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Dhaka Varsity convocation bid foils

By Korban Ali Joarder

An attempt to hold the much awaited convocation of the Dhaka University was nipped in the bud in the face of opposition by a section of teachers due to their "group differences."

The grand ceremony, 40th of its kind in Dhaka University, was scheduled to be held in the first week of February.

The Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Maniruzzaman Miah took the initiative about a month ago and preparations were afoot to hold the "most gorgeous ever academic custom" of the highest seat of learning.

It has been long since, the convocation could not be held as the Chancellor of Universities who is also Head of the State could not enter the campus for their questionable characters.

The last regular convocation was held in 1970 during the tenure of the Vice-Chancellor Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury. Later, an especial convocation was held during the tenure of Prof. Dr. Abdul Matin Chowdhury in 1973 when some national personalities including National Poet Kazi

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Nazrul Islam were awarded honorary degree from Dhaka University.

Prof. Dr. Abdul Matin Chowdhury again took an initiative to hold a convocation sometimes in 1975. The then Head of the State and Chancellor of University Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was scheduled to come to the university ground to attend the occasion. But the political change on August 15, 1975 caused cancellation of the programme.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. M Maniruzzaman Miah took the initiative himself considering the present political situation of the country. He decided to hold the much talked about convocation during the regime of the Interim government of Justice Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed. He also started the preparation accordingly to hold the grand occasion in the first week of coming February.

The Vice-Chancellor also convened a meeting of the Academic Council to take formal decision in this regard. But the meeting failed to take any decision due to opposition of a section of teachers on the plea that they (the teachers) would remain busy for the ensuing elections. The said teachers are known to be different in the teachers politics and opposition to the present Vice-Chancellor's administration.

The decision of the Academic Council caused resentment among a good number of Dhaka University graduates who have been intending to receive their certificates from the Chancellor on the grand occasion.

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