

## 10-bed burn unit opens at BSMMU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid rising number of patients burned in political violence across the country, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University has opened a 10-bed burn unit.

A total of 20 doctors and 30 nurses led by Prof Saif Uddin Ahmed of surgery department will treat patients with all types of burns free of charge.

Inaugurating the unit in the Cabin Block yesterday, Vice-Chancellor Pran Gopal Datta said, "Under the present circumstances, we initially started with 10 beds and it will be upgraded to 20 beds."

The BSMMU authorities took the initiative as the Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) has been struggling to cope with the flood of burn victims.

The newly launched unit at BSMMU has seven small cabins and a room with three

beds. The authorities restricted entry of visitors for the patients' wellbeing.

"It has been designed in such a way that severely burned patients will remain isolated as a safeguard to prevent infections," said the VC.

BSMMU's Director Brig Gen (retd) Md Abdul Majid Bhuiyan told The Daily Star that patients at the burn unit would also receive treatments for other complications free of charge.

Around 30 physiotherapists of BSMMU have received training from the DMCH burn unit to ensure quality treatment for patients, hospital sources said. The DMCH burn unit has already been packed with around 500 patients against only 300 beds.

It is struggling to arrange spaces for more burned people who became victims of arson attacks during the ongoing blockade across the country. Two burn victims – Popy, 9, and Sazu, 6, -- have already been shifted to BSMMU.