

Backlash rooted in gender bias

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She also said it is important to break social taboos and fear around discussing sensitive issues.

Speaking at the event, Environment Adviser Sveda Rizwana Hasan said the women's rights movement is not the result of just nine months of work but has grown from many years of activism and struggle.

"The issues we haven't been able to resolve in decades cannot be expected to be solved overnight. If a formal process to address them has finally begun, it must be allowed to continue," she said.

As the process unfolds, there will naturally be obstacles, and those will spark debate over whether such resistance is justified or not. It is only through that debate and engagement that real change can take root, she said.

"If we expect immediate, straightforward solutions without working through the process, then there's no guarantee the change will be sustainable," she added.

She said while punishment can be a deterrent to violence against women, the deeper and more lasting solution lies in transforming the values of society itself.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman criticised the interim government's silence amid backlash against the commission's recommendations.

He criticised the key government figures, including the chief adviser, for not taking a clear stance on the issue despite championing women's rights for years.

He asked whether those who led or supported the

violent campaign against the commission now hold political influence within the government.

"If that is the case, has the government become hostage to them?" he asked.

"We strongly protest this and demand a clear and specific response from the government," he added.

Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam said last week, thousands of people -- women and men from both the hills and the plains, including women with disability and sex workers -- united to demand equal rights.

"As long as society does not treat women equally, whether at home, in communities, or at the state level, they will continue to be undervalued and denied their rightful dignity," she said.

The high rates of domestic abuse show that women lack respect in their own homes. Child marriages reveal that young women are not given the honour, dignity, or importance they deserve, and are simply pushed through without care. That's why we demand equal rights," she added.

Legal expert Shahdeen Malik said in the past 12-15 years, "We want the death penalty" has become a common slogan. But research shows that harsher punishments often lead to lower conviction rates.

He pointed out that Bangladesh still follows the 1837 British-era Penal Code. It had six death penalty provisions, which have now grown to 38, showing a trend towards normalising extreme punishments.

"Justice should aim to prevent crime and reform offenders, not take revenge," he said.

He cited a 2016-17 study where rape conviction rates fell to 3 percent after stricter laws were introduced, with 2 percent of those overturned in higher courts.

He suggested that moderate and enforceable sentences, like 7 years in prison, might be more effective than life terms or the death penalty.

Nijera Kori coordinator Khushi Kabir strongly criticised the use of religion to spread misogynistic rhetoric and hate speech through sermons, emphasising the urgent need for a clear and unequivocal stance on the issue.

DIG Taptun Nasreen said while Bangladesh has strong laws to protect women, weak enforcement and slow trials, often lasting 5 to 7 years, are major issues.

Victims and witnesses often drop out due to pressure, lack of support, or delays, Nasreen said.

The event ended with a declaration which called for zero tolerance of violence against women and children, urging legal reforms, faster justice, and an end to misogynistic propaganda.

It demanded safe workplaces, equal pay, stronger child marriage laws, better crisis support, and access to education. It also stressed the need to resist politicisation, strengthen law enforcement, and improve coordination for protection.

The event was moderated by CAMPE executive director Rasheda K Chowdhury and presided over by economist Hossain Zillur Rahman.

Bird strikes cost Biman

FROM PAGE 3
made an emergency landing at the Dhaka airport following a bird strike on its second engine.

The flight, carrying 11 crew and 280 passengers, was going to Istanbul, Turkish Airlines said.

According to the Dhaka Airport Traffic Control, engine 2 caught fire immediately after take-off.

In the letter, Biman also said the primary species contributing to this issue is the Black Kite. These scavenging birds are often found around runways and taxiways, where they feed on insects.

The grassy areas surrounding our airfields provide an ideal hunting ground for them, especially after rain.

During the winter months when they congregate on the warm tarmac and runways, this behaviour significantly increases the risk of bird strikes.

To mitigate this hazard, Biman proposed implementing several strategies.

For instance, maintaining shorter vegetation, as practised in airports worldwide,

can reduce the insect population, which is an easy food source for birds.

Additionally, airfields such as Singapore utilise light pesticides to control insect populations, thereby indirectly managing bird activity.

Adopting similar measures at the airports in Bangladesh could markedly decrease the risk of bird strikes, Biman also suggested.

"Additionally, it is essential to highlight the financial implications of bird strikes for Biman. Due to a shortage of aircraft, we often struggle to maintain schedules, leading to substantial indirect costs," read the letter.

Biman said CAAB's prompt action is necessary to address the bird strike hazard, which is crucial for the safety of the airline's operations and its financial health.

Contacted, the CAAB chairman said, "Although we are taking every possible measure, it's a big challenge to deter birds due to uncontrolled waste and garbage places surrounding different places of the airport."

Momtaz

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Harirampur Police Station area around 11:00am.

Momtaz was brought to the court from Kashimpur High Security Central Jail in Gazipur around 8:30am.

As she was taken to the court, BNP lawyers and activists staged a protest demanding her punishment. A scuffle broke out between the activists and police.

Following the remand hearings, eggs and shoes were hurled at Momtaz as she was being escorted to a prison van under tight security, eyewitnesses said.

Met office forecasts

FROM PAGE 4
across Southwestern part of Bangladesh, it added.

The bulletin said a mild heat wave is sweeping over Madaripur, Pabna, Khulna, Jashore, Chuadanga, Kushtia and Satkhira districts and it may continue.

On Wednesday, the country's highest maximum temperature was 37.4 degrees Celsius in Jashore.

Meanwhile, the met office recorded highest 110mm rainfall in Sylhet in the 24 hours till 6:00am yesterday. Dhaka experienced 33mm rainfalls during the period.

over Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions.

