

FORGING A FUTURE

Where Every Woman Thrives

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The dawn of International Women's Day 2026 arrives with a sombre resonance. While the streets of Dhaka are often decorated in shades of purple, the headlines tell a grimmer story. Recent incidents of violence in Sitakunda, Madhabdi, and various others serve as haunting reminders that for many Bangladeshi women, the struggle for basic safety remains a daily battle. As we observe this

day, the air is thick with a sense of urgency. Yet, amidst the shadows of insecurity, a parallel narrative of indomitable resilience is being written in our stadiums, our schools, and our financial boardrooms.

Aligning with the United Nations 2026 theme, "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls", this year's focus shifts from mere awareness to dismantling structural barriers. It is a call to move beyond symbolic gestures toward a reality where justice is swift and progress is inclusive.

“Women remain hindered by hostile workplaces and a humiliating justice system. Financial independence is the power to fight, yet systemic harassment continues to strip them of dignity. True progress requires both economic freedom and legal respect.”

FAUZIA MOSLEM
President
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

A PREREQUISITE FOR PROGRESS

Safety is not a luxury; it is the foundation of development. Fauzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, points out the stark gap between policy and practice. "We are observing a lack of gender-addressed programmes from the newly elected government," she notes, highlighting that nearly 97% of rape cases in the country do not result in punishment. This lack of accountability creates a climate of fear that hinders women's mobility and potential.

She further emphasises that "employability" is intrinsically linked to safety. Unfavourable working environments and harassment during commutes hold women back even as they progress.

SEE PAGE J2



When she gains confidence
the world gains
her strength

This Women's Day,
we renew our commitment to giving her double protection
so she can keep moving forward every single day.



Not just protection
but double protection

