

DU passes Tk 664cr budget *Only 2pc allocated for research*

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THE Dhaka University on Saturday passed a Tk 664.37 crore budget for the 2017-18 fiscal in its annual senate session with only 2 per cent allocation for research and 78 per cent for salary and allowances.

Only Tk 14 crore has been allocated for research while Tk 416.07 crore for salary and allowances of teachers and other staff members, and Tk 106cr for pensions.

Treasurer of the university professor M Kamal Uddin placed the budget with vice-chancellor professor AAMS Arefin Siddique in the chair at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of the university.

Professor Kamal also presented a Tk 667.19 crore revised budget for the 2016-17 fiscal.

The University Grants Commission will provide Tk 610.10 crore for the next year's budget and Tk 42.55 crore will come from DU's own sources. The budget is likely to have a deficit of Tk 11.72 crore, the treasurer told the senate.

Tk 71.77 crore has been



Dhaka University vice-chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique addresses the senate session at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building on Saturday.

— New Age photo

reserved for the students' academic programmes while Tk 47.31 crore is allocated to general activities and Tk 10.5 crore for repairs.

For years, teachers and students have been voicing concerns over the meagre budgetary allocation 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.

Nure Alam Siddique, associate professor of the Institute of Education and Research, regretted that though research was the base of any university, it was not getting sufficient allocation. 'Though the culture of research is yet to grow in this country, it is an imperative to augment allotment of funds in this important sector to create and disseminate knowledge,' he added.

Professor emeritus Serajul

Islam Choudhury said, 'As the country's highest echelon of education, the Dhaka University should give utmost priority to the research sector, because other educational institutes of the country follow this university.'

DU VC professor AAMS Arefin Siddique said that they had limitations as the fund was not sufficient, but they were 'trying their level best' to give more importance to research.