

Mitford sans OT for two decades

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Mitford Hospital, one of the biggest government hospitals in the city cannot provide the least service to emergency patients as the operation theatre (OT) at the casualty department has not functioned in the last 22 years.

Hospital officials said that the higher authority did not take any initiative to start the OT.

"It looks as if the high official, even doctors, nurses, and ward boys do not want the OT to become operational. If it becomes functional, it means that they have to put in extra effort," said an official in the administrative office.

In 1984 the OT was established in the casualty department to provide services to emergency patients but it could not start full-fledged operations as neither the anaesthesia and diathermy machines, nor were OT lights installed.

Besides, the OT lacks manpower. The casualty department has two assistant registrars and one registrar and two medical officers, but neither has a surgeon nor an anaesthetist been assigned so far.

The emergency patients are sent to different hospitals in the city because of the lack of OT facilities.

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can provide first aid to a certain extent, so we have to send seriously injured patients to different hospitals," said a doctor at emergency department.

An official of the casualty department said they have sent letters to the authorities, but they somehow seem reluctant to fix the problem.

"If we get the anaesthesia and diathermy machine and the authority assign an anaesthetist, two doctors, one MLSS, one nurse and one sweeper for each shift we can run the OT," said the official.

A number of emergency patients from old parts of Dhaka and from the other side of Buriganga rush to the Mitford Hospital with severe injuries. The doctors said they send the

severely injured patients to different hospitals for immediate treatment instead of the OT in casualty department.

Last week relatives rushed one Rahman to Mitford Hospital with a head injury. The doctors of the emergency tried to stop bleeding and then sent him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) casualty department for further treatment.

"This is the nearest hospital and we know it is one of the best in the city but their standard of service is not satisfactory," said Malek, a relative of Rahman.

The director of the hospital Dr Mahmud Hossain said they are doing their best to make the OT functional.

"I will soon sit with the concerned officials regarding

this issue and see how we can make it get started," he said.

Besides, crisis of the essentials in the hospital has been acute in the last five months as there is no supply of gauze, bandages, bleaching powder, pathology form, gum, finish, phenyl, diet slips, report copies and other items.

Hossain admitted the crisis and said the supply is now becoming normal.

"We have taken some immediate measures to overcome the present crisis that we hope will come to an end in a short time," he said.



Mitford, one of the biggest government hospitals in the city cannot treat emergency patients due to lack of function

New waves hit the city

FROM PAGE 21 accents should be normal and Rabindra and Nazrul songs should be included though these are not popular among young people," said Mamun, a university student.

"These stations are very useful for traffic news and talk shows. It will be better if they can broadcast short news bulletins at an hourly basis," said Saeed, a car driver, adding that he likes to listen to it while he is

stuck in traffic jams.

"SMS voting and audience surveys are also good sides," he said.

"Our focus group is 18-35 which includes students of colleges and universities and young urban professionals. We did some audience surveys and the accent is ok for them. It is a different accent but not wrong," said Mahmudur Rahman, outside broadcaster, Radio Foorti.

"We are developing a new

style for those who are old in terms of age, but young by heart. We will continue it as long as majority of people accepts it. After the test transmission period is complete we will start news bulletins soon," said Saiful Amin, editor, Radio Today.

Zakir, who was an avid listener of BBC and *Durbar*, a radio programme for soldiers, pointed out the role of visual media behind the dwindling image of Bangladesh Betar.

"People in Dhaka do not bother listening to radios but those belonging to remote villages where no TV exists, still sticking to it. When I go to my village I have to listen to radio because there is no electricity in that remote territory," he said.

"Radio dramas were very popular in the 1980s. People used to sit around a radio and when a song or a drama started they listened to it in pin-drop silence. Now countless songs and dramas are going on in TV channels but people hardly bother," said Zakir adding that TV is now watched in most village markets.

Shaheen, a listener, alleged that sometimes Betar broadcasts wrong and misleading traffic information which is destroying its already wilting image.

"Forty years ago radio was the main channel to have a contact with the outside world. It was very exciting and most modern at that time. Now we have TV remotes and mobile phones at our fingertips," said Aziz, a former radio listener.

"We had a radio listeners' club and we used to listen till two in the morning. Radio Ceylon was

one of our favourites."

"One of our jobs was to find out if any new station had been opened," he added.

"We had a seven-band radio which was the size of a TV set. Its high-pitched sound could be heard from the street outside our house. Father used to be angry with us because it disrupted our studies but it was our dream machine," said Daulatunnesa, a housewife, while reminiscing the halcyon days of radios.

"In those days people were obsessed about radios. My great grandmother used to sit in front of it the whole day," she said.

Despite the dwindling image there are some people who still recall the wartime role of Bangladesh Betar.

"How can I forget the revolutionary role played by Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro in the days of Liberation War? But now we have almost forgotten that Bangladesh Betar exists," said Atahar, a freedom fighter.