



A mother comforts her injured son at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation in the capital's Agargaon yesterday. Ashikul, 9, broke his left shoulder joint trying to come down the building in panic during Friday's earthquake.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Injured during tremor, they still shake in fear

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and DIPAN NANDY

There was a wave of joy at Majeda Khatun's house on Friday morning. Her daughter, son-in-law, and grandson had come to visit during the weekend. But as soon as she stepped out the door to buy food for her grandson, the surroundings began to tremble.

Panicked, she tried to rush downstairs and ended up breaking her right leg. She is now admitted to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) in Agargaon, Dhaka.

"I keep remembering how the building was shaking. Even now, I shudder in fear," Majeda said yesterday evening.

Like her, 22 other people are also admitted to various wards at NITOR, many of whom are scheduled for surgery on Sunday.

Majeda's daughter, Jannati Begum, said her mother lives in Jahid Market, Tongi.

"Since it was a day off, we went

to visit her. During the earthquake, she tried to come down quickly and broke her leg. We first took her to Tongi Hospital, and from there she was referred to NITOR," she said.

She added that her mother's fear has not subsided. "Since Friday, she has shuddered four or five times."

Nine-year-old Ashikul Islam had gone to visit his maternal aunt's house in Basabo's Dakshingaon area with his mother, Yasmin Akter. While the family was having breakfast with khichuri, the earthquake struck.

"In the panic to come down, Ashikul broke the shoulder joint of

his left arm," Yasmin said, adding that her son is still afraid.

Sixty-year-old Selina Begum also suffered injuries, breaking her left arm. Her daughter, Rozina Akter, said, "During the earthquake, my mother was alone at home. Since the door was open, she tried to jump off the bed to get out quickly and got injured."

Selina added, "Even today (yesterday), I feel like the earthquake is happening. I am very scared."

NITOR Director Prof Md Abul Kenan told The Daily Star that 119 patients arrived after being injured in Friday's quake. Of them, 23 have been admitted.

Asked how most patients were injured, he said, "Most were hurt due to panic. Some were injured while rushing downstairs, some jumped from heights, some were struck by falling objects after reaching open spaces, and some fell after hanging from windows or railings."

Among the 23 admitted patients, three are women, one is a child, and

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Women labourers cultivate winter vegetables -- including cauliflower, red spinach, turnip, and cabbage -- at Jobarpar village in Agailjhara upazila of Barishal. They work from 8:00am to 3:00pm for a daily wage of Tk 300. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Life inside DU female halls following a quake

TANGILA TASNIM

A 5.7-magnitude earthquake jolted the capital and surrounding areas on Friday, triggering panic among people across the city.

It is no different for the students living in five female dormitories of Dhaka University, with multiple dormitory buildings facing minor structural damage due to the tremor.

At Ruqayyah Hall, several residential areas in the hall -- which houses thousands of students -- developed visible cracks.

At Aparajita Building -- home to around 600 students -- one room on the third floor was damaged. The Shapla Building, residence of nearly 540 residents, reported cracks in three rooms.

The 7 March Building -- one of the largest, accommodating about 1,578 students -- experienced strong shaking but remained structurally stable.

Hall representatives yesterday said there were no serious casualties, although many students felt dizzy or disoriented from the shock.

Students described moments of chaos as the building shook and hundreds rushed outside. Several residents later reported feeling dizzy or unwell from the shock.

Meanwhile, Nishita Zaman Niha, general secretary of Bangladesh Kuwait

AT A GLANCE

- Several cracks reported at Ruqayyah Hall
- Four students injured at Kuwait Maitree Hall
- Cracks in six washroom pillars and a room at Shamsunnahar Hall
- Minor structural damages across four buildings at Sufia Kamal Hall
- Minor cracks found at Bangamata Hall, house tutor's residential area declared unsafe

Maitree Hall Union, said four students were injured, including one who suffered a major leg fracture.

She said minor cracks appeared in several buildings. In the main building, where around 700 students live, plaster

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Efforts on to rehabilitate AL through JP Says Nahid Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

NCP Convener Nahid Islam yesterday alleged that attempts are underway to "rehabilitate the Awami League through the Jatiya Party" ahead of the national election.

Speaking at a rally at the Jaiya Press Club, he said there will be no compromise regarding the July uprising or its trials.

Nahid questioned on what basis the Jatiya Party could be allowed to join the election when the interim government's formed consensus commission and the July Charter did not include that party.

He termed the move a "conspiracy" and said no party that collaborated with fascism should be allowed into the electoral process.

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