

‘Damaged’  
Dash-8 to  
operate soon

Says Biman MD  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dash-8 aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, which was grounded in February due to “damaged engines caused by a pilot error”, will be in operation within a day or two.

“The required engines (for the aircraft) are expected to reach the country very soon and we hope that it will be back in service within a day or two,” Biman Managing Director and CEO Dr Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Biman boss also said the relatively new De Havilland Canada Dash-8 aircraft will be used to operate flights on domestic routes. The Dash-8 aircraft has been grounded since February 2.

The damage allegedly happened when pilot Ali Rubyat Chowdhury deployed the aircraft’s emergency power system – typically used to avoid an impending accident – in mid-air on the way to Sylhet from Dhaka on February 1, according to officials.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

| PRAYER<br>TIMING           |      | APRIL 25 |         |       |       |
|----------------------------|------|----------|---------|-------|-------|
| Fajr                       | Zohr | Asr      | Maghrib | Esha  |       |
| AZAN 4:10                  |      | 12:45    | 4:45    | 6:28  | 8:00  |
| JAMAAT 4:20                |      | 1:15     | 5:00    | 6:38  | 8:30  |
| SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION |      |          |         |       |       |
| SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING        |      | APRIL    |         | SEHRI | IFTAR |
| RAMADAN                    |      | 23       | 25      |       | 6:28  |
|                            |      | 24       | 26      | 4:04  | 6:29  |
|                            |      | 25       | 27      | 4:03  | 6:29  |



As the scorching heat plagues the concrete jungle, these children decided to take a dip in the capital's Crescent Lake to cool off yesterday. In that quest, they turned the event into a fun game, taking a dive from a structure amidst the lake that was meant for beautification.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Govt laxity to blame  
Say speakers on river grabbing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the country has multiple laws regarding the conservation of rivers, the grabbers have become more desperate to encroach rivers given the laxity of those laws, alleged Mujibor Rahman Howlader, former chairman of National River Conservation Committee (NRCC).

He came up with the observation in a seminar, marking “World Earth Day” at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday. Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) organised the event.

He also alleged that some government officials work for consultancy groups.

This creates a conflict of interest, which often hinders the fight against grabbers.

“We must change our mindset. Only then the condition of our rivers will improve,” he said.

Referring to statistics, he said during his tenure in NRCC in 2019, 32.37 percent of grabbers were evicted. But the eviction drive remains halted at present.

“It is our constitutional duty to conserve the overall environment, including our rivers. There are instructions from the prime minister regarding this but the reality is different...,” he added.

Prof Khandakar Bojlu Haque, vice-president of Bapa, said, “We must stop the devastation being inflicted on earth...”

Sharmin Murshid, former member of NRCC, said the state-owned

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

FOOD PRODUCTION  
Focus should be  
on reducing trade  
gap: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh did a tremendous job in food production though the environment was not favourable, and now the key challenge is to produce export-oriented products as the country has a huge gap between its import and export, said speakers yesterday.

Lack to infrastructure and hygiene in processing, inadequate quality control and lack of diversification are the major reasons behind low-quantity food export, they said.

Bangladesh Agricultural Journalist Forum (BAJF) organised the conference styled “Agricultural production in adverse weather: unstable global agri business” at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh.

The country imports food and related products, including machinery and fertiliser, equivalent to \$10 billion a year but exports only \$1 billion worth products, said Mohammad Jahangir Alam, professor of agribusiness and marketing department at Bangladesh Agricultural University.

While presenting the keynote paper, he said, “This huge gap is reducing our foreign exchange as well as increasing food insecurity.”

He recommended allocating more on agriculture in the next budget, specifically in the research and development sector, which is only 1

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

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| FLIGHTS*             | DEP.  | ARR.  | FREQUENCY |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Dhaka – Mumbai^      | 13:20 | 17:00 | Daily     |
| Mumbai – Dhaka^      | 08:50 | 12:20 | Daily     |
| Chattogram – Kolkata | 10:30 | 10:55 | Daily     |
| Kolkata – Chattogram | 08:10 | 09:40 | Daily     |

\*Starting from 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

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| FLIGHTS*              | DEP.  | ARR.  | FREQUENCY |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Dhaka – Jharsuguda    | 13:35 | 19:05 | Daily     |
| Dhaka – Surat         | 13:20 | 21:30 | Daily     |
| Dhaka – Visakhapatnam | 13:35 | 19:20 | Daily     |

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