle Rabbi Akand
18. Mr. Md. Moshiur Rahman
19. Ms. Nasima Khanam

20. Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad
21. Ms. Monowara Sultana
22. Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam (3)
23. Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam
24. Mr. Md. Shamsul Alam
25. Mr. A. B. M. Reja Kabul Karim Badsha
26. Mr. Md. Altaf Hossain
27. Mr. Arun Chandra Sarker
28. Mr. Rejaur Rahman Reja
29. Ms. Sufia Khatun
30. Mr. Md. Masud-Uz-Zaman
31. Mr. Ashutosh Kumar Sarker
32. Ms. Halida Akter
33. Mr. Abdul Quayum Mondol
34. Mr. Shahjahan Mia
35. Mr. Shufi Md. Modabber Hossain
36. Mr. Afsar Ali Sarker
37. Mr. Md. Moazzem Hossain
38. Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam (4)
39. Ms. Monowara Khan
40. Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad (4)
41. Ms. Rejina Begum

### Sylhet Unit

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

<b>Name of the Lawyers</b>
1. Ms. Aleya Begum
2. Mr. Shah Ashraful Islam
3. Mr. Md. Kamal Hussain
4. Ms. Syeda Shirin Akter
5. Mr. Md. Luthfur Rahman
6. Mr. Md. Ishtiaq Ahmed Jaigirdar

7. Mr. Khokan Kumar Dutta
8. Mr. Md. Jamirul Islam
9. Mr. Subash Chandra Bhowmik
10. Mr. Nazim Uddin Chowdhury
11. Ms. Bonani Das
12. Ms. Joyonti Shyam Chowdhury

13. Ms. Ferdous Ara Begum
14. Mr. Dewan Golam Rabbani
15. Mr. Anwar Hussain-2
16. Ms. Deena Yeasmin
17. Ms. Farhana Yeasmin Chow.
18. Mr. Akter Uddin Ahmed
19. Mr. K.M.M. Jalal
20. Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid
21. Mr. Md. Nasar Ahmed
22. Md. Abdul Mutlib Chowdhury
23. Mr. Nihar Ranjan Purkayastha
24. Mr. Md. Abdul Muqtadir
25. Mr. Syed Nazrul Islam
26. Ms. Aysha Begum Shely
27. Mr. Rezaur Rahman Chow.
28. Mr. Md. Rafique Uddin

29. Mr. M. A. S. Abdullah Chow.
30. Mr. Md. Abdul Aziz
31. Mr. Kutub Uddin Ahmed
32. Ms. Nargis Sultana
33. Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman
34. Mr. Md. Abdur Rashid
35. Mr. M. M. A. Mannan
36. Mr. Ashique Uddin
37. Mr. Dilip Kumar Das Chow.
38. Ms. Musadda Akter Nali
39. Mr. Shuvankar Das
40. Mr. Md. Anowar Hussain-1
41. Mr. Md. Nasir Uddin
42. Mr. Aumolendu Dhar
43. Mr. Fokhruddin Ahmed
44. Mr. Md. Shamsul Islam

### Tangail Unit

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

<b><i>Name of the Lawyers</i></b>
1. Mr. Shah Abdul Matin Ahmed Babul
2. Mr. Md. Kazi Belaet Hossain
3. Ms. Jabun Nessa Chowdhury
4. Mr. Md. Bazlur Rashid
5. Mr. S.M. Rafiqul Islam
6. Ms. Sajeda Akter
7. Mr. Md. Mazibur Rahman
8. Mr. Md. Lutfur Rahman
9. Mr. Abdul Hai Reza

10. Mr. Jahur Azhar Khan
11. Mr. Md. Ahsan Habib
12. Mr. Mohammed Nuruzzaman
13. Mr. Abdul Hakim Mia
14. Mr. Dinesh Chandra Dev
15. Mr. Md. Mosharaf Hossain
16. Mr. Md. Jaynal Abedin Talukder
17. Mr. Md. Abu Baker Siddique

