

ROUNDTABLE

on paper, it requires finance, capacity-building, and resources for focal points to train, mobilise communities, and generate gender disaggregated, climate-specific data. Developed countries have often denied these resources, limiting real-world impact. Bangladesh must proactively mobilise international support. National governance must translate global decisions into action, with gender action plans adopting gender-responsive and gender-transformative approaches, supported by strong inter-ministerial coordination, transparency, accountability, and reporting mechanisms to ensure commitments move from paper to practice.

Sohanur Rahman
Youth Climate Activist



LIMA emphasises the critical role of men and boys in promoting gender equality within climate action. They are not only allies but also beneficiaries and strategic partners. Over

the past two years, the "Eco-Man" initiative engaged communities across five districts, including fishing communities in Barishal, a Dalit community in Khulna, and "tiger widows" in the Sundarbans—women unfairly blamed for their husbands' deaths. By training men and boys in gender-transformative approaches, space has been created for these women to participate fully in climate action. This initiative has mobilised men as community leaders, ensuring women's active engagement and informing Bangladesh's CCGAP framework ahead of COP30.

Jannatul Mouwa
Executive Director, BINDU Nari Unnayan Sangstha



I come from Satkhira, one of Bangladesh's most climate-vulnerable regions. While speaking with a doctor in Shyamnagar, I learned that

around 600 women visit him daily with skin-related issues. During the dry season, water scarcity affects basic needs, from drinking to bathing. I am not a policymaker,

but I represent my community and aim to share how climate change impacts women's daily lives. Gender is often treated as a side issue, and women remain participants rather than decision-makers. Discussions on leadership must translate into practice, ensuring climate policies are inclusive, actionable, and reflective of women's lived realities.

Professor Sharmin Neelormi

Department of Economics, Jahangirnagar University



Civil society representatives have emphasised that COP30 commitments must avoid generic language and be measurable, reportable, and

verifiable. As Bangladesh expands its national preparedness to meet climate goals, it is crucial to reflect on the contributions already being made. This is particularly important as the country prepares to graduate from LDC status.

Gender Action Plans and national preparedness strategies must align with Bangladesh's own trajectory, recognising that vulnerability is dynamic and context-specific. Adopting best international practices while adapting them to national realities will be key to success.

The Green Climate Fund, for instance, already has a strong gender policy. What is needed now are more scalable, well-coordinated projects that ensure preparedness is both effective and inclusive, integrating gender considerations at every stage of planning and implementation.

Mritunjoy Das

Deputy Chief of Party, NABAPALLAB; Deputy Director, Humanitarian and Resilient Futures Programme, Care Bangladesh



Since 2009, gender has often been treated as an add-on in climate and development projects. While progress toward integrated, gender-responsive

initiatives exists, many plans remain only on paper. Focused projects can be designed, but their effectiveness is limited if they operate outside global frameworks.

Core funding is essential to implement strategies like CCGAP and to monitor progress effectively. Gender considerations must be central to adaptation and transition efforts, safeguarding human rights language and ensuring coherence across frameworks. Currently, CCGAP lacks provisions on "intersectionality," which must be incorporated. Post-COP30, refining CCGAP to align with national and global priorities is crucial.

Jacob De Leon

Second Secretary (Development), Climate Change Lead, Australian High Commission, Dhaka



Australia recognises that climate change and natural disasters disproportionately impact women and girls. We also understand that participatory

approaches can enhance ambition and deliver sustainable outcomes in environmental protection and disaster risk reduction. However, gender must not be viewed through a single lens. Intersectionality is critical: policies and programmes need to reflect the diverse experiences of women and marginalised groups. Only with a holistic approach can gender-responsive plans be implemented effectively, ensuring that no one is left behind and that climate action benefits all members of society.

Sharmin Islam

Gender Team Leader, UNDP Bangladesh



Acknowledging the gaps in our approach is essential. When UNDP engages with different ministries, communication challenges often arise, particularly

in integrating gender into climate issues. Strengthening this process is critical, as the government plays a central role in translating international agreements into national action. Financing gaps persist, requiring innovative solutions such as blended financing to bridge them. Data gaps also remain a challenge, and political parties must be included in discussions to ensure comprehensive

policymaking. Too often, women are seen as passive participants both nationally and internationally, resulting in limited leadership. It is vital that grassroots women, who bear the greatest climate burdens, are not only heard but actively shape policies and solutions.

Roufa Khanam

Assistant Director, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), BRAC University



We are supporting the government in developing climate policies with a focus on gender. She noted that while the UNFCCC provides clear guidelines,

gaps remain: the ministry included a gender plan in the NAP document but not in the NDC, and most gender action plans are placed in annexes, limiting visibility. Collaboration between ministries is difficult due to the absence of designated gender focal points, and the lack of union-level gender-disaggregated data hampers monitoring. She recommends including gender plans in main documents and appointing focal points in every ministry to ensure accountability and effective implementation.

