

Some dormitories develop cracks

40 DU students injured as quake jolts country

At least 40 students of different dormitories of Dhaka University (DU) were injured as they jumped off the balconies in fright when a moderate earthquake jolted the area as elsewhere across the country on Saturday night, reports BSS.

Of the injured, 17 students are of Muhsin Hall, 14 of Jagannath Hall, three of Surya Sen Hall, and two each of Zia Hall, Jashim Uddin Hall and F Rahman hall. Five of them including the DU Correspondent of the Daily Khabarpatra Abul Kalam Azad broke their

hands and legs from the jump.

The injured students were taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for treatment. Six critically injured students were admitted to DMCH and others were released after giving first aid.

DU Vice-Chancellor SMA Faiz, Proctor AK Feroz Ahmed and hall provosts visited the injured students this morning.

When asked, the Proctor said, the university authorities were bearing the medical expenses of the injured students.

Hundreds of panic-stricken students rushed out of their rooms when the tremor, measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale, shook the dormitories at 12:52 am. Met office sources said the epicenter of the tremor was 238 km northwest off the Dhaka seismic centre.

(See Page 11 Col. 1)

40 DU students

(From Page 1 Col. 8)

Sources said the number of injured at the Muhsin Hall and the Jagannath Hall is more as two buildings of these halls were developed crack three months ago and the students out of panic jumped from the second, third and even from fourth floors fearing that the buildings might collapse in a moderate tremor.

Meanwhile, Nirjaton Protirodhe Chhatra Andolan, a platform of DU general students, announced a three-day ultimatum to press demands including immediate start of construction of two halls and repairing of the age old halls.

The earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter Scale jolted the country, mostly the northern parts at 12:52-08.3 seconds early Sunday, meteorological department reported.

Met office sources said the quake had its epicentre somewhere along the Sylhet-Assam border, 238 km north east of the seismic observatory at Agargaon.

Sylhet office said citizens came out of their homes after the quake was felt. But officials said there were no reports of damage or casualties.

Pabna correspondent said panicky people rushed out of their houses and took shelter in open spaces after the quake in the early hours.

It also whipped up waves in the ponds and water bodies. People reported to have seen fish jumping out of water onto the banks of the ponds.