### Kushtia Unit

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

<b><i>Name of the Lawyers</i></b>
1. Mr. Shakhe Md. Abu Syed
2. Mr. Md. Manjurul Islam
3. Mr. A.S.M. Asaduzzaman
4. Mr. K.M. Abdur Razzaque

<b><i>Name of the Lawyers</i></b>
5. Mr. Taposh Kundu
6. Ms. Hasina Muhmuda Siddika
7. Mr. Sankar Majumder

**Faridpur Unit**

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

<b><i>Name of the Lawyers</i></b>
1. Mr. Shahadul Alam Arju
2. Mr. Khan Rejaul Islam (Babu)
3. Mr. A.K.M. Ali Morshed
4. Mr. Sree Manik Kumar Majumder
5. Ms. Shamsun Nahar Naim
6. Mr. S.M.A. Razzque
7. Mr. Md. Sharwarjan Mia
8. Mr. Abdur Razzaque Mia
9. Mr. Md. Abdul Mannan (Bhanga)
10. Mr. Md. Aminul Islam
11. Mr. S.M. Al- Mamun Hussani
12. Mr. Ahmed Hossain Mia
13. Mr. S.M. Naser
14. Mr. Md. Mohsin Mia
15. Mr. M. Mofazzel Hossain

**Dinajpur Unit**

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

<b><i>Name of the Lawyers</i></b>
1. Ms. Tayeba Begum
2. Mr. Md. Imam Ali
3. Mr. Md. Nurul Amin
4. Mr. Md. Masud Hasan
5. Mr. Mamud Rajaur Rahman
6. Mr. Ratan Kumar Roy
7. Mr. Md. Saiful Haque Chowdhury
8. Mr. Md. Sirajul Islam (1)
9. Ms. Yeamin Ahmed
10. Mr. Anwar Kamal
11. Mr. Md. Shajedul Haque Chowdhury
12. Mr. Dharani Dhar Roy
13. Mr. A.R.M. Shahjahan
14. Mr. Md. Shamsul Alam
15. Mr. Abu Nayem Md. Habibulla
16. Mr. Md. Mossarruf Hossain
17. Mr. Md. Mojibur Rahman (5)
18. Mr. Md. Abu Taleb
19. Mr. Md. Ashraf Siddiquie
20. Mr. A.K.M. Golam Murtaza
21. Mr. N. H. Mahbub-Ul Haque
22. Ms. Gulnagar Mansur
23. Ms. Serajum Munira
24. Mr. Upendra Nath Seal
25. Mr. Md. Meherul Islam

**Annexure - 2**

**List of Management Committee**

<b>BARISAL UNIT</b>	
Mr. Abdul Gaffar Khan	President
Mr. Syed Shakhawat Hossain Jumman	Vice-president
Mr. Manobendra Batabyal	Member
Mr. Shanti Ranjan Chakrabarty	Member
Mr. Masudul Haque Khan	Member
Mr. Talukder Mohammed Yunus	Member
Mr. K.B.S. Ahmed Kabir	Member
Mr. Muhammed Ismail Hossain Negaban	Member
Mr. Kamrul Ahsan Shaheen	Member
Ms. Quazi Monjuara Begum	Member
Ms. Lila Chakrabarty	Member

<b>BOGRA UNIT</b>	
Mr. Golam Mostofa Khan	President
Mr. A.K.Md. Samsul Abedin	Vice-president
Mr. Md. Delowar Hossain Sarker	Member
Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam	Member
Mr. G.R.M. Khayruzzaman	Member
Mr. S.M. Baqui	Member
Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman (3)	Member
Mr. Syed Omar Ali	Member
Ms. Sufia Begum Kohinoor	Member
Ms. Arafat Khatune Jinnat	Member
Ms. Nivedita Roy	Member

<b>CHITTAGONG UNIT</b>	
Mr. Subhash Chandra Lala	President
Mr. A.K.M. Emdadul Islam	Vice-president
Mr. Abul Kalam Azad	Member
Mr. Alhaji Nurussafa Talukder	Member

