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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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Two patients in 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.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Gender budget
cuts may further
marginalise women
Warn experts during discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Economists, rights activists, and development experts have raised concerns over a decline in gender-responsive allocations in the proposed national budget for the fiscal year 2025–26, questioning the government's commitment to women's empowerment and gender equality.

Speaking at a post-budget discussion organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday, they warned that gender-sensitive considerations are being increasingly sidelined, especially during crises – an omission they called unacceptable.

The event, held at the organisation's headquarters in Segunbagicha, brought together policy analysts and civil society members who criticised both the reduced allocations and the persistent gaps in budget implementation and oversight.

Speaking as chief guest, Dr Manzoor Hossain, member (secretary) of General Economics Division, acknowledged the drop in gender budgeting allocation but said this would not necessarily reduce its impact.

He stressed the need for efficient spending by eliminating "non-essential sectors".

However, speakers cautioned that viewing gender budgeting solely through the lens of efficiency risks overlooking the needs of marginalised women and undermining the purpose of gender-responsive planning, especially amid rising social and economic vulnerability among women.

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Decline in
WASH budget
concerning
Says joint budget
tracking analysis by
PPRC, WaterAid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and WaterAid Bangladesh have expressed deep concern over the declining budget allocation for the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector in the proposed Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the 2025–26 fiscal year.

In a joint budget tracking analysis released yesterday, the two organisations noted that WASH allocations have dropped from Tk 182.28 billion in 2022–23 to a proposed Tk 109.01 billion for the upcoming fiscal year.

Although the proposed allocation marks a slight

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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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MOVEMENT AT SECRETARIAT
Law, energy advisers
to hold discussions
with protesters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul and Energy Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan are expected to hold discussions with leaders of the ongoing movement at the Secretariat demanding the repeal of the Public Service (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025.

The decision was taken during the first meeting of a government committee formed to review the ordinance, held on Monday at the Secretariat, according to sources.

The government issued the ordinance on May 25 by amending the Public Service Act, 2018, allowing dismissal of public servants for administrative disruptions within 14 days and without departmental proceedings.

Secretariat employees had urged the government not to introduce such provisions. So, when the ordinance was issued, it sparked widespread protests.

In response, the government formed a review committee on June 4, led by the law adviser. Other members included Fouzul Kabir Khan and Cabinet Secretary Sheikh Abdur Rashid. Three secretaries were included to assist the committee.

A participant in Monday's meeting, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "We have decided to sit with them. That is the only decision for now."

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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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.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

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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