Nayoka Martinez Bäckström

First Secretary, Environment and Climate Change; Deputy Head, Development Cooperation Section, Embassy of Sweden in Bangladesh



We must expand dialogue spaces and ensure broader representation in climate discussions. Sweden negotiates on gender issues in

close alignment with the EU, where gender remains a key agenda item, particularly as Sweden serves as co-chair of the Green Climate Fund. Integrating gender equality across climate action must continue, supported by experts and strengthened through gender-disaggregated data. Currently, gender is often mentioned only in renewable energy discussions, while areas like market regulations require additional attention. Efforts must be country-driven, with Bangladesh's CCGAP

serving as a strong example. Ministries should maintain a unified position when negotiating on multilateral platforms. As this year's delegation works to increase climate ambition, keeping gender integration central is essential for achieving meaningful and equitable outcomes.

Md Khayrul Hasan

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change



Bangladesh continues to face resource constraints, although the situation has improved in recent years. While we have made significant progress

through service-oriented interventions, there is an urgent need to prioritise structural measures as well. These long-term solutions are essential to strengthen climate resilience and ensure gender-responsive outcomes. I would urge our COP30 delegation to highlight this critical issue on the international stage, advocating for support and collaboration that enables both immediate and sustainable climate action.

Tanjim Ferdous

In-charge, NGOs and Foreign Missions, The Daily Star (Moderator of the session)



Bangladesh is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change, with floods, cyclones, river erosion, and rising sea levels posing serious development

challenges. These impacts are not gender-neutral: women and girls face disproportionate risks, yet they are powerful agents of resilience and innovation. As COP30 approaches, Bangladesh has a unique opportunity to shape the global Gender Action Plan while strengthening its national response through CCGAP. Today's roundtable aimed to develop concrete recommendations, enhance gender-responsive national actions, and ensure women's leadership is central to climate action.

NEWS

She was sexually assaulted

FROM PAGE 16
Sub-inspector of Sakhipur Police Station, the investigation officer of the case, told this newspaper last night that they have not yet received the post-mortem report.

Contacted, Additional Superintendent of Police (Bhedarganj Circle) Saumya Shekhar said, "She was strangled to death, and we confirmed it."

Taiba, a nursery student, was the daughter of Titu Sardar of Chhoyalkandi village under Bhedarganj upazila.

After the murder, Sardar filed a case with Sakhipur Police Station, based on which the child's aunt Ayesha Begum, 35, along with three others - Nasima Begum, 35, Asif Bepari, 20, and Shahnaz Begum, 25 - were arrested on September 28.

Police sought seven-day remands for Ayesha and Asi each, but the court granted three days. Shahnaz was arrested following information gathered during interrogation.

Ayesha gave a confessional statement before the Chief Judicial Magistrate on the day of her arrest.

Investigators said Ayesha killed the child over a long-standing family feud and dumped the body in the septic tank to hide the crime.

All four of the arrestees are currently in jail.

ICT to probe AL for crimes against humanity

FROM PAGE 16
and affiliated political organisations of killing, injuring and otherwise repressing thousands of protesters during last year's July uprising.

Responding to a question from journalists regarding recent remarks by Law Adviser Asif Nazrul, Tajul said a political party named NDM (Nationalist Democratic Movement) had earlier lodged a formal complaint accusing the Awami League as a party of committing crimes against humanity.

Road of endless misery

FROM PAGE 16
are now single-lane, causing massive tailbacks, he said.

It sometimes takes 14-15 hours to reach Sunamganj via Sylhet, even though people use an alternative route from Ghorashal to avoid the Kachpur-Gausia stretch, said Mohammad Abul Khaer, a veteran driver with Ena Paribahan.

An 11-kilometre stretch from Ashuganj to Sarail has become the epicentre of traffic woes.

Though part of the Dhaka Sylhet highway, it falls under a separate initiative: the 50.58-kilometre Ashuganj Riverport-Akhaura Landport Four-Lane Highway Development Project.

Launched in 2017 with a revised budget of Tk 5,791 crore from India's second Line of Credit (LOC-II), the project was awarded to Alcons Infrastructure of India.

However, progress stalled after the Awami League government fell on August 5 last year and the Indian contractors and workers left due to security concerns.

"Based on that complaint, we have initiated the process of investigation. So, you can say that we are now moving to start an investigation against Awami League as an organisation under charges of crimes against humanity," he said.

While speaking at an event last week, the law adviser said the ICT prosecution team is preparing to try the Awami League as an organisation, and as such, the ban on Awami League's political activities is unlikely to be withdrawn anytime soon.

This left the Ashuganj-Sarail section in ruins.

"The worst suffering for commuters is at Ashuganj and Sarail," said AKM Fazlul Karim, additional chief engineer of RHD.

While work on the section is expected to resume within months with the return of Indian contractors, the rest of the highway remains in shambles in the absence of basic maintenance for years.

