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Coordinated action needed to fight NCDs Says Yunus

UNB, Dhaka
Chief Adviser Professor Mohammad Yunus yesterday underscored the need for developing a resilient generation, stressing that effective human resource management is vital for ensuring both individual wellbeing and the nation's sustainable progress. "We have all come together today [yesterday] to address a critically important issue in the health sector. For national development

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Firefighters and locals dousing the blaze after a fire broke out at the capital's Mohakhali slum yesterday afternoon, gutting at least 70 shanties.

‘Everything gone in blink of an eye’

At least 70 shanties burnt to ashes at Mohakhali slum

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Rina, 25, who lost a leg in an accident, was inside her room on the first floor of a narrow house when a fire broke out at Mohakhali's Saat Tola slum yesterday. As panic spread through the slum, she managed to crawl down from the upper floor and reach safety. Her mother, 50-year-old Jahan Begum, works as a domestic worker in several households in the Mohakhali area. She was at her workplace at the time. Hearing about the fire, she rushed back to the slum to check on her daughter. When she arrived, she found that at least 70 shanties, including her own, had already been burnt down. After the flames were doused, she went near her home and saw that the TV and refrigerator she had bought just last month – along with everything else – had turned to ashes. The fire broke out around 2:30pm at the slum, located near the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Five fire service units brought the blaze under control at 3:18pm, and it was fully extinguished by 4:35pm.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2

Women, girls bear the brunt of climate crisis

They face severe health, livelihood, and safety challenges during disasters, says study on southwest Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Climate emergencies are hitting girls, women, and marginalised communities hardest in Khulna and Satkhira, a new study has revealed. Over 60 percent of adolescent girls struggle to access menstrual health products, while only 2.5 percent of households have consistent access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services during disasters.

60% girls lack access to menstrual health products

2.5% households have access to sexual, reproductive health services

Unsafe drinking water affects 72% households

Early marriage, gender-based violence rise during climate crisis

The research also highlighted a worrying rise in early marriage and gender-based violence, with 78 percent of women reporting increased risks during climate crises. The findings of the study,

titled "Understanding SRHR, WASH, and Livelihoods Situations and Pathways Forward in Climate-Vulnerable Locations of Southwest Bangladesh", were shared at a national dissemination

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2

Focus on regional dev to ease Dhaka's burden: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Creating jobs, education, and healthcare opportunities across the country is essential to reduce over-dependence on the capital and save the city, said speakers at a public dialogue yesterday. "Eight to ten regional capitals must be developed, and every upazila should be transformed into a vibrant suburb to ease Dhaka's burden," said Shameem Haidar Patwari, secretary general of Jatiya Party (GM Quader), at the event held at CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka. He blamed Rajuk for the city's decline and called for its dissolution, alleging that it had failed in fulfilling its responsibilities. The dialogue, titled "Complexities of DAP: Towards Sustainable Urbanization", was organised by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) and was attended by policymakers, experts, business leaders, and civil society representatives. At the discussion, Alamgir Kabir, former state minister for housing and public works, said, "Unplanned urbanisation is not only Dhaka's issue; it is a nationwide challenge. Unless corruption is addressed, the country's crises cannot be solved." He criticised the cycle of blame between

bureaucrats and politicians. Calling Dhaka a "dead city", BNP chairperson's adviser Habibur Rahman Habib warned that unless migration into the capital is curbed, the city cannot be saved. Former lawmaker Nilufar Chowdhury Mony criticised lawlessness in the real estate

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create jobs, edn opportunities outside Dhaka
- Ensure quality healthcare in regional areas
- Develop eight to ten regional capitals
- Decentralise services, governance
- Enforce laws to curb corruption in Rajuk

sector, where developers often construct buildings in narrow alleys without following safety rules. "If an earthquake strikes, fire services won't be able to enter these areas, even in affluent neighbourhoods," she said.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Justice still elusive for July victims

Speakers tell BIP event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing frustration over the slow judicial process, families of July uprising martyrs and injured at an event yesterday demanded swift trials of the perpetrators and justice for the victims. "After the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime, we hoped we would get justice immediately. Even after a year, the minimum progress expected has not been achieved," said Samsi Ara Zaman, mother of martyred journalist Tahir Zaman Priyo. She made the remarks at a dialogue organised yesterday by the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) to mark the one-year anniversary of the 2024 uprising. Junaid Islam, a student of Jahangirnagar University, said, "The July uprising represented the people's expectations for the freedom

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Honouring the stellar women

bti, Star award two individuals in banking, healthcare categories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In 2023, bti and The Daily Star launched the "bti The Daily Star Stellar Women" initiative – a unique platform to honour and celebrate women from diverse walks of life for their contributions to society. The inaugural season recognised 12 outstanding women across various fields. The second season of the initiative began in September 2024, with the first two awards being presented in November. Recently, a gathering was held at bti Celebration Point in Gulshan 2, Dhaka, where two more extraordinary women were recognised for their achievements. Shaila Abedin, SEVP and head of liability consumer & SME banking at Prime Bank, was awarded the title in "Banking & Financial Institutions" for her unmatched contributions to women's banking and to the banking sector as a whole. Simultaneously, Dr Tahsin Ferdous

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Shaila Abedin

Tahsin Ferdous

Panel to probe controversial video of BFIU head formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Financial Institutions Division (FID) of the finance ministry has formed a four-member committee to probe and submit an inquiry report on the controversial image/video of AFM Shahinul Islam, head of the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), that was circulating on social media. Md Sayed Kutub, additional secretary of the FID, will be the convener of the committee, while the three members are Md Sirajul Islam, executive director of Bangladesh Bank; Md Matur Rahman, director of the ICT-2 Division of the central bank; and Mohammad Saidul Islam, joint secretary of the FID, who will be the member secretary.

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