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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

We'll maintain int'l standards for justice**Says new ICT-2 chairman**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury, the newly appointed chairman of the International Crimes Tribunal-2, said the tribunal would continue its proceedings without fear or bias, maintaining international standards of justice.

"I can assure [you], without fear, we will try to ensure justice maintaining international standards..." said Justice Nozrul during his felicitation programme at the tribunal in Dhaka.

He added, "This tribunal is not the same as other legal institutes..."

Joining the programme, Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman echoed the same expectations.

"The trial process must be transparent so that no questions are raised internationally," he said.

He added, "The people of

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Two patients on wheelchairs cross a busy road in front of the Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital. Due to the lack of disability-friendly footbridges and other accessible alternatives, they are forced to navigate traffic alongside other jaywalkers. The photo was taken yesterday.

DU presents proposed budget of Tk 1,035cr

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University has presented a proposed budget of Tk 1,035.45 crore for the upcoming 2025-26 fiscal year.

The previous budget for 2024-25 was Tk 945.15 crore.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) will provide Tk 883.04 crore from the total budget as grants. The university will receive Tk 90 crore from internal sources, leaving a deficit of 62.41 crore.

DU Treasurer Prof M Jahangir Alam Chowdhury presented the annual budget around 3:00pm yesterday at the Administrative Building.

Regarding the budget deficit, Prof Jahangir said the university budget funding primarily comes from the UGC, but the UGC has not provided the

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No social safety net for 91% of street children**Shows survey by Caritas Bangladesh**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite being among the most vulnerable, nearly 91 percent of the country's marginalised population and 94 percent of street children remain excluded from the government's social safety net, according to a recent survey by Caritas Bangladesh.

The survey also found that 58 percent of street children do not have birth certificates, which prevents them from accessing formal education and state services.

The findings were shared yesterday at a media consultation on the challenges and aspirations of disadvantaged children, organised by Caritas Bangladesh at the Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Conducted across Dhaka, Mymensingh, and Rajshahi, the survey covered 667 street children and 1,246 low-income families living in slum areas.

It highlighted alarming levels of deprivation, exclusion, and denial of basic services in communities that should be national priorities.

Presenting the data, Caritas Bangladesh Advocacy Officer Robiul Alam said 58.2 percent of surveyed street children do not

AT A GLANCE**58%** of street children have no birth certificates**51.6%** not enrolled in school**71%** don't know parents' NID numbers**5.7%** receive govt support

The current monthly allowance of Tk 500 to Tk 650 under social safety nets is grossly inadequate and disconnected from the real needs of the poor. There are only a few government programmes for street and underprivileged children. If we fail to secure their future, we risk falling behind as a nation.

Daud Jibon Das
Programme Director, Caritas Bangladesh

have birth certificates.

"Among them, 71.4 percent do not know their parents' national ID numbers, making registration difficult or impossible," he added.

The survey also painted a grim picture of street children's education, as it found that 51.6 percent of the children surveyed are not currently enrolled in any school or madrasa.

Only 5.7 percent (38 children) are covered by government social safety nets, leaving nearly 94.3 percent outside formal social protection systems designed to support the most vulnerable.

Among the slum-dwelling families surveyed, 12.7 percent fall within the low-income bracket, earning less than Tk 12,500 per month. Of these households, 91.7 percent reported receiving no government assistance.

In 38.1 percent of these families, at least one child had become a street child, as per the survey.

While 44.4 percent of families said all their children had birth certificates, 32.9 percent reported that none of their children were registered.

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Why Yunus-Starmer meeting did not happen

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus' meeting with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer could not be held, despite commitment from the UK officials, for some reasons at the last moment, said Acting Foreign Secretary Ruhul Alam Siddique yesterday.

He, however, did not specify the reason but described how it happened.

He was asked why the bilateral meeting between Prof Yunus and Starmer was not held though the acting foreign secretary at the curtain raiser before the chief adviser's visit to the UK from June 9-14 had spoken of a possible meeting.

At a media briefing at the foreign ministry, Siddique said the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke, during a breakfast meeting with him before the visit, conveyed that the visit was upgraded to an official visit.

Later, she met the chief adviser and conveyed the same message to the Bangladesh side. Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Abida Islam was also conveyed by the UK side that it is an official visit, he said.

"The meeting was on agenda until the Chief Adviser reached London but the specific time was not marked. We had an expectation even at the last moment that the meeting would take place.

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Preserve Old Dhaka's historic structures**Urban Study Group urges govt**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urban Study Group (USG), a voluntary organisation campaigning for conserving the heritage of Bangladesh, has expressed concern over the destruction of historic structures in Old Dhaka and urged the government to take necessary steps to preserve those.

At present, the organisation's work is mostly focused in Old Dhaka.

In a press statement issued yesterday, Taimul Islam, chief executive of UGC, said all listed heritage buildings in Old Dhaka must be properly protected and conserved.

"We are deeply alarmed and distressed by the recent wave of destruction targeting multiple historic and architecturally significant buildings in Old Dhaka. These acts of demolition have occurred in both privately owned and government-managed properties, often in blatant defiance of High Court injunctions or while appeals remain pending before the Supreme Court," he said.

Just before Eid-ul-Azha, the century-old Shankhanidhi House (Radhakrishna Temple) on Tipu Sultan Road partially collapsed, including its iconic hanging balcony, due to the illegal construction of a bathroom, he also said.

"Despite being under the custody of at least four major government agencies tasked with its protection, this historic building has suffered from decades of encroachment, illegal modifications, additions,

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PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

A farmer harvests green chillies in the Mougachi area of Mohanpur upazila, Rajshahi. Despite a good yield across various upazilas in the district, an oversupply has driven down prices. In local markets, chillies are selling for just Tk 20 per kilogramme, leaving farmers unable to recover their production costs. Many blame large wholesalers for manipulating prices, saying a similar situation occurred last year.

DREAMLINER FLEET Biman begins precautionary inspection

STAR REPORT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has initiated a series of precautionary inspections across its entire Boeing Dreamliner fleet to ensure safety and operational integrity.

The national airliner came up with the move in the wake of a crash involving an Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner on June 12 that killed more than 275 people in India's Ahmedabad.

The national flag carrier, in a statement yesterday, said that although the cause of the Air India accident is still under investigation, Biman's Engineering Division has proactively launched a comprehensive assessment of critical systems in its fleet of Boeing 787 aircraft.

These include the engine fuel system, electronic engine control, electrical power, hydraulics, air conditioning and flight control systems.

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