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40th Dhaka varsity convocation today

Varsity Correspondent

The 40th convocation of Dhaka University will be held today (Saturday). This is the first ever General Convocation of the university since after the birth of the country.

The salient feature of the Convocation is to confer Honorary Doctor of Law Degree on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Honorary Doctor of Science Degree on Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen.

The Chancellor of the university President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will preside over the convocation and give away certificates

"And we shall hold the Convocation every year from now on", he added.

Meanwhile, a dress rehearsal of the convocation, without the guests, was held on Friday where all the recipients of certificates and medals including the faculty members attended. The venue of the ceremony—the Gymnasium Ground of DU near the Central Shaheed Minar, wore a real festive look with participants in black gown attending the rehearsal.

Leaders of all the opposition



Nobel laureate and world renowned economist Dr. Amartya Sen and his wife being received at the Airport on Friday, by State Minister for Planning Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir. Dr. Sen will be conferred honorary doctorate degree at the 40th convocation of Dhaka University today (Saturday).

and medals to the recipients.

Dr. Amartya Sen arrived in the city on Friday at 12:30 P.M. He was received at the airport by the Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. A. K. Azad Chowdhury, State Minister for planning, Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, noted Mathematician Dr. Mostafa Zamal Nazrul Islam, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. Md. Shahadat Ali and other high government and university officials.

Dhaka University authorities have undertaken all out preparations to hold the convocation smoothly. The campus wears a festive look on this occasion. Important buildings have been renovated, the entire campus has been whitewashed, lawns have been mowed and streets have been painted with designs.

"We have completed all necessary preparations", Prof. A. K. Azad Chowdhury said at a last minute press briefing on Friday.

parties except Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh have also been invited to the ceremony. "Though we could not make an appointment with the leader of the main Opposition BNP as she was preoccupied with programmes during the last two days, we already sent a set of invitation letters to her", Vice Chancellor Prof. Azad Chowdhury said.

The Vice Chancellor also called upon all regardless of political affiliations to come forward and help make the first ever Convocation since the Liberation of the country and the last one in the Century as well.

"The convocation will cost the university authorities nearly taka two crore. But the University Grants Commission (UGC) has allocated taka 95 lakh for the convocation and it is expected that UGC will provide extra money to meet the expenditure", said a DU

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DU convocation

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official on condition of anonymity.

The university has earned taka thirty thousand through registration by the graduates. A total of 1,486 graduates out of 7769 have registered for the convocation.

The university authorities have prepared some 3000 traditional black convocation gowns at a cost of taka 26 lakh. The university, however, had some one thousand old gowns that had become unusable.

"But the fees for registration was enormously high which restricted a large portion of the graduates from registering for the convocation", said Mohsin Ashraf, a student of the department of Library and Information Science who could not register for the ceremony due to high fee. "Besides, the difference between the registration fees of the students and that of the teachers who will receive their doctorate degrees is highly discriminatory", he added. He further said, "The teachers have paid only taka 50 while we, the students, were charged taka 750".

The Vice Chancellor, at the press briefing, acknowledged this and said that fees would be reduced to the limit of the students in future to ensure adequate participation.

Talking to this correspondent, a university official said that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would be awarded the honorary Doctorate Degree for her outstanding contribution to the establishment of national, regional and world peace, poverty alleviation, women empowerment and democratisation of the country while Prof. Amartya Sen would be given honorary Doctorate Degree for his contribution to human knowledge in general and to the discipline of economics in particular.

The graduates and medal recipients participating in the convocation are those who got Masters Degree in 1996, Honors Degree in 1997, Honors and Masters Degree in 1996 and 1997 from various institutes of the university, M.Phil (January '95 to June '98), PhD (after the 39th convocation in '70), MBBS and BDS in 1997 and 1998,

BSc in Textile Technology in 1997, BSc in Nursing Science in 1997 and 1998, BSc (Pass) in Home Economics in 1997, Post Graduate Degree in Health Science and Research in 1997 and 1998 and those who have been awarded Gold Medal after 1992.

Venue for the day-long programme has been selected at the central playground of the University. The ceremony will commence at 10 A.M. and will be divided into two parts. In the first part, the Chancellor will award the honorary degree to the Prime Minister and Amartya Sen and in the second part the others will receive certificates from the President.

A colourful convocation procession will be brought out on the campus in the morning on the day. VCs and Pro-VCs of different universities across the country will also attend the ceremony.

Prominent personalities of the country including ministers, chiefs of political parties, former renowned alumni of the university, chamber leaders and senior journalists will also attend the convocation ceremony.

Dhaka University will bring out a booklet on this auspicious occasion with the details about the university activities and its achievements. A souvenir will also be released on the occasion.

Convocation gates at different points of the campus have been built while the Main Gate of the Convocation set up at Shahbag will be kept there permanently to mark the first general convocation after the Liberation of the country.

Meanwhile, the student wing of main Opposition BNP, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) will observe a half-day hartal, from 6 A. M. to 12 noon, in the city to protest the conferring of Honorary Doctorate Degree on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.