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## BRAC UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

# President urges role for universities in maintaining communal harmony

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PRESIDENT Abdul Hamid on Thursday urged the country's universities to play a pivotal role in inspiring the young generation to maintain the tradition of communal harmony in the country.

'The people of all religions perform their own religious rituals freely. We have to inform the students that there is no room for bigotry, fundamentalism, extremism and militancy in the country. The people of the country are peace-loving ones. We have to inspire the young generation to maintain the tradition of communal harmony in the country. I urge country's universities to play a pivotal role in this regard,' he said.

The president said this while addressing the 10th convocation of Brac University at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the capital.

A total of 959 students received degrees at the convocation while two students were given gold medals for their outstanding performance.

Observing that the uni-



President Abdul Hamid addresses at the convocation of BRAC University at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital on Thursday. —Focusbangla photo

versities have responsibility towards the common people of the country, Abdul Hamid, also the chancellor of the university, said that the responsibility is to ensure the standard of education upholding the spirit of the Liberation War, to expand the areas of research and to build students of international standard.

The government has expanded the opportunities to establish both private and public universities to expand the higher education, said the

President adding 'but in the recent times, criticism has been taking place about some private universities. We have to give highest importance and priority to the advanced standard of education.'

He went on saying 'We have to keep in mind that educational institutions can't turn into a profit-making business entity. And this is not expected by anyone. So we all, have to try to ensure that the universities can turn into the real center of

acquiring knowledge.'

He underscored the need for increasing facilities in the country's private universities for the students of poor families so that they can enroll there.

Vice-chancellor of Brac University Syed Saad Andaleeb and Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, chairman of the board of trustees of Brac University, also spoke at the convocation while Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman delivered the convocation speech.