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Use pens to curb terrorism

The Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, Prof Mohammad Moniruzzaman Mia, yesterday called upon the journalist community to use their mighty pens in curbing growing terrorism in the educational institutions which stands as a major enemy of democracy in the country, reports BSS.

"You know who are terrorists and you can help a lot through your inquistiveness to uproot the sources of weapons being used by these elements in the educational institutions," he said.

The Vice-Chancellor was addressing as the chief guest the inaugural ceremony of the two-day annual general meeting of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at the National Press Club auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

Presided over by the DUJ President Zahirul Haq the inaugural session was also addressed by the President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Reazuddin Ahmed, Secretary General Amanullah Kabir and General Secretary of DUJ Ruhul Amin Gazi.

Prof Moniruzzaman Mia said,

terrorism was creating manifold obstacles in establishing democracy in the country and the journalists could play a vital role in checking it as people had maximum confidence on print media.

"Terrorism originate from the sense that Dhaka University and other seats of education must be captured," he observed and called upon all concerned including the journalist community to help identify enemies of democracy in the greater interest of the nation.

The Vice-Chancellor said in spite of party influence, people had still optimum level of their confidence on Newspapers compared to radio and television. He called upon the newsmen to project things objectively and precisely upholding the people's right to know about what were happening around them every day.

Prof Moniruzzaman Mia regretted that some weekly newsmagazines were engaged in deframing individuals and institutions by writing baseless and motivated reports.

Referring to some news items published about Dhaka University

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he said these were completely baseless and motivated and meant for tarnishing the image of the towering national institutions.

"The image of national institutions must be protected because they are being run by people's money," He said calling upon the journalists to write objectively about Dhaka University, but not to serve the cause of any vested quarters through imaginary news.

The Vice-Chancellor said he was an ardent advocate of freedom of the press and autonomy of universities. He said the Press should act in a more responsible manner.

Speaking about the unflinching role of the teachers and students of Dhaka University in all democratic movements, the Vice-Chancellor said professional groups including the journalist community also played the equal role in those struggles including the anti-autocracy movement of 1990.

He said, all of us should unitedly play our due role in protecting the hard-earned democracy from the hands of its enemies.

He said, if politics was meant for unseating a government and installing another one, then democracy would not exist.

In this respect, he stressed the need for mutual tollerance and respect among political parties and others concerned to establish democracy in all spheres of national life.

Prof Moniruzzaman Mia urged the government and the opposition parties in parliament to help each other mutually solve the accumulated problems, the country was now facing.

"Government alone could not take the responsibility of solving the problems," he said, adding that the opposition political parties had also equal responsibility to work for solution of problems in the country.

BFUJ President Reazuddin

Ahmed said, "freedom of the press was the key to a healthy and independent growth of newspaper industry in a democratic country." He called for abolition of "Undemocratic stand as obstacles to freedom of the press.

Mr Ahmed said the journalist community had always actively participated in all democratic movements in the country and called upon all to work unitedly to consolidate the hard earning democracy.

BFUJ Secretary General Amanullah Kabir called for establishing democratic values in all spheres of national life for consolidating the victory achieved after a relentless struggle against autocracy. "Freedom of the press is a must for consolidating democracy, he said.

In his presidential speech, Mr Zahirul Haq said freedom of the press was inextricably linked with democracy.

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