

Medical university

Dear Editor,

Hon'ble Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is reported to have said that setting up of a Medical University in Bangladesh is under active consideration of the Govt. as it appears from press news appearing on 25th April 1991 to fulfill the long standing demands of the physicians as she said. It might be a long standing demand of section of physicians but surely it is not a long standing necessity of country not to speak of any priority.

The greatest drawback of underdeveloped countries is that they can't fix priority and that is why they are underdeveloped and poor. We are in great doubt if establishment of a Medical University would be in greater national interest of this poverty stricken country of least resources depending entirely on foreign aid for development having more than two and half times the optimum level population.

Primarily such a M.U. is likely to be placed in around Dhaka as it is necessary to locate it centrally to cover all the medical colleges spread over the country which would create further concentration

of people, public servants and the ailing public in Dhaka already burdened with traffic jamming congestion and seventeen lakh busette dwellers.

Secondly when there is the purpose such a medical university would serve? It is felt that gearing up of the IPGM&R may meet the entire need of having a M.U. of course leaving aside the scope it would create for private practice of the teachers of such a varsity. It may be noted in this connection that the pay and pension of public servants in general is so low that private practice is the only way to meet their both ends meet in a big way.

Thirdly, the example of BUET should not be cited for justifying establishment of MU. The BUET produces Engineering graduates which no other institution produces. The four BITs which were previously in Pakistani days Engineering Colleges don't produce engineering graduates of the standard of BUET and those pass out of BITs are regarded

more or less higher diploma holders.

But the Medical Colleges of Bangladesh produce real graduates in medicine etc. and the IPGM&R produces post graduates and has research facilities leading to MS and P.hd.

Fourthly, to our knowledge there is no MU in India, Pakistan or in USA. In that case is it not foolhardy to go in for such a university?

Lastly, instead the Govt may set up medical colleges and hospitals in the remaining old district headquarters which was probably the dream of late President Ziaur Rahman and he actually laid foundation stone in some of them such as Khulna, Comilla, Dinajpur, Pabna and Bagura if I remember correctly.

But amongst the first three things the ousted President H.M. Ershad did, as far as I remember, was to stop establishment of medical colleges where President Ziaur Rahman laid foundation

stone and as a result the medical colleges in Bangladesh remained limited to what were set up during Pakistani regime whereas the present Pakistan have set up in medical colleges totalling some twenty six or twenty three as I don't correctly remember the figure although they had the same number of medical colleges as we have now as handed over by the past Pakistani regime.

We would now request our Hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly re-consider the matter and if necessary to set up a commission to examine after study in Pakistan, India and USA if a medical university would best serve our interest in consideration of many other top priority projects and needs our limited resources and the existence of IPGM&R.

Yours sincerely
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Believe it or not

Dear Editor,

My best friend went to USA as an undergraduate foreign student. After getting his bachelor's degree he had to return home due to lack of adequate financial supports.

After 3½ years, he went to USA again as a graduate foreign student. Upon completion of the first semester he transferred to another university that offered him a Graduate Assistantship.

At the time of registration the university told him that the assistantship was a "mistake" and offered him financial loans for the first quarter with promises of assistantship from the next quarter, but no assistantship was available to him as promised by the university despite his satisfactory performance.

Having found no financial support to continue studies, he left his studies incomplete and moved to his American relative trying to