

Engage youths in cultural practices to prevent terrorism

Speakers tell CTTC seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Engagement of youths in cultural practices can stop the rise of terrorism, so dance, music, theatre and arts need to be included as subsidiary subjects in schools and colleges, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

They also urged all to create a social and cultural movement against extremism.

The observations came up at a seminar titled "Role of cultural activists in preventing extremism" at a restaurant in the capital.

The event was organised by Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit.

Parents are not showing any interest in getting their children lessons on cultural activities like dancing or singing as there are no marks in examination for these, said former cultural affairs minister and renowned cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor, MP.

"I have said at meetings with the education ministry and raised the issue in front of the prime minister to include cultural subjects in the curriculum," said Noor.

He added that he would continue raising his voice to ensure culture practices of youths.

Noor suggested that CTTC form a combined cell with cultural activists to generate awareness among the masses against extremism.

Theatre, TV and film actor Shahiduzzaman Selim said cultural activists can contribute significantly to preventing extremism.

Selim further suggested airing a compulsory anti-militancy drama every month on television and two-three stage plays every year.

Pralay Kumar Jourder, CTTC unit deputy commissioner, said cultural activists can draw attention to major issues through their gripping performances.

In his concluding remarks, Monirul Islam, chief of CTTC unit, said they are working with people who got involved in terrorism. But it is an ideological issue and cannot be dealt with action alone, he said.

Monirul, also the acting commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, further said they need counselling and awareness to deal with militancy. Families can make the first response to prevent terrorism, he added.

Petition seeks HC

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The lawyer said the HC may hold a hearing on the petition next Sunday.

On June 23, at least four people were killed and more than 100 injured as a passenger train derailed on a bridge in Moulvibazar.

One of the carriages of Upaban Express, heading to Dhaka from Sylhet, fell into

a canal while two others fell close to the canal's banks. Several other carriages were also derailed.

The incident happened at Boromchal in Kulaura upazila.

The next day, Rail Secretary Mofazzal Hossain mentioned two possible causes -- faulty lines or misaligned wheels -- for the accident.

ACC issues show-cause

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news site Bangla Tribune, to testify as witnesses.

The letter served to Dipu warned about legal action against him if he fails to appear, which sparked protests among the journalist community.

Yesterday, a section of journalists formed a human chain in front of ACC's Segunbagicha headquarters, demanding withdrawal of the letter served to Dipu.

Talking to The Daily Star, ACC Public Relations Officer (PRO) Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya said there is no scope to withdraw the letter, as it was served following rules.

Asked whether any legal action will be taken against Dipu as he did not appear before the commission yesterday, he said, "No. If we deem it necessary, we may serve him a notice again. There is precedence of serving several letters to witnesses for testimony."

"ACC expects that everyone including journalists will cooperate with the ACC,

for quick completion of the inquiry," he added.

DIG Mizan made headlines in January last year, when he was accused of forcibly marrying and torturing a woman. He was soon withdrawn from his post at the Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The anti-graft watchdog began an inquiry over his illegal wealth in May last year.

However, the investigation took a new turn after Mizan brought allegations against ACC director Basir that he had taken Tk 40 lakh, assuring the DIG of exonerating him from the charges.

ATN News was the first to broadcast a report where Mizan brought the allegation against Basir.

Bangla Tribune published another news over the bribery incident on Sunday, a day before the filing of the case against DIG Mizan for amassing wealth illegally.

Meanwhile, DIG Mizan was suspended by the home ministry on Tuesday, following approval of the president.

DU ANNUAL BUDGET

1.58pc decrease in research funding

DU CORRESPONDENT

Although Dhaka University's budget increased by 9.35 percent in 2019-2020 fiscal year, the allocation in research sector is 1.58 percent less than last year.

