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The DU Convocation

Sir, On the 18th of December 1999, the convocation of Dhaka University was held. As it was the first convocation of the University in the independent Bangladesh everyone thought that it would be a colourful and disciplined convocation. But in reality it turned out to be the most controversial one in the history of DU.

My congratulations to Professor A. K. Azad Chowdhury, the Vice-Chancellor of the DU, for holding such type of convocation. I would also like to ask him, was it necessary to confer Doctorate degree on PM Sheikh Hasina on that day? When the law and order of the country is deteriorating day by day, there is no security to life and property, the women and children are being assaulted and humiliated both inside and outside the JS, at that moment Sheikh Hasina was conferred with Doctorate degree of law (I). What a cruel joke! Professor Chowdhury, if for security reasons a segment of students were not allowed in the convocation, then what was the fault of the guardians whose sons and daughters got the certificates? Did you think that the guardians of those students would come in the campus with bombs and arms and ammunition? The guardians were not allowed but the activists of the Awami League were allowed to attend it. The members of the law enforcing agencies' out-

numbered the students. The university area looked like a fort surrounded by security forces personal numbering about 6000. Why a special convocation could not be arranged to confer honorary Doctorate degree on Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen?

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