

Love finds a way in hospital

Injured groom ties knot from hospital bed in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A year ago, Ananda Saha and Amrita Sarker met, and their acquaintance slowly blossomed into love. With the consent of both families, their wedding date was set for December 15 this year. But a sudden accident changed everything.

On the night of August 7, Ananda was seriously injured when a truck hit his motorcycle on his way back to Manikganj from Dhaka. Both his hands and one leg were broken, and his waist was badly injured. After initial treatment at a private hospital in Dhaka, he was later admitted to a hospital in Manikganj. He still cannot get out of bed and remains fully dependent on others for movement.

In this crisis, Amrita decided to stay by his side. She refused to leave Ananda alone. Following discussions between the two families, the wedding was brought forward. On Thursday night, the marriage ceremony was held in the hall room of a private hospital in Manikganj town.

Photos of the wedding have since spread on social media. They show Ananda lying on a hospital bed, his



hands wrapped in bandages, as he applies sindoor to the bride's forehead. The rituals were completed in the presence of a few close relatives.

Ananda, a resident of Chan Mia Lane in Manikganj town, is the son of Arabinda Saha, a local businessman. The bride, Amrita, hails from Baniajuri village in Ghior upazila and is a first-year undergraduate student at a college in Manikganj.

Ananda is undergoing treatment at Afroza Begum General Hospital in the town.

Dr Sirajul Islam, medical and unit head of the hospital, said, "The wedding was arranged at the hospital with due regard to the patient's safety and health. Only a small number of people were present. The event did not disrupt treatment for any other patient."

He also said Ananda's condition is better than before.

Arabinda Saha said, "There was a plan for a big wedding in December. But after the accident, our first priority is Ananda's treatment and care. That's why, by the family's decision, the wedding was held on a limited scale on Thursday night. We seek everyone's prayers for the newlyweds."

Former AL

FROM PAGE 3

in Patuakhali; Anisur Rahman Hawlader, 43, a union-level Jubo League leader; AKM Khorshed Alam, 65, general secretary of Bangabandhu Kalyan Parishad; Delwar Hossain Bablu, 61, an Awami League leader from ward 32 in Dhaka; Al Mamun Bhuiyan, 29, organising secretary of Jubo League's Uttara east ward 1 unit; Kaykobad Osmani, 53, a central executive member of Jubo League; and Md Anwar Hossain, 60, former president of Khitirpata union AL and ex-UP chairman in Louhajang, Munshiganj.

All are accused in different cases filed with several police stations, the release said.

They had been conspiring together to destabilise the country by disrupting law and order and attempting to spread panic among people through flash processions at different places in Dhaka, the DMP said.

Equal rights, opportunities key

FROM PAGE 3

Addressing as chief guest, Prof Monsur Musa, former director general of Bangla Academy, said remembering those who contributed to the state and society is both a social and state responsibility, but it is often neglected.

Prof Musa explained that culture should be understood in two ways — human culture and material culture. "Human culture includes literature, music, thought, and creativity, while material culture includes the physical creations of society and the state." He said the material culture of Bangladesh is relatively weak and often borrowed from others.

"Abul Mansur Ahmad raised the right questions in his time. The ability to ask questions is one of the main strengths for moving society forward," he said.

Musa also said without correct questions and direction, uprisings cannot be turned into revolutions.

Lyricist Shahidullah

Faizani said the new political settlement is not only about the transfer of power but also about transforming political culture.

"The key question is whether we will continue to live under new rulers or build a society based on dignity and justice," he said.

He added that while power has changed hands many times in Bangladesh's history, political culture has not. "For the new settlement to succeed, politics must stand on truth and morality, people's participation and accountability must be ensured, and the culture of authoritarianism must be replaced with democratic values."

He said July uprising was not only about a change of government but also about people's resistance against authoritarian culture.

