

## DU holds 46th convocation tomorrow

### *Pascal Lamy burnt in effigy on campus*

**DU Correspondent**

THE University of Dhaka is holding its 46th convocation on Saturday conferring bachelor's and master's degrees and PhD on 16,826 graduates.

The president, Zillur Rahman, also the university's chancellor, is expected to inaugurate its convocation in the university's playground in the morning.

The authorities said that they were going to confer degrees on the largest number of graduates in the university's history of 90 years this time. The number of guests attending the programme is also the highest ever.

A total of 8,640 male and 8,186 female graduates will receive their degrees in the ceremony. Fifty-eight students and researchers will receive 62 gold medals.

The World Trade Organisation secretary general, Pascal Lamy, who is the convocation speaker, will be conferred a honorary doctor of law degree for his contribution to ensuring non-tariff access of Bangladeshi goods to European Union countries.

The vice-chancellor, AAMS Arefin Siddique, at a press conference at his office on Thursday disclosed the information.

'Security has been heightened, especially in the wake of Wednesday's incident where during the distribution of gowns, caps and souvenirs, graduates jumped the queues and snatched away the gift bags,' he said.

He said that the incident would not have taken place if the students had been a bit more patient.

'The incident is unfortunate. And we have tightened security to head off any further trouble,' he said.

He also said,

'The proctorial body will work along with law enforcers to fend off any untoward incidents,' he said.

A dress rehearsal of the programme will be held in the Curzon Hall at 9:30am today.

The budget of the programme is about Tk 2 crore. He said.

The first convocation in the university was on February 22, 1923. The first convocation after the independence war in 1971 was held on December 18, 1999.

Five other convocations have since then been held — in 2001, 2004, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Leaders of left-leaning student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, meanwhile, went on demonstrations on the campus and burnt Pascal Lamy in effigy.

The organisation brought out a procession from Madhu's Canteen and held a rally near the central library where the leaders said that it was shameful for the university to invite the chief of the World Trade Organisation as it acted for commercialisation of health care, education, agricultural commodities.

They urged other students to lodge their protest against the convocation speech Lamy would deliver tomorrow.

The Chhatra Federation's central president Ariful Islam presided over the rally. The president of the organisation's Dhaka city unit, Habibur Rahman, president of the university unit Afzalur Rahman and the general secretary Samia Rahman, and former president of the university unit Saikat Mallik also spoke.

They later burnt Lamy in effigy in front of the central library.