

Involving youths in climate change issue is a must for survival

Speakers say at consultation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a two-day consultation yesterday said getting the youths involved in climate change issue is not a matter of choice, but it is a must as it is a question of their survival.

The next generation should be involved in managing the issue of climate change for the sake of their survival, they added.

The speakers said this at the consultation titled 'Youth engagement in climate change' at WVA auditorium in the city.

The national consultation was organised by South Asian Youth Environment Network (SAYEN) Bangladesh in association with Dhakabashi Organisation, Save the Youth Forum, Youth Against Hunger, DEBTEC, SHAKHOR Education and Environment Society, Youth Ending Hunger, Centre for Human Development and Green Voice. UNEP, Asia and the Pacific supported the programme.

The speakers further said the youths should be provided with enough knowledge regarding climate change, its adverse effects and should have to give a space to express their opinions and plans regarding the issue.

They delineated the climate change issue, the sufferings of the developing countries, strategies to handle the issue and how to engage the youth of these countries in the programme.

While presenting the keynote



UNDP Assistant Country Director (Environment) Aminul Islam speaks at a consultation at WVA auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Bidhan Paul, Ambassador Rashed Ahmed and Dr Ferdousi Begum.

paper, Development of Biotechnology and Environmental Conservation Centre (DEBTEC) Executive Director Dr Ferdousi Begum said the climate change issue must be turned into a popular culture issue.

It must be discussed in forums focusing on young people and debates, cartoons and musical programmes on climate change must be organised and aired nationally and the youth should be encouraged to think of themselves on this issue and know that policy makers will listen to them, she added.

The speakers said as the young

people would be the ones to face the brunt of climate change, they would have to identify the steps to protect the earth and to reduce the intensity of climate change.

They can change the attitude towards climate change from a social and political point, create action groups and implement national projects in a local scale such as neighbourhood and schools with the help of various agencies.

Concurrently, youths can disseminate information on climate change in a much more effective way to their peers than the adult ones, they added.

Additional Secretary and Director General Khandaker of Department of Environment Rashedul Haque, Ambassador Rashed Ahmed, UNDP Assistant Country Director (Environment) Aminul Islam and Programme Coordinator Gopal Kumar Jain of SAYEN Secretariat, Centre for Environment Education, India attended the workshop as the special guests.

Bapa Treasurer Mohidul Haq Khan, Hunger Free World Country Director Ataur Rahman and National Federation of Youth Organisations Secretary General Dulal Biswas also spoke at the consultation.

50 DU Rokeya Hall students still staying in vulnerable building

DU CORRESPONDENT

Some 50 female students of Dhaka University (DU) are still staying in the 'Honours' building at Rokeya Hall, although the authorities in April identified it as vulnerable to damage in the event of an earthquake.

The issue of safe shelter for them has long remained unresolved because of a row between the hall authorities and MPhil and PhD researchers residing in the Fayeunnesa Chhatra Nibas on the hall compound.

After the recent earthquake, the hall authorities evacuated 30 students from the 'Honours' building on Monday afternoon and arranged accommodation for them at Fayeunnesa Chhatra Nibas, but the students of the Chhatra Nibas sent them back to their old place five hours later.

"We are in trouble as we still don't know where we will be shifted finally," said Bani Yasmin Hasi, a master's student of the 'Honours' building.

"We spend our nights in panic at the 'Honours' building," Hasi said. "Moreover, we left behind all our belongings at the Chhatra Nibas when we are driven away from there on Monday night," she told The Daily Star.

After the recent earthquake that shook the city in the early hours on Sunday, the DU syndicate decided to shift the students of 'Honours' building to the Fayeunnesa Chhatra Nibas. According to the decision, the hall authorities shifted 30 students to that building.

Meanwhile, the Rokeya Hall authorities have taken a decision, in principal, to shift all the students of Honours building to Fayeunnesa Chhatra Nibas after cancelling the allotment of rooms to some researchers who are not conducting any research works for a long period.

"I will inform the provost committee and the university high-ups of their (researchers of Fayeunnesa) non-cooperation with the hall authorities and take action against them accordingly," Rokeya Hall Provost Prof Laila Noor told reporters at her office yesterday.

"It is really annoying that they are not complying with the authorities' decision," she added. She also said that a number of seats are lying vacant at the

Fayeunnesa building and that some researchers have been staying there for about 6 to 10 years, but they are virtually no longer involved in research work.

