



'Donors not interfering in poverty reduction plan'

STAFF REPORTER

A member of the Planning Commission, Dr Quazi Mesbahuddin Ahmed, said yesterday that the World Bank and the IMF did not interfere in the process of formulating the country's anti-poverty document.

He also lashed out at the so-called development organisations, saying these bodies were deliberately launching a campaign that the process of framing poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) was not participatory.

"The British NGO Oxfam denounced the Ugandan PRSP as non-participatory. But, the African country made its best efforts to make it participatory," the economist told the seminar, alluding to the fact that these organisations are trying to label the country's PRSP as non-participatory.

Dr Ahmed's tirade against a section of NGOs came at a seminar on "PRSP and National Commitment" at the CIRDAP Auditorium in the city.

Research Fellow of the Centre for

Policy Dialogue Dr Uttam Kumar Dey, Professors of Chittagong University Dr Tofael Ahmed and DR Moinul Islam, Chairman of Manusher Jonno Shaheen Anam and Country Director of Hunger Project Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar spoke, among others, at the seminar.

Referring to the 63 per cent of allocations for the defence budget, Dr Moinul Islam said that curtailing the funds for defence would help increase share for the development sectors.

Shaheen Anam stressed the need for the participation of women and the marginalised segment of women of the society in the PRSP process.

Dr Uttam hoped that the government would strengthen the monitoring process of the PRSP to make it more effective. Dr Tofael Ahmed emphasised the need for the setting up of a civil society watchdog body on graft and human rights violation.

Dr Majumdar called for launching discussions on economic misrule simultaneously with political criminalisation.