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Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority

Information & Communication Technology Division
Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology
ICT Tower, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
www.bhtpa.gov.bd

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA) invites sealed Expressions of Interest (EOI) from reputed Dormitory Management Companies (DMC) for the selection and appointment of a company to conduct operation and maintenance services for the Dormitory Building (Hotel, Accommodation and Restaurant facilities), Amphitheater building, Canteen, Pond, Data Centre, IP camera, Total park premises security, Substation, Generator, Gardening, reservation whole premises and other relevant premises at Software Technology Park, Jashore.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1	Ministry/Division	Information and Communication Technology Division
2	Procuring Entity Name	Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority
3	EOI Ref. No. & Date	Memo: 56.02.0000.006.07.580.25- 216, Date: 20/05/2025
4	EOI Published Date	From 20/05/2025
5	Last Date of Receiving EOI/Application	Date: 16/06/2025, Time: 3:00 PM Head Office of Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority, 9th Floor, ICT Tower, Agargaon, Dhaka.
6	Opening of EOI/Applications	Date: 16/06/2025, Time: 3:30 PM, Conference room, BHTPA
7	Scope of Works	The Dormitory Management Company (DMC) will handle the operation and maintenance of the Dormitory Building (Hotel, Accommodation and Restaurant facilities), Amphitheater building, Canteen, Pond, Data Centre, IP camera, Total park premises security, Substation, Generator, Gardening, reservation whole premises and other relevant premises at Software Technology Park, Jashore. under the supervision of Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA). The scope of work includes, but is not limited to, the following responsibilities: 1. Financial Management: Setting rental fees, collecting payments, managing electricity bills, and maintaining financial records. 2. Operations & Maintenance: Overseeing daily operations, repairs, replacement, road maintenance, renovation, periodic maintenance of the building cleaning, and facility maintenance of Dormitory & Amphitheater Building, Canteen and Pond. 3. Security & Safety: Ensuring security measures, safety protocols, and managing security personnel. 4. Guest Services: Handling room reservations, check-in/check-out, and guest satisfaction. 5. Marketing & Branding: Attracting tenants and bookings through strategic marketing. 6. Technology & Reporting: Using management software for efficient operations and reporting. The DMC will ensure high-quality service and contribute to the long-term success of the facility.
8	Experience, Qualifications, Evaluation criteria etc.	To prepare a shortlist of preliminary eligible companies/firms, the submitted EOI/Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria: 1. Legal & Regulatory Compliance: Valid trade license, TIN certificate, BIN, up-to-date income tax certificate, and other relevant documents. 2. Financial & Audit Requirements: Latest annual audit report, Bank solvency certificate, Minimum yearly average turnover of BDT 1,00,00,000/- (Taka one crore) over the last two years 3. Experience & Operational Expertise: Lead partner must have a minimum of 02 (two years) experience in dormitory/resort operation and maintenance, Proven track record in managing similar types of resorts, dormitories, or hospitality establishments, must have overseen at least 50 (fifty) rooms for a minimum of two years 4. Qualified Human Resources: Availability of experienced staff/human resource pool specializing in dormitory/resort management, leasing, maintenance, and tenant relations 5. Technology & Systems: Access to software and tools for efficient dormitory management (accounting, reporting, communication) 6. Marketing & Branding: Demonstrated experience in hospitality marketing & branding for tenant attraction All applicants must meet these criteria to be considered for shortlisting.
9	Address of the Official Inviting EOI	Managing Director, Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority, 9th Floor, ICT Tower, Agargaon, Dhaka.

10. Other Information, Terms and Conditions:

Revenue Sharing & Financial Terms:

1. Revenue generated from room rentals and other dormitory-related income from Dormitory & Amphitheatre Building, Canteen, Pond will be shared between the selected Dormitory Management Company (DMC) and the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA), in accordance with the signed contract's terms and conditions.
2. The percentage share of revenue between BHTPA and the selected DMC(s) will be determined through an open competitive process based on proposals submitted by applicant firms but not less than 25%.

3. No direct payment will be made to the selected DMCs by BHTPA. Instead, a portion of the collected revenue from guests will be paid to BHTPA. The rental rates (daily/weekly/monthly) for dormitory rooms must be approved by BHTPA.

4. All revenue collected from guests and other services will be deposited into a common escrow account, jointly operated by both parties.

Contract Period & Performance Evaluation:

5. The contract period will be for seven (07) years, with the possibility of an extension of up to three (03) additional years, based on satisfactory performance.

Application & Selection Process:

6. Interested firms must physically visit and inspect the park centers before submitting their EOI/applications. BHTPA will provide necessary cooperation for the inspection process. Contact with signing person.

7. Applicant firms must submit all supporting documents in hard copies to validate their competence and eligibility.

8. The preliminary evaluation committee will shortlist qualified applicants, after which specific proposals will be invited from them based on finalized Terms of Reference.

EOI submissions must be in two (02) copies:

- One marked as "ORIGINAL" & One marked as "COPY"
- Both copies must be in book-bound format, inside separate sealed envelopes.

10. The application language must be English, and submitted applications/EOIs must remain valid for at least 180 days from the last date of submission.

Eligibility Criteria:

11. Applicants can be individual firms, Joint Venture firms, Consortiums, or Associations (JVCA). The number of firms in a JVCA must not exceed three (03).

12. The lead partner must have at least two (02) years of general experience and two (02) years of specific experience in the relevant sector/hospitality management sector.

13. The DMC must ensure access to a network of reliable contractors and service providers for dormitory maintenance and repairs.

Authority Rights & Modifications:

14. The inviting entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs, without providing any reason.

15. The inviting entity also reserves the right to modify or change the terms and conditions of this advertisement notice at any time. For more details and application format, visit: www.bhtpa.gov.bd

22.05.25

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JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-45 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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20/05/25

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