Rajshahi University Prof A Al Mamun said, "Abul Mansur Ahmad wanted to show that Bangladeshi Muslims' roots stretch beyond lower-caste Hindus, linking them to the Harappa civilisation,

Buddhist heritage, and later Muslim identity. He sought an alternative history against Calcutta-centred dominance."

Writer and politician Hasnat Quaiyum called Abul Mansur Ahmad a rare figure who led politics while enriching literature. "Today, the idea of a 'new settlement' is widely discussed but still not clearly defined. We must identify and change the structural 'cage' left by the British," he said.

Writer Firoz Ahmed described Abul Mansur Ahmad as more than a literary figure and said he was "a thinker in search of the national soul".

"Abul Mansur Ahmad's life reflected the anti-colonial struggle, giving voice to Bangladeshi Muslim culture. Ahmad's vision of East Bengal as the future centre of Bangladeshi civilisation shaped Bangladesh's foundation," he said.

Journalist Tahmidul Jami said Abul Mansur Ahmad's debates on language and identity remain relevant. "His view of a creolised Bangladeshi language, blending dialects and Urdu-Bihari speech, offered a basis for a new collective identity."

At the event, winners of the speech competition on Abul Mansur Ahmad were also awarded. They were presented with prizes, certificates, and cash awards.

FROM PAGE 3

Aviation expert Kazi Wahidul Alam said, "Biman should take effective measures to minimise its loss. It also should take proper planning and branding to continue this route."

"Biman's move has damaged Bangladesh's aviation image abroad," he added. "Ceasing operation to a major destination like Japan -- where we have trade, tourism, and a significant expatriate population -- reflects poor business planning of Biman."

Wahidul Alam said at the beginning of the Narita flight many passengers were from Nepal and Kolkata as they found this route profitable instead of travelling from their own countries. But due to absence of proper marketing and branding, Biman failed to attract more transit passengers from Nepal and Kolkata for Narita.

Rakib Hasnet, working at a foreign media house in Dhaka who visited Tokyo four times in the last two years by Biman, said the national carrier failed to turn the Narita route into a profitable venture despite prospects.

Contacted, Shafiqul Azim,

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BU students on hunger strike for 3-point demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Seven students of Barishal University (BU) have staged a hunger strike to press home their three point demand, including infrastructural development of the campus.

Around 10:30pm on Thursday, Sharmila Zaman Senjuti of the English department, Amiya Mondal of Journalism and Mass Communication, Tajul Islam of Accounting and Information Systems, Md Abu Bakar Siddique of Chemistry, Piyal Hasan of Philosophy, Ahmed Riaz of Public Administration, and Shawkat Osman of Law began the strike in front of the university's administrative building.

"We have been demonstrating for a long time

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Condemning the death of a factory worker in Nilphamari's EPZ on September 2, Bangladesh Garment Sramik Sanghati formed a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday. The organisation also demanded fair investigation, justice, and exemplary punishment for those responsible.

PHOTO: STAR

MOULVIBAZAR HOSPITAL

Dialysis services near closure amid fund crisis

MINTU DESHWARA

The dialysis unit at the 250-bed Moulvibazar General Hospital is on the verge of a complete shutdown due to a severe funding crisis.

Hospital authorities said no new patients have been admitted for dialysis over the past month, while limited services for 15 existing patients may also cease by the end of September unless urgent government funding is secured.

Lower and middle income patients, who depend on the hospital for affordable, life-saving treatment, are the worst affected. They are now being forced to seek dialysis at private facilities that charge significantly higher fees.

"Dialysis has to be done twice a week. Private hospitals charge Tk 3,500 per session. It is impossible to bear this cost regularly," said kidney patient Lokman Ahmed, who previously received treatment

at the hospital.

The dialysis unit has 17

machines, 15 of which are currently

operational. Each patient is

offered a package of 48 sessions

To operate at regular capacity approximately 300 sessions per month -- an annual allocation of about Tk 1 crore is required, officials said. But without fresh funding, the

hospital has been forced to scale back operations.

"We are still providing services bears the rest.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

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