Mr. Ahmed Sagir	Member
Mr. Md. Saleh Jahur	Member
Mr. Md. Safiul Alam	Member
Mr. Rana Dash Gupta	Member
Mr. Md. Khorshed Alam Chowdhury	Member
Mr. Md. Ibrahim Hossain Chowdhury	Member
Mr. Md. Delwar Hossain Chowdhury	Member
Mr. Md. Kaful Uddin Chowdhury	Member
Mr. Md. Nazmul Ahsan Khan	Member
Ms. Akhter Jahan Huq	Member

**COMILLA UNIT**

M. A Khair	President
Abdul Motalib	Vice-president
Mr. Md. Ismail	Member
Mr. Qazi Nazmus Sadat	Member
Mr. Moazzem Hossain	Member
Mr. Abdur Razzak	Member
Mr. Jahirul Islam	Member
Mr. Razzaqul Islam	Member
Mr. Kali Pada Sarker	Member
Ms. Shipra Rani Das	Member
Ms. Shamsun Nahar	Member
Ms. Jesmin Sultana	Member

**DHAKA UNIT**

Mr. Syed Rezaur Rahman	President
Mrs. Mahmua Begum	Vice-president
Mr. Sarder Md. Suruzzaman	Member
Mr. Enayet Hossain Khan	Member
Mr. S.M. Altaf Hossain	Member
Mr. M. Sajawar Hossain	Member
Mr. Md. Nuruzzaman Noni	Member
Mr. Md. Abdullah Abu	Member

Mr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed Mehedi	Member
Mr. Md. Sana Ullah Miah	Member
Mr. Ananta Krishna Roy	Member

**DINAJPUR UNIT**

Mr. Khatibuddin Ahmad	President
Mr. Md. Yusuf Ali	Vice-president
Mr. Md. Isha Hoque	Member
Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman	Member
Mr. Prafulla Kumar Roy	Member
Mr. Md. Abdus Sayeed	Member
Mr. Md. Aminul Haq Putul	Member
Mr. A.B.M. Shafiqur Rahman	Member
Ms. Nasima Akhter (Rinu)	Member
Ms. Nilufar Rahim	Member
Mr. Md. Liaqut Ali	Member
Mr. Md. Rafiqul Amin	Member

**FARIDPUR UNIT**

Mr. Abdur Razzak Mia	President
Mr. Subal Chandra Shaha	Vice-president
Mr. Sarwar Jan Mia	Member
Mr. Md. Asadur Rahman Khan	Member
Mr. Rafiqul Hoq Chowdhury	Member
Mr. Narayan Chandra Das	Member
Mr. Md. Masudur Rahman	Member
Mr. Sahidunnaby	Member
Mr. M.A. Salam	Member
Mr. S.A.M. Khasruzzaman	Member
Mr. Afsar Uddin Ahmed	Member
Ms. Shamsun Nahar Naim	Member

Ms. Kazi Sabina Chowdhury	Member
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**JESSORE UNIT**

Mr. Nazrul Islam	President
Mr. Syed Mokarram Hossain	Vice-president
Mr. Faraji Shahadat Hossain	Member
Mr. Kazi Touhidur Rahman	Member
Mr. Jahur Ahmmed	Member
Mr. Debashish Das	Member
Mr. Moinul Huq	Member
Mr. Altaf Hossain (4)	Member
Mr. Tushar Kanti De	Member
Ms. Jesmin Banu (Ranu)	Member
Ms. Sadeka Khatun (Bilu)	Member

**KHULNA UNIT**

Mr. Gazi Abdul Bari	President
Mr. Abdul Abdul Aziz	Vice-president
Mr. Md. Manzurul Imam	Member
Mr. Abdul Menque	Member
Mr. Kazi Badsha Mia	Member
Mr. Md. Abdullah Hossain	Member
Mr. Ashit Kumar Halder	Member
Mr. Sk. Atiar Rahman	Member
Mr. S.R. Faruque	Member
Mr. Parvez Alam Khan	Member
Ms. Sayeda Sabiha	Member

**KUSHTIA UNIT**

Mr. Siraj-ul Islam	President
Mr. Anup Kuman Nandi	Vice-president
Mr. Abdur Rahim	Member
Mr. Harunur Rashid	Member
Mr. Abdul Kadir	Member

