

## National medical varsity, 2 general hospitals to be set up

The government has decided to set up a national medical university and two general medical hospitals in city to make quality medical services easily available, reports BSS.

The decision was taken in a presentation session on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in Dhaka on Wednesday with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The decision to establish the National Medical University followed recommendations of different relevant committees, considering physicians' demand and reality to make medical education well-coordinated at the national level and improve medical services in the country.

The IPGMR and all the 12 medical college hospitals of the country will be brought under the proposed National Medical University.

The two proposed general hospitals, with 500 beds each, will be set up in city's Mirpur-Pallabi area and Bashaboo-Khilgaon- Mugdapara area to cope with the increasing pressure of population of the magacity.

During her interventions in the more-than-three-hour meeting in the International Conference Centre, the Prime Minister directed the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to make all the 460 upazila health complexes fully equipped and ensure easy availability of medical services to the people, particularly the poor.

Begum Zia asked for making all district hospitals self-reliant so that the people, especially the poor, do not need to rush to cities for treatment.

Attended by a number of senior ministers and government officials, the meeting decided in prin-

ciple to introduce a three-year Health, Nutrition and Population Programme from July next by maintaining sector-wide approach and enabling the health and population sector render their respective services under separate organizational structures like beforehand.

This decision was taken as per the recommendations of the IMED and London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

The meeting decided in principle to allow foreign specialist doctors to render medical services in Bangladesh on condition that two local Bangladeshi doctors are associated with each of them.

The decision will help Bangladeshi patients get improved medical services, enhance expertise of local physicians and save a lot of foreign exchange, now being spent as a good number of patients go abroad for treatment.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Agriculture Minister Moulana Motiur Rahman Nizami, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Amanullah Aman, Prime Minister's Political Secretaries Haris Chowdhury and Mo'saddek Ali, PM's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui, Health Secretary, Finance Secretary, ERD Secretary and other officials concerned attended the meeting.