



NOV. 15 2002

"Research Activities Of BAU"

Sir,

This refers to Kbd. M.A. Jalil's letter published in these columns on October 28, 2002 under the heading- "Research Activities of BAU" in which he has critically reviewed the content of my letter dt. 16/10/2002 on the same issue.

First of all, I would like to thank Jalil for keeping his roving eyes wide open to find out the pit-falls of our newly established university-the Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU). Since he is also an ex-student of Bangladesh Agricultural Institute (BAI) which is now SAU, I would like to invite him to help us directly in building up his own institution/university, even without holding any honourable post of SAU. It was actually the members of BAI Old Boys' Association for whose active initiative and hardwork, the establishment of today's Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University could be made possible through upgradation of BAI.

Anyway with a view to brushing off Jalil's apprehensions, I would like to inform him that a development project costing Taka 50.50 crore for the improvement and strengthening of infrastructure and other academic and physical facilities including laboratories, library, etc. has been submitted to the Govt. which is now under process of the final approval by the ECNEC. In this connection, the members of the SAU Syndicate with its Chairman, Prof. Dr. A.M. Farooque, VC, SAU had recently met the Hon'ble Education Minister Dr. M. Osman Farooque who assured his utmost cooperation in securing necessary financial support for the newly established agri-university.

He also assured us that he would strongly back SAU in getting back some of its land adjacent to SAU campus now lying unused. In fact, we are fortunate enough to have all the support for the development of SAU from our active and dynamic Education Minister and his ministry.

Meanwhile with our limited resources, we are going to start a nursery to provide technical support and plant saplings to the city dwellers interested in home and roof gardening. We have also brought about changes in our academic instructions by introducing the modern course credit system. We are hopeful that soon after approval of the SAU development project, we would be able to materialise all our development plans which may at present, sound 'ambitious' to Kbd. Jalil.

By the way, I don't know whether it was a printing error or a mistake in Jalil's text—we are not BAU (Bangladesh Agricultural University) but SAU (Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University), right from the title to the last line 'BAU' was written in his letter instead of 'SAU'.

Zahidul Haque, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University.