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Yunus speaks as receiver of degree DU convocation held amid tight security

DU Correspondent

Amid tight security, the 43rd convocation ceremony of Dhaka University (DU) was held on Wednesday conferring honorary "Doctor of Laws" degree on Nobel Laureate Prof. Dr. Muhammed Yunus. No untoward incidents occurred as it was apprehended over, making the Nobel Laureate the convocation speaker.

The Nobel Laureate gave his

speech as the receiver of the honorary law degree instead of addressing as the convocation speaker. DU Vice-chancellor Prof. SMA Faiz conferred the degree.

The preparation to the convocation was started by bringing out procession around the dais area by the participating students and visitors and reciting from Holy Quran at 10:30 am.

Amid the tight security measures largely cordoned by police and armed forces in and around the dais, President Prof. Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed readout a written speech as the president of the event.

He urged the political parties and others concerned to review the existing pattern of student (See Page 15 Col. 2)

DU convocation

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politics considering its adverse impacts, like session jams, that cause losses of money and time.

The President who is also the Chancellor of the university said that it is the time to take actions against the harmful elements in student politics.

Around 8,000 students were conferred Bachelor of Honors and Master degree, MPhil and Phd at the convocation. The convocation was specially featured by the awarding of the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. SMA Faiz and Pro-Vice-chancellor Prof. A F M Yusuf Haider also delivered speeches. The DU VC conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Law on Nobel Laureate Muhammed Yunus.

Speaking on the occasion President Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed urged the politicians to sincerely come up to build up a knowledge-based society by taking steps against the harmful sides of student politics. He said: "It's time to take steps against the harmful sides of student politics. This is important to build up a knowledge-based society. And to make that happen, the sincerity and sympathy of our political parties are needed. I would like to draw attention of the national politicians in this regard," he said.

Voicing deep concern over session jams, mainly in the country's public universities, the President said: "Politics is not isolated from society, and the universities and other educational institutions are also part of the society, but it is necessary to deeply think about at what level of the education sector the politics will remain."

"Despite differences of opinion and ideology among you (the politicians), you have no lack in patriotism and concern for human welfare. Working for the welfare of the country's people is your aim. So, I request you to think about it (harmful sides of student politics) from the same point of view," Prof Iajuddin said.

He stressed the need for formulating rules with caution involving teachers, students, employees and guardians for the development of the country's education.

"Though code of conduct, like the other institutions, is not needed for the universities, some cautionary measures should be taken so that people are not deprived of. Such code of conduct should be formulated through democratic process involving teachers, students, employees and the guardians," Dr Iajuddin told the function.

He said the government must ensure the proper utilisation of money in universities as the big part of it comes from the people.

About the role of guardians in formulating rules, the President said judgement about a writer is never complete without the read-

ers, and the teachers, though they teach, can not be the lone judges of education.

"If the teachers and employees claim that they are the only authorities to determine what is right and what is wrong, then the neutrality will be lost. Such attitude is bad for every institution. The welfare of the society lies in showing respect to the opinion of majority about the values of teachers and education," he said.

Prof Iajuddin laid emphasis on learning English as the international language for effective communication both at home and abroad.

"I personally want mother language at the university level for effective communication with the mass people. Those who have devoted themselves to higher education will have to learn English so that they can express themselves both at home and in an international environment," he said.

The President congratulated those who received Phd and M Phil degrees, gold medallists and the graduates, and urged them to remain active throughout the life to maintain the quality of education in the country.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof. S M A Faiz said the graduate students will have to work for the nation to develop the country.