

BRAC Takes A Bold Step

BRAC Bank marks its 10th anniversary, by celebrating women on the occasion of International Women's Day. It organized a small program where all its employees most of whom are women, welcomed two Acid survivors into their work force.

Actress and cultural personality Sara Zaker and eminent novelist and journalist Mr. Anisul Hoque formally handed over appointment letters of BRAC Bank to the two women at a program in the bank's head office on March 10, 2011. Deputy Managing Director of BRAC Bank Mr. Mohammad Mamdudur Rashid was also present.

Manika Halder of Barisal broke down in tears while relating her story. She fell prey to acid attack after her S.S.C. exam. She said life had become

unbearable after the acid attack. However, she continued studies overcoming all adversity. She said, 'I never thought I could get a chance to work in BRAC Bank. I still think I am in dream. I wish no one ever becomes an acid victim like me.'

Tahura Khatun of Lalmonirhat expressed her gratitude to BRAC Bank for giving her the chance to work in the bank.

BRAC Bank is always working on women empowerment and development in the country. Last year the bank extended support for rehabilitation of 70 acid survivors of Dinajpur in collaboration with Prothom Alo Trust.

Deputy Managing Director of BRAC Bank Mr. Mohammad Mamdudur Rashid said, 'BRAC Bank is always committed in ensuring security and equal rights

of employees in workplace irrespective of gender. We try to go beyond conventional initiatives in respect to women empowerment. We are proud to have the new members on board.'

BRAC bank intends to hire at least 10 acid survivors and give them an opportunity to earn a living and find their way back to a normal lifestyle. Unfortunately they could not hire more than two Acid survivors this time, as most acid survivors cannot pursue education after their attack and hence are not academically qualified for recruitment.

However the Bank promises to continue their search of Acid survivors with the qualification for recruitment and provides hope to more acid survivors like Tahura Khatun and Manika Halder. □