Mr. Azizul Huq	Member
Mr. Liakat Ali	Member
Mr. Nurul Islam Dulal	Member
Mr. A.S.M. Akteruzzaman	Member
Mr. Kartick Chandra Sarker	Member
Mr. Anowar Hossain	Member
Mr. Mir Sanowar Hossain	Member
Ms. Monjuri Begum	Member

<b>MYMENSINGH UNIT</b>	
Mr. Mostafa M.A. Matin	President
Mr. Md. Wazedul Islam	Vice-president
Mr. G.M. Anwar Hossain	Member
Mr. Gias Uddin	Member
Mr. Anindya Kumar Raut	Member
Mr. Sheikh Abul Hashem	Member
Mr. Monjur Anam	Member
Mrs. Riazul Jinnat Begum	Member
Mr. Abul Kalam Md. Azad	Member
Ms. Nilufar Begum	Member
Mr. Moazzem Hossain Babul	Member

<b>NOAKHALI UNIT</b>	
Mr. Abul Khair	President
Mr. Chitta Ranjan Roy Chowdhury	Vice-president
Mr. Nazmul Huq	Member
Mr. Molla Habibur Rasul Mamun	Member
Mr. Moin Uddin Ahmed Khashru	Member
Mr. Mohammed Rofiqul Islam	Member
Mr. A.K.M. Shamsul Islam	Member
Ms. Zannatul Ferdaoush	Member
Mr. Ajit Kumar Dhar	Member
Mr. Md. Shahid Hossain	Member

**PATUAKHALI UNIT**

Mr. Golam Ohid Chawdhury	President
Kazi A. Khaleq	Vice-president
Mr. Ahdul Huq Farazi	Member
Mr. Abul Kashem	Member
Mr. Md. Altaf Hossain	Member
Mr. Fazlul Karim	Member
Mr. Matiur Rahman Khan	Member
Ms. Amena Begum	Member
Ms. Nargis Akhter Chawdhury	Member
Mr. Shachi Dulal Karmoker	Member
Ms. Basonti Debnath	Member

**PABNA UNIT**

Mr. Zahir Ali Kaderi	President
Mr. Md. 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
Mr. A.K.M. Azad Khan	Member
Mr. M Azizul Haque (1)	Member

**RAJSHAHI UNIT**

Mr. Syed Ekramul Rasul	President
Mr. Israfil Hossain Mollik	Vice-president

Mr. Md. Zillur Rahman	Member
Alahajj Mr. Md. Abul Quashem	Member
Mr. Md. Yahia	Member
Mr. Md. Enamul Huq	Member
Ms. Momena Khatun	Member
Mr. Bholanath Mazhi	Member
Mr. Saifur Rahman Khan	Member
Ms. Dil Setara Chuni	Member
Ms. Nasira Banu	Member

**RANGPUR UNIT**

Mr. Abdul Gani	President
Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam Mondol	Vice-president
Mr. Md. Sorrowar-ul-Alam	Member
Mr. Me. Abul Kashem	Member
Mr. Md. Alhaj Taleb Ali	Member
Mr. Md. Abdus Salam	Member
Mr. Md. Rustam Ali	Member
Mr. Md. Mohosin	Member
Mr. Md. Khairul Islam	Member
Mr. Md. Nurul Islam Mondol	Member
Me. Md. Abdur Rahman	Member
Mr. Md. Rathish Chandra Bhawmik	Member
Ms. Rezea Sultana	Member

**SYLHET UNIT**

Mr. M. A. Khaliq	President
Mr. A.S.M.A. Mobin	Vice-president
Mr. Mohsin Bakht	Member
Mr. Fakhruddin Ahmed	Member
Mr. Dewan Golam Robbani Chowdhury	Member
Mr. Rajat Kanti Das	Member
Mr. Abdul Hye Khan	Member
Mr. Abdur Raquib	Member

