

Big-wigs keep 300 rooms' reserve DU dormitories turn into 'gono mess' for freshers

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Around 55 per cent students of Dhaka University (DU) cannot stay in dormitories for shortage of seats, DU sources said. The capacity of 17 residential dormitories is 10,569 but more than 20,000 students are staying in them.

The residential crisis at DU is continuing for long time. But the authorities could not address the situation. The authorities however claimed that due to lack of funds and lands, they failed to set up

much needed new dormitories.

An investigation revealed that about 1000 students have been residing in normal 628 seats at Fazlul Haq Hall, more than 1000 students in 450 seats at Salimullah Muslim Hall, 1500 students in 600 seats at Shahidullah Hall, 1500 students in 697 seats at Sargent Zahurul Haq Hall, 1300 students in 577 seats at Surya Sen Hall, 1000 students in 397 seats at Jashimuddin Hall, 1000 students

in 516 seats at Sir F Rahman Hall, 1000 students in 490 seats at Mujibur Rahman Hall, 1000 students in 482 seats at Ziaur Rahman Hall, 3000 students in 1072 seats at Jagannath Hall, double students reside in 446 seats at Ekushey Hall. But only 60 foreign students and teachers and employees of the university have been residing in 122 seats at International Hall.

The condition of female dormitories is worse. About 3,500 female students have been residing in 1324 seats at Rokya Hall. Besides, about 20-25 students reside in a single room, popularly known as "Gono Room".

Around 3000 students have been residing in 1200 seats at Shamsunnahar Hall, 1500 students in 522 seats at Kuwait Mot-tree Hall, 900 students in 673 seats at Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall and 150 students are staying in Nabab Foizunnesa Hostel.

Leaders of different student organisations have been using at least 300 rooms in the name of "Political Room". However, many students have been awarded seats in paper but they are yet to get them in real term.

Although it is the responsibility of the hall administration to allot seats to deserving students. In the past the students fronts of different political parties used to ar-

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range seats for new students on condition of getting supports of their respective fronts and attending rallies and processions.

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

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