"We cannot do much maintenance as we are low on funds and the old road must be broken up," said the project director Karim.

He said he has requested repair funds from the higher authorities.

The dilapidated condition has forced commuters to opt for air or rail travel to save time. Officials from US Bangla Airlines, Air Astra and Novoair reported surging demand for tickets on the Dhaka Sylhet route.

Tajul noted that the investigation is currently at the verification stage.

"Yes, a complaint has been filed. We are seriously scrutinising it, and a formal investigation will begin very soon."

He also mentioned that once the investigation starts in full swing, the prosecution will be able to provide a clearer picture of how far the process of holding the Awami League accountable as a party has advanced.

Responding to another query, Tajul said, "Trials in

several cases are nearing completion. Charge sheets in major cases are likely to be submitted this month, and formal charges are also expected to be pressed soon."

He said there is a strong desire among the people to know how far the process has progressed regarding the trial of those who have been involved in enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings over the past 15 years.

"Within a day or two, we will be able to inform the nation about the progress."

9 dead
FROM PAGE 16
secondary healthcare facilities to build public trust. "Right now, people feel they don't get proper care there, so they rush to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. But Dhaka Medical cannot take everyone. Overcrowding makes proper clinical care almost impossible."

The health expert emphasised that decentralising both clinical and diagnostic services is urgent. "People should have access to dengue tests at little or no cost. This will reduce the burden of patients on major hospitals."

Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, said, "Dengue comes in waves. When mosquito density is high, it becomes very difficult to stop the spread of dengue. Our forecasting model shows that cases will peak in October, start to decline in November, but continue significantly until January."

He stressed that while city corporations must intensify source reduction, breeding-site management, hotspot control, and other measures, everyone must also work from their own position.

Trusting many of the advisers

FROM PAGE 16
He also alleged that many advisers have "secured their own futures" and "betrayed the mass uprising". He warned that he would reveal the advisers' names when the time comes.

"They [advisers] felt that they could not stay in power or run the government without the support of

political parties. It is also true that the political parties created various obstacles [to the advisers]," Nahid said during the interview.

In response to a question about whether student leaders should have taken the role of advisers, Nahid said. "If the force of the uprising were not in this interim government, it would not have lasted even

three months."

Nahid was a key organiser of Students Against Discrimination that spearheaded the uprising, leading to the ouster of the Awami League regime last year. Nahid, who resigned from the interim government on February 25 this year, launched NCP three days later.

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আপনি জনাব আজিম চৌধুরী (আইডি নম্বরঃ ১৯১০৯২৩৫), সহকারী পরিচালক (ক্যাশ), বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, খুলনা গত ২৯.০৯.২০২৪ তারিখ হতে অননুমোদিতভাবে অফিসে অনুপস্থিত আছেন। আপনার গ্রুপ অননুমোদিতভাবে অফিসে অনুপস্থিতি Bangladesh Bank Staff Regulations, 2003 এর 19(2) ধারায় বর্ণিত বিধানবলীর পরিপন্থী এবং একই রেগুলেশনের 44(1) ধারার আওতায় শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ হিসেবে বিবেচ্য বিধায় এ ডিপার্টমেন্টের ২২.০১.২০২৫ তারিখের সূত্র নম্বর এইচআরডি-২(পিডি) ৭ (পিএফ-৯২৩৫)/২০২৫-৭৪০ এর মাধ্যমে আপনার বিরুদ্ধে অভিযোগনামা (চার্জশীট) প্রণয়ন করা হয়। এ প্রেক্ষিতে আপনার উপর কেন্দ্র উপরোক্ত শাস্তি আরোপ করা হবে না সে বিষয়ে আপনার বক্তব্য পত্রের তারিখ হতে ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে এ ডিপার্টমেন্টে দাখিল করার নির্দেশ দিয়ে ২৯.০৬.২০২৫ তারিখে কেফিয়ত (দ্বিতীয় শো-কন্স) অঙ্গের নোটিশ আপনার বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানায় প্রেরণ করা হলেও অদ্যাবধি আপনি কোনো ধরনের যোগাযোগ করেননি এবং উক্ত নোটিশের কোনো জবাব প্রদান করেননি।

এমতাবস্থায়, এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে অফিসে হাজির হয়ে কারণ দর্শানো নোটিশের (কেফিয়ত দ্বিতীয় শো-কন্স) জবাব প্রদানের জন্য আপনাকে চূড়ান্ত নির্দেশ দেয়া যাচ্ছে। এ নির্দেশ পালনে ব্যর্থ হলে আপনার সাথে আর কোনো প্রকার যোগাযোগ ব্যতিরেকেই Bangladesh Bank Staff Regulations, 2003 এর 44(1)(g) ধারা মোতাবেক আপনাকে চাকরিচ্যুত (Removal from service) করা হবে।

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