



DHAKA'S RAINY MORNING WOES

People from all walks of life were forced to navigate through waterlogged streets in the capital yesterday, following a relentless spell of early morning rain that lasted for about two hours. The downpour disrupted daily routines and caused significant delays in the morning commute, plunging the city into disarray. According to the BMD, Dhaka recorded 20mm of rainfall in the morning. The photos were taken in the New Market, Malibagh, Green Road and Siddheswari Circular Road areas.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS, ANISUR RAHMAN, FIROZ AHMED



Bird strikes cost Biman Tk 28.46cr in 2 years

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has said it faced a direct financial loss of Tk 28.46 crore -- excluding minor or indirect costs -- from September 2022 to October 2024 due to bird strikes.

In a recent letter, Biman Managing Director and CEO Md Shafiqur Rahman placed these statistics before Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAA) Chairman Air Vice Marshal Md Monjur Kabir Bhuiyan.

In the letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Daily Star, the Biman MD said this is a critical safety concern affecting all airlines in Bangladesh.

"As the largest carrier of wide-body aircraft in the country, Biman Bangladesh Airlines is especially vulnerable to this issue and faces significant financial consequences as a result," reads the letter.

The Biman MD called upon the CAA chairman to take timely



17 incidents of bird strikes took place on Biman flights in the three international ports -- Dhaka, Sylhet and Ctg -- with HSIA topping with 12 incidents in 16 months since March 2022.

17 incidents of bird strikes took place on different flights of the national flag carrier in the three international ports -- Dhaka, Sylhet, and Chattogram -- with Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport topping with 12 incidents in 16 months since March 2022.

In the latest incident, on May 19, a Turkish Airlines flight narrowly escaped disaster as it successfully

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

action on this matter, saying this could not only prevent substantial financial losses for Biman but also enhance the safety and comfort of the passengers.

"We contend with frequent flight delays and operational disruptions stemming from bird strikes," the letter said.

Bird strikes are a prevalent phenomenon within the aviation industry worldwide.

According to Biman, a total of

WOMEN'S AFFAIRS REFORM COMMISSION'S REPORT

Backlash rooted in gender bias: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The extremist backlash against the Women's Affairs Reform Commission reflects deep-rooted gender inequality in society, said Sharmin S Murshid, adviser to the women and children affairs ministry, yesterday.

Speaking at a dialogue titled "Her Dignity, Her Rights: Unite for Stopping Violence Against Women and Children," Murshid said the recent controversy shows who is against equal rights and how political and religious ideas are being used to block women's empowerment, especially during a time of national unrest.

"The gender divide is not just on the streets or in the fields; it is something we confront daily in our personal and professional lives," she said.

The event was jointly organised by Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) and eight partner organisations -- BRAC, Educo, and Sightsavers Bangladesh.

This [women's affairs] commission has been, and continues to be, critically important -- more so than many others.

Sharmin S Murshid
Women and Children Affairs Adviser

While punishment can be a deterrent to violence against women, the deeper and more lasting solution lies in transforming the values of society itself.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan
Environment Adviser

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), NETZ Bangladesh, Oxfam in Bangladesh, Plan International Bangladesh, Save the Children-Bangladesh, and Sightsavers Bangladesh.

It was held at the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation Auditorium, Parjatan Bhaban, capital's Agargaon.

Referring to the backlash against around 10 out of the 423 recommendations made by the Women's Affairs Reform Commission, she called for "rational, evidence-based discussions involving experts and scholars," rather than emotionally charged or politically manipulated narratives.

"This commission has been, and continues to be, critically important -- more so than many others," she said.

Murshid also said 413 of the 423 recommendations have received broad support and are under active consideration.

"My ministry, along with relevant experts, is currently selecting which of these can be realistically implemented within the limited time we have. We are committed to enacting as many as possible."

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICE
999

Since its launch on December 12, 2017, until April 30, 2025, the helpline received 6,23,80,907 calls. Among these, 2,72,79,886 calls -- 43.73 percent -- were genuine emergency requests.

999 swamped with prank calls

Police say over half of calls are non-emergencies, delaying crucial response times

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 56 percent of calls made to the National Emergency Helpline 999 are blank, prank, or missed calls, causing delays in emergency responses and putting extra pressure on call handlers, said Bangladesh Police in a press release.

Reducing such calls would ensure a faster service from the 999 helpline, which is operated by the police and provides 24/7 service to people in critical situations, said the press release.

Since its launch on December 12, 2017, until April 30, 2025, the helpline has received a total of 6,23,80,907 calls. Among these, 2,72,79,886 calls -- 43.73 percent -- were genuine emergency requests for police, fire, ambulance, or information-related services.

The remaining 3,51,01,021 calls -- 56.27 percent

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Diliruzzaman removed as HC judge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman, one of the 12 High Court judges barred from judicial duties since October 20 last year, has been removed from office.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin removed him on May 21 under Article 96(6) of the Constitution, following a recommendation from the Supreme Judicial Council.

The Supreme Court issued an online notification yesterday in this regard, but did not mention any reason for the removal.

Earlier, on March 18, the president removed Justice Khizir Hayat, another HC judge, based on a similar recommendation from the council.

These actions followed mass protests on the Supreme Court premises on October 16, where



SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

A deathtrap for wildlife

Uncovered electric lines running through Juri, Barlekha ranges killing endangered species

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

At least 10 endangered primates, including seven Phayre's Langurs (Trachypithecus phayrei) and three Spectacled Langurs (Semnopithecus entellus), have died of electrocution since May 2024 in Moulvibazar's Juri and Barlekha ranges, raising serious concerns among conservationists.

The latest incident occurred on May 12 near the main gate of Madhabkunda Eco Park, where the body of an adult Phayre's Langur was found. Similar deaths were reported on March 31 and April 26 this year in the same area.

Forest officials and environmental activists identified uninsulated electrical lines running through key monkey habitats as the cause behind these recurring fatalities.

According to the Forest Department, a stretch of road about 0.5 kilometres adjacent to the main gate of Madhabkunda Eco Park serves as a vital habitat for endangered monkeys.

Several primates have been electrocuted by low-hanging or exposed power lines along this corridor.

So far this year, three more Phayre's Langur have been found dead in the Lathitala forest area, with another

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR