

DU convocation tomorrow

BCL, JCD to boycott

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) units of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wings of Awami League and BNP, will boycott the 44th convocation of the university tomorrow.

Talking to The Daily Star, leaders of the organisations said they have decided to keep off the event to protest President Iajuddin Ahmed's presence.

DU convocation

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They criticised the president, also chancellor of the DU, for having made no attempt at securing release of the teachers and students who were detained in connection with last August's campus violence and eventually freed.

Iajuddin is scheduled to preside over the convocation where language movement veterans Abdul Matin and Gaziul Haque will receive honorary doctorate.

Abdul Matin will also deliver the convocation speech.

Chhatra League yesterday hoisted black flags atop Aparajeyo Bangla in protest at the president's visit tomorrow.

BCL DU unit President Sohel Rana Tipu told The Daily Star, "We respect the two language movement heroes and we are pleased, honorary degrees are being conferred on them, but we cannot attend a function to be chaired by Iajuddin."

He however declined to elaborate on how they would register their protest.

About the president, the BCL leader said, "This person is responsible for plunging the nation into a political crisis. He did nothing for the teachers and students who had been put behind bars. Some of them are still suffering police harassment. How can we welcome a person like him?"

JCD DU unit General Secretary Saiful Islam Feroz said, "We have great regard for the language movement veterans. But considering the present government's attitude towards the DU and Iajuddin's role, we will stay away from the convocation."

Meanwhile, the university authorities have completed preparations to ensure a successful conduct of the graduation ceremony.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz yesterday said the students are looking forward to the convocation. He said the DU community is proud that they have the opportunity to honour two of the nation's great souls.

At the function, 3,885 students-- 1,843 males and 2,042 females-- will receive graduation certificates. Besides, 24 will receive M Phil and 29 PhD degrees. Gold medals will be awarded to 67 for outstanding results in different disciplines.

Last year's convocation was held on February 28 when Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus received honorary Doctorate of Law from the university.