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## President's call to political parties

# Stop using students in power games

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on Friday urged the political parties to stop using the students in power games and allow them to pursue knowledge in a congenial atmosphere, reports UNB.

Addressing the first convocation ceremony of Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) at Osmany Memorial Hall in the morning, the President expressed great concern at the continued violence on the campuses.

"Pursuit of knowledge is possible only in a quiet and peaceful atmosphere free from any disturbance," he said.

President Shahabuddin said the

main attraction to private universities was that until now their campuses have remained free from violence and terrorism.

"But what about public universities and other educational institutions in the country? Hardly any day passes without some disturbance in this or that university or college."

He said those disturbances often degenerate into armed clashes and gun-battles. "These dreadful things are known to our political parties which engage the students as their partners of day to day political activities and in power games."

The President said, "For God's sake, stop these abominable things

and allow the students to pursue knowledge in a congenial atmosphere, failing which we may one day cease to exist as a civilised people."

The convocation ceremony was also addressed, among others, by eminent educationist National Professor M. Innas Ali, IUB President Dr. A. Majeed Khan, its Rector Prof Bazlul M. Chowdhury and Treasurer Abdul Hafiz Chowdhury.

President Shahabuddin, also Chancellor of the University, conferred the Bachelor degrees among some 29 students who have successfully completed their course in Business Administration, Communication, Environmental Science and Management faculties.

The President lamented that well-established public universities were missing their convocations due to polluted academic environment prevailing in the country for nearly three decades.

He said the degrees awarded by the public universities are hardly recognized abroad as the standard of education in the country has deteriorated so much due to prevailing violence and terrorism in the campuses.

Referring to a provision in the Private Universities Act for education free of cost in case of poor meritorious students, President Shahabuddin felt that the facility should be raised to 10 per cent from the existing 5 per cent of students admitted.



President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed speaking at the first convocation ceremony of Independent University of Bangladesh at Osmani Memorial auditorium in Dhaka on Friday.

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