

NARSINGDI SADAR HOSPITAL

Staff shortage, poor facilities disrupt services

JAHIDUL ISLAM, Narsingdi

The Narsingdi Sadar Hospital has long been grappling with a severe manpower shortage and poor infrastructure.

Although it was upgraded to a 100-bed facility years ago, it still runs with the staff structure of a 30-bed hospital, leaving doctors overwhelmed by the rising number of patients seeking care every day.

Hospital sources said only one medical officer is posted at the emergency department, which receives around 600 patients daily. In the outpatient department, about 2,000 patients visit each day across medicine, cardiology,

further straining services already hampered by staff shortages.

Laboratory and X-ray services remain severely constrained due to a lack of technologists. Several diagnostic tests are unavailable, forcing patients to go to private centres at higher costs.

The infrastructure is in disrepair, with plaster falling from ceilings, discoloured walls and rainwater leaking through the roof.

Although the hospital has two ambulances, there are no sanctioned posts for drivers, so the service is being operated through outsourced staff.

"We have to wait long hours



dermatology, gynaecology and paediatrics.

As a result, one doctor often ends up seeing 150 to 200 patients, limiting the time available for proper consultations.

Three of the 20 sanctioned posts for doctors and six of the 137 nurse posts remain vacant. Five posts of forward boys and cleaners are also vacant.

Patients complained that doctors cannot give adequate time during consultations, leading to dissatisfaction over the quality of care. The number of admitted patients is often double the hospital's 100-bed capacity,

in line with our children to get a chance to seek consultation in the outpatient department. It is frustrating," said Amena Begum, 45, from Alokbali union.

Ahmed Islam, 27, a patient's attendant, said ambulances are often unavailable during emergencies. "I had requested an ambulance to take my father to Dhaka from Narsingdi, but they only gave excuses. I was forced to hire a private ambulance later on."

Contacted, Dr Farida Golshan Ara Kabir, residential medical officer, said, "We have requested the higher authorities to take steps to resolve the crises soon."

Man confesses to raping

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Citing Dulal's statement, the OC said the incident took place on the night of December 2. Dulal called the child, a class III student and his neighbour, to his home.

He then took her to a nearby abandoned house, raped her, and strangled her to death when she tried to scream.

Dulal told the court that he killed the girl, fearing

that she would disclose the incident, said the OC.

The next morning, locals spotted the child's body and police was notified.

The same day, the victim's father filed a rape and murder case against unnamed suspects.

Later, teams from the Criminal Investigation Department, Police Bureau of Investigation, and Rapid Action Battalion began probing the killing.

"There is no broken or

Dulal was arrested on Thursday noon as his behaviour also appeared suspicious in the aftermath of the incident, said the OC. Sub-Inspector Mahbub Alam Sarkar, the investigation officer, said the child's body was sent to Brahmanbaria 250-bed General Hospital morgue for autopsy, and the exact cause of death will be known once the report is available.

Experts also blamed delayed hospital admission as a major reason behind the high death toll, as many critically ill patients are referred from outside the

In terms of infections, the highest number of cases were reported in Barishal division (20,865), followed by Dhaka division (16,435), DNCC (15,692), Chattogram (13,875), DSCC (13,730), Rajshahi (5,552), Khulna (5,138), Mymensingh (3,919), Rangpur (1,030) and Sylhet (391).

Medical experts say early hospitalisation for high-risk groups -- including elderly people, pregnant women and patients with chronic diseases -- could significantly reduce deaths.

Patients with complications such as severe bleeding, multi-organ failure, or illnesses like diabetes, kidney disease or heart problems face a much higher risk.

"Those with multi-organ failure or comorbidities have a much higher mortality rate," said HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

He advised patients at home to drink plenty of fluids, including oral saline, coconut water, soups, rice starch and fresh fruit juice

Lioness escapes enclosure

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she was put back in her cage," he said at 7:20pm.

According to the director, the lioness wandered into an area that is also covered by the zoo's netted safety system.

All visitors who were

inside the zoo were evacuated at the time, he confirmed.

Asked how the lioness managed to get out of its enclosure, the director said the gate may have been left unlocked.

"There is no broken or

loose grille anywhere. A committee will be formed to investigate the incident," he added. Currently, there are five lions in the Mirpur Zoo.

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