

DU convocation today

Staff Correspondent

Despite a political programme by a fundamentalist group in the city, the 41st convocation of Dhaka University will be held at 10 am today (Saturday) at the central playground of the university as per schedule announced earlier.

This was decided at a meeting of teachers' representatives in Syndicate of the university on Friday with Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

The meeting called upon all teachers, students, guests and concerned others to be present at 9 am at the convocation venue today (Saturday).

Dhaka University, which has radiating the light of knowledge to

millions since its inception in 1921 and now rated as the best one among all universities of SAARC countries, is to hold its 41st Convocation today (Saturday).

This is the second convocation of the university in independent Bangladesh as the first one was held on December 18 in 1999 after long 30 years.

No doubt, it is the achievement of the present Awami League government that a congenial academic atmosphere has been restored at Dhaka University campus and other campuses of the country and as a result convocations are now being held regularly

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at all universities in the country.

After the August 15, 1975 tragedy of killing of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman all the campuses of the country became volatile due to turmoil and therefore, the students of all universities had been deprived of such auspicious and historic event of convocation for a long time.

The first convocation of independent Bangladesh was scheduled on August 15 in 1975 at the historic Battala of Dhaka University and the then Chancellor and President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was to attend it. But his assassination only a few hours ago lashed all not only the convocation arrangement but also the hopes and aspirations of the whole nation.

However, the Dhaka University authorities under the leadership of present Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury succeeded to uphold the glorious past of this highest seat of learning of the country by successfully holding the first convocation on December 18 in 1999 and arranging the second convocation scheduled to be held today (Saturday).

In the first convocation in 1999 honorary Doctor of Law degrees were conferred on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and honorary Doctor of Science degree was conferred on Nobel Laureate Prof Amartya Sen.

In this second convocation or 41st convocation, none will be conferred on any honorary doctorate degree. Over 2,900 students who got Bachelor's (Honours), Master's, MBBS, BDS, B Sc in Textile, B Sc in Nursing, BBA,

MBA, M Ed, M Phil, Ph D and other degrees during the last two years from the Dhaka University will be given certificates by the Chancellor and President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in today's convocation.

The convocation will begin through Chancellor's procession at 10 am. The convocation speech will be delivered by renowned British educationist Prof Sir David Harrison of Selwyn College, Cambridge. The function will also be addressed by Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury while the Chancellor and President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will preside. Some vice-chancellors of the universities of SAARC countries will attend this convocation.

According to university sources, this convocation will cost over Taka 45 lakh. The whole campus are being decorated at a cost of Taka 7 lakh. All arrangements have been almost completed to hold this convocation smoothly and peacefully.

Dhaka University conferred so far 35 honorary doctorate degrees on 35 internationally reputed persons at different convocations since its establishment in 1921.

These renowned persons include Haraprasad Shastri, Sir Chandrasekhar Venkot Raman, Sir Jagadish Chandra Basu, Sir Prafullah Chandra Roy, Sir Mohammed Iqbal, Rabindranath Tagore, Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyaya, Shere Bangla AK Fazlul Huq, Chou En Lai, Jamal Abdel Nasser, Dr Mohammad Shahidulh, Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Prof. Abdus Salam, Sheikh Hasina and Prof Amartya Sen.

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