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Bring back congenial atmosphere in educational institutions: President

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on Saturday reiterated his call to the country's political leaders to come forward to bring back congenial academic atmosphere in the educational institutions and save the country from falling into a disaster, reports BSS.

"Otherwise, we will be branded before the whole world as a neglected, unwanted and very low-grade nation", the President said while inaugurating the 25th Annual General Meeting of the National Council of Bangladesh Scouts at the National Scout Bhaban premises.

Justice Shahabuddin regretted that the children were unable to groom up themselves as worthy citizens owing to lack of congenial academic atmosphere.

He said the main objective of scouting was to arouse a sense of discipline in the minds of the youth. But utmost indiscipline and chaos, the President said, were now prevailing in all institutions, including the educational arenas.

The President said the hopes and expectations of the people would be dashed to the grounds if the undesirable atmosphere continues to prevail in the educational institutions.

Referring to his repeated warnings to the political leaders against this significant national issue and the alarming future of the country, Justice Shahabuddin regretted that the political leaders could not yet be seen to play an active role in bringing back congenial academic atmosphere.

Describing learning and character-building as the main aims of education, the President said the students about unfair means in the examinations because proper education is not imparted in the schools and colleges. In this regard, he referred to the demand of some students to allow them to adopt unfair means as their rights, the stabbing of the invigilators in the examination centres and gheraoing the principals and headmasters.

Justice Shahabuddin said terrorist activities of the armed cadres in disguise of students have become quite a normal event in the educational arena. These armed youths under the banners of different student fronts of the political parties

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Congenial atmosphere

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have turned the campuses into war fields through their terrorist activities. The undesirable situation, he said, has also reached the Madrasas.

He also said the armed youths have chosen the occupation of hails, collections of tolls and realisation of commissions in the construction work as their best occupation. "Law cannot catch hold of them, they are above law", he added.

The President said the scouts motto of following a disciplined life, fearing and character-building in the backdrop of unfavourable academic atmosphere in the educational arena does create hope among us about our future.

He also described as encouraging the plan to raise the number of scouts to 10 lakh by the year 2002.

The President underscored the need for making scouting acceptable to the people of all spheres and improving the standard of scouting. He wished successful implementation of the epoch-making programmes for expanding scouting in the country's educational institutions.

The President urged the policy makers of today's annual council to adopt such programmes which would enable the youth community to build good moral character and acquire knowledge as well as meet the technological challenges of the twenty-first century.

The function was addressed also by Chief National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts Manzoor Ul Karim and President of Bangladesh Scouts M. Mahbubuzzaman.

The President distributed 'Silver

Tiger', the highest national award of Bangladesh Scouts, to Sheikh Hashmat Ali and M Faizur Rahman Chowdhury and 'Silver Hilsa', the second highest award, to Dr Sultana S Zaman, M Rafiqul Islam Khan, Mohammad Ayub, M Abdul Motaleb, Nirmal Kanti Mitra, Sayedur Rahman and Mir Mujibul Haque.

The day-long council had a detailed discussion on the promotion and expansion of scouting throughout the country.

Officials said, there are now more than seven lakh eightyfour thousand scouts and scouters all over the country.