

২২ Rept ১০৭

Accommodation crisis acute in DU

Hanif Muhammad Faisal

For the lack of adequate residential facilities, the proper study of the students of Dhaka University (DU) is being hampered. The students badly in need of residential accommodation in the dormitories for their regular studies.

The capacity of 12 male residential dormitories is 6477 students but more than 14014 students are staying in them by flooring and doubling while the capacity of 5 female dormitories is 3897 but at least 8900 students are staying in the dormitories.

According to an investigation, about 45 per cent students are enjoying residential facilities in DU while the rest are staying outside.

Only those students who could manage accommodation through lobbying in the dormitories are in good position. The number of such students is very poor. But a good number of non-residential students of the DU is suffering from scarcity of residential accommodation.

Normally, leaders of different political party-backed student organisations used to distribute seats among the students on condition of expressing solidarity with their respective parties and attending rallies and processions. But they have not taken any initiative for the students especially newly admitted students following the state of emergency in the country.

Although it is the responsibility of the hall administration to ensure residential facilities to the students, it has recently informed the students that it would not provide accommodation.

As a result, it has become a serious problem for the freshers including the first year students in particular to ensure their stay. Many first year students of DU are residing in messes in the city, which cost them high, amounting to Taka 2000-3500 per month.

"It is very hard to bear the expenditure of mess and daily travelling cost," said a newly admitted student.

Available studies showed that the lack of adequate residential facilities in DU dormitories, the intellectual expansion in higher

education is hampered.

The DU authorities admitted the problem of accommodation. The authorities said that due to lack of funds and lands, the number of dormitories in DU could not be increased.

Leaders of different student organisations are using at least 300 rooms in the name of "Political Room".

Many students have been awarded seats in paper but they are yet to get them in real sense.

About 1000 students reside 628 seats at Fazlul Haq Hall, more than 1000 students reside in 450 seats at Salimullah Muslim Hall, 1500 students reside in 600 seats at Shahidullah Hall, 1500 students reside in 697 seats at Surgent Jahurul Haq Hall, 1300 students reside in 577 seats at Surya Sen Hall, 1000 students reside in 397 seats at Jashimuddin Hall, 1000 students reside in 516 seats at Sir F Rahman Hall, 1000 students reside in 490 seats at Mujibur Rahman Hall, 1000 students reside in 482 seats at Ziaur Rahman Hall, at least 3000 students reside in 1072

seats at Jagannath Hall, double students reside in 446 seats at Ekushey Hall, 60 foreign students reside in 122 seats and the teachers and employees of the university at the rest room at International Hall.

The condition of female dormitories is worse. About 3,500 female students reside in 1324 seats at Rokeya Hall. Besides, about 20-25 students reside in "Gono Room" (mass accommodation).

Around 3000 students reside in 1200 seats at Shamsunnahar Hall, at least 1500 students reside in 522 seats at Kuwait Maitree Hall, 900 students reside in 673 seats at Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall and 150 students are staying in Nabab Foizunnesa Hostel.