Aklima Akter Julia, a resident researcher of Fayeunnesa, alleged

that the hall authorities have provided shelter to the Honours building students in the Chhatra Nibas at will.

"The authorities also did not discuss the matter with us. Moreover, they cancelled allotment of rooms to

some researchers, including mine, who opposed the shifting of the students to this building," she said.

Julia also said that a group of researchers met Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz yesterday and informed him of the situation.

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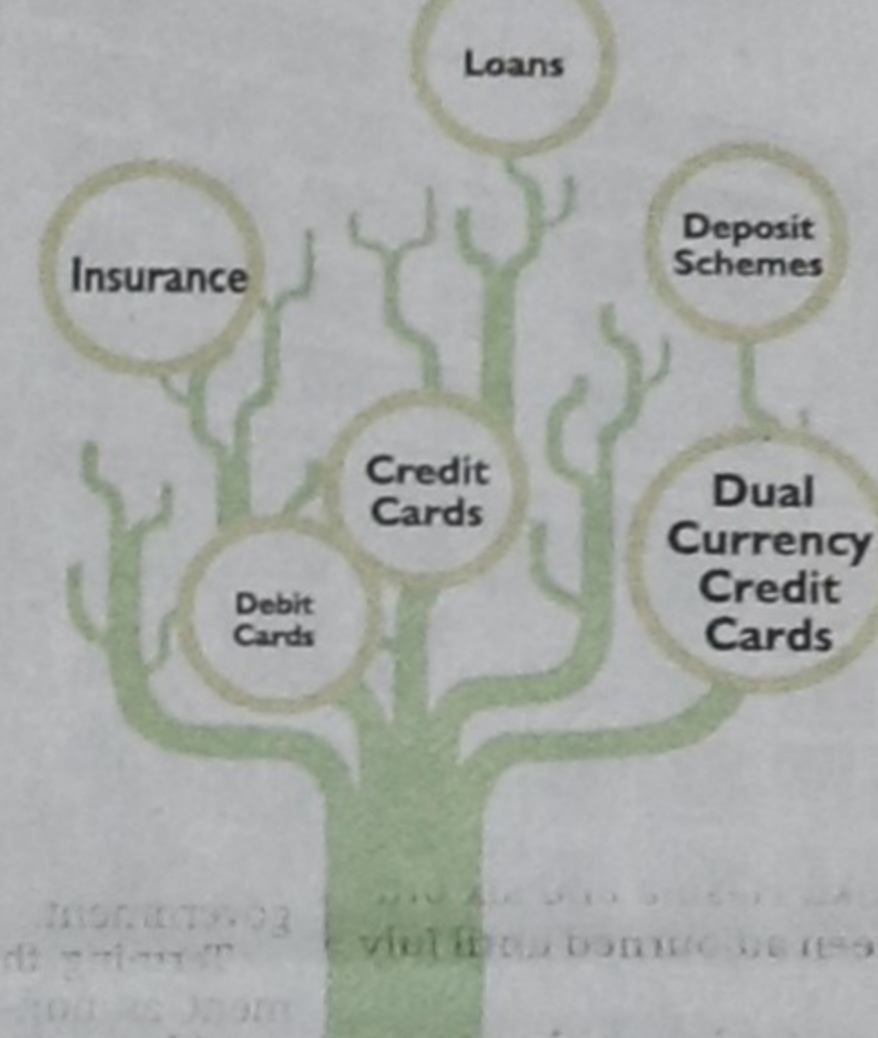


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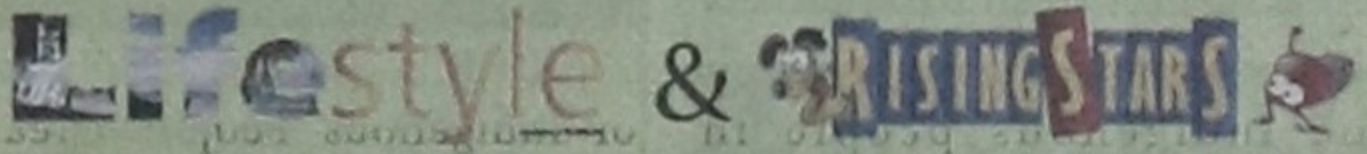


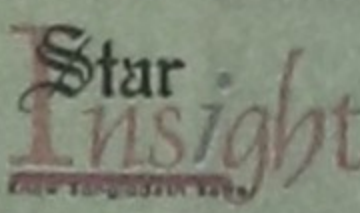

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