Mr. Md. Azizur Rahman	Member
Mrs. Jayanti Shyam Chowdhury	Member
Mrs. Farhana Yeasmin Chowdhury	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. Bakul Chandra Bhawmik	Member
Mr. Faekuzzaman Najib	Member
Mr. Bazlur Rashid	Member
Mr. Mofizur Rahman Mia	Member
Mr. Sayed Azmal Haider	Member
Mr. Bangshi Binod Goswami	Member
Mr. Khan Md. Khaled	Member
Ms. Chobi Roy	Member

## Appendix A

### BLAST DIRECTORY

#### Head Office and Unit Offices

##### Head Office

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust  
141/1 Segunbagicha, Dhaka – 1000  
Tel: 837 185, 934 9126  
Fax: 0088 02 934 7107  
e-mail: [blast@bangla.net](mailto:blast@bangla.net)

Mr. Fazlul Huq  
Executive Director

<b>Barisal Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Barisal Bar Association Building (1 <sup>st</sup> floor) Barisal  Advocate Mansur-ul Alam Coordinator	<b>Bogra Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Khaza Bari (behind the Zilla Parishad Bhaban) Bogura  Advocate Sadrul Anam Ranju Coordinator
<b>Chittagong Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Zilla Parishad Bhaban Court Road, Chittagong  Advocate Rezaul Karim Chowdhury Coordinator	<b>Comilla Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building Comilla  Advocate Shameema Akhter Jahan Coordinator
<b>Dhaka Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust 51/12 Johnson Road (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor) Beside the Azad Cinema Hall, Dhaka-1100  Advocate Khandokar Abdul Mannan Coordinator	<b>Dinajpur Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building (1 <sup>st</sup> Floor) Dinajpur  Advocate Serajum Munira Coordinator

<p><b>Faridpur Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Faridpur Court Mosque House (1<sup>st</sup> floor) Faridpur</p> <p>Advocate Rafiqur Rahman Coordinator</p>	<p><b>Jessore Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building (1<sup>st</sup> Floor) Jessore</p> <p>Advocate Md. Ishaq Coordinator</p>
<p><b>Khulna Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust 20, Hospital Road (beside the registree office), Khulna</p> <p>Advocate Ashoke Kumar Saha Coordinator</p>	<p><b>Kushtia Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building Kustia</p> <p>Advocate Sankar Majumder Coordinator</p>
<p><b>Mymensingh Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building(1<sup>st</sup> floor) Mymensingh</p> <p>Advocate A. H. Habib Khan Coordinator</p>	<p><b>Noakhali Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building (1<sup>st</sup> floor) Maijhdhi Court, Noakhali</p> <p>Advocate Abdur Rahim Coordinator</p>
<p><b>Patuakhali Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trsut Bar Association Building(1<sup>st</sup> floor) Patuakhali</p> <p>Advocate M. Shahabuddin Coordinator</p>	<p><b>Pabna Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trsut Bar Association Building (1<sup>st</sup> floor) Pabna</p> <p>Advocate Md. Alamgir Hossain Coordinator</p>
<p><b>Rajshahi Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Kabil Manson (4th Floor) Mallopara, Shaheb Bazar Rajshahi</p> <p>Advocate Abdus Samad Co-codinator</p>	<p><b>Rangpur Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Rangpur Bar Association Building (1<sup>st</sup> floor) Rangpur</p> <p>Advocate Abdul Quiyum Mondol Coordinator</p>

<b>Sylhet Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Bar Association Building (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor) Sylhet  Advocate Md. Irfanuzzaman Chowdhury Coordinator	<b>Tangail Unit</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust 3708 Lake View Road, Zilla Sadar (Bot-tola), Tangail  Advocate Md. Mojibur Rahman Coordinator
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**The Legal Aid Clinics**

<b>Legal Aid Clinic</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust 89/3/1 R. K. Mission Road Dhaka  Advocate Masuda Rahana Begum Clinic Co-ordinator  <b>Legal Aid Clinic</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust 13/11, Babar Road, Mohammadpur Dhaka  Advocate Harun-ur-Rashid Khan Clinic Co-ordinator	<b>Legal Aid Clinic</b> Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Madan Hat, Hathajari Chittagong  Advocate Mohiuddin Khaled Clinic Co-ordinator
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