

Scarred but not defeated

15-year-old victim of a bombing determined to sit for SSC exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The pain was searing, enough to make him whimper from time to time. But the pensive appearance on the 15-year-old face with a raw wound on the forehead, the right eye closed due to swelling and the left open wide just enough to give a blurry vision said there was something else going through his mind.

A bit of coaxing and the boy who had fallen victim to a crude bomb attack opened up.

"I want to be a Buet (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology) engineer. For this, I need to attend the exam first, at any cost," muttered Minhazul Islam Anik, a class X student of the science group at Feni Government Pilot High School.

His apprehensions were justified for in around two weeks, that is from February 2,

the Secondary School Certificate exam, one of most important public exams of his life, was due to begin.

Anik ended up on the paying bed of the capital's National Institute of Eye Science and Hospital (Niesh) for the attack in Khejur Chattar on Trunk Road of Feni town in the afternoon of January 5.

A rally of the ruling Awami League was ongoing on the same road at Shaheed Minar Chattar while violent protests in the capital by BNP activists at the confinement of party chief Khaleda Zia in her Gulshan office.

Anik and a classmate were hit while returning home on a rickshaw from their private tutor's house.

After taking initial treatment at Feni Sadar Hospital, he was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital that night. As the facial wounds healed a little, he was

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 admitted at Niesh on Thursday following recommendations of DMCH doctors.

He is worried about his eyes and whether he will be able to attend the exam, confirmed his mother Jasmine Rahman.

His father Mizanur Rahman, rushing home from Oman, said they were still hopeful about Anik attending the exam. Both wished to take him abroad for better treatment.

Jasmine said the government, after taking responsibility of ensuring his treatment, was helping in visa processing and they might fly abroad in a day or two.

Shyamol Kumar Sarkar, resident surgeon at Niesh, said the hospital authority formed a three-member board to look after him