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DU convocation

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The university could not hold a single Convocation for the last thirty years. "Bureaucratic problem is one of the major barriers in holding the General Convocation", sources close to the authorities said. "The other problems include lack of congenial atmosphere on the campus and even the political instability of the country", they added.

Earlier, in January, the university authorities told The Bangladesh Observer that they were looking forward to holding the General Convocation in February this year but failed to do so.

More than two lakh graduates from the university are yet to receive their certificates in a ceremony, which is a dream for every student. This figure may take a gigantic shape if the students who passed from different institutes and colleges under the university are considered. Some of them have even died.

The news of the Convocation has already attracted many of the former and present students of the university.

"I think we are deprived of the greatest event of the student life", said Farid Ahmed, a student of the Arts Faculty. "Universities at home and abroad hold convo-

cations regularly and I envy the students of those universities. It is

my demand to our university to hold convocations regularly from now on", he added.

Teachers are also eager to know about convocations to be held. A large number of them also did not get their certificates through any grand ceremony. "I shall receive my certificate along with my students in the next General Convocation— if it is held before my death", said a junior Lecturer of the Social Science faculty.

The student organisations active on the campus have brought this issue to focus several times but could not create any pressure on the authorities. "It gives me an idea that this issue is of less importance to them than what they always shout for", a general student in condition of anonymity said.

DU convocation in November

Varsity Correspondent

Dhaka University, after long 29 years, is preparing to hold its Convocation Ceremony in November this year. The last one was held in 1970.

A Special Convocation of the university, however, was scheduled to be held on August 10, which was recently been postponed, official sources said. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Nobel Laureate international scholar Amartya Sen were to be awarded with Honourary Doctorate degrees.

The decision to award the Prime Minister was taken in the University Senate last year. Had it been held, it would have been the first Special Convocation since 1997 when an honorary degree was given to the Secretary General of UNESCO Federico Mayor.

"It is yet decided whether the Special Convocation will be synchronised with the General one in late November", said the Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof. A.K. Azad Chowdhury.

The Vice-Chancellor also said, Chancellor President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will attend the convocation as chief guest and the university authorities would invite Dr. Amartya Sen to be present as special guest. "The timing is depending on the availability of the Chancellor, that is President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed", he added.

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