

তারিখ .. DEC. 19 1999
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36 get honorary doctorate from DU in 78 years

Dhaka University, popularly known as the 'Oxford of the East', has conferred honorary doctorate on 36 scholars in past 78 years to date, reports UNB.

The university, set up in 1921, held its 40th general convocation ceremony on Saturday, first after the independence in 1971, to hand out the latest 'honoris causa' to two celebrities—Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Nobel laureate Prof. Amartya Sen.

Only three special convocations were held in last 30 years, at the last one in March 1970.

The scholars who were conferred honorary doctorate in the past 78 years are: first Chancellor of Dhaka university Rt. Hon'ble the Earl of Ronaldshay J.C.I. (1922-Doctor of Laws), Philip Joseph Hartog, University's first Vice Chancellor (1925-Doctor of Laws), ex-chancellor of the university the Rt. Hon'ble Earl of Lytton (1927-Doctor of Laws), first head of the Department of Sanskrit-Bengali Mahamahopadhyaya Haraprosad Shastri (1927-Doctor of Literature), ex-chancellor of the university the Rt. Hon'ble Sir Francis Stanely Jackson (1932-Doctor of Laws), eminent scientist and Nobel Prize winner Sir Chandrasekhar Venkot Raman D.Sc. L. D. (1932-Doctor of Science).

Eight scholars were conferred honorary doctorate in 1936 are: Sir John Anderson (Doctor of Laws), Sir Abdur Rahim (Doctor of Laws), Sir Jagadish Chandra Basu (Doctor of Science), Sir Prafullah Chandra Roy (Doctor of Science), eminent historian Sir Jadunath Sarker (Doctor of Literature), Poet-philosopher Sir Mohammad Iqbal (Doctor of Literature), Rabindranath Tagore (Doctor of Literature), Sarat Chandra Chattapadhyaya (Doctor of Literature).

Ex-Vice Chancellor Sir AF Rahman and First Bengali Vice Chancellor of Pune University were conferred honorary doctorate in 1937 (Doctor of Laws), former Governor General of Pakistan Khwaja Nazimuddin in 1949 (Doctor of Laws), Aga Sultan Sir Mohammad Shah Aga Khan in 1951 (Doctor of Laws), Dr Abdul Wahab Azam in 1952 (Doctor of Laws), Major General Eskandar Mirza, AK Fazlul Huq and Madame Sung Ching Ling in 1956 (Doctor of Laws).

Field-Marshall Mohammad Ayub Khan of Pakistan and Jamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt in 1960 got Doctor of Laws while Chinese Premier Chou En Lai Doctor of Laws in 1965.

Eight scholars conferred honorary doctorate degree in 1974 are: Prof. Satyendra Nath Bose (Doctor of Science, Posthumous), Dr Muhammad Shahidullah (Doctor of Literature, posthumous), National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam (Doctor of Literature), Ustad Ali Akber Khan (Doctor of Science), Dr Hirendra Lal Dey (Doctor of Science), Dr Mohammad Qudrat-i-Khuda (Doctor of Science), Dr Qazi Mutahar Hossain (Doctor of Science), Prof Abul Fazl (Doctor of Literature).

Nobel-laureate Physicist Prof Abdus Salam was conferred honorary doctorate degree in 1993 (Doctor of Science). Last UNESCO Director General Dr Federico Mayor was honoured with Doctor of Science in 1997.

"Regular convocation never could be held in the past after the birth of the university," a DU official said.

A general convocation was scheduled for August 15, 1975, but the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the dawn of the day jeopardized it.