

PM calls for more sports, cultural activities to fight drug abuse

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Online Desk : Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Tuesday called for expanding sports, cultural programmes and innovation-based activities to keep young people away from drug abuse and help build a productive future generation. Speaking at an exchange of views with journalists at the China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka, the Prime Minister said engaging youths in positive activities is essential to tackle the growing challenge of drug addiction.

Tarique Rahman said drug abuse is a global issue, but its impact in Bangladesh remains a serious concern. He noted that law enforcement actions, arrests and treatment alone cannot provide a permanent solution, stressing the need for long-term social initiatives. He said youths aged between 15 and 25 have great physical and mental potential that should be channelled through sports, cultural activities and creative programmes.

However, he pointed out that the shortage of playgrounds in Dhaka and other parts of the country remains a major challenge. The Prime Minister said the government has already introduced initiatives such as the Notun Kuri sports and cultural competition programme to encourage young talent. He added that similar programmes involving students from all communities and backgrounds will be expanded. He also stressed the importance of science fairs, innovation competitions, debates and year-round cultural activities at educational institutions to develop creativity among students.

Addressing concerns over social values and rising intolerance, Tarique Rahman called for strengthening moral and social education from the school level. He said the Ministry of Information has been instructed to run awareness campaigns on these issues. During the meeting, the Prime Minister also responded to questions from journalists on economic reforms, rural development and government initiatives.