



PHOTO: AL
Awami League President Sheikh Hasina visits the victims of Monday's devastating fire at Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) Bhaban at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

DU holds 43rd convocation today

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DU authorities will award 84 gold medals to 61 students for their outstanding academic performances at the convocation.

President Tajuddin Ahmed, also the DU chancellor, will preside over the programme and hand over certificates.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, advisers, secretaries, diplomats and representatives of foreign missions in Bangladesh, senate and syndicate members and other important personalities are expected to join the ceremony.

However, in an exceptional move, no political or student leaders have been invited this year.

Vice-chancellor (VC) Prof SMA Faiz told reporters that preparations for the convocation were almost done. According to him, the programme would house about 10,000 people.

A colourful rally from the Curzon Hall will mark the beginning of the convocation, the fourth since independence. DU authorities have asked the students and others to be present at the venue by 9:15am.

There will be separate entrances for the graduates and

guests, who will not be allowed to carry cameras, cell phones or handbags.

The authorities yesterday held a rehearsal of the graduates and gold medalists on how to receive certificates and medals.

No classes and examinations will be held at the university today on account of a general holiday due to the convocation.

DU Proctor AKA Firoz Ahmed said security personnel from Special Security Forces, Police's Special Branch, National Security Intelligence and Rapid Action Battalion have already been deployed in and around the venue to ensure security.

BOYCOTT

Meanwhile, pro-AL and progressive teachers yesterday reiterated their boycott decision as, according to them, the authorities have 'ignored' their demand that the president and chancellor of the university must not chair the programme.

Blue Panel teachers at a press conference demanded a fresh schedule for the convocation.

According to them, 18 senate members, three syndicate members and deans of the social sci-

ence and biological science faculties will not attend the convocation.

According to sources, they took the decision also for the authorities' controversial and mysterious position on Prof Yunus as convocation speaker.

Regarding the boycott, the VC said, "We decided not to make Prof Yunus the convocation speaker as demanded by a section of teachers...but now they came up with a new issue that was not on their agenda."

He said, "As a VC, I am more concerned about the participating graduates, who have been waiting for days, rather than the boycott."

Meanwhile, different student organisations and a section of general students yesterday protested against the DU authorities' decision to confer Doctor of Laws degree upon Nobel laureate Prof Yunus.

They described him as a controversial person and a broker for western imperialism and also urged Prof Yunus not to join the convocation.

Chhatra Sangram Parishad, an alliance of 14-party-backed student

New blood bank opens in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
Khulna Shishu Hospital (KSH) has opened a blood bank equipped with modern amenities.

City Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman will formally inaugurate the blood bank tomorrow.

The blood bank is committed to providing round-the-clock services to patients, said Honorary General Secretary of KSH Sekandar Zafarullah Khan Shacchu. Blood donors can be members of the blood bank if they so desire for their donation of blood, Shacchu added.

There is a plan to establish a computerised database in the hospital keeping in view importance of the blood bank, which is first of its kind in giving round-the-clock service.



Dr Shahin Akhter prescribes medicines for a child at a free Friday clinic conducted by Shishu Kalyan Kendra at Jadurhat High School in Nilphamari recently.

Free Friday clinic in Nilphamari

A CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Shishu Kalyan Kendra, a non-government organisation of Nilphamari, organised a free Friday clinic on the premises of Jadurhat High School at Sadar thana.

The camp provided medicine and treatment to five hundred children of the locality.

Child specialist of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Dr Shahin Akhter, also wife of former lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor, has been organising this free Friday clinic bimonthly for the last five years for the underprivileged children through the organisation.

Dr Arup Ratan Paul, Dr Shakhatul Alam and Dr Shyamol Roy were also present.