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ANTI-EXTREMISM CAMPAIGN

DU wins Facebook based challenge



The winning students of Dhaka University at the National Union Building in Washington DC.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University won a Facebook-based anti-extremism campaign competition.

The DU group "Think Twice, Act Wise", among four was named winner of the "Peer to Peer: Facebook Global Digital Challenge" yesterday in Washington in the USA, said a press release.

A total of 160 teams from 70 countries took part in the competition. The winning team was awarded USD \$5,000 as prize money.

The DU team campaigned for promoting tolerance and empathy through the development of critical thinking skills and extracurricular activities among the youths of Bangladesh.

"I still can't believe we made it," said Imran Ahsan, a masters student of Dhaka University's development studies and the team leader. "It was a great honour for our country."

A 12-member team, supervised by DU teacher Dr Asif Shaham, worked for creating tolerance among people since May this year. Six of them including the professor flew to USA on July 16 to participate in the final round of the competition.

American University of Nigeria came up runners up in the competition, followed by CEU Universidad San Pablo in Spain, and Xavier University of Philippines.

The challenge is one of the Facebook initiatives to counter online hate and extremism, organisers EdVenture Partners said in the release.

Student teams are challenged to counter the perverseness of hate and extremism on social media in ways that are credible and authentic to their peers and communities, it says.