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Little headway made since inception of DU disaster research centre

No significant headway has been made since the inception of the Disaster Research Training and Management Centre at the Dhaka University in 1989 except publication of some manuals and researches at field level on cyclone in the coastal areas, reports BDNews.

Scanty amount of allocation, administrative tangle in releasing money, lack of manpower and above all, political influence, and reluctance on the part of teachers in doing research side by side their full-time teaching profession are the main barriers to research ac-

tivities, said concerned sources.

It was learnt that teachers are not inclined to conduct research activities in exchange for a very meagre figure of Tk 800.

An on-the-spot visit reveals that the first four years since its inception no research was done except for one which again was done with the assistance of the Bangladesh Freedom Foundation.

DU sources said only Tk 10,000 was allocated for the centre in the fiscal year (FY) 1993-94. The revised budget, however, was Tk two lakh for the same fiscal.

(See Page 15 Col. 7)

Little headway

(From Page 1 Col. 3)

A total of Tk 32 lakh 20 thousand was allocated from the fiscal years 1994-95 to 2005-06 yielding no result at all.

Director of the centre Prof Dr AHM Abdul Baki told BDNews, almost all money allocated for research is spent on remunerations to research officials and publication of manuals and the remaining amount is too scanty to conduct research activities.

He said the research works are very often obstructed due to the administrative tangle in releasing allocated money.

DU treasurer Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan, however, denied the allegation and said the research centre must have to submit the account of expenditure to receive the money.

He also informed that the university has no policy for conducting research activities but they are accountable to the board of directors of the Centre.

Former director of the research centre Prof Dr AQM Mahbub told BDNews, most of the universities across the world put much significance on the research activities as the standard of education declines if it is not done properly but the flipside of the trend is sadly seen in Bangladesh.

Prof Dr AQM Mahbub first started research on cyclone in the coastal belt. The research was completed with the financial assistance of the Bangladesh Freedom Foundation.

It was Dr Mahbub who first arranged training, which was done only once after the centre started its journey. About 300 learners were trained in the coastal areas.