

DU convocation today amid boycott plans of JCD, BCL

DU Correspondent

The 44th convocation ceremony of Dhaka University (DU) will be held today (Monday) at DU central playground with conferring honorary 'Doctor of Laws' degree to two-language veterans Gaziul Haque and Abdul Matin.

The convocation ceremony is the reflection of the academic activities of the university, said DU Vice-Chancellor, prof. SMA Faiz.

"We are optimistic about holding the convocation ceremony every year," he said while speaking at an exchange of views meeting with newsmen at his office on Saturday.

President Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed, who is also the Chancellor of the university, is expected to attend the ceremony as the Chief

Guest. Language veteran Abdul Matin will be the convocation speaker.

This year, a total of 3,895 students, including 1,843 males and 2052 females, have been registered to take part at the ceremony. Besides, 41 MPhil and 30 Ph.D holders will also receive their degrees. A total of 67 gold medals will be handed over to 52 students for their outstanding academic performance.

A total of Tk.62 lakh has been allocated for completing the convocation. Different private individuals and organisations would sponsor gift items at the ceremony.

UNB reports adds: The 44th convocation of Dhaka University will be held today (Monday) amid

boycott plans, by the country's major student organizations including Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JSD).

Gold medals will be awarded to 67 students from various disciplines. Student bodies said that they would boycott the convocation protesting the controversial role of the university Chancellor President Dr Iajuddin Ahmed when the university teachers and students were kept in jail as they protested security personnel's attack on students on August 20 last year.

They said that despite being the university's chief patron, Prof Iajuddin did not take any initiative to free the arrested teachers and

(See Page 11 Col. 4)

DU convocation

(From Page 1 Col. 8)

students who had been detained for four months following campus unrest on August 20-22.

The President is scheduled to preside over the convocation where language movement veterans Abdul Matin and Gaziul Haque will receive honorary doctorate degrees. Abdul Matin will also deliver the convocation speech. Chhatra League kept black flags hoisted for the last two days atop Aparajeyo Bangla and brought out a procession on Sunday protesting the presence of President Iajuddin at the convocation.

BCL DU unit general secretary Sajjad Sakib Badshah told UNB that innocent professors and students had been kept in jail and tortured "cruelly". "But the President remained silent and did nothing for their release."

However, Badshah welcomed the decision to honour language movement veterans Abdul Matin and Gaziul Haque at the convocation. JCD DU unit general secretary Saiful Islam Feroz said, they salute the language movement veterans, but will refrain from participating in the convocation because of the army-backed caretaker government and the President's behavior with the teachers and students.