

Quarterly E-Bulletin

2026

April - June



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ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION-ESDO

The Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO warmly welcomes the Government of Bangladesh's decision to introduce mandatory national safety standards for toys

A landmark victory for child health and consumer safety was achieved as the Government of Bangladesh introduced mandatory national toy safety standards through a gazette notification issued on 23 June 2026. This historic policy milestone reflects more than a decade of ESDO's persistent advocacy, backed by scientific research, policy engagement, and public awareness campaigns exposing hazardous chemicals in children's toys. ESDO's evidence-based studies and sustained dialogue with policymakers played a pivotal role in advancing mandatory safety regulations and chemical testing requirements. The new standards will strengthen consumer protection, ensure safer toys for children, and align Bangladesh with international best practices. ESDO remains committed to supporting effective implementation and continued collaboration to safeguard every child's right to a safe and healthy play environment.



We wholeheartedly thank our partner, Ban Toxics, for believing in us while we pursued this journey. Their support enabled a national change.



**BAN
TOXICS**

ESDO LAUNCHES A NEW PHASE OF THE PLASTIC-FREE CAMPUS INITIATIVE

ESDO has launched a new phase of its Plastic-Free Campus initiative to empower students as environmental leaders and promote sustainable practices in schools. Supported by Mutual Trust Bank PLC (MTB), the expanded program now includes a Rooftop Gardening and Biodiversity Restoration component with support from the Korean NGO KIDC. The initiative will educate students on plastic pollution, single-use plastics, microplastics, waste segregation, and sustainable alternatives while encouraging practical action through Green Clubs and school-led environmental activities. The new rooftop gardening component will help students restore urban greenery, support biodiversity, and create healthier school environments. By combining environmental education with hands-on learning and year-long student engagement, ESDO is nurturing a new generation of young changemakers committed to building cleaner, greener, and more sustainable communities.



PRESS BRIEFING

Reviving a Landmark Environmental Law Beyond the Ban: Unpacking Polythene Dependency in Bangladesh

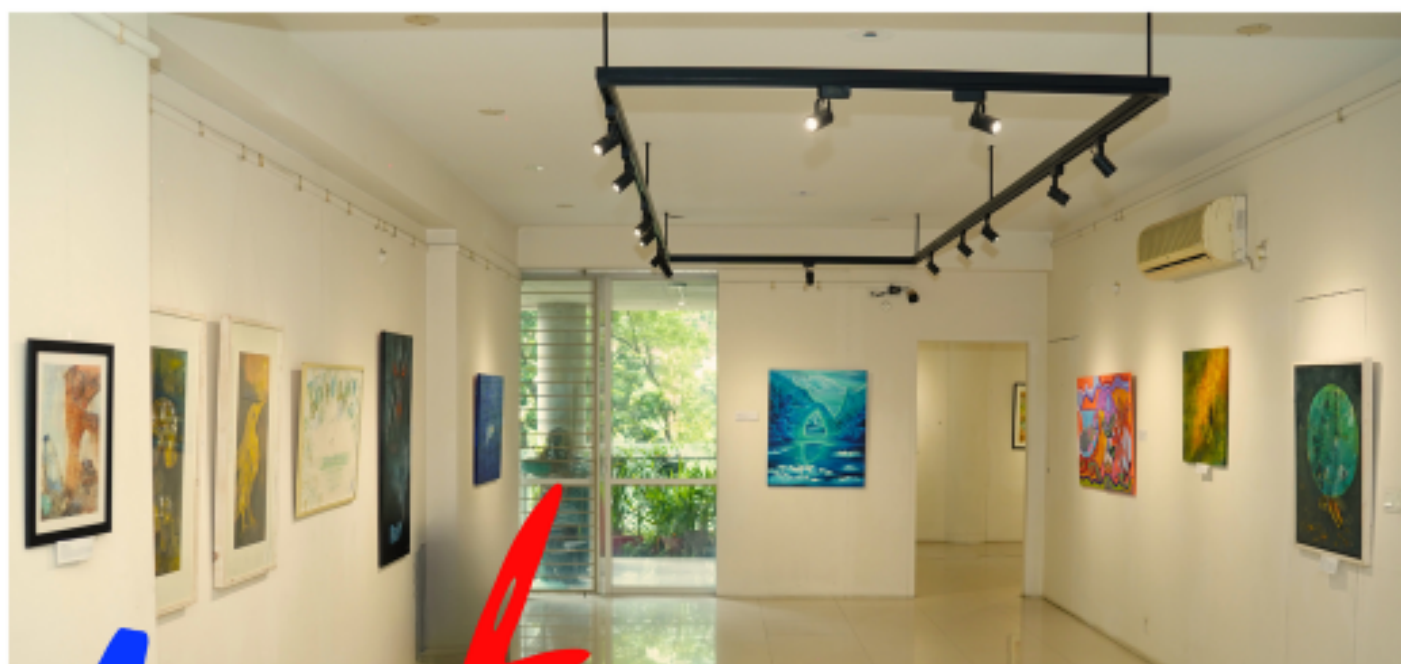
On 10 June 2025 at ESDO Office, Dhaka, a national press briefing marked the launch of ESDO's flagship study "Beyond the Ban: Unpacking Polythene Dependency in Bangladesh." The event brought together distinguished voices including Syed Marghub Murshed (Former Secretary, Government of Bangladesh), Dr. Shahriar Hossain (Secretary General, ESDO), Ms. Siddika Sultana (Executive Director, ESDO), and Mahmuda Tamanna Khan (Inspector, Department of Environment). Joined by media representatives, the discussion revealed critical legal loopholes, enforcement gaps, and governance failures that have hindered the landmark 2002 polythene ban. Speakers emphasized the urgent need for policy reform, stronger enforcement, affordable alternatives, and public engagement to ensure Bangladesh's pioneering environmental law delivers its intended impact. This briefing reaffirmed Bangladesh's role as a global environmental leader while highlighting the unfinished journey toward a polythene-free future.



Let Art Speak for the Environment!

Environmental Art Exhibition Organized on occasion of World Environment Day

Organized by ESDO to mark World Environment Day, this multi-day, public-access advocacy campaign positioned art at the absolute forefront of environmental activism. The event brought together renowned conservationists, state officials, and a vibrant community of young talents. By spotlighting original creative works across three central thematic pillars: The Climate Changing Daily Lives, Plastics Crippling Us, and Zero Waste Transition, the exhibition acted as a physical manifestation of the ecological crises currently unfolding across Bangladesh and the globe.



Art

EXHIBITION





**Working toward our
promise to nature and
people with spirit and
conviction!**



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