

JU students living in risky dorm

Fear collapse any moment due to cracks formed during Jan 4 quake

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The Jahangirnagar University authorities are yet to repair the damaged extension to Al-Biruni Hall or relocate its students, even though large cracks were seen at many places in the building after the January 4 earthquake.

Immediately after spotting cracks in the wall, basement, ceiling, and pillars inside and outside of the rooms, the authorities assured the students of repairing the hall or evacuating them, but no step has been taken yet, alleged resident students.

Furthermore the allotments of the first-year students to the dormitory have

already been made, which has heightened the fear among them, they said.

Around 200 students stay in the extension.

The Daily Star also published a photograph titled, "JU Dorm at High Risk after Quake", on January 6, 2016, depicting a long crack on an outside wall.

"New allotments have already been made, and I do not know anything about further development of the repair process...The engineer's office is supposed to deal with the issue," said Prof AKM Jasim Uddin, provost of the hall.

Students and staff of the building have long been residing in the hall putting their lives at risk, due to the

dilapidated condition of the building. At least 40 wide and dangerous cracks have developed in the six-block one-storey tin-roof building, built in 1982, found this correspondent.

"Each night turns into a nightmare as we are in constant fear that the dorm might crumble any moment, and the authorities did nothing about repair or our reallocation," alleged Sazzad Hossain, a master's student of the hall.

"There is no development about repairing the hall due to a lack of funding from the university authorities," said Abdus Saalam Md Sharif, chief engineer of JU.

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Wishing anonymity, an assistant engineer of the office said, "A file has been created to contact and consult with a construction company about the repair of the dormitory but it has not started functioning yet."

The main building of Al-Biruni Hall, Fazilatunnesa Hall, bachelor teachers' quarters, teachers' club, officers' club, engineering office, old arts building, and gymnasium are also in dilapidated condition and badly in need of renovations, said an employee of the engineer's office, seeking anonymity.