ISSN 0972 - 1568 (print) | ISSN 3048 - 653X (online)

INDIAN TRANSPLANT NEWSLETTER

Publication from MOHAN FOUNDATION

In the news – National

A Mother's Legacy: A Family's Ordeal After Eye Donation

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In 2024, Rabeya Bibi, an illiterate woman from a serene village of West Bengal, decided to donate her eyes after witnessing the posters of cataract surgery in a hospital. In February 2026, when she died, her son, a school teacher and a social worker Amir Chand Sheikh carried out her pledge to donate her corneas at Baharampur Medical College Hospital in compliance with all medical and legal formalities.

Some local residents falsely alleged Amir of selling the organs of his mother, including her eyes and kidneys. A neighbour reported to the police, which led to a post-mortem and the arrest of Amir along with his brother Abdul and three female members of their family.

The case sparked public debate, with activists and doctors highlighting widespread ignorance about organ donation and the danger of false allegations when families act on a donor's wishes. The court ultimately accepted the evidence in favor of the family and declared Amir not guilty. The incident is now seen as a cautionary example of how stigma, misinformation and over-policing can discourage eye and organ donation in rural communities.

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To cite : Sharma P, Suriyamoorthi S. A Mother's Legacy: A Family's Ordeal After Eye Donation. In the news. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2026 Jan-Mar; 25(1):p3.