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# Put women, youth at centre of climate action

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Effective climate action in Bangladesh requires inclusive participation, social coordination, and transformation, with women and youth at the centre of policy and funding decisions, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The roundtable titled “Empowering Women and Youth for Climate Resilience: Bridging Policy and Funding Gaps” was organised by The Asia Foundation with support from the Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The event was held at the

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Gender, youth-responsive climate financing

Stronger coordination, accountability

Shift from rhetoric to concrete action

Inclusive data, community participation

Changing social norms for equality

capital's The Daily Star Centre.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, said the government must move beyond rhetoric and act decisively on climate commitments.

“We have repeatedly raised concerns over weak inter-ministerial coordination and inadequate investment,” she said.

“Women and youth are no longer passive beneficiaries; they are leading real solutions, from agriculture to renewable energy, grounded in their lived experiences. Yet, despite their contributions, funding gaps remain vast.”

“What's missing is not capacity but political will. Bangladesh needs gender- and youth-responsive financing, stronger accountability, and sustained activism to ensure climate resilience is built from the ground up, by the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Speakers at a roundtable on “Empowering Women and Youth for Climate Resilience: Bridging Policy and Funding Gaps” at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The Asia Foundation with support from the Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research and the Kingdom of the Netherlands organised the event.

PHOTO: STAR

## Govt to merge 2 divisions under health ministry

**AT A GLANCE**

Divisions are: Health Services Division, Medical Education and Family Welfare Division

Proposal awaits pre-NICAR approval

Split in 2017 created duplication, poor coordination

Merger to streamline services

Move follows merger of 2 divisions under home ministry in Sept

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

After the home ministry, work has begun to merge the two divisions of the health ministry to ensure better coordination and improved medical services for the people.

The health ministry has already approved the merger, and the proposal will soon be placed before the pre-NICAR (National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reforms/Reorganisation), officials said.

In this context, no new secretary has been appointed to the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division since its former secretary retired on August 28, they added.

“The government has taken the merger decision in principle. The health ministry has already given the go-ahead, and it will be placed before the pre-NICAR soon,” Prof Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for the health ministry, told The Daily Star on October 11.

The pre-NICAR, headed by the cabinet secretary, scrutinises proposals for forming new ministries, city corporations, municipalities, divisions, districts and

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

## CU STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

### Dhrubo wants ‘Campus Charter’ to make CU safe

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Dhrubo Barua, vice-president candidate from the “Boichitrir Oikya” panel in the upcoming Cucus elections, has pledged to build a democratic, occupation-free, and safe campus by introducing a “Campus Charter” with active participation of students, if elected.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Dhrubo, a student of the Department of Bangla (2018–19 session), said, “My goal is to form a united resistance with students against occupation, ensure administrative accountability, and build a democratic campus by eliminating the influence of different organisations within the administration.”

He described their panel as an alliance of members from various social, cultural, and political organisations. “We have significant participation from women. Our main motto is to build resistance through unity in diversity,” he said.

Asked why resistance has become their key theme, he explained, “Our campus has a long history of violence and occupation over power and dominance that disrupted campus safety

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



### Srabon vows a women-friendly campus

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Chowdhury Tasneem Jahan Srabon, general secretary candidate from the “Binirman Shikkharthi Oikya” panel in the upcoming Cucus elections, has pledged to work towards creating a women-friendly campus if elected.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Srabon, a student of the Department of Physics (2019–20 session), said, “I am running in this election out of a sense of responsibility. As a student of Chittagong University, I feel I owe something back to this institution. I have witnessed the university's problems closely, and to solve them, we must work from the ground up.”

Srabon said her first goal, if elected, would be to free CU from the influence of partisan politics. “I will do this by incorporating Cucus into the university's academic calendar. Once Cucus becomes a regular institution, the influence of partisan politics will drop to almost zero,” she said.

Addressing the accommodation crisis, she pledged both short- and long-term plans. “In the short term, the university can rent nearby

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



## ‘Every adviser has already secured their future’

### Alleges NCP leader Samantha Sharmin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samantha Sharmin, senior joint convener of the National Citizen Party, yesterday alleged that every adviser has already secured their future.

She made the remark while expressing solidarity with a teachers' protest at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka.

Samantha said the interim government came to power through the sacrifices of students, teachers, and professionals who shed their blood for change.

“Yet, with deep regret, we now see that the same government, established with such high hopes, has turned against the people – against education,” she said.

“The government is spending Tk 300 crore to buy cars for a ministry, but whenever the question of increasing teachers' salaries and allowances arises, we are told ‘the government has no money’. Each adviser is busy securing their own benefits,” she said.

“Sheikh Hasina deliberately pushed Bangladesh's education system towards destruction, we thought the interim government would try to stop that. But sadly, we now see the entire nation being dragged into election mode, while no steps have been taken to fulfil the hopes and expectations of teachers and students,” she said.

“Taking lives with bullets is a crime, but destroying the education system is no lesser crime,” she added.



Two little friends glide through the calm waters of Chakai Beel in Narail, their laughter echoing across the serene wetland. Surrounded by lush greenery and floating leaves, their simple joy reflects the pure beauty of rural life -- untouched by the rush of modern distractions. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Six more die of dengue, 953 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least six dengue patients died while 953 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till yesterday morning, showing an alarming trend this year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, among the deaths, two were reported in Dhaka South City Corporation and one each in Dhaka North City Corporation, Barishal, and Rajshahi divisions.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of fatalities rose to 230, while total cases reached 54,559.

Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, said, “Our forecasting model shows that cases will peak in October, start to decline in November, but continue significantly until January. Stopping it completely now is almost impossible.”

He said while city corporations must intensify source reduction, breeding-site management, hotspot control, and other measures, community involvement is equally crucial.

GM Saifur Rahman, an entomologist at National University, also urged intensified mosquito-control drives in hotspots, including targeted breeding-site eradication, adult mosquito elimination, and sustained nationwide action.

He further called for community mobilisation through awareness campaigns.

