

Organized Chaos, Medical Fraud, and Risks of Investigative Journalism in Marginal Regional Hospitals: A Chronological Analysis

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1. Medical fraud and unnatural death at an unauthorized hospital.

Analysis of the incident at "Jamjam Hospital & Diagnostic Center," a private hospital in Kasba Upazila, Brahmanbaria district:

- **New Context:** Beyond traditional reports of medical malpractice, this report uncovers professional deception within the hospital's administrative structure (e.g., a furniture businessman holding the position of Executive Director) and the use of fake documentation.
- **Potential for Reform:** Urgent need to ensure the renewal of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) license, verify Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) registration numbers, and effectively ban illegal "social settlements" or off-the-record unethical compromises.
- **Quantifiable Proof:** 8 specific legal and administrative violations uncovered during an operation conducted by the District Civil Surgeon and Executive Magistrate on August 12, 2026.
- **On-the-record voices:** The formal statement withdrawal by Sadeq Hossain, husband of Shakiba Akter (the parturient woman who died in the first incident); social media presentation of information by well-known local entrepreneur Farzana Bhuiyan after the second incident; and accounts of direct grievances from victim families.
- **Minimum Story Safety Net:** Before the incident of unnatural death due to medical negligence was fully proven in court, government investigations documented the hospital's lack of a license, unauthorized use of drugs in the operating theater (OT), and the employment of fake technologists.

2. Chaos in the Local Health Sector and Administrative Deviations

On August 12, 2026, the Brahmanbaria District Civil Surgeon and Executive Magistrate conducted a joint operation at "Jamjam Hospital & Diagnostic Center" in New Market, Kasba Upazila. This operation revealed severe administrative, medical, and legal inconsistencies:

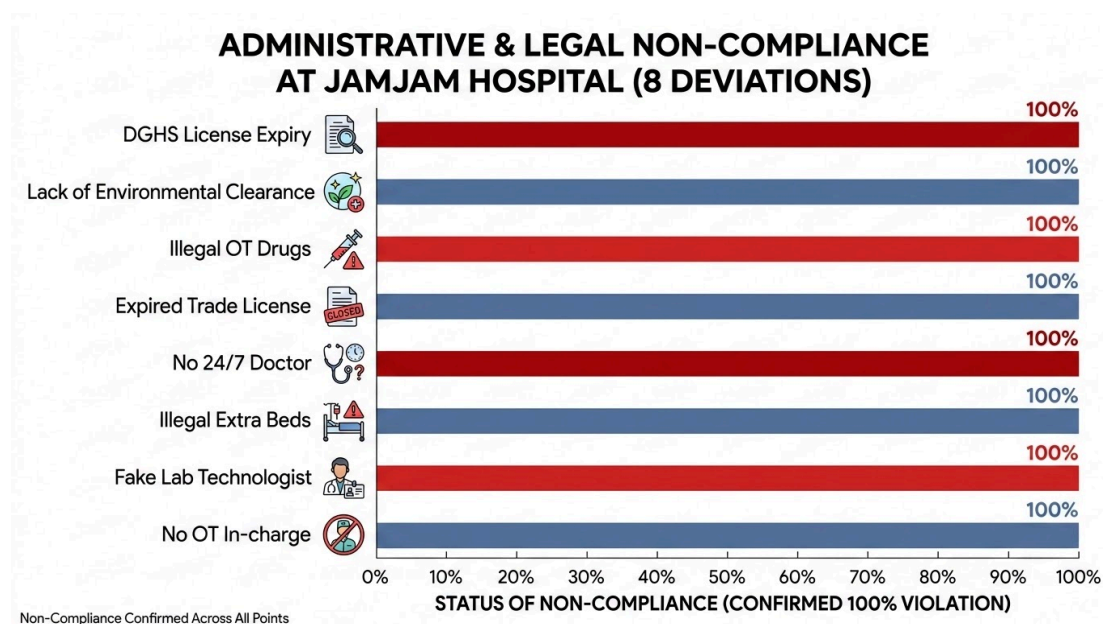


Figure 1: Visual representation of the 8 administrative and legal deviations of Jamjam Hospital

Administrative Fraud and Qualification Deviations

According to DGHS policy, it is mandatory for the administrative head of a clinic or private hospital to have a background in health management (MHA/MPH/MBA) or relevant institutional experience.

However, investigations revealed that the Executive Director, is primarily the proprietor of "Kasba Sarkar Furniture" and a furniture businessman. Before that, according to local sources, he was previously a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver. Despite using the same name and contact number (01329-**0541) on business cards and official hospital banners, he has no institutional educational qualifications or recognized training in the health sector.

Discrepancies in Promotional Material and Information Confusion

The hospital's promotional banners concealed the doctors' BMDC registration numbers. Furthermore, patients were being deceived by using fake templates containing watermarked icons (stethoscopes) collected from the internet for a specific doctor's profile.

