



# The Daily Star partners with UNDP for A SAFER CYBER SPACE

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The Daily Star has recently partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to launch a collaborative initiative aimed at promoting cyber safety and fostering innovation in addressing digital threats by featuring the Cyber Defence Innovation Challenge, and a roundtable discussion with key stakeholders from various sectors.

The campaign sought to tackle the vulnerabilities arising from Bangladesh's rapid digital transformation, which, while driving economic progress, has also led to a surge in cyber crimes including hacking, data breaches, and online harassment. Recognising the need for better solutions, the initiative's objectives include raising awareness and engaging young innovators in developing practical and impactful strategies to ensure safer digital spaces.

### Cyber Defence Innovation Challenge

A key component of the initiative is the Cyber Defence Innovation Challenge, which took participants through a multi-phase process to generate solutions for critical cyber safety issues. In the first phase, teams of two or three members responded to a cyber safety case study and submitted their proposed solutions. Based on these submissions, five teams were shortlisted for the subsequent phases.

The second phase involved an in-person pitching



PHOTOS: STAR

and briefing session at The Daily Star Centre. Shortlisted teams presented their initial ideas to a panel of judges and received a detailed briefing on the final challenge.

The final phase of the challenge took the form of an intensive problem-solving exercise. Participants tackled a complex cyber safety case involving multiple stakeholders, such as government officials, law enforcement, tech companies, and community organisations. Teams role-played as these stakeholders and designed solutions that addressed the legal, technological, and societal aspects of the issue. They also participated in a workshop on youth sensitisation against cyber violence, with mentorship provided throughout the process.

Judges evaluated the teams based on criteria including the depth of research, innovation, feasibility, impact, and presentation skills. The most promising solutions were recognised, with the top three teams declared winners.

### Roundtable Dialogue on Cyber Safety

In addition to the competition, the campaign featured a roundtable discussion that focused on the broader implications of cyber safety in Bangladesh. The dialogue, which took place on November 25, will bring together policymakers, cybersecurity experts, NGO representatives, members of marginalised communities, and media professionals. The discussion addressed issues such as online violence, particularly against women and vulnerable groups, and explored potential policy reforms and strategies for combating cybercrime.

The roundtable provided a platform for diverse perspectives which facilitated collaboration among stakeholders to create a cohesive approach to digital safety. It also highlighted the critical role of media and advocacy in raising awareness and driving societal change.

This partnership between The Daily Star and UNDP represents a concerted effort to address the escalating challenges of cybercrime in Bangladesh. By engaging the youth, promoting innovation, and fostering dialogue, the collaboration sought to create a safer and more inclusive digital landscape.

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**WITH MORE CAPACITY, WE ARE MORE READY TO BUILD TOMORROW'S BANGLADESH**

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building a safer nation