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Uncertainty over Rangpur Science and Tech Varsity

From Mozammed Haque

RANGPUR, Dec 6 : The construction work of much talked about Science and Technology University here is yet to be started.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the foundation plaque of the university on July 24 this year.

According to the scheme, the proposed university is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2002. About 75 acres out of 300 acres of land of Carmichael College have been acquired for the proposed university. Documents of the land have already been handed over to Mesbah Uddin, member of the University Grants Commission (UGC) who had been appointed the university project officer.

There will be five faculties in the university at the initial stage. These are School of Physical Science, School of Life Science, School of Agriculture

and Mineral Science, School of Social Science and School of Applied Science and Technology. Initially 300 students will be admitted and gradually the seats will be enhanced in phases. The aims and objects of the university are to promote science and technology - based education, human resource development, information technology and environmental science education.

But it is surprising that no fund has so far been sanctioned for the construction of the university. When this correspondent contacted with an engineer of the Facilities Department in Rangpur, he expressed his inability to tell the reason of non-sanctioning of fund.

Meanwhile, three police personnel are guarding the foundation plaque of the proposed university. They are under the control of Rajshahi range of

the divisional police headquarters. They are allegedly not getting cooperations of Rangpur police officials. As a consequence they are suffering a lot.

It is worth mentioning, the general students of Carmichael College, other educational institutions and people of the region had long been demanding for the establishment of a general university at the campus of Carmichael College.

Students and members of the public still demand a general university on the college campus. They are holding public meetings and staging demonstrations on the streets of Rangpur town frequently to ventilate their demands.

However, people of the region are in great concern whether the proposed science and technology university will at all be constructed or not.