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Looming fund crisis may make RU staff salaries uncertain

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Some 3,300 staff of Rajshahi University might not get their pay cheques at the end of this fiscal year as the university is likely to suffer a severe fund crisis soon due to wastage of money through 'illegal and unnecessary recruitment.'

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has recently informed the education ministry that the university's budget deficit

is increasing due to recruitment manpower beyond budget provisions, sources said.

The UGC also warned the university authorities of suspending funds, they added.

Around 450 employees have been appointed to the varsity since June on 'political considerations' and in exchange for money, sources said adding that some more will be recruited within a few months.

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Looming fund

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In a recent letter to the vice chancellor, RU Treasurer Abdul Jabbar Chan said that of the annual allocation of 52.40 crore for salaries, Tk 18 crore has already been spent in the first four months of this fiscal.

"If this unnatural rate of increasing expenditure on salaries continues, the allocated fund will be exhausted within the next four months and payment of the salaries of existing teachers, officials and employees will become uncertain," the letter reads.

Till date, the newly appointed employees have been paid with funds illegally transferred from other sectors, as there is no budgetary allocation for these employees' salaries, the letter said. It also suggested that the problem be settled immediately following discussion with the finance and education ministries and the UGC.

Progressive Teachers' Association President and syndicate member Prof Abdus Sobhan alleged that though the financial problem had been raised by the treasurer in recent syndicate meetings many times, it is yet to get any attention from the authority.

RU VC Prof Altaf Hossain, however, denied any financial problem. He said that he took over early this year with a Tk 20 crore deficit, but the immediate past prime minister granted Tk 10 crore. "The rest will be taken care of somehow," he added.