

IUB's business conference ends



CITY DESK

The two-day International Conference on Economics, Business and Technology Management 2025, organised by the School of Business and Entrepreneurship of Independent University, Bangladesh, concluded on November 15 with an award and closing ceremony at The Westin Dhaka, said a press release.

Didar A Husain, chairman of IUB's Board of Trustees; VC Prof M Tamim; Pro-VC Prof Daniel W Lund; Acting Dean of SBE Prof Raisul Awal Mahmud; Conference General Chair Prof Md Mamun Habib; and AKM Shahinawaj, managing director (current charge), Dhaka Bank PLC, spoke at the closing ceremony.

IUB Trustee Wajid Ali Khan Panni, Trustee Dr Husne Ara Ali, and Dhaka University VC Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan were also present.



Swapna Kumar Baidya dries beti pata (leaves) under the sun to prepare them for mat-making. Collected from wetland areas, beti pata mats remain in demand despite competition from synthetic alternatives. Artisans like Swapna make about two mats a day, selling each wholesale for Tk 450 to Tk 800. The photo was taken yesterday at Akmaner Mor in Boyra of Khulna.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Political parties still failing women

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manager at Naripokkho, said biological differences must not be used to justify limiting women's rights. "Any policy that pushes women backwards, whether through religious arguments or political decisions, must be resisted," she said.

Organisers said the conference reviewed barriers women still face in politics

and public life. With national elections ahead, participants said women's rights must move from rhetoric to law, from manifestos to parliament, and from promises to reality.

Presenting the conference recommendations, Naripokkho member Amita Dey said these included helping women build stronger voices in decision-making spaces, involving

more young women and organising more actively where needed.

The recommendations also called for mobilising networks and resources, promoting unity at personal, social and state levels and keeping links between generations.

Other Naripokkho representatives, including Rashida Hossain and Samia Akhter, also spoke.

Parties flag concerns

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attended the dialogue, though the Amin-led faction later had to leave as they did not have the hard copy of the EC's invitation.

Gonoform President Subrata Chowdhury said, "A yes/no vote under the referendum would be impractical and could turn into a farce if the party, government, and EC did not act responsibly."

Bangladesh Jatiya Party Secretary General Zafar Ahmed Joy thanked the EC for allowing voting by individual party symbols despite alliances, urging it not to bow to pressure.

EC Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah said the commission would not bow to any pressure and warned that muscle power, bias, and false information would face strict action. He urged parties to carefully appoint polling agents.

Islamic Front Bangladesh Chairman Syed Bahadur Shah Mojaddedi called for a level playing field and proposed holding the elections in four phases rather than nationwide on a single day.

The second session, held from 2:00pm to 4:00pm, was joined by representatives of Bangladesh Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh National Awami Party (Bangladesh NAP), Krishak Shramik Janata League, Bangladesh Khalfat Majlis, and Islami Andolan Bangladesh.

Krishak Shramik Janata League President Bangabir Abdul Kader Siddiqui termed holding the referendum and national election on the same day "illogical", adding that voters remain confused about the four referendum questions and that low turnout could

undermine the national polls.

Islami Andolan Bangladesh Senior President Member Syed Mosaddeq Billah Al Madani also demanded a separate date for the referendum.

Bangladesh JASOD General Secretary Nazmul Haque Prodhan called for lowering the security deposit required for contesting the polls.

Referring to the Awami League, he said that while a part of one party has fled and will not contest, the EC must ensure a congenial environment for those wishing to participate.

Khelaft Majlis Secretary General Jalal Uddin Ahmad stressed the need for the commission's neutrality and called for army deployment around polling centres.

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