

DU teachers demand increased budget for edn, research

Staff Correspondent

TEACHERS of Dhaka University on Wednesday demanded that the government increase budgetary allocation for education and research sectors and a separate pay scale for public university teachers.

Speaking at a post-budget discussion on allocation for the education sector in the proposed national budget for fiscal year 2015-16, they called on the government to increase the allocation for the higher education sector.

The centre on budget and policy of Dhaka University organised the discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital.

Mohammed Abu Eusuf, director of department of development studies of

Dhaka University, in a keynote speech, said that the budgetary allocation for the public university teachers to conduct research was coming down over the last few years.

In the proposed national budget only six per cent of total allocation was kept for the higher education, he added.

He expressed his doubt whether Bangladesh would be able to compete with the neighbouring countries in terms of higher education as the public university teachers of the neighbouring countries received higher allocation for doing research and enjoy separate pay scale.

ASM Maksud Kamal, chairman of disaster science and management of Dhaka University, said that

they were not able to conduct sufficient research due to dwindling budgetary allocation for higher education and it might be the reason why not a single Bangladeshi university managed to secure a place on the list of top 100 Asian universities prepared by Times Higher Education.

An analysis of the group showed the teachers of public universities in the neighbouring countries received 3 to 4 times more basic salary than the Bangladeshi public university teachers.

Moreover, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, allocated for education sector 6 to 8 per cent of their GDP in the year 2014 while Bangladesh allocated only 2.2 per cent.