

DU convocation evokes mixed reaction

The 40th convocation of Dhaka University, the first after independence, evoked a mixed reaction among the teachers and students, reports UNB.

While some were critical of the presence of heavy contingent of police and pro-Awami League men on the campus during Saturday's mega event as "watchdog", others were happy to learn that the university would now hold regular convocation.

"It didn't look like a university programme. It degraded the image of my Alma Mater. It is disgraceful for us that such a grand programme is confined to some people," said an former student of International Relations Department of the University.

She said police and Chhatra League activists occupied the campus the whole day and the convocation ground was fully captured by them.

On the other hand, some Chhatra League activists were dissatisfied as they could not attend the programme. They said they were in and around the Arts Building as they were "on duty as watchdog".

Shilpi, an MFA student of the Institute of Fine Arts, said the convocation was meant for the affluent. "Don't you think Tk 1,000 is too high as registration fee?"

"I was not curious to read the details of the function in the newspapers. Rather, I was interested in the speech of Amartya Sen and of the Chancellor," said M Mazharul Huq, a third year student of Accounting Department.

He said the ceremony should have been open for all the students of the University.

Many students who attended the ceremony were delighted to know that the convocation would now be an annual event.

One of the PhD degree holders alleged that she was not happy with the management of the convocation ceremony. "We could not watch all the programmes due to poor arrangements," she said.

Many students alleged that they did not get any souvenir despite repeated requests.

Abu Hena Muhammad Quamrul Hasan, a third year student of the Arts Faculty, observed that the programme was not as attractive as expected.

He felt that there was neither any need for calling a hartal on the day nor any necessity of making the campus a "restrictive zone" for many.

"I think the speech of Nobel laureate Amartya Sen indicated that we are politically impatient," said a teacher belonging to the "White" panel. He remarked that the speech of Sen should be the guidelines for our political leaders.

"Sen spoke of creative and constructive disagreement," he said. Amartya was the only attraction in the programme and our politicians will never follow his prescription as "they believe in destructive disagreement."