

CHATTOGRAM CITY

Quake risk looms amid building code violations

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

While Chattogram city is already vulnerable to severe earthquakes due to its geographical location, experts warn that unplanned urbanisation, widespread building code violations, and poor monitoring have further heightened the risks.

At least 70 percent of the port city's multi-storey buildings are at risk of collapse in the event of a major earthquake of magnitude 7 or higher, they said.

According to the Chattogram Development Authority, the city has 4,11,721 buildings – 3,87,757 are up to six storeys high, 13,480 are seven to ten storeys, 415 are



PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN



A six-storey building in Chattogram's Mansurabad area tilted and leaned on an adjacent structure following Friday's earthquake. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Monsurabad tilted further towards an adjacent building. It had previously tilted during a 2016 quake, along with 11 other buildings in the city. A 6.1-magnitude earthquake in 1997 caused a five-storey building to collapse, killing over 20 people.

Small quakes, experts say, are often warnings of a major disaster.

"There is a risk of damage to 65-70 percent of multi-storey buildings in the port city in case of an earthquake of magnitude 7 to 8," said CDA chief engineer Kazi Hasan Bin Shams.

He said unlike Rajuk, CDA does not have a structural and design cell, and its manpower shortage makes regular inspections even more difficult.

Dr Rashidul said in Bangladesh, Chattogram and Sylhet fall in the highest-risk category. Yet many residents ignore building codes, and numerous buildings are constructed without proper expert supervision.

"CDA cannot avoid responsibility and must employ more manpower to monitor these irregularities," he added.

To minimise risks, Dr Rashidul emphasised identifying vulnerable buildings and retrofitting them with modern machinery and equipment.

Very old structures that cannot be repaired should be demolished, he said.

Residents, he stressed, must strictly follow building codes while constructing new buildings.

He also called for reducing groundwater extraction and prioritising the use of surface water.

Delwar Majumder, former president of the Institute of Engineers Bangladesh, Chattogram, said it is the duty of relevant government authorities to ensure compliance with building codes. "While we cannot construct fully earthquake-proof buildings due to high costs, we can at least make them earthquake-tolerant and minimise casualties," he said.

In Chattogram, the main concern is the lack of space for rescue due to the absence of emergency entry and exit routes in many buildings, he added.

Asked why the tilted buildings from the 2016 earthquake have not been demolished, the CDA chief engineer said the authority can only identify risky structures, not knock them down. Demolition is the responsibility of the Chattogram City Corporation.

"We have identified 100 risky buildings and submitted the list to CCC," he said.

Contacted, CCC Mayor Shahadat Hossain said he was not aware of the details. "I am speaking to my officials and will find out why the risky buildings have not yet been demolished," he said.

AT A GLANCE

70% of multi-storey buildings at risk in Ctg

Many of the city's 4.11 lakh buildings built violating codes

Groundwater over-extraction weakening foundations

CDA lacks structural/design cell, faces manpower shortages

CDA marked at least 100 buildings for demolition

EXPERTS CALL FOR

Identify vulnerable buildings

Retrofit risky structures

Demolish irreparable buildings

Ensure strict compliance with building codes

Make expert supervision mandatory

Reduce groundwater extraction

11-15 storeys, 50 are 16-20 storeys, and nine are above 20 storeys.

Experts say a significant portion of these high-rises is vulnerable because many were constructed in violation of building codes. In coastal areas like Chattogram, construction materials also deteriorate faster, while narrow roads can severely obstruct rescue operations after a major earthquake.

"The failure to properly follow the plans approved by the regulatory authority has increased the risk of collapse during an earthquake," said Dr Muhammad Rashidul

Hasan, professor of Urban and Regional Planning at Cuet.

Experts also identify indiscriminate groundwater extraction as another factor weakening the city's geological foundation.

"This removal of supporting water pressure causes the surface layer to displace and settle, thereby increasing the vulnerability of high-rise buildings," Dr Rashidul explained.

Experts say the current situation is the result of years of regulatory negligence.

During the 5.7-magnitude quake on November 21, a six-storey building in

Injured during Life inside DU female halls

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the rest are men, he added.

He also said the hospital is providing the highest level of care and has made special arrangements to ensure extra attention for the patients.

Meanwhile, 66 people received treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after being injured in the earthquake. Of them, five are still undergoing treatment.

"One of them is in the ICU. His condition is critical," said DMCH Director Brig Gen Md Asaduzzaman.

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fell off in the canteen and other areas, while the Shikder Monoara Bhaban – housing 62 students – was declared safe by engineers.

Jannatul Ferdous Munni, a Philosophy student, said she panicked during the tremor while studying in the reading room. "There was shouting everywhere. I thought the building was collapsing. In the rush, I slipped on the stairs and fell," she said.

Doctors have advised her 15 days of bed rest.

Dr Mahbuba Sultana, provost of the hall, visited all damaged areas and checked on the injured student. "The buildings are old, but engineers confirmed there is no immediate danger. We're doing our best to comfort the students," she

said. Security has been increased, and gates will remain locked only at night, with the main gate open.

