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Women still left out of climate decisions

Speakers urge stronger policy implementation, financing at *Star*, UN Women roundtable



Speakers at the roundtable organised by The Daily Star and UN Women Bangladesh at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's climate policies recognise gender concerns, but weak implementation, poor coordination, limited data and inadequate financing continue to keep women and marginalised communities away from climate decision-making processes that directly affect their lives, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

The roundtable, titled "Advancing

the COP30 Gender Action Plan through a Feminist Climate Justice Lens", was jointly organised by The Daily Star and UN Women Bangladesh at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Navanita Sinha, deputy representative of UN Women Bangladesh, said Bangladesh's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) had made progress by recognising gender as a cross-cutting issue, women's unequal access to land, and the links

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Worn-out concrete road dividers lie haphazardly on a main road near a station of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway at Kajla in Jatrabari, posing a serious risk to motorists. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

RAMISA MURDER SC gets death reference, other docs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday received the death reference of the case filed over the rape and murder of eight-year-old schoolgirl Ramisa Akter.

"We have received the death reference of the Ramisa murder case," said Md Mazharul Haque, special officer of the Supreme Court's High Court division.

Earlier in the day, the death reference, judgement and other relevant documents of the case were sent to the SC.

"We have sent a three-page death reference, a 69-page judgement and other relevant documents of the case to the office of the registrar general of the Supreme Court this [Tuesday] afternoon," said Pankaj Peter Gomes, bench assistant of the Children Violence Suppression Tribunal in Dhaka Metropolitan.

Justice remains elusive for rape survivors

Speakers call for legal reforms, stronger enforcement, survivor-centric support systems



KEY DEMANDS

Reform rape laws in line with human rights standards

Introduce victim and witness protection law

Enforce amended evidence rules, HC ban on two-finger test

Set up a state compensation fund for survivors

Strengthen probe, victim protection, fair trial standards

Include consent, gender equality in school curricula

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rape survivors will continue to be denied justice unless rape laws are reformed, evidence rules enforced, the ban on the two-finger test implemented, and justice-sector professionals trained to handle survivors with sensitivity, speakers said yesterday.

They made the remarks as the Rape Law Reform Coalition presented a set of demands to strengthen legal protections for survivors at a dialogue titled "Rape and Torture: What Needs to Be Done for Legal Protection", organised by BLAST at the Jatiya Press Club.

Barrister Sara Hossain, honorary executive

director of BLAST, said the justice system needs institutional reforms rather than case-specific reactions.

"We cannot respond to each case only after it creates public outrage. We need institutional reforms," she said.

Sara called for equal attention to investigation, evidence collection, victim protection and fair trial standards.

Ishrat Jahan Siddiqui, programme specialist at BLAST, presented gaps in handling rape cases. Citing data from Ain o Salish Kendra, she said 749 rape incidents were recorded in 2025.

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MJF condemns online abuse targeting Rumeen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday condemned the hateful, abusive, and degrading online campaign targeting lawmaker Barrister Rumeen Farhana.



"No one should face harassment, threats or humiliation for expressing their views, a right guaranteed by the Constitution," the organisation said in a press statement.

As an elected representative and a woman in public life, Rumeen Farhana has the right to speak freely and participate in public debate without fear of intimidation or gender-based attacks, it said.

"Such campaigns are not only attacks on an individual but also send a harmful message to all women who wish to participate in public life," it added.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said, "These hateful campaigns attack the dignity, safety, and security of all women. They aim to silence women through fear and public humiliation,

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FROM JS GALLERY

Fuel and power subsidies to rise by Tk 42,600cr Says Amir Khosru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday said the oil, gas, electricity, and fertiliser sectors alone will require an additional subsidy of about Tk 42,600 crore by June as per preliminary estimates due to the recent unrest in the Middle East.

The impact has created both immediate and potential risks for the Bangladesh economy, the minister said while answering a query from lawmaker SM Jahangir Hossain in parliament.

Of the subsidy, about Tk 10,258 crore may be required for oil, Tk 11,170 crore for gas, Tk 19,821 crore for electricity and Tk 1,350 crore for fertiliser.

Rising prices of fuel oil, LNG and fertilisers in the international market have put pressure on import costs and production costs and also increase costs in the electricity, transport,

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Extortion row behind Billal killing: police

TOUSIF KAIUM

Former Swachhchasebak Dal leader Billal Talukdar was killed over the collection of waste and electricity bills from shops adjacent to



Anarkali Market in Dhaka's Mouchak, police and party insiders confirmed.

According to police, followers of Ramna Thana Jubo Dal leader Riazul Islam Babu had been regularly collecting electricity bills from several shops near the market's main building – a practice opposed by Thana BNP President Ashraf and his supporters, including Billal.

Police reported that the conflict began when Billal's nephew, a shop owner, objected to outsiders collecting electricity bills.

A meeting was convened on Monday to resolve the dispute, but during the arbitration, Babu's followers stabbed Billal following an altercation, said Rampura Police Station OC Mohammad Rahat Khan.

Immediately after the incident, the Jubo Dal committee was dissolved, and Babu's follower Riazul was expelled.

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Local fishers collect crabs from the Rupsha River near Khan Jahan Ali Bridge in Khulna. Using baited cages left underwater for several hours, they typically haul in 3-5kg of crabs a day, with prices ranging from Tk 400 to Tk 2,000 depending on size and quality. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Fund for startups to be increased to Tk 1,000cr ICT minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Steps are underway to gradually expand the fund of Bangladesh Startup Investment Company PLC (BSIC) to Tk 1,000 crore to strengthen the country's venture capital industry and attract greater private and international investment, said ICT Minister Faqir Mahbab Anam yesterday.

Replying to a question from Md Ashraf Uddin MP in parliament, the minister said approximately Tk 109 crore has so far been invested in 36 technology-based and innovative startups that received final approval.

He said a total of 55 startups had been launched through Startup Bangladesh. Of the 55 approved startups, 19 were later rejected at various stages because of inconsistencies identified during due diligence and disagreements over investment conditions.

The startups include Chaldal, 10 Minute School, Sheba Platform, Tour Booking Bangladesh (ShareTrip), iFarmer, Silver Water Technologies (Pickaboo), Intelligent Machines, SWAP BD, Care Nutrition, Truck Lagbe, Steller Digital (Bongo), Pathao, Shikho, and others.

According to the minister, investments made through Startup Bangladesh have enabled portfolio startups to expand their business operations, create more than 7,000 direct jobs and increase revenue and sales by at least five times on average.