

Call to promote balanced reading

TDT | Manama
P Unnikrishnan

The urgent need to promote balanced reading among literary enthusiasts was emphasised by Dr M K Muneer, the Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Indian State of Kerala, yesterday.

This came during a brief interaction with The Daily Tribune.

"Promoting balanced reading is one of the vital strategies to develop a harmonious society. Balanced reading and understanding can only lead to healthy debates and dialogues in any society," Dr Muneer said.

Warning against the eroding culture of healthy debates, Dr Muneer said majority of debates on all issues are leading to provocations and violence, which is a dangerous tendency.

"We should be able to promote opposing views. And this is only possible with balanced reading."

Dr Muneer is on a visit to the Kingdom to inaugurate the fifth edition of Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) Book Fest.

He praised the Indian expatriates in the Kingdom for their contributions towards literature and arts.

Dr Muneer, who is also an author and poet, slammed the efforts from the part of some writers to create unnecessary controversies as a marketing technique to boost their books' saleability.

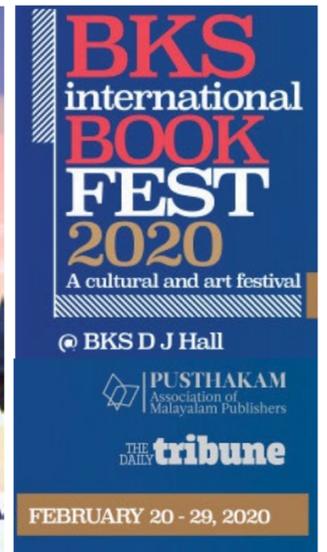
"Such tendencies should be



Dr Muneer inaugurates the book festival in the presence of Ms Meera, Mr Poithumkadavu and Mr Pillai.



Scores of visitors flocked to the festival venue yesterday.



The book festival logo

BKS events today

- **Dignitaries:** Dr M K Muneer, K R Meera, Shihabuddin Poythumkadavu
- **7:30 pm:** Book release by Shihabuddin Poythumkadavu
- **7:30 pm:** Poem writing competition for students
- **8:30 pm:** 'Cracking Cryptics' crossword puzzles/ cultural programmes

condemned. The publishers should take up the responsibility here. They should thwart efforts to create unnecessary controversies while upholding the freedom of expression."

On Friday, BKS International Book and Cultural Festival was officially inaugurated by Dr Muneer in the presence of renowned writers K R Meera and Shihabuddin Poithumkadavu. P V Radhakrishna Pillai, Pres-

ident of Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam presided over the function and Varghese Karakkal, the General-Secretary of BKS welcomed the gathering.

Literary Wing Secretary Firoz Thiruvathra, Bookfest convenor Hari Krishnan and Literary wing convenor Shabni were also present on the dais.

Hundreds of people were present and visited the book stalls.

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Hanau shooting condemned

Bahrain affirms solidarity with Germany; rejects violence and extremism

Frankfurt

Bahrain has condemned the two terrorist shooting incidents that occurred in Hanau in Germany, which resulted in the death and injury of several people.

The Foreign Ministry expressed its sincere condolences to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

It affirmed Bahrain's solidarity with Germany, and renewed its unequivocal rejection of violence, extremism and terrorism, urging the international community to step up efforts to eliminate this scourge that threatens international peace and security.

A shooter with suspected far-right beliefs killed nine people at a shisha bar and a cafe in the German city of Hanau, police said Thursday, before apparently killing himself and his mother.

Federal counter-terror prosecutors announced they were investigating the case, which showed "signs of a xenophobic motive," a spokesman told AFP.

Among the dead were "several victims of Kurdish origin," the Kon-Med association of Kurds in Germany said in a statement, adding that it was



Forensic experts work around a damaged car after a shooting in Hanau near Frankfurt, Germany.

International community should step up efforts to eliminate this scourge that threatens international peace and security.

FOREIGN MINISTRY

tivated by "a hostile attitude to foreigners," said Peter Beuth, the interior minister of the state of Hesse.

The rampage started at around 10:00 pm on Wednesday at a shisha bar in the Heu-

toll from the bar attacks to nine. "The victims are people we have known for years," the Arena cafe manager's son told German news agency DPA. "It is a shock for everyone."

The bloodshed sparked an hours-long manhunt, with armed officers fanning out across the city and police helicopters roaming the night sky.

Hesse interior minister Beuth said witness reports helped track the suspect's vehicle back to his home.

Special forces then stormed the suspect's apartment, where they found him dead. They also found the body of his 72-year-old mother.