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Yunus awardee speaker in DU conyocation Some teachers, student bodies including BCL, JCD to boycott

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The much talked about 43rd convocation of Dhaka University will be held on Wednesday (tomorrow) with Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus as an awardee speaker instead of convocation speaker.

In the face of strong resistance from general and 14 student organisations, the DU authorities have changed the decision to make Yunus the convocation speaker. Yunus will give the address as the receiver of Doctor of

Laws award.

In the backdrop of violent resistance from all the student organisations and opposition from a section of teachers of the university, the proposed convocation

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DU convocation

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speaker Muhammed Yunus told the media that he would attend the convocation as Nobel Laureate not as politician.

Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. S M A Faiz told newsmen that the convocation would be held on time and Dr Muhammed Yunus would attend the convocation but he did not give consent to be the convocation speaker. The DU VC disclosed that the authorities would confer him the degree of "Doctor of Laws".

We received a letter from Yunus saying he would receive the Doctor of Laws degree at the convocation but he did not give his consent to attend the function as the convocation speaker. He said that he himself, Chancellor of the university Prof. Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed and Nobel Laureate Prof. Muhammad Yunus would attend the convocation but no one as the convocation speaker, VC said.

The resisting mood of the student organisations and the general students continued till Monday on the campus despite chasing out the students from the campus. Police arrested four students of Bangladesh Chhatra Mukti a student wing of Hijbut Tahrir while they were distributing leaflets among the students opposing Dr. Muhammad Yunus as the main speaker of the convocation.

According to sources, the arrested students were identified as A H M Shamsuddoha, resident of

Jashimuddin Hall, Yasin Arafat, of Surjoshen Hall, Zobaer Ahmed and Belal Hossain.

Leaders of Chhatra Shangram Parishad (CSP)- led by BCL in a joint statement condemned the hide and seek game of DU VC whether Yunus would be the convocation speaker or not. They said that Vice-chancellor has lost his moral right to continue in the position of VC. He should resign from his position as he has betrayed with teachers and students by hiding the information.

BCL DU unit President Sohel Rana Tipu, General Secretary Sazad Sakib Badsha in a statement demanded resignation of VC.

Earlier, a section of teachers and all student organisations of the university including BCL, JCD decided to boycott the DU convocation protesting against the authorities' decision.

A group of students announced the decision to observe February 28 as Black Day if Yunus is invited to the convocation.

At a meeting of Deans committee held on Monday, General Secretary of DUTA Prof. Anwar Hossain walked out of the meeting. He said that It is a kind of betrayals.

Former President of DUTA Prof. A A M S Arefin Siddique said that they were become surprised by the decision of VC. "The Doctor of Laws degree can be conferred on Dr. Muhammad Yunus but he can not be the convocation speaker as he lost his neutral position by forming a political party," he said.