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Fund shortage hits RU uplift

RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 24: The massive and ambitious development plan undertaken by the authorities of Rajshahi University under its Third Five Year Plan is heading for a nosedive.

With barely eighteen months remaining for the end of the plan period the authorities have little hope of completing any major project taken up due to inordinate delay in release of Government grants earlier sanctioned.

The University had been sanctioned 9.25 crore Taka for the Third Five Year Plan period, which began in 1985-86. Not a penny was released in the first two years and when money finally began to come in it did so in a pathetic trickle.

In the three and a half years of the plan the University have received, in all only 1.18 crore taka and have been at sixes and sevens as to the allocation of funds.

According to a University source the 1.18 crore taka

received so far "came in the current and previous financial years that too against an ADP projection of 2.75 crore taka."

The projects that have subsequently suffered are: establishment of an advanced centre for biological science, two new departments, that of pharmacy and mass communication and construction of new residential hostels, recon-

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struction of the arts and science buildings and bettering the roads and culverts on the campus.

The development of the water supply system, installation of electric lines and transformers and extension of the administrative building will also suffer.

Extension of the third science building, begun four months ago has been stopped due to paucity of funds. The source claimed that work on this project will resume but it will be impossible to pay the contractor.

A separate project repairing and maintenance budgetted at 2.50 crore taka has also got bogged down. Only 57 lakh taka has been received for the project so far.