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Biman flight lands safely after losing wheel mid-air

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight landed safely in Dhaka yesterday despite losing a wheel from its left side main landing gear shortly after take-off from Cox's Bazar.

The incident occurred moments after flight BG 436 took off from Cox's Bazar Airport at 2:19pm en route to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, said ABM Rawshan Kabir, general manager (public relations) of Biman.

The aircraft was carrying 71 passengers at the time.

"Biman's engineering department and the airport authorities had taken all preparations at the airport for the landing of the aircraft without one of the left wheels of the main landing gear. The passengers and the aircraft are safe," Rawshan told The Daily Star.

The flight landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 2:20pm without any incident, he added.

Biman authorities said the

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A mourner reacts during the funeral of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, at the Indonesian hospital in Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Pakistan FM calls for 'composite dialogue' with India

Says truce extended till May 18

AGENCIES

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has called for a "composite dialogue" with India to address the contentious issues between the two sides.

Addressing the Senate on Thursday night, Dar said the "ceasefire" with India has been extended till May 18, but a political dialogue will ultimately have to take place to resolve the problems between the two neighbours.

"We have told the world that we will hold a composite dialogue," Dar, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister, said.

He also said that the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of Pakistan and India would again get in contact on May 18, reports Dawn.

Meanwhile, Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said yesterday the International Monetary Fund (IMF) should reconsider a one billion dollar loan to Pakistan, alleging Islamabad was "funding terror".

"I believe a big portion of the \$1 billion coming from IMF will be used for funding terror infrastructure," Singh told troops at an air force base in western India. "I believe any economic assistance to Pakistan is nothing less than funding terror".

India and Pakistan last week launched missiles, drones and artillery strikes on each other before a ceasefire that began Saturday.

'Case was filed to harass us'

Ctg journos allege it was the complainant who attacked them

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Many of the 26 journalists accused in an attempted murder case filed by a pro-BNP lawyer in Chattogram have alleged that the charges were based on distorted facts.

Rezaul Islam, a member of the Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum's Chattogram unit, lodged the case with a Chattogram court on May 13.

The court directed the Police Bureau of Investigation to probe the case against 37 individuals, including the journalists, on charges of an assault on Rezaul on May 1, 2025. Rezaul also alleged that the accused had abducted and mugged him.

Among the 11 other accused, six were labelled in the case statement as "Awami terrorists". Rezaul said in the case statement that all the accused are affiliated with the Awami League, Jubo League, and their associated organisations. They were involved in extortion, murder, and other criminal activities, and they attacked protesters during the July uprising, he alleged.

The accused had repeatedly threatened him to withdraw the cases he filed on behalf of the families of some of the victims of the July atrocities, Rezaul said.

Describing the alleged attack on him in the case statement, Rezaul said he was on his way to a Sramik Dal programme when he saw the accused were assaulting a member of the organisation near the Jamiatul Falah Mosque gate.

When he approached the scene, the accused questioned him about filing the July killing cases, attacked him, and snatched Tk 30,000 and a mobile phone from him, he wrote in the case statement.

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A pro-BNP lawyer filed the attempted murder case against 37 people, including 26 journalists, on May 13.

A top company official sent to jail for 'forging' ministry letter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sent a Bashundhara Group official to jail in a case over an alleged attempt to evade over Tk 50 crore of port charges by submitting a forged letter from the shipping ministry.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Sarkar Hasan Shahriar gave the order in the afternoon after police produced him before the court in connection with the case filed by the port authorities on Thursday night.

Suspect Md Foyezur Rahman, 42, is a senior general manager at Bashundhara Group, according to the First Information Report filed by Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, chief assistant of the Traffic Department at Chattogram Port.

The court ordered the police to produce the suspect before the court on June 19, 2025.

According to the case statement, "109 containers (equivalent to 214 TEUs) imported by Bashundhara

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Many in Gaza 'starving'

Says Trump, Palestinian rescuers report over 74 deaths in Israeli air strikes; dozens injured

AFP, Gaza City

US President Donald Trump said yesterday "a lot of people are starving" in the besieged Gaza Strip, where rescuers reported more than 74 deaths in Israeli air strikes since midnight.

Trump's brief comments on Gaza came as he capped the first foreign tour of his second term that saw him visit several Gulf countries but excluded key ally Israel.

A two-month ceasefire between Israel and Hamas collapsed in March, shortly after Israel reimposed a total blockade on Gaza that aid agencies say has sparked critical food shortages.

Yesterday, Gