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DU announces Tk 741cr budget

DU Correspondent | Published at 12:05am on June 28, 2018

Dhaka University authorities on Wednesday announced a Tk 741.13 crore budget for the 2018-19 fiscal with only 4 per cent allocation for research and 73 per cent for salary and allowances.

DU treasurer M Kamal Uddin placed the budget in the annual senate session at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of the university with vice-chancellor professor Md Akhtaruzzaman in the chair.

This year, Tk 432.96 crore has been allocated for salary and allowances, which is 58.42 per cent of the total budget, and Tk 107.40cr for pensions, which is 14.49 per cent of the budget.

The University Grants Commission will provide Tk 628.31 crore for the budget and Tk 71.28 crore will come from the university's own sources. The budget will have a deficit of Tk 41.54 crore, the treasurer told the senate.

Professor Kamal also presented a Tk 738.72 crore revised budget for the 2017-18 fiscal.

For years, teachers and students have been voicing concerns over the meagre budgetary allocations on research and many cited the lack of focus on research as the main reason for Dhaka University not being able to secure a place among the top Asian universities.

Professor emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said that the university was not 'merely a training college' rather its primary duty was to create and disseminate knowledge which was not possible without standard research works, translations and publications.

This veteran professor also lamented that though the allocation in research sector was not enough, even then it was not utilised properly as there was widespread apathy among teachers and students.

He also underscored the need for student union activities so that student's representatives could raise their voices in decision-making bodies to allocate more on research and other sectors.

Dhaka University's Centre on Budget and Policy director Mohammad Abu Yusuf said that though the allocation for research had slightly increased than the previous year, the fund was not sufficient.

He suggested that the University Grants Commission should discuss with the university before allocating money and it should be 'demand-based budgeting' but the real scenario was that the apex body in the field of higher education allocated budget in line with previous year resulting in a usual deficit in the budget.

Last year, the Dhaka University gave a Tk 664.37 crore budget with only 2 per cent allocation for research.



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