

Two decades on, Jagannath University holds only one convocation

Nearly 20,000 JnU grads still await long-overdue convocation

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For thousands of graduates of Jagannath University (JnU), wearing the traditional gown and cap to receive their certificates through a formal convocation remains an unfulfilled dream. Although the university has completed two decades since its establishment, it has organised only one convocation so far, leaving nearly 20,000 former and current students waiting for the long-overdue ceremony.

According to university sources, since its establishment in 2005, the university could not arrange convocations regularly due to accommodation and space constraints. The first convocation was held in 2019, where 18,317 students from 36 departments participated. However, even after six years, no visible effective initiative has been taken by the administration to organise the second convocation.



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Sources further said that if the next convocation is arranged, students who completed their undergraduate studies from the 2012-13 academic session to at least the 2018-19 session would be eligible to participate. MPhil and PhD researchers are also expected to be included. As a result, the number of potential participants may reach around 20,000.

Due to the absence of a convocation, graduates have not been able to receive their certificates officially through the formal ceremony, leading to frustration among many former students.

Md Rabiul Shaik, an alumnus of the management studies department from the 2015-16 session, told The Daily Star, “Receiving the degree certificate through convocation is a dream for every student. Unfortunately, we are being deprived of that experience. Even though I have already entered professional life, I still hold onto that dream. I hope the current administration will arrange the convocation soon and officially bid us farewell.”

Md Ibrahim Azad, a student of the mass communication and journalism department from the 2016-17 session, said, “Students of Jagannath University face deprivation in many sectors. Private universities arrange convocations every year, even other public universities arrange convocation on a regular basis but Jagannath University has held only one since its establishment. Due to the lack of sincere initiative from the previous administration, we are still waiting for a convocation.”

Vice-Chancellor Prof Rais Uddin said convocation is a highly prestigious event for students of any university.

“After the first convocation, no further ceremony has been held, which remains an important issue for students,” he said.

He added that although there are mixed reactions regarding the arrangement of the second convocation, the formation of the new government has created an opportunity to move the matter forward.

“The issue will be discussed in the upcoming Academic Council meeting, where a roadmap will be prepared and placed as an agenda item. Later, we will plan to communicate with the chancellor and proceed with the arrangements for the convocation,” he added.