

NOTICE BOARD



BRAC UNIVERSITY holds seminar on women's safety

Student club Peace Café and the Counseling and Wellness Centre of BRAC University, in collaboration with the platform Cyber Support for Women and Children (CSWC), recently organised a seminar titled "Accelerating Women's Safety: International Women's Day".

Held at the university's Merul Badda campus in Dhaka celebrating International Women's Day, the seminar focused on addressing the challenges and ways to ensure women's safety in Bangladesh.

Inaugurating the programme, Dr David Dowland, Registrar, BRAC University, emphasised the crucial role of students and youth in driving social change. He expressed confidence in the determination of young minds to create a safer environment for women and children.

Manzoor Hasan OBE, Executive Director, Centre for Peace and Justice, BRAC University, focused on three key points. They include the alarming statistics of violence against women and children in Bangladesh, multifaceted challenges in addressing this issue, and strategies to increase youth engagement in combating violence and promoting gender equality.

Tania Sharmin, Planning, Monitoring, and Reporting Analyst, UN Women, underscored the importance of strengthening grassroots feminist movements and increasing women's political representation. She called for intensifying efforts to ensure women's safety, promoting equality in decision-making, and enhancing digital inclusion.

Safina Binte Enayet, Counsellor, Counseling and Wellness Centre, expressed concern over rising incidents of violence against women and children, highlighting the severe short-term and long-term psychological harm it causes. She urged all to jointly work towards eliminating inequality and being more mindful of others while prioritising mental health.

Manisha Biswas, Senior Officer (Legal and Research), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, which runs the CSWC platform, explained definitions and elements of cyber harassment and highlighted legal measures that victims could take.

Minhaj Aman, Research Coordinator, Digitally Right, which describes itself as a private company offering critical knowledge and solutions regarding information flows, highlighted an alarming rise of technology-facilitated gender-based violence in Bangladesh. Pointing out a lack of evidence-based research on this issue within the country, he urged prioritising conducting studies to generate more credible data.

Sadat Hasan, Founder and President, Cyber Teens, shed light on their initiative for enhancing online safety for teenagers through its helpline, educational programmes, and community outreach.

Tahsina Rahman, Joint Director, Student Life, BRAC University, and Sorna Rani Das, President, Peace Café, also spoke at the event.

Grand finale of Socio Biz 2024 – a social business idea competition for university students – held



The Daily Star, in collaboration with Grameen Danone Foods Limited, yesterday concluded its social business idea competition for university students, Socio Biz 2024, with Keeron and Campus as partners.

The champion title was awarded to Team Micdrop from the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), while Team Pritilata from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) was recognised as the runner-up.

The primary goal of this competition was to inspire young innovators to create and launch social enterprises that extend beyond the traditional profit-centric business approaches.

More than 250 teams from 69 universities across Bangladesh entered the competition. Following the preliminary round held online, 20 teams qualified to participate in the online presentation stage. Among them, the top six teams ultimately advanced to the finale, where they



showcased their ideas to the judges.

The winning teams were selected by a distinguished panel representing Grameen Danone Foods Limited including its managing director Dipesh Nag, its marketing and sales director Surayya Siddiqua; and Mahzabin Ferdous, general secretary of BANCAT.

Md Tajdin Hassan, Chief Business Officer of The Daily Star, expressed his gratitude to Grameen Danone management, the judges, and all the partners for making the initiative a success.



Participants of Socio Biz 2024, a social business idea competition for university students, with the judges at the Grand Finale event held at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The Daily Star, in collaboration with Grameen Danone Foods Limited, organised the event, with Keeron and Campus as partners.

PHOTO: STAR