3.Silence of Traditional Journalists and Strategies for Creating Social Circles

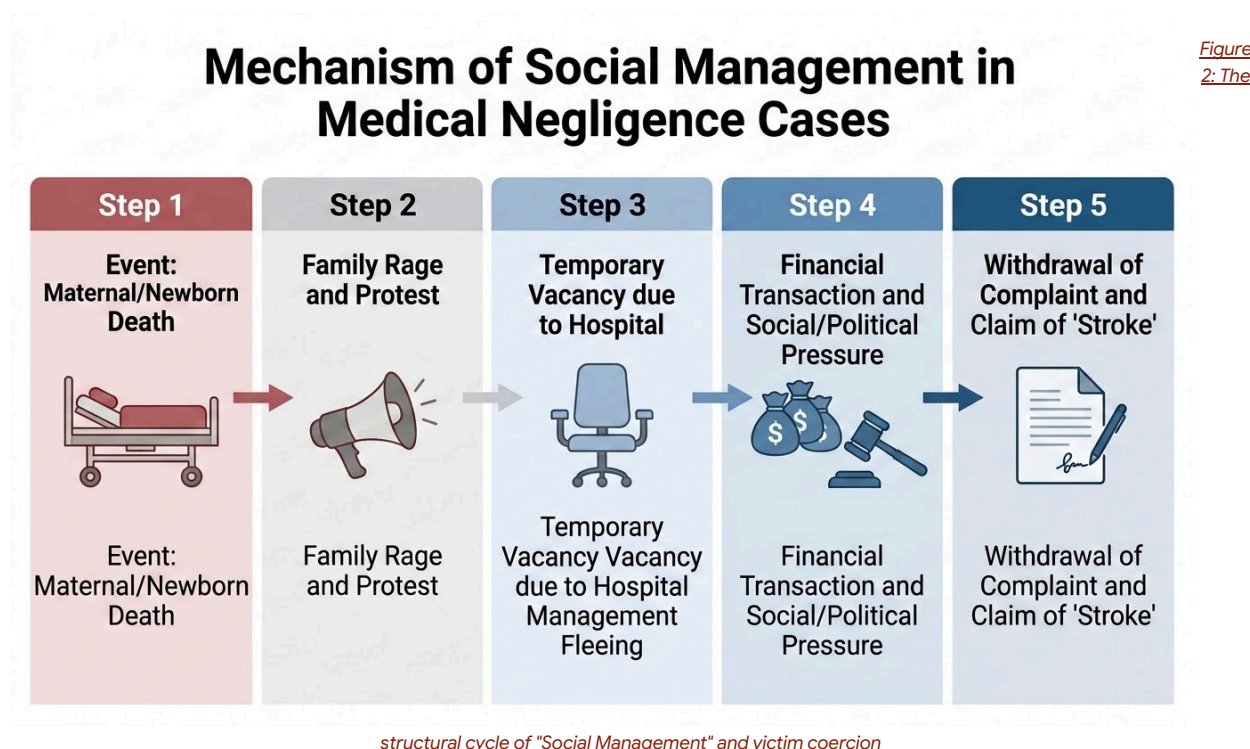
Several key factors contribute to the silence of traditional media and local journalists regarding irregularities in private hospitals at the local level:

1. **"Token" Social and Humanitarian Campaigns (Eyewash):** Hospital authorities attempt to mask their criminal activities by organizing free medical camps or so-called charitable events.
2. **Influential Shareholder Network:** Since early March 2025, an organized group of approximately 140 members has been sharing the hospital's profits. This group includes local influential figures, political patrons, and so-called local "sardars" (leaders), most of whom enjoyed profits without any capital investment. This creates a circle of institutional impunity and legal protection.
3. **Mediation in the Presence of Press Club Members:** In the event of any unpleasant incident or unnatural death, secret arbitrations or "social management" meetings are held through the mediation of a section of the local Press Club.
4. **Character Assassination and Threats against Independent Journalists:** When investigative or freelance journalists outside the mainstream attempt to verify information regarding these irregularities, they are met

with smear campaigns, physical attacks, personal attacks, and family threats.

4. Anatomy of "Social Management" (Social Management) and the Change in Victim Statements

A specific mechanism operates behind the withdrawal of complaints and changes in statements by victim families following allegations of medical malpractice in the private health sector:



Case Analysis: Allegation of Unnatural Death of Shakiba Akter (March 28, 2025)

20-year-old parturient Shakiba Akter was admitted to Jamjam Hospital on March 28, 2025, for a Cesarean section while in good health. After seeing her newborn daughter, she expressed normal reactions. However, she became unresponsive within half an hour of being brought out of the Operating Theater. When relatives expressed anger, alleging medical negligence, the staff and owners fled.

April 13, 2025 Press Conference and Statement Change

15 days after the incident, on *April 13, 2025*, Shakiba's husband, Sadeq Hossain, read a written statement at a press conference claiming that his wife had died of a "stroke" and that he had no complaints against the hospital authorities.

