

8th RU convocation held amid protest

SM Atik and Nazim Mridha Rajshahi

THE 8th convocation of Rajshahi University was held on Sunday amid protests by a group of teachers.

Highlights of the daylong convocation were academic procession, discussion, awarding degrees and a cultural show.

In the absence of president and chancellor Zillur Rahman, his representative, education minister Nurul Islam Nahid chaired the convocation assembly at the university stadium.

The university awarded masters and other post-graduate degrees to 6,998 students, doctor of philosophy to 19 and four were conferred M Phil.

The recipients were from all RU departments and institutes and the affiliated colleges.

According to eyewitness account the convocation procession led by the education minister and the vice-chancellor M Abdus Sobhan set out from Parish Road and paraded through the cam-

pus before assembling at the university stadium, the venue of convocation.

Convocation speaker, Dhaka University professor emeritus Anisuzzaman described students involved in campus violence as 'criminals.'

'Violence is not politics. This is crime,' he said.

Although our political leaders create campus violence using students to derive political benefits I would identify it as crime, not as politics,' he said.

Anisuzzaman put particular emphasis on learning Bangla and English as a second language.

He called it a matter of deep regret that many students in this country are unable to speak in English fluently using the standard language even after obtaining their masters degree.

'Learning a foreign language opens up a whole new dimension. It has a positive effect on intellectual growth and it enriches and enhances mental development,' he added.

The education minister, who chaired the ceremony,

said that the main objective of education was to create responsible citizens and to inspire them to invest their knowledge in the development of the country.

'I hope all our graduates would be successful in achieving this goal,' he added.

Among others, vice-chancellor M Abdus Sobhan, pro-vice-chancellor M Nurullah also addressed the convocation gathering.

Well known artists took part in the cultural show.

A large number of teachers who boycotted accused the authorities, led by the vice-chancellor of 'politicizing' the convocation.

They accused the VC of involving only the teachers belonging to the ruling Awami League orientation in the committee and various sub-committees for organizing the convocation.

When asked, the vice-chancellor told New Age that the convocation had been held successfully though a section of the teachers did not take part in it, possibly out of their political stance.