

# Bangalee culture anti-radicalisation shield for youths

DU VC Prof Arefin tells IBA discussion on militancy's rise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Engaging the young generation in Bangalee culture can be an effective way to prevent them from becoming radicalised, said Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique at a discussion on the rise of militancy yesterday.

"English medium schools, madrasas and private universities should have a common curriculum designed to instil a secular Bangalee culture in students," he told the programme organised by the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) in its auditorium.

A handful of students of English medium schools, madrasas and private universities have turned into militants, but that does not mean that those institutions should be blamed indiscriminately, he stressed.

Chief of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism unit Monirul Islam said militants often try to recruit students of English medium schools and madrasas where the practice of Bangalee culture is the least.

He also pointed out that imams and religious clerics have a responsibility to refute misleading interpretations of Islam. Journalist leader Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul also spoke at the event, presided over by IBA Director AKM Saiful Majid.

Earlier, a Counter Terrorism officer, citing the Federal

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Truckers and their helpers block a city corporation's bulldozer during its drive to remove illegally parked trucks kept blocking almost half of the road under the Mayor Hanif Flyover, inset, opposite the capital's Sayedabad Bus Terminal. In a bid to improve the area's traffic mobility, Dhaka South City Corporation's Mayor Sayeed Khokon gave the owners a month's time to relocate, which expired yesterday.

PHOTOS: STAR, FILE PHOTO



# Govt launches call centre for expatriates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday launched a call centre for expatriate Bangladeshis so that they could easily lodge complaints through it, which will be forwarded to the authorities concerned for taking necessary steps.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam inaugurated the centre, Probashi Bandhu, at the capital's Probashi Kalyan Bhaban.

Initially, the call centre will cater to the needs of Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and Jordan.

Through it, the migrant workers can discuss issues related to passport renewals, legal support, compensation and financial assistance and sending back dead bodies.

"If it turns out successful, gradually the service will be provided to the expatriates living in other countries," the minister said.

The expatriates will be

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# PVT ARMED ESCORTS FOR DIPLOMATS Govt's no generates mixed reactions

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government decision turning down foreign diplomats' request for using armed Bangladeshi private security personnel has evoked mixed reactions among several missions of Western and Asian countries as they think the threat from terrorism was still high.

A number of missions, including that of the US, Japan, India and Spain, expressed interest on exploring the option for diplomats, their families and mission officials following killings of bloggers, minorities and foreigners in past several months.

The US, Japan and Italy made the request formally following the murder of their citizens

and a locally hired staff, Xulhaz Mannan.

The demand became stronger following the July 1 attack on Holey Artisan Bakery when 22 people were killed, including 17 foreigners.

Diplomatic sources said the missions sought it as a secondary protective measure as Bangladesh Police provide outstanding and professional service to safeguard diplomats and their facilities.

Most missions and thousands of other establishments in Dhaka employ personnel of Bangladeshi security companies who are unarmed, in line with Bangladeshi laws.

The government too categorically

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# 'Rise High Bangladesh' reaches Brac University

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The export idea contest "Rise High Bangladesh" yesterday reached the capital's Brac University campus on the 12th day of its ongoing campaigning schedule.

A huge number of students participated in the daylong event starting at 10:00am beside the university cafeteria.

The programme venue was decorated with different banners and posters containing details of the contest.

The puzzle solving contest attracted a large crowd of students who were required to pick a clue card with information on a country, and had to guess the country. Successful participants were given prizes.

Despite their regular classes and examinations, a great number of students were seen approaching the venue with much enthusiasm, where the event's volunteers explained to them the objectives, incentives and rules of participation.

A participant, Nayan Ahmed, of economics department, said "I liked this contest and I may come up with ideas of RMG products."

Celebrated cricketer

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# 'Village rationing' for poor people soon

PM tells inauguration of BGB-run Shimanto Bank, urges guardians to stay alert against militancy

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government is going to launch "village rationing" soon for the extreme poor and people with disabilities.

"We're going to introduce village rationing very soon... those who have ration cards will be able to buy rice at Tk 10 per kilo... we're creating such a scope for their welfare," she said.

Sheikh Hasina said this while inaugurating "Shimanto Bank", to be run by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), at a programme

in Fazlur Rahman Khondoker Auditorium at BGB headquarters in the capital.

The prime minister also said the government has ensured food security for the people. "We're continuing free food distribution among the ultra poor, people with disabilities and elderly people," she said.

Hasina asked the BGB members to devote themselves more towards protecting the country's interests and its development. She said the inauguration of the bank is a special "Eid-ul-Azha gift" for the BGB members.

"I hope this bank will bring more welfare

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# MONEY LAUNDERING HC verdict on Morshed Khan's exemption Nov 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed November 9 to deliver verdict on an Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) revision petition against the exemption of BNP leader and former foreign minister M Morshed Khan and his wife and son from a moneylaundering case.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice JBM Hassan earlier heard arguments on the petition.

The HC's June 5 order,

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Celebrated cricketer Tamim Iqbal with Brac University students at a campaign for export idea contest "Rise High Bangladesh" on the campus in Dhaka yesterday. The Daily Star in association with Crown Cement launched the campaign to encourage innovative export ideas of the country's youths.

PHOTO: STAR

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# LAUNCH OPERATION IN EID BIWTA chief urges stop to overloading

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday directed launch operators to refrain from overloading during Eid rush to ensure safety for holidaymakers.

"Overloading may play a key role in occurrence of accidents. So, you (launch owners) will have to remain alert..." said Bholanath Dey, acting chairman of BIWTA.

He was speaking at a preparatory meeting at Sadarghat launch terminal for ensuring hassle-free journeys, where government officials, law enforcers, launch owners and workers were present. He also stressed the need for keeping sufficient number of safety equipments on launches.

During Eid rush, many attempt to board on vessels at mid river through small boats, which causes accidents, he said, adding, necessary steps will be taken for its prevention. Mohammed Ibrahim Khan, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Lalbagh division), said adequate number of police will be deployed at the terminal and its adjacent areas to maintain law and order situation during the rush. "BIWTA officials should ensure that all the launches leave the terminal on time. Delay may cause more gatherings," he viewed.

Shahidul Islam Bhuiyan, a launch owner, demanded that the road from Gulistan to Sadarghat be freed from hawkers, so the passengers could reach the terminal smoothly.

Mahub Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikram, chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport (passenger carriers') Association, urged the launch owners for not operating any unfit vessels during the rush.

The capital's single river port Sadarghat launch terminal witnesses huge rush ahead of the Eid holidays, when around 10 lakh people leave the capital through waterways in the last seven days, according to BIWTA and transport officials.



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