Recorded Statement (Sadeq Hossain): > "Doctors say she died of a stroke... We have no complaints against the hospital authorities, and we do not seek any justice against them..."

Risks of Social Management and Institutional Consequences

- **Impunity for Crime:** Legal action is hampered by secret financial transactions and political influence, leaving institutional faults and incompetent management unaccountable.
- **Beginning of Future Risks:** The withdrawal of complaints causes public confusion and creates a crisis of trust in media outlets that publish the truth. As a result, another incident involving the death of a parturient woman and newborn was reported on August 7-8, 2026. Furthermore, this cycle of irregularities makes obtaining legal assistance difficult by utilizing personal attacks on media workers and abusing political power.

5. Security Risks to Independent Journalists and Attacks on Investigative Media

Following the allegations of another maternal and newborn death due to medical negligence appearing on social media on *August 7, 2026*, the investigative media outlet 'Black Lens 2.0' (Black Lens 2.0) published an investigative follow-up report on the ongoing chaos at the hospital. Consequently, direct mental and political pressure was applied to the local journalist and their family.

August 11, 2026: Forced Entry into Residence and Threats

August 11, 2026 at 1:00 PM local terror Sohag and Executive Director Rabiul Sarkar, identifying themselves as owners of Jamjam Hospital, trespassed into the journalist's residence without permission and began recording video by pointing a camera at the journalist's mother.

- **Application of Political Pressure:** They openly threatened to "abduct" and "deal with" the journalist by involving political figures over the phone.
- **Aggressive Behavior towards Family:** They pointed fingers and shouted, behaving indecently toward the editor's mother. Sohag explicitly stated that if the journalist was found near the police station, they would not spare the elderly mother from harassment.
- **Masking Informational Ignorance:** They attempted to spread confusion by claiming the published report was a post from another Facebook page named 'Kasba News' and cited their own lack of awareness and illiteracy as excuses.

Administrative Stagnation and Lack of Legal Cooperation

Although the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kasba Police Station, Ali Mohammad Rashed, was informed virtually regarding the incident, no immediate security or legal action was taken. There were previous complaints of the police authorities' lack of cooperation in accepting General Diaries (GDs). Although an initiative was taken to officially report the matter following the advice of the Bengali editor of the Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN), serious personal security risks remained as members of the involved circle were positioned near the police station.

6. Chronological Discrepancies Table (Chronological Discrepancies)

Date	Events & Traditional Claims	Investigative Findings & Reality	Legal & Administrative Anomalies
March 28, 2025	Shakiba Akter's C-section and death; doctors claim 'stroke'.	Patient entered OT walking; management fled and public outcry followed.	Hospital management fled without post-mortem or independent investigation.

April 13, 2025	Press conference by husband Sadeq Hossain; complaint withdrawn.	Complaint withdrawn due to money exchange and political pressure via "social management."	Opportunity to evade criminal liability through informal settlement of unnatural death.
August 7–8, 2026	Reports of maternal/newborn death via social media.	Multi-angle neutral verification by 'Black Lens 2.0' following Farzana Bhuiyan's post.	Uncovered unauthorized hospital operation for over 1.5 years.
August 9, 2026	Phone call from Executive Director Rabiul Sarkar; denied malpractice, claimed patient died in Comilla.	Avoided questions on institutional qualifications; admitted to furniture business.	Inexperienced individual in top health administration position and fake promotional banners fraud.
August 11, 2026	Local terror Sohag and Rabiul Sarkar (claiming ownership) trespassed into journalist's home.	Open threats via live video, indecent behavior with elderly guardians, and threats of abduction.	Obstruction of media freedom, trespassing, and commission of criminal offense.
August 12, 2026	Joint administrative raid by Civil Surgeon and Executive Magistrate.	Proof of expired license, fake technologist, illegal use of drugs in OT, and lack of on-duty doctors.	Hospital's illegal and fake administrative foundations proven in government investigation; hospital sealed.



Figure 2: Chronological sequence of events and chaos at Jamjam Hospital

7. Administrative Accountability and Proposed Structural Reforms

To ensure supervision of private healthcare institutions in marginal regions like Kasba and to protect citizen safety, the following administrative steps must be taken:

1. **Opening the DGHS Central Database:** Information regarding authorized bed capacity, license renewal expiration dates, and BMDC-registered on-duty doctors for every registered private health institution must be made available in a universal database.
2. **Banning Informal 'Social Settlements':** Any off-the-record arbitration or compromise regarding deaths in healthcare institutions without the written permission of the police administration and the Civil Surgeon's office must be considered illegal and criminal.
3. **Legal and Physical Protection for Investigative Journalists:** To protect media workers facing threats while performing professional duties, Police Headquarters must issue strict directives to local police stations to ensure rapid acceptance of legal General Diaries (GDs) and subsequent investigations.

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