



How it can Happen

"About 400 patients are admitted annually. The main causes are road accidents, fall from height, trees, fall of heavy objects on the back, bull attack, bullet injury, physical assault, diving in shallow water etc.

Instead of carrying heavy weight on the head, people can use a trolley; instead of climbing trees to pick fruits, people can use tools. Wearing seat belt may also reduce spinal cord injury during car crashes.

- DR MOSTAFA KAMAL, Head of Medical Services Wing, CRP.



Experts came from as far the US and Europe because they care.

# IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT LOVE IS

At a spinal cord injury conference I find love

AMITAVA KAR

PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS

At around 8:30, a sunny and cool November morning is just beginning in Khagan, Savar, and cars are pulling into the parking lot of the BRAC-CDM. At the reception, people—more than 400 of them—are waiting patiently to register for the 2014 ASCoN Annual Conference. Some of them have travelled from the US and Europe to be here, while others from various parts of the country. There

is great energy in the air. My eyes look for someone whom I have only heard about and am eager to meet.

There are only two kinds of people here—those who have suffered spinal cord injury and those who work to treat or cure them. The conference is hosted by the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) and aims to share the latest developments in spinal injury management worldwide.

That's one thing about spinal cord injury — everything about it plays out in absolutes. They are instantaneous, utterly disabling and horribly permanent. One moment you are the strongest person in the world, the next moment you find yourself in a wheelchair.

On January 18, 2012, Tania Sultana Munni, a school teacher was riding an auto rickshaw and all of a sudden her shawl got caught in the wheel. Her neck was broken immediately. "After receiving treatment at another hospital, I came to CRP. I received treatment and counselling for 6 months here. The games and cultural activities helped me a great deal. I am almost well except a little weak in my hands. Valerie (Taylor) gave me a job as an office assistant at CRP."

Like Foyisal and Tania, most of the patients come to CRP after being released from other hospitals. "CRP is the only organisation for the management of the injury and rehabilitation of patients," Dr Mostafa Kamal says, "We take an interdisciplinary approach

A Platform for Solutions

**Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN)**  
 ASCoN was established in 2001 during a regional conference organised and hosted by CRP with the mission to share knowledge among other countries in all aspects of spinal cord injury management, from initial treatment of the patient to re-integration of the person. ASCoN now consists of 75 member organisations in 18 countries in Asia. ASCoN became an affiliated society of the International Spinal Cord Society (ISCOs) in 2004.

**ASCoN Annual Conference**  
 CRP hosted the 13th annual ASCoN Conference from 27th - 29th November 2014 at BRAC-CDM in Savar. The goal of the conference has been to share ideas, best practices and to provide a platform for open and free discussion, as well as to share the latest developments and innovations in spinal injury management worldwide.