

# DU Health Care Centre in need of care

IMRUL HASAN

Students and staff of Dhaka University (DU) are being deprived of proper treatment at the university's Health Care Centre because of alleged mismanagement, shortage of medicine, doctors and equipment.

Some seventeen doctors work in shifts at the health centre, which is inadequate for more than 35,000 students, teachers and staff of the university.

"Only two doctors are available for 200 patients in the morning shift. The authorities have not increased the number of doctors despite repeated requests," a senior medical officer said.

ECG and X-ray can not be performed properly at the centre as there are no cardiologists and radiologists available.

"We have an ECG machine but we do not have cardiologists," said Tareq Rahman, the operator of the

**Many students who come to the health centre complained that they do not get doctors when needed. Patients are often not examined properly and necessary medicine is not provided**

ECG section.

Many students who come to the health centre complained that they do not get doctors when needed. Patients are often not examined properly and necessary medicine is not provided, said students.

"I have been waiting for half an hour but I have not seen a doctor," said Kaiser Amin, a student who came to the centre to get treatment for skin disease.

"I have pain in the eye but I have only been given painkillers," said Mithu another student.

When asked about the reported scarcity of medicine at the centre, Humayan Kabir, a storekeeper denied that there were any shortages.

"The authorities issue health cards to the students which are valid for one year. If anybody wants to get treatment from the centre, he

or she has to show a health card. There is no misuse of medicine and it is available to patients with health cards," claimed Kabir.

But many students are not even aware of the existence of the health card.

DU authorities assured that they were trying to arrange modern medical service, ambulance facility and 24-hour health service for the students.

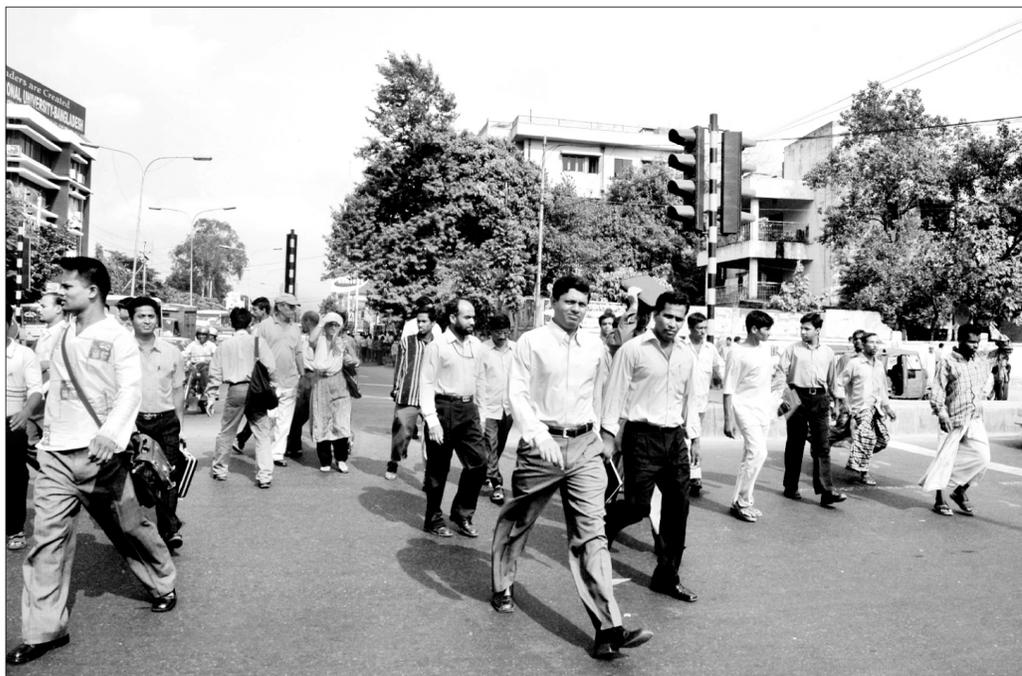
"An operation theatre will be inaugurated soon. More doctors will be appointed. Part-time cardiologists will be attached to the ECG and X-ray sections," said Professor Dr. A.F.M. Yusuf Haider, chairman of the Health Board of DU.

The health centre was set up in 1922, a year after the inauguration of Dhaka University.

In the 2004-2005 fiscal, budget for the health center was estimated at Tk 28,80,000. But sources claimed that much of the funds were later spent on other areas.



A single doctor attends to many patients at one and the same time. Repeated requests for more doctors have fallen into deaf ears.



In the absence of a footover bridge at the Kakoli intersection in Banani, commuters walk across in various directions risking their lives.

## Banani crossing still without foot over bridge

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

Thousands of commuters every day cross the Banani-Kakoli crossing on Airport Road in the city with great risk as the authorities have failed to install a foot over bridge at the busy intersection in the last four months.

The foot over bridge was scheduled to complete under the Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) by December last year.

DUTP officials blamed the private company Monami International, which was given the contract of setting up the steel bridge, for the delay.

"When we asked Monami International, the company cited the price hike of steel in the international market as the

reason behind this delay," said Towhiduzzaman, executive engineer, DUTP, an World Bank-funded project.

However, Monami International has assured DUTP of completing the foot over bridge by May this year. "If they fail to complete the project by the deadline, we will take necessary legal action against the company," said Zaman.

Dhaka City Corporation last year dismantled and removed the old foot over bridge from the intersection and auctioned it, said Mofizur Rahman, assistant executive engineer, Zone 9, Dhaka City Corporation.

The absence of bridge is now causing problems to commuters, traffic policemen and drivers. The area is always bustling with crowd as some 15

private universities, a large number of government and private offices and markets are located in the area.

With Mohakhali bus terminal not very far, hundreds of buses, minibuses, cars and autorickshaws pass through this intersection daily, making it very difficult for the traffic policemen to control the traffic.

"As this road is quite busy, pedestrians get only 18 to 24 seconds to cross the road at a time," said Saiful, a traffic policeman on duty at the intersection. "The huge rush of pedestrians hampers the flow of vehicular traffic on the road."

The drivers alleged the pedestrians keep the intersection blocked for several minutes for crossing the road even when the green light is on.

"Whenever I tried to turn left towards Mohakhali, I lost at least five minutes," said Margoob Chowdhury, who regularly drives to his university at Banani. He faces the same problem while turning right towards Kemal Ataturk Avenue on his way to Gulshan.

Residents of the Banani area also complained of regular traffic congestion in the narrow streets caused by private cars, CNG autorickshaws, taxis and the rickshaws.

"It takes at least half an hour to just get out of the Banani area," said Dhanad Islam, a resident of Banani Road No 3.

8x6

8x2