

## Govt urged to exempt pvt univs from taxation

Staff Correspondent

THE Association of Private Universities on Tuesday urged the government to remove the 15 per cent VAT on private universities and increase moderate allocation for the education sector in the 2012-13 budget.

The allocation for the proposed education sector stands at Tk 21,408 crore, compared to Tk 19,806 crore in the 2011-12 budget, said Professor AKM Saiful Majid from the Institute of Business Administration at a roundtable discussion on 'Budget 2012-13' at the National Press Club.

Professor Majid alleged that the allocation for the education sector increased by 1,602 crore, but the education budget percentage would decrease in the proposed budget.

Association president CM Shafi Sami claimed

that according to the 2010 national education policy, private universities were proposed as non-profitable organisations, even though they have to pay 15 per cent VAT, so the government should recognise the private universities as profitable organisations.

He added that private universities are helping the country to create skilled human resources which the government should facilitate by exempting them on tax payments.

Vice-chairman of the board of trustees at Ahsanullah University, Kazi Rafiqul Alam, urged the government to continue strengthening the public-private partnership, withdrawing tax on private universities and enhancing the allocation for the education sector.

Vice-chancellor of World University Abdul Mannan

Chowdhury said that the government did not have any other alternatives than to give this type of budget just to fulfil its commitments in different sectors.

Ganashasthaya University trustee Zafrullah Chowdhury said that the government did not mention any policies for the removal of corruption in the proposed budget. 'Whenever we talk about corruption, police comes first, although there is corruption everywhere', he added.

Vice-chancellor of the Islamic University, MK Anwarul Islam said that the enrolment ratio in higher education in Bangladesh is quite low about 6.6 per cent, whereas globally the enrolment ratio ranges from 23 per cent to 54.6 per cent for developed countries, about 33 per cent for Asian countries and 10.5 per cent for India.