

## Khadiza's survival chances increase

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khadiza's chances of survival have increased compared to four days ago when she was brought to Square Hospital with multiple stab wounds in her head, doctors said yesterday.

She opened her eyes and moved right limbs in response to painful stimulus after doctors stopped administering sleep-inducing drugs, neurosurgeon Rezaus Sattar told journalists at the hospital.

The 23-year-old college student from Sylhet has been undergoing treatment at the hospital's Neuro Intensive Care Unit.

"We initially aimed at saving her life. But there was little hope. We had to walk

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down a very narrow path. After 96 hours [of the surgery], we can say that there are better chances of her survival," Sattar said.

It might take up to several months to have a "better idea" of her recovery. Since she has made it to five days after being hurt, her brain should recover, given her young age, added the surgeon.

"If she recovers, only time would say whether she would have a normal life or some physical incapacity."

Khadiza is still unconscious. If she gains consciousness, doctors might take her off the ventilator, he said.

The patient was placed on ventilation to relieve the pressure on the brain.

Khadiza Begum Nargis, a student of Sylhet Government Women's College, was brutally hacked by Badrul Alam, a fourth-year student of economics at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust), on October 3.

Badrul is the senior assistant secretary of the Sust unit Chhatra League.

He attacked Khadiza inside MC College where she had gone to sit an examination.

Some students along with locals caught and beat up Badrul before handing him over to police.

### FATHER JOINS PROTEST

Speaking at a protest rally in Sylhet city yesterday afternoon, Khadiza's father Mashuk Miah said: "I hope no father in the world would ever have to go through such pain."

The rally was held at Tematha Point under the banner of Shachetan Nagerik Shomaj of Sylhet Sadar upazila.

Mashuk returned home from Saudi Arabia on Thursday.

Two human chains were formed in front of the Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar by Jouno Hoyrani Nirmulkoron Network and Luminous Sylhet.

Speakers at the programmes demanded exemplary punishment for all forms of violence against women.

*Our correspondent in Sylhet contributed to this report.*