

DU convocation likely in Feb

Varsity Correspondent

The first convocation of Dhaka University since the independence is likely to be held in February next year after a lapse of 28 years. The last convocation was held on March 8, 1970.

The University authorities have planned to invite Nobel Laureate Dr. Amartya Sen, an international reputed economist, as chief guest in the convocation ceremony.

Talking to the Bangladesh Observer, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury said, "we are looking forward to holding the convocation in next February."

The authorities, after the liberation, took the decision to hold a convocation in August '75 and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the then President, was supposed to attend the function as the Chancellor of the University. But it was cancelled following his assassination on August 15, 1975.

According to sources, though the University has a provision to hold general convocations every year, it could not hold it due to a number of difficulties. Sources said that the difficulties, among others, included the session jams in academic years, political unrest, both on the campus and in the country.

The discontinuation of convocations has now created more problems in holding fresh general convocations. The authorities now have to decide whether they will give away certificates to all the student who completed their courses during the period between '70 and '98.

The number of students passed during this period is approximately 5 lakh. Among these students, most

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have taken the main copies of their certificates.

It will take a minimum preparation of four months to hold a convocation successfully. The authorities have to work hard to maintain their schedule in February next," sources said.

Nurur Rahman, a student of Statistics Department said, "we shall be highly glad to see the certificate giving ceremony every year. "It is my dream to take my certificate from the President at a colourful ceremony," he added.

Talking to The Bangladesh Observer, leaders of different student organisations also expressed their eagerness to see the convocations held. Some of the organisations, earlier demanded the authorities to hold convocations immediately.

Rajshahi University held its 7th convocation on November 29 this year. Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and Jahangir Nagar University also held convocations in the recent years.