

NEWS

Biman begins

FROM PAGE 3
In addition, power assurance checks on the engines have been undertaken to verify full performance capability, the statement added.

Biman officials said the airline is fully prepared to promptly implement any maintenance directives that may be issued by the aircraft manufacturer Boeing, following the completion of the investigation.

At present, Biman's fleet includes six Boeing 787 Dreamliners, four of the 787-8 variant and two of the 787-9, operating on various international destinations.

The maintenance of these aircraft is carried out in strict adherence to the Aircraft Maintenance Programme approved by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), according to the statement.

This programme, based on Boeing's Maintenance Planning Document and other regulatory guidelines, outlines specific tasks, schedules and procedures to be followed by certified engineers.

All maintenance activities are conducted

under the supervision of type-rated engineers in accordance with Boeing's official manuals.

"All completed task are verified and documented through a stringent quality assurance process before being archived in the Maintenance Planning Department," the statement continued.

Furthermore, Biman uses real-time monitoring tools such as the Aircraft Health Management and Engine Health Management systems to continuously track the condition of its aircraft.

This proactive system allows for early detection and preventive maintenance planning before any issues can arise, read the statement.

Reaffirming its commitment to passenger safety, Biman said it consistently upholds international standards in all aspects of aircraft maintenance and service delivery.

"Biman Bangladesh Airlines remains dedicated to ensuring the highest levels of flight safety and passenger satisfaction," it added.

Gender budget cuts

FROM PAGE 3
Ishrat Sharmin, deputy director at SANEM, expressed disappointment over what she described as a continuing lack of understanding within government ministries regarding gender budgeting.

"Despite years of advocacy, many ministries still don't fully understand what a gender-responsive budget means," she said, adding that the Finance Division's assumption that gender priorities are already addressed is "far from the truth".

She also highlighted the lack of reliable, disaggregated data to measure how gender budgets affect women's lives -- an information gap that weakens accountability and reform efforts.

Sharmin Islam, gender team leader at UNDP, echoed similar concerns. She called for a deeper review of how ministries plan and implement gender allocations and whether those efforts truly lead to positive outcomes for women.

"Without effective monitoring and oversight, gender priorities risk being sidelined," she said, urging the government to strengthen ministries' monitoring and evaluation capacities and introduce comprehensive tracking systems to ensure results.

Umme Marjana, lecturer of economics at East West University, linked increasing rates of gender-based violence with women's economic dependency, especially in the informal sector.

She criticised the budget for failing to address this link and pointed out that rising education costs and limited support for informal workers further marginalise women.

International Crimes Tribunal Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam and a team of prosecutors were present at the courtroom.

On May 8, the law ministry appointed former High Court Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury as the chair of the ICT-2, and named former

district and sessions judge Manjurul Bashid and current Madaripur District and Sessions Judge Nur Mohammad Shahriar Kabir as its members.

Additionally, the registrar's office of ICT yesterday published notices in two newspapers asking ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan to appear before it on June 24.

In connection with a case over crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising, the registrar's office published the notices in two newspapers -- one English and one Bangla -- declaring both the accused absconding.

It said the two must appear before the tribunal on June 24.

If they fail to do so, the court will appoint defence counsel on their behalf and begin proceedings in their absents, ICT Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim said yesterday.

The consultation was attended by Caritas officials, including Chandra Mani Chakma, Kusum Gregory, Asim Cruz, and Anthony Prince Gomez, along with representatives from various organisations, guardians, and street children.

The budget provides no roadmap or targeted

funding to address this deep-rooted inequality," she said.

Mahila Parishad General Secretary Maleka Banu appreciated the timely presentation of the budget but criticised weak monitoring and inconsistent gender budgeting practices across ministries.

"The recognition of unpaid domestic labour is a step forward, but much more remains to be done," she said.

Closing the session, Mahila Parishad President Dr Fauzia Moslem called for including more women economists in policy analysis, especially in evaluating the gendered impact of budgets.

"We must institutionalise the recognition of unpaid and informal work, reduce barriers to education, and address the structural inequalities women continue to face," she said.

Prof Sharmind Neelormi of Jahangirnagar University and Shahnaz Sumi, director of Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha, also spoke at the session, among others.

The event was moderated by Mahila Parishad's Movement Secretary Rabeya Khatun Shanti.

We'll maintain

FROM PAGE 3
this country deserve justice for the injustices they have endured over the past 17 years."

International Crimes Tribunal Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam and a team of prosecutors were present at the courtroom.

On May 8, the law ministry appointed former High Court Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury as the chair of the ICT-2, and named former

district and sessions judge Manjurul Bashid and current Madaripur District and Sessions Judge Nur Mohammad Shahriar Kabir as its members.

