

Fund shortage restricts DU research programmes

Inadequate financial support virtually restricts the various research bureau and centres under the Dhaka University from carrying out any meaningful programmes, says UNB.

Some of the research institutes of the DU even do not have a room for conducting meetings or carrying out their programmes, nor have their own computer or photocopier.

Directors and presidents of the research institutes said that very meagre funds were allocated for different research bureaux and centres of the university.

The heads of the concerned agencies emphasised on the allocation of sufficient funds for "meaningful and successful" research works at the top educational institution of the country.

Talking to UNB on Friday, Dhaka University Treasurer Prof M Sham-sul Haq admitted that the allocation for the purpose of research was not adequate.

"What to speak of research, lion's part of the allocation goes to pay for the salaries of staff and employees, and maintenance of the institutes", he said.

The Dhaka University authorities made an allocation of about Tk 1.69 crore for its research institutes for the fiscal 1997-98. The amount was Tk 90.24 lakh during the last year (1976-97).

Although the amount look much higher than the last year, the actual allocation for the research institutes increased by a mere Tk 4.76 lakh to about Tk 95 lakh for the current fiscal year.

This year's research allocation of Tk 1.69 crore include Tk 75 lakh for

various departments under the faculties of Science and Biological Sciences, which were not included in previous years, UD sources said.

Even this allocation of Tk 75 lakh for the Science and Biological Sciences faculties is subject to sanction from the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The allocation for the research institutes showed that the actual increase was very insignificant: increase for individual institutes was only several thousand Taka.

"The allocated fund is very little against the needs", said Prof Ayubur Rahman, Chairman of Economics Research Bureau.

"What can we do with such little amounts?" he asked, saying that every year, they urge the university authorities for sufficient funds "but our requests go unheeded".

Prof Rahman said inadequate fund stand in the way of success in conducting research projects and publishing the project reports.

Chairman of the Economics Research Bureau further informed that they have only one computer, but no photocopier. He hoped that the DU authorities would in future favourably consider the needs of the research sector.

Dr Shafiqur Rahman, the Director of Centre for Advanced Studies and Research in Biological Sciences, said the research was really impossible with the allocated amount.

"Our researchers are not being able to conduct research works due to shortage of fund", he said informing that there was no office, nor any full time staff for the centre.