At Shamsunnahar Hall, resident Marzia Zahana Momo said the tremor caused panic but no injuries. "Some areas developed cracks, and the chief engineer came to inspect everything," she said.

Sanzida Masud Momo, general secretary of the hall union, reported cracks in six washroom pillars in the Mid and Honours Buildings, one damaged room on the fifth floor, and plaster falling from several areas.

The Extension Building near the kitchen also developed cracks. The hall accommodates nearly 1,400 students, with around 96 on each floor.

Herem Akhter Era, social

welfare secretary of Sofia Kamal Hall Union, said the hall's four buildings sustained minor structural damage.

Pratyasha Building had cracks in one room; Pradipta Building saw damage in seven rooms and one common space; Pratty Building experienced cracks in two rooms and a corridor.

Each room houses six to eight students, while the only legal guest room accommodates 25 girls temporarily until they receive permanent rooms, she added.

The hall's provost Prof Salma Nasrin said engineers had checked all buildings. "By the grace of Allah, all my students are safe. There is no cause for concern, and the authorities will take the best steps for their safety," she said.

At Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, VP Tasnim Akhter Alif Nabila said minor cracks were found, but there was no major structural damage. However, the chief engineer declared the house tutor's residential area unsafe due to the age of the building.

She added that all students were safe and no injuries occurred.

Efforts on

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He declared that NCP would remain on the streets to resist such "plots".

He also demanded swift execution of the death sentence handed to the ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, stating that she must be brought back to the country.

Nahid also criticised the Indian government for giving shelter to Hasina. He urged New Delhi to return her and rebuild ties with Dhaka.

NCP Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary said, "As long as we are alive, the Awami League will not be allowed to do politics. They must be brought under trial."

6 workers injured in boiler explosion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Six workers were injured in a boiler explosion at a cement factory in the Narayanganj port area last evening.

The incident occurred around 6:30pm at the Bashundhara Cement Factory at Madangonj in Bandar area.

The injured – Nahid Hasan, 22, Kamrul Hossain, 45, Tajul Islam, 35, Ferdous, 35, Torab Ali, 55, and Atikur Rahman, 42 – were admitted to the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, said Abdullah Al Arefin, deputy assistant director of Narayanganj Fire Service and Civil Defence.

The fire official said, "Initially, the factory did not inform us about the incident. Later, when we

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IDP, Star, City Bank hold study expo



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

STAR REPORT

IDP Education Bangladesh, in association with The Daily Star and City Bank, organised the "Bangladesh Higher Study Expo 2025" yesterday at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre at Agargaon in Dhaka.

The expo was put together to inform students at all levels of education about study abroad prospects in popular destinations such as the US, the UK, Canada, and Australia. By consulting with experts who were present at the event, students could explore possible scholarship opportunities and pathways for their undergraduate and postgraduate education.

Renowned educational institutions from these locations participated in the expo, including The University of East Anglia; Deakin University; Columbia College Vancouver; Bowling Green State

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Heaps of waste pile up in front of health centre

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Traders from a local market have allegedly been dumping waste in front of Munshibazar Sub-Health Complex in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar.

Despite a signboard clearly prohibiting waste dumping on the health centre premises, the entrance along the busy Kamalganj-Moulvibazar road was found overwhelmed by heaps of garbage, causing annoyance among staff, patients, their attendants, and local residents.

"The environment here has become unbearable due to this menace," said Sadek Mia, a local resident.

Saddam Hossain, another resident, said the problem worsens during the monsoon, as waste spreads across the area after rain, heightening the risk of health hazards.

The situation has also affected classroom activities in a nearby primary school.

"The stench from the garbage piled up in front of the health centre makes it impossible for students to attend classes in a congenial atmosphere. Despite our repeated complaints, no action has been taken," said Aziz Ahmed, a teacher at the school.

Himel Chowdhury, president of the Munshibazar Traders Association, said traders have been discarding their waste on the roadside due to the absence of a designated dumping site.

Nahid Ahmed Tarafdar, chairman of Munshibazar Union Parishad, said the matter had been raised with the upazila law and order committee. "We are in talks with the UNO for a prompt solution," he said.

Mohammad Mahbul Alam Bhuiyan, upazila health and family planning officer in Kamalganj, said they had already informed the market authorities and local officials about the need to remove the waste. "We will continue to follow up to ensure the issue is addressed," he said.

Contacted, Kamalganj UNO Makhon Chandra Sutradhar said, "This is a serious issue. We will engage with the relevant authorities and take necessary steps to resolve it."

PLOT SALE
A plot is available for sale in the Baridhara Diplomatic Zone. Interested and genuine buyers are warmly invited to contact for further details.
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রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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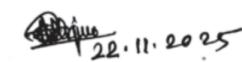
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The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	1160180	Procurement of GTG, GT Transformers, Protection and PCC Room electrical equipment's and spares	16-Nov-2025	07-Dec-2025 15:30 PM	08-Dec-2025

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

 22.11.2025

Engr. Md. Abu Zafar Siddique
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW CCGP (Unit-2)
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

GD-2527