The authorities yesterday announced its proposed annual budget of Tk 810.42 crore for this fiscal year. Budget for research is only 40.80 crore, or 5.04 percent of the total.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Fahmidul Haque of mass communication and journalism department -- which has the highest number of researches among teachers -- said, "The allocation in research sector of our national budget is very low, and DU also decreased the budget because of that." He added that this hinders the development of a university.

Of the total amount, University Grants Commission will provide Tk 694.65 crore while Tk 66 crore will be collected from the university's internal resources.

The authorities will face a deficit of Tk 45.77 crore this year as they failed to get the desired amount from the government, and due to insufficient internal income.

Treasurer Prof Kamal Uddin Ahmed placed the budget at the annual senate session with Vice-chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman in the chair.

Criminal justice

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government agency member being punished for such offense is rare, he said.

Shirin Haque, one of the organisers, said their aim of arranging the event was to commemorate the day's message that speaks of creating awareness on torture among people.

Rights activist Sara Hossain, and Limon -- a Jhalakathi man who faced brutal torture in the hands of Rapid Action Battalion members -- also spoke at the event.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Age: Maximum 32 years as on 14 July 2019

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Age: Below 32 years as on 14 July 2019

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Establishing

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Speakers recalled Jahanara Imam's indomitable spirit which propelled the movement against war criminals.

In his keynote speech, Ramendu Majumder said since the Pakistan era, religion has been used to divide Bengalis.

"But people fought against it. When Language Movement took place, it gave us a strong understanding of our culture and later played an important role in the independence of the country," he said while describing the history of misuse of religion.

Change in culture is constant, but change that denies the long-rooted secular values of Bengali culture is not acceptable, he said addressing the audience.

About Jahanara Imam, he said, "She is still relevant because of her just movement against war criminals."

Dhaka University Professor Muntassir Mamoon emphasised on the increase of budget in the cultural sector.

Expressing his dissatisfaction over the budget, he said cultural activists are one of the fundamental forces in leading the social movement against evil anti-liberation forces, but there is not enough budget in this sector.

Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee president Shahriar Kabir shed light on secularism and its practice in the society. "Islam should be explained clearly and correctly. Promotion of secularism is necessary but it remains a challenge for Bangladesh," he said.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, writer Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury and eminent artist Hashem Khan were also present in the programme.

Murder trial reopens

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Police submitted the charge sheet to the lower court concerned against one Minto alias Mantoo alias Moron. The charge sheet was placed on January 17, 1991 and the court also recorded statements of seven witnesses.

Name of Maruf Reza, a relative of former home minister Mahmudul Hasan, came to light when the trial court was recording statements of the witnesses.

Then the lower court on May 23, 1991 directed police to further investigate into the case.

Later, Maruf Reza filed a revision petition with the HC, challenging the lower court order for further investigation.

The HC on July 2, 1991 stayed the trial proceedings of the case and further probe.

Recently, intelligence agency informed the status of the murder case to the attorney general's office. Then the attorney general's office took an initiative for hearing the case.

Deputy Attorney General Farhad Ahmed argued for the state, saying that further investigation and trial proceedings need to be finished quickly.

Maruf Reza's lawyer Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun told the court that his client's name was not included in the first information report of the case.

Reza, who had been arrested, was later exempted from the case.

Mantoo had also been arrested in connection with the case. Reza and Mantoo were released from jail on bail, DAG Farhad added.

College girl

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hospital's burn unit, said, "We tried our best to save her. She had suffered 20 percent burns."

Phulon's body was taken to her village home after autopsy, he added.

Her father filed a case on June 14. Later, police arrested her cousin Bhubotosh Barman and his three associates -- Raju Sutradhar, Sanjib Barman and Ananda Barman.

On Friday, Raju gave a confessional statement to the Narsingdi Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, said police.

In his statement, Raju said there had been a longstanding feud over a piece of land between Phulon's father and two others. Bhubotosh hatched the plan to implicate the two in the incident.

Phulon passed HSC exam from Narsingdi Udayan College in 2018 but could not continue her education due to hardship, reports our Brahmanbaria correspondent.

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