

# BSMMUH still lacks general emergency facilities

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH), the lone medical university hospital in the country, lacks general emergency facilities, causing suffering to seriously ill patients.

Nine years have passed since the inception of BSMMUH, but it is yet to see a general emergency department despite having the complete infrastructure.

However, there are emergency management systems only for neurosurgery, kidney, coronary care and gynaecology patients.

"It is necessary to have a well organised emergency block housing emergency units of all departments," said Prof Iqbal Arslan of the biochemistry department recently.

Another senior teacher of the university said the huge infrastructure of the university could be utilised properly by setting up emergency departments. Initially, general emergency service can be introduced at the out-patient department in the afternoon.

"When massive casualty takes place, many patients come to seek treatment at the hospital. But they are sent back because of the lack of emergency facilities. As a result, other hospitals, such as Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), have to deal with a large number of casualty patients," he said referring to the bomb blast incident at Ramma Batamul.

"Though emergency service at that time was crucial to their survival, we had to refer the patients to different hospitals as we don't have emergency management system," said another physician.

On the one hand, lack of emergency service system is causing suffering to critically injured patients. On the other hand, the university students are being deprived of learning how to manage emergency patients.

"The emergency management system should be introduced as an integral part of medical education here immediately as medical education is more practical than theoretical," Prof Iqbal said.

The emergency department of neurosurgery has 48 seats for both male and female patients. During a visit to the department recently, this correspondent found that only two nurses were running to each bed to help the patients.

"As soon as the clock strikes 2:00pm, the hospital becomes almost vacant. If the condition of many patients deteriorates, duty doctors or the nurses try to treat them as per the direction of the specialist physicians over telephone," said a nurse.

"If the BSMMUH gets an emergency department, pressure on the DMCH would decline and the patients would also receive better treatment," said a doctor at the department of Neurology.

This correspondent also found

patients with severe head injuries lying on the corridor in front of Ward Nos. 31 and 32 because of the dearth of seats.

Talking to The Daily Star, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof MA Majid said they are willing to introduce general emergency service at the hospital.

"We feel the need to have a general emergency management service in this centre of excellence. But the infrastructure and the financial support are not adequate. Besides, there is a lack of skilled manpower," he said.

At the same time, he admitted that they have not sought financial support from the government in this regard.

Soon after the inception of the university in 1998, an initiative was taken to set up a 'Trauma and Emergency' centre on the ground floor of Cabin Block. In 2001, it was again decided to set up the centre near the Cardiac ICU, but it is yet to be implemented.

## DR SITARA PARVIN AWARD 2005 10 students receive award

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dr Sitara Parvin Award 2005 was given away among 10 meritorious students of Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ) Department of Dhaka University yesterday.

The awardees stood top ten positions in their BSS honours examinations in 2005.

Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad, Treasurer of DU, chaired the programme. VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, Acting Dean of Social Sciences Faculty Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Abduzzaman Muhammad Ali, Prof Gitiara Nasrin and other teachers and students of the department were present on the

occasion.

'Prof Sitara Parvin Trust Fund', a trust fund, founded in memory of former chairman of MCJ department and Journalism (MCJ) Department of Dhaka University yesterday.

Prof Sitara, daughter of former president Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and wife of Prof Abduzzaman Muhammad Ali, was killed in a tragic road accident in the USA on June 23 in 2005.

The intention of the award is to encourage students so that they stand against injustice and corruption as Prof Sitara did during her lifetime.

Addressing the programme, speakers called upon the awardees to follow and reflect the ideology of Prof Sitara in their life and work.

The first day of the fair is dedicated to martyred Bir Shreshtha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir.

# First Saarc youth camp begins at Savar today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first Saarc youth camp begins at Savar near Dhaka today with a view to increasing communication, cooperation, cultural exchange and fraternity among the youths of the member countries.

Agged between 16 and 22 years, about 150 youths from India, Pakistan, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and the host Bangladesh are participating in the four-day camp. Afghanistan could not take part due to internal problems.

With the theme 'Connecting South Asian Youth', the camp is also aimed at developing leadership quality among the youths of the region that faces similar crises like unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, inadequate healthcare service, HIV/AIDS and drug abuse.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will inaugurate the camp at the National Youth Centre at 10:00am.

The Saarc youth camp is going to take place here as per the decision of the 14th Saarc Summit in New Delhi following a proposal of

the chief adviser, said Youth and Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury at a press briefing at the Secretariat yesterday.

"Though there are differences among the Saarc member states from social, economical, cultural, historical and religious points of view, all problems can be resolved

amicably by ensuring peace and progress in the region. The youths can play an important role in this regard," Tapan added.

Terming the youths as the most committed, creative and productive human resources, the adviser stressed the need for a better understanding among the youths

of this region as "they will lead the nations in future."

Thirty-five female and 42 male participants will represent Bangladesh.

Besides the inaugural and concluding sessions, the camp will feature country representation, working session, discussion, adop-

tion of the declaration of the first camp, cultural function and visits to important establishments and a village in Manikganj.

After the inaugural function, participants will hold country representation titled 'Know My Country' and a cultural show in the evening.



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