Bridging the gap between students' expectations and the business environment

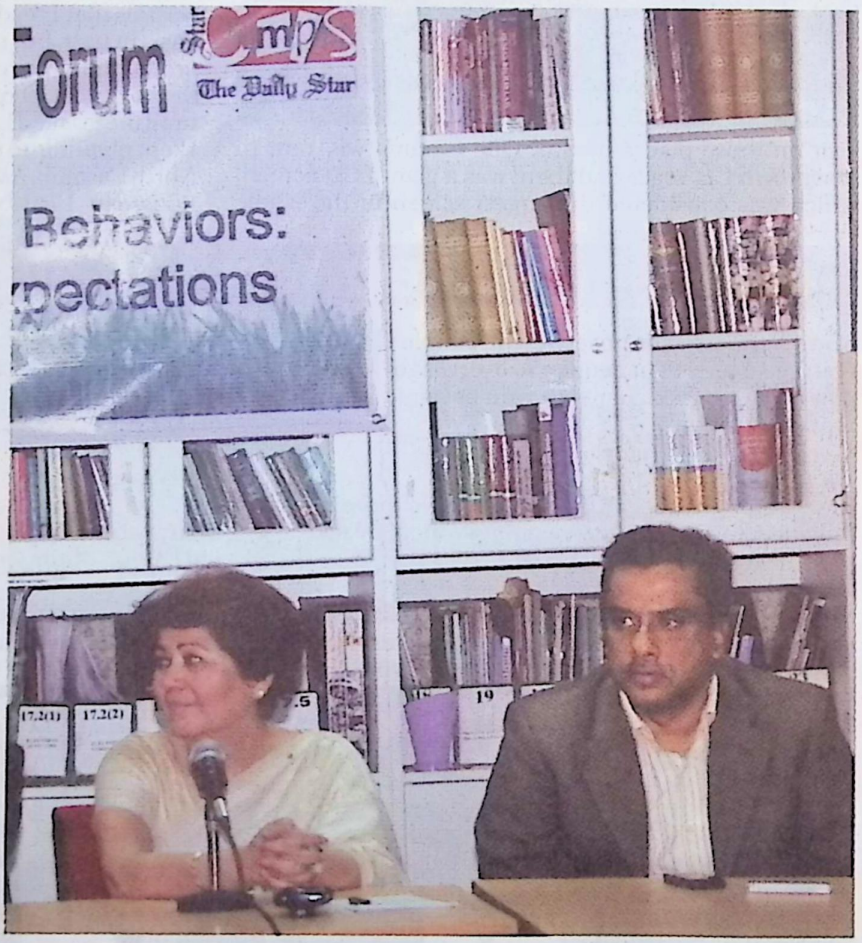
A joint initiative of IBA-Star Campus

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THE time for change has arrived. And just like any other meaningful and long-lasting change that has taken place in this country in the past, the young people will once again play a pivotal role. Business students are no exceptions.

It is with the intention of giving the business students an opportunity to step up to the stage and engage in constructive interactions with business professionals of the country that the Management Development Programme (MDP), IBA of Dhaka University, and Star Campus jointly initiated a roundtable on ***'Responsible business behavior: Business students' expectations'*** at the conference room of The Daily Star on 23 December. The seminar was aimed at bridging the gap between the expectations of the undergraduate students of IBA and the ground realities that dictate the country's business environment. Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs President Rokia Afzal Rahman, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association President Fazlul Hoque and OIC Matco Enterprise Consultant Rassel Hassan Kadir were the panelists at the programme. Assistant Prof of IBA Shama-E-Zaheer moderated the roundtable which was attended by Prof Sheikh Morshed Jahan and Editor of Star Campus Shahnoor Wahid. A group of 30 undergraduate students from IBA participated in this interactive session.

The discussion involved pertinent questions by the students on a wide variety of topics ranging from the future prospects of women entrepreneurs in the country and the true impacts of the global financial crisis on the knitwear sector to the impediments facing the manpower sector. The perceptive reasoning of the panelists negated many of the notions propagated by conventional wisdom. The students benefited from the intimate understanding of the panelists of their own respective areas.



Ms. Rokeya Rahman, who has initiated several successful and innovative programs for the growth of entrepreneurship development among women in Bangladesh, stated that in spite of marked progress in recent years, banks in Bangladesh are still hesitant to issue credit to women borrowers.