

# JnU second campus: Project stalled amid bureaucratic hurdles



The construction of Jagannath University's long-awaited second campus in Keraniganj has stalled due to bureaucratic delays. On January 16, the education ministry instructed JnU and other relevant authorities to initiate the remaining work of the project. However, the work is yet to start. Photo: Star

The construction of Jagannath University's [long-awaited second campus](#) in Keraniganj has stalled due to bureaucratic delays.

In January, students boycotted classes and exams and observed a 35-hour hunger strike on the present campus, calling for the army to be assigned the project work.



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In response, on January 16, the education ministry instructed JnU and other relevant authorities to initiate the remaining work of the project, "Establishment of New Campus of Jagannath University: Land Acquisition and Development", through the army under a "procurement through assignment basis".

As the original Development Project Proposal (DPP) contained multiple errors, JnU authorities submitted a Revised Development Project Proposal (RDPP) to the Planning Commission. However,

the RDPP has yet to be approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec), stalling fund release and official handover of the project to the army, sources said.

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## **JnU second campus project handed over to army verbally: VC**



A meeting on the revised proposal was held on April 13 at the Planning Commission, but it remains unapproved, halting all progress.

"We haven't officially received the project yet. The RDPP is still awaiting ministry approval," Lt Col Iftekhar Alam, project director, told The Daily Star.

"No approval means no funds. Without funds, we cannot begin fieldwork. We hope the RDPP will be approved within this month."

He said the army plans to implement the project in two phases, with the first phase targeted for completion by December 2026.

The project, with an estimated cost of around Tk 1,734 crore, covers land acquisition, sand filling, construction of an engineering building and base camp, boundary walls, deep tube wells, pond ghats, and external electrification, according to project documents.

A recent visit by this correspondent to the Tegharia site in Keraniganj found little visible activity apart from some ongoing work on a pond ghat by the previous contractor.

Students expressed frustration over the delay.

"Every day, we battle Old Dhaka's chaotic traffic to attend classes soaked in sweat," said Tasmia Sarker, a student of Mass Communication and Journalism. "We sincerely urge the university administration to ensure visible progress on the second campus as soon as possible."

Helal Uddin, a Finance student, said, "We've long demanded a safe and modern educational environment. It seems we have to take to the streets again, and we will, if needed."

Md Helal Uddin Patwari, the project's chief engineer, confirmed that the RDPP is pending at the planning ministry and said work could begin once it receives clearance.

"We are optimistic that first phase of the work will begin and finish before the 2026 deadline," he added.

On land acquisition and residential halls, he said some land is still pending acquisition.

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## **Ministry issues notification handing over JnU second campus project to army**



"Initially, dormitories weren't included in the first phase, but following protests, construction of two halls (Bani Bhaban and Abdur Rahman) was added to the revised RDPP."

Contacted, JnU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Md Rezaul Karim declined to comment, referring the correspondent to the PD.

The government first approved the concept of a new JnU campus in 2016 following mass student protests. In 2018, the land ministry allocated 200 acres in Keraniganj. However, the project has seen little progress since.

Established in 2005 with 22 departments under four faculties, JnU now has 40 departments under six faculties. These are crammed into an 11-acre campus in Sadarghat, serving over 19,000 students.