None can take away my rights

"I have right to get a job... No one can take away my rights", said Farzana Aktera visually impaired girl who has completed her master's degree in History from Dhaka University". Farzana Akter was born in Dhaka in 1983. She is living with her family members in Dhaka. Farzana is facing various difficulties in everyday life. Following a wrong treatment given to her, Farzana who was studying in grade 12, became blind. Her life changed dramatically from one day to another. However, this medical error could not demoralize her to enjoy the beauty of life. Farzana is bold, confident and courageous.

Recently, Farzana submitted an application for the job as an Officer (Cash) at Agrani Bank, Bangladesh. The Bank authority did not agree to allow her to sit for the entry examination for the position she applied for. The news was published in the Daily *Prothom–Alo* online version on 1 May, 2013. Barrister Sara Hossain, Honorary Executive Director, Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST) brought the issue to the attention of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on 2 May, 2013 and sought it's support in this regard.

The NHRC responded immediately to this case and directed the Managing Director of Agrani Bank, Bangladesh to accept Farzana Akter's application. The same day, the Managing Director of Agrani Bank, Bangladesh confirmed that Farzana was admitted for the entry examination for the position she applied for.

Farzana pointed out that though she met the eligibility requirements for the position, the bank initially did not accept her application invoking that she had crossed the age limit. That was not true The real reason behind this refusal was surely not my age – Farzana noted.

Farzana stressed that she was finally admitted thanks to the prompt intervention and strong persuasion of the NHRC. "This has opened a new horizon in my life"she said. By its intervention, the NHRC reiterated her principle position that "No one should be discriminated against on the grounds of disability".

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Entry Card for the Examination