

JU pro-VC says no grounds to close campus over quake fears

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Jahangirnagar University authorities have stated there is no factual basis for closing the campus, despite growing concerns following recent earthquakes.

The pro-vice-chancellor for administrative affairs, Professor Sohel Ahmed, made the remarks after an expert review found no structural risks in the buildings where cracks had appeared.

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The statement came after a meeting convened by Professor Ahmed at the university's new administrative building.

The meeting included geology experts, engineers, senior faculty members and representatives from the Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union.

'After reviewing the assessments from our expert teachers, it is clear that no real situation has emerged that would require shutting down the university,' Professor Sohel Ahmed told reporters following the meeting.

He added that the university administration had carefully considered the implications of any shutdown.

'We discussed a range of issues related to closing the university. If we were to do that, we would have to think about where the students would go and whether they would be safer at home or here,' he said. 'After evaluating these factors, we believe the students are safe in the university halls.'

Professor Ahmed further explained that JU's buildings are located on Madhupur Clay, a soil formation considered geotechnically more stable than much of central Dhaka. 'Given the geological conditions here, the campus structures are located in a comparatively less vulnerable zone,' he said.

University officials confirmed that a team of experts from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and specialist engineers had inspected the buildings where cracks were reported following the recent tremors. 'The inspection found no structural defects,' Professor Sohel Ahmed stated.