



## **Dr. Ayesha Akhtar Khanam (1953–2015):**

### **A Life Devoted to Medical Service**

Dr. Ayesha Akhtar Khanam was born on 1 August 1953 in Nasirpur village of Kachua Upazila. She was the second child of Dr. Md. Idris and Begum Ashrafunnessa. From an early age, she demonstrated remarkable intelligence and thoughtfulness. After completing her primary and secondary education in Rahimanagar, she pursued her higher secondary studies at Comilla Government Women's College. During her academic life, she earned scholarships in the fifth and eighth grades. In 1969, she passed the SSC examination from the Science group with First Division distinction, marking a significant academic achievement. Notably, she was the first female student from Rahimanagar B.A.B. High School to pass the secondary examination, a proud milestone for women's education in the region.

In 1973, she was admitted to the MBBS program at Sylhet Medical College and successfully completed her internship in 1979. She began her professional career as a Medical Officer at Tangail General Hospital. In early 1981, she joined Comilla Sadar Hospital in the same capacity. Soon after, she went to Dhaka on deputation for higher studies at the then PG Hospital and obtained an MPhil degree in Physiology.

Following the completion of her higher education, she served with dedication as a faculty member at Dhaka Medical College, Comilla Medical College, Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College, and Sir Salimullah Medical College. She retired from government service as an Associate Professor from Sir Salimullah Medical College. Even after retirement, she continued to share her knowledge and experience with students, teaching for nearly two years at Shahabuddin Medical College in Dhaka. However, due to illness, she had to step down from this responsibility in 2013. Her health gradually deteriorated, and while undergoing treatment, she passed away on 6 April 2015.

Dr. Ayesha Akhtar Khanam was the first female MBBS doctor in her upazila. As a result, she became a symbol of hope and trust for women in the community, and she remained sincerely committed throughout her life to fulfilling those expectations.

Dr. Ayesha was a devoted physician and a person of exceptional humanity. She was widely respected as a student-friendly and exemplary teacher, while also serving the general public with unwavering dedication for many years. Yet her identity was not limited to being a doctor alone. Deep compassion for people, a simple philosophy of life, and an open heart were the defining traits of her character. She could easily connect with people of all ages and social backgrounds, and she never saw a patient merely as a case, but as a member of her own family. Standing beside the poor, the helpless, and the marginalized was one of her lifelong commitments. In her personal life, she was humble and unpretentious. She believed that true success lay not in publicity or display, but in quietly serving others. The love and trust of people were her greatest achievements.