Meanwhile, another highly significant heritage structure -- Mangalajila in Farashganj -- came under attack again. This building is among the structures listed by the USG and is protected by court injunctions, said the statement.

Although past attempts to demolish the building over the last two years were stopped with police intervention, the attacks have resumed. While police involvement has again

temporarily halted the destruction, the building's intricate ornamentation has already suffered extensive damage, the statement also read.

USG demanded preserving the entire Farashganj area as a heritage zone.

In connection with a case over crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising, the registrar's office published the notices in two newspapers -- one English and one Bangla -- declaring both the accused absconding.

It said the two must appear before the tribunal on June 24.

If they fail to do so, the court will appoint defence counsel on their behalf and begin proceedings in their absents, ICT Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim said yesterday.

The consultation was attended by Caritas officials, including Chandra Mani Chakma, Kusum Gregory, Asim Cruz, and Anthony Prince Gomez, along with representatives from various organisations, guardians, and street children.

The budget provides no roadmap or targeted

DU presents

FROM PAGE 3
full amount DU proposed in their budget, so there was nothing the university administration could do about it.

He further said, "Our main source of internal revenue is student fees, which have remained unchanged at 10-12 takas [monthly] for the past 20-30 years."

The proposed budget allocates 2.08% of funds (Tk 21.57 crore) for research grants. This compares to 2.02% or Tk 20.07 crore in the 2024-25 fiscal. Asked about maintaining similar research funding levels as last year, Jahangir said they could not increase the research allocation because the UGC did not provide the full proposed grant amount.

Asked if the government

Why Yunus-Starmer

FROM PAGE 3
At the last moment, for some reason, the meeting did not take place," he said.

He said, however, said some responsibilities come onto their shoulders as they (MoFA) were part of the preparation of the visit.

Asked if the government will officially communicate with BBC during the visit, Prof Yunus, on the meeting with Starmer, said, "I don't know whether I should be disappointed or he should be disappointed. It's a missed opportunity."

When asked if Downing Street had given a reason for not scheduling a meeting with Starmer, he said, "I don't think we have received an explanation from that kind of thing. Probably he is busy with other important things."

Except for the meeting with the prime minister, he said, the chief adviser had more meetings than planned and he was provided

Kaun

FROM PAGE 4
paddy due to flood risks," recalled Badiar Rahman from Char Jatrapur in Kurigram Sadar. "So kaun was our staple. Now we cultivate hybrid paddy and high-yield maize. Nobody consumes kaun anymore."

Kaun's nutritional benefits -- being rich in fibre, iron, and protein -- are not lost on the older generation, unlike modern consumers. "We used to eat kaun porridge regularly. It gave us strength. But now, we've forgotten the taste," said Badiar.

Bimal Chandra Roy, a farmer from Char Jatrapur in Lalmonirhat, said, "I once grew kaun on 8-10 bighas. Now I grow sweet pumpkin, maize, and BR-28 rice. They bring better yields and easier market access."

At present, kaun's marketability thrives not for human consumption, but as bird feed.

"I collect kaun from farmers and send it to pet markets in Dhaka," said Mamta Ali, a trader from Jorgach Bazar in Chilmari. "Now, bird lovers are its main buyers."

Shafiqul Islam, additional director of DAE in Rangpur, opined that kaun's drought resistance and low-input nature make it an ideal crop in a time of climate change.

"Yet, without policy intervention or market incentives, farmers remain unwilling to continue its cultivation," he added.

No social safety net

FROM PAGE 3
At the event, street children shared their daily struggles with hunger, abuse, and exclusion.

They called on the government to include them in cash allowance schemes, provide birth certificates, ensure safe housing and education, and offer rehabilitation services.

"We are the most marginalised and neglected," said one child. "We have no guarantee of food, shelter, education, or healthcare. Without a clear plan for us, our future is bleak."

Caritas Bangladesh Programme Director Daud Jibon Das criticised the current monthly allowance of Tk 500 to Tk 650 under social safety nets as 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," he said, urging shared responsibility between the state and families.

He called for simplifying the birth registration process for orphaned children and recommended door-to-door or ward-based campaigns to ensure full birth registration.

He also suggested

registering births immediately at hospitals and community clinics.

Special programmes must be launched to bring street children off the streets, including conditional cash allowances to encourage families to improve their children's living conditions, he said.

He also stressed the need to eliminate child labour, identify children who have dropped out due to child labour or other causes, and reintegrate them into the education system.

Creating a supportive environment to help street children enrol and stay in school is crucial, he said.

Das further urged the government to raise social protection allowances to realistic levels and simplify the application process to widen access.

Caritas also called on NGOs to raise awareness about the importance of birth registration and the dangers of child labour, and to run flexible education centres tailored to the needs of vulnerable children.

The consultation was attended by Caritas officials, including Chandra Mani Chakma, Kusum Gregory, Asim Cruz, and Anthony Prince Gomez, along with representatives from various organisations, guardians, and street children.

The budget provides no roadmap or targeted

interventions -- stemming from administrative negligence, failure to perform duty, and, in some cases, deliberate inaction by these very institutions," Taimur added.

Over the past decade or so, waterlogging has continued to worsen despite so many drains being constructed. We rickshaw pullers suffer the most due to this -- with fewer passengers, difficulty in riding, lower earnings, and yet we still have to pay full rent to owners," said Azmal Haque who is living in the Shirish Nagar for 30 years.

Babul Hawlader, member

secretary of the Khulna

Nagarik Committee, called for the involvement of both the government and local stakeholders to resolve the city's waterlogging crisis.

Mahfuzur Rahman Mukul, divisional coordinator of BELA, said the authorities had identified 460 encroachers and 382 illegal structures on the Mayur River and 26 canals four years ago in Khulna city and three nearby upazilas.

"But, no effective eviction drive followed. Although the Mayur was partially dredged, it was a poorly executed job," he said.

"The connection between the Mayur and Rupsha rivers

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JUNE 18, 2025
ASHAR 4, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

9

First monsoon downpour

FROM PAGE 4
approved, and over the past five and a half years, around 200 drains were developed and seven canals -- including the Mayur -- were dredged at a cost of Tk 600 crore.

Mahfuzur Rahman Mukul, divisional coordinator of BELA, said the authorities had identified 460 encroachers and 382 illegal structures on the Mayur River and 26 canals four years ago in Khulna city and three nearby upazilas.

"Over the past decade or so, waterlogging has continued to worsen despite so many drains being constructed. We rickshaw pullers suffer the most due to this -- with fewer passengers, difficulty in riding, lower earnings, and yet we still have to pay full rent to owners," said Azmal Haque who is living in the Shirish Nagar for 30 years.

Babul Hawlader, member

secretary of the Khulna Nagarik Committee, called for the involvement of both the government and local stakeholders to resolve the city's waterlogging crisis.

Mahfuzur Rahman Mukul, divisional coordinator of BELA, said the authorities had identified 460 encroachers and 382 illegal structures on the Mayur River and 26 canals four years ago in Khulna city and three nearby upazilas.

"But, no effective eviction drive followed. Although the Mayur was partially dredged, it was a poorly executed job," he said.

"The connection between the Mayur and Rupsha rivers

at Alutala Gate must be restored to allow tidal flow and revitalise the waterway so that rainwater can drain into the Rupsha," he added.

Sheikh Ashraf Uz-Zaman, president of the Greater Khulna Development Coordination Committee, called for restoring all 22 canals.

KCC Chief Engineer Moshizuzzaman Khan said, "While most of the work under the project has been completed, several key aspects -- such as repairing pump stations and sluice gates -- are still pending. Once those are done, the city will witness real improvement."

Preserve Old Dhaka's historic structures

Taimur also said shortly after Eid, it was revealed that the century-old Narinda Sewerage Pumping Station -- an integral part of Dhaka's first modern sewage system -- had been completely demolished two weeks earlier.

This protected structure,

also listed by the USG, was razed by Dhaka Wasa in direct violation of a High Court ruling, he said, adding, "This not only raises grave concern but constitutes a clear instance of illegal action by a state agency."

Although past attempts to demolish the building over the last two years were stopped with police intervention, the attacks have resumed. While police involvement has again

temporarily halted the destruction, the building's intricate ornamentation has already suffered extensive damage, the statement also read.

USG demanded preserving the entire Farashganj area as a heritage zone.

In connection with a case over crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising, the registrar's office published the notices in two newspapers -- one English and one Bangla -- declaring both the accused absconding.

It said the two must appear before the tribunal on June 24.

If they fail to do so, the court will appoint defence counsel on their behalf and begin proceedings in their absents, ICT Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim said yesterday.

The consultation was attended by Caritas officials, including Chandra Mani Chakma, Kusum Gregory, Asim Cruz, and Anthony Prince Gomez, along with representatives from various organisations, guardians, and street children.

The budget provides no roadmap or targeted

interventions -- stemming from administrative

negligence, failure to perform duty, and, in some cases, deliberate inaction by these very institutions," Taimur added.

Over the past decade or so, waterlogging has continued to worsen despite so many drains being constructed. We rickshaw pullers suffer the most due to this -- with fewer passengers, difficulty in riding, lower earnings, and yet we still have to pay full rent to