

Not enough facilities for girls at DU

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assistant professor of Urdu Muhammad Ishrafil, lecturer in statistics Ehsanuddin, professor of Arabic ATM Fakhruddin, Islamic history teacher Mahmudur Rahman Bahalul and others in the past three years, the proctorial member said.

A number of female students alleged that they had faced stalking, obscene remarks, indecent proposals and vulgar bodily gestures.

According to the registrar's office, there are 47,800 students, including examines of fine-year bachelor and master's courses and at least 17,000 of them are female.

According to the DU engineering office, the university can accommodate only 4,300 female students in four halls and a hostel and

more than 9,000 female students live in the halls and the hostel.

The Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitri Hall has 360 seats, the Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall 508 seats, the Roquiah Hall 1,618 seats, the Shamsunnahar Hall 688 seats and the Nawab Faizunnesa Chowdhurani Hostel 160 seats and the Sufia Kamal Hall 1,000 seats.

A number of residential students of the Roquiah Hall and the Kuwait Maitree hall alleged that they had no games facilities. 'In our hall, we have a games room but the table tennis board is folded and carrom board is in a bad shape' a Roquiah Hall resident said.

A sociology student said that they faced an acute problem of sanitation in the arts faculty building. There

are only two washrooms in the girls' common room but there are at least 30 washrooms for boys.

Former Dhaka University vice-chancellor SMA Faiz said that the proctorial body should be more vigilant regarding sexual harassment.

'All teachers should be brought under disciplinary action if they are found involved in such activities. The administration should not take side with teachers,' he said.

The acting proctor AM Amzad said that they followed a zero tolerance policy regarding sexual harassment on the campus. 'We always take immediate action against offenders whether they are students or teachers if they are found guilty.'

Asked why teachers are only sent on forced leave

even after allegations are proved true, Amzad said, 'This is unfortunate. They should be severely punished.'

The vice-chancellor, AAMS Arefin Siddique, said that they took action against offenders.

He said that the number of female students was almost similar to that of male students but the number of toilets for female students was not adequate.

'We are trying to provide adequate sanitation facilities for female students in the new buildings still under construction. But it is not possible to increase the number of toilets in the existing buildings,' he said.

'We have built the Sufia Kamal Hall to ease the accommodation crisis,' he said.

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Mohiuddin Alamgir and Sardar Mahabbat Ali

Female students in Dhaka University continue to face sexual harassment by fellows and teachers and an acute accommodation crisis, suffer because of poor sanitation and games facilities in their academic life.

Girl students alleged that they often fell victim to sexual harassment by their fellows and male teachers. They hardly lodge complaints with the authorities as offenders fearing social harassment and also because the offenders in almost no cases were punished.

Officials in the proctor's office said that they had received at least 60 complaints against students and 25 against teachers in three years.

No teachers have been punished even after allegations of sexual harassment

are proved in the past 10 years. Only 14 students were expelled for three months to two years in the past three years, a proctorial body member of the university said.

He said that investigations proved true allegations of sexual harassment a girl levelled against political science teacher Amran Hossain in 2012 and the teacher was forced to go on leave.

Also in 2012, the authorities sent economics teacher Rushad Faridi on forced leave for an indefinite period on charges of sexually harassing a female student of the department, he said.

Mahinood Hasan, a fisheries science professor, was sent on forced leave by the authorities for sexually harassing the department's female students in 2012.

The incidents of sexual harassment continued apace as the offenders are not pun-

ished,' he said.

Female students lodged complaints against tourism and hospitality department chair Afjal Hossain, assistant professor of Persian Abu Musa Arif Billah,

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