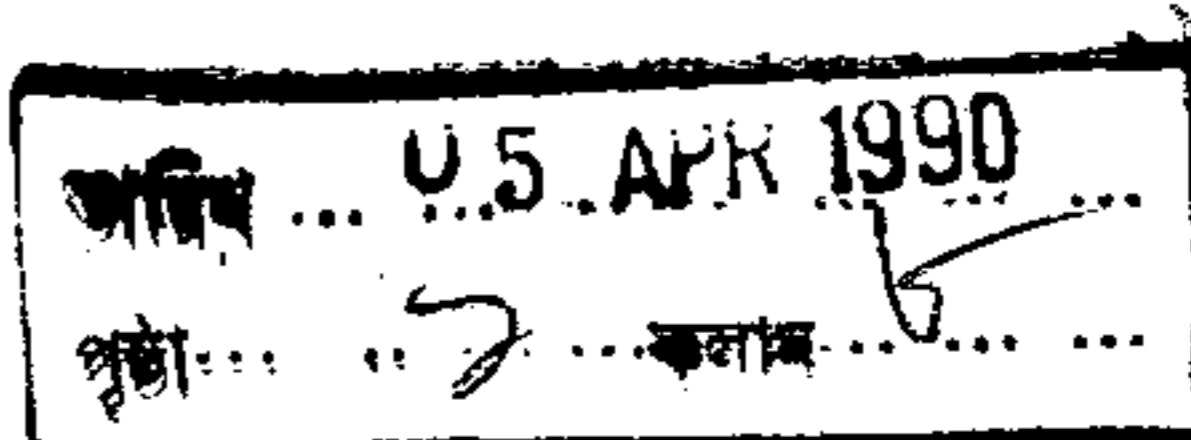


59



The Bangladesh Times

9

Construction of 137 primary schools abandoned

By A Staff Reporter

Construction work of 137 primary schools scheduled to be completed by June this year has been abandoned due to shortage of matching funds.

According to sources in the Ministry of Education, the Facilities Department was assigned to carry out the construction of the schools under Universal Primary Education (UPE) programme at a cost of about Taka 1.5 crore.

The work order was issued in this connection a few months ago and construction of about one third of the total schools was in progress.

The Facilities Department, however, in an order a few days ago asked the contractors to stop all civil works.

The measure was taken as local funds to match the foreign funds in constructing the schools, could not be mobilised. This has been stated by the executives in the Primary Education and Facilities Department.

It has affected about two thousand people including teachers, education officers, engineers, architects, planners and general employees working under the project.

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Primary schools

Contd. from page 1

An official of the Facilities Department told the Times that about six hundred officials and employees of the department were facing uncertainty regarding disbursement of their salaries in the current quarter of the fiscal year.

A senior executive in the Ministry, however, assured that staff salary under the project would continue.