

Years of neglect haunt

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Officials at the JU Medical Centre said the budget falls far short of actual needs.

"We require at least Tk 80 lakh annually for medicines and dressing equipment alone, and Tk 75 lakh more to sustain pathology services," Dr Shamsur Rahman, JU's chief medical officer, told The Daily Star recently.

The crisis only extends further. The medical centre currently operates with only nine doctors -- six male and three female -- to serve more than 12,500 students, as well as faculty members and staffers.

No new doctor has been recruited since 2005.

The centre currently has no specialist doctor, no medical assistant or physiotherapist. It has only six pharmacists, two aid nurses, and two male nurses working night shifts. All of them are frequently assigned to field duties, limiting their hospital presence.

Of the centre's five ambulances, one is permanently reserved for the vice-chancellor, leaving four to serve thousands of students. There are seven drivers.

Only some basic diagnostic tools -- including an ultrasound machine, an X-ray machine, and an echocardiogram machine -- are available at the medical centre.

"We urgently need at least four specialist doctors and 12 medical officers. Additionally, we require at least 10 beds, six more nurses, eight ward boys, three female assistants, three wet cleaners, two more pharmacists, two phlebotomists, two pathology writers, four more drivers, two office assistants, one assistant storekeeper, four security guards, one gardener, two

Police suspect foul play

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additional ambulances, and a mini-ambulance for 24-hour service," said Dr Shamsur Rahman.

"Medicine allocations must increase to provide proper treatment. Pathology services need urgent upgrades to improve diagnosis. Without more doctors, nurses, and support staff, the centre cannot meet rising demands. Infrastructure renovations are also overdue," he added.

Students demanded immediate improvements to the medical centre's services.

"We have long demanded better healthcare facilities and the renovation of the JU Medical Centre, but the authorities never listened. How many more students must suffer before action is taken?" said Rubel Hossain, a student leader.

Contacted, JU's Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration) Prof Dr Sohel Ahmed said the administration would assess the need for recruitments in different posts and take necessary steps accordingly.

He, however, opined that the medical centre's officials have failed to provide adequate services even with the resources and budget currently available to them.

"We will form a committee to review the quality of medicines, diagnostic procedures, and treatments provided to students over the years," he said.

Contacted, MA Hannan,

manager of the restaurant from where the food was brought in, said the meal in question was cooked at 4:00pm on Saturday. The victim's caretaker collected the food about an hour later.

"About 100 people ate from that same lot until 10:00pm. If the food had been poisonous, others would have fallen sick. But no one else reported any issues," he said.

He said police visited the restaurant around 4:00pm on Sunday and conducted an inspection.

"They took three staff members in for questioning, but released them around 10:00pm," he added.

The DC said, "We are talking to the uncle to know what happened. We collected CCTV camera footages from the hotel and restaurant and are analysing it. Many aspects of the incident appear suspicious to us, and we are actively investigating them."

According to DC Masud Alam, Monir, who arrived in Bangladesh before Eid-ul-Azha, had assets in Bangladesh including two houses in Keraniganj and some long route buses on the Dhaka Cox's Bazar route.

"We are also investigating whether there was any enmity over his property," the DC said.

Zakir Hossain, a cousin of Monir, said, "We want justice."

Bangladeshi-origin

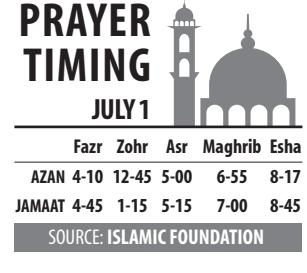
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the Royal Society of Edinburgh and Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (the UK's National Academy of Medicine).

"It is an absolute honour to lead the new UK DRI Parkinson's Research Centre in partnership with Parkinson's UK," Muqit

said.

He said his vision was to build a centre fully integrated with people with Parkinson's, which will become a leading centre for discovery science and translation that will deliver new ideas for better diagnosing and treating Parkinson's in the future.



SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Form the upper house based

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However, there are still differences among the parties over how the upper house will be constituted, they said.

The vote-wise PR method would also give smaller political parties, which may not win a seat in the lower house despite receiving sizeable votes across the country, an opportunity to have representation in the upper house, they added.

This way, the opposition bench can play an effective role against any anti-people or undemocratic moves by the treasury bench in parliament, the statement said.

At the same time, the eminent citizens stated that the powers of the upper house should be limited to avoid hampering the day-to-day activities of the executive branch.

Specifically, the PR upper house should not have veto power over any bill except those related to constitutional amendments and declarations of war.

They said the PR upper house can be given

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The deceased are Raihan,

16, and Jewel Babu, 40, said

OC Sheikh Khairul Bashar of Harintana Police Station.

The accident occurred

around 9:00am when the

driver lost control of the

truck and crashed into the

three-wheeler. Raihan died

on the spot.

The injured were taken

to Khulna Medical College

Hospital, where Jewel was

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Locals blocked the

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Two killed as truck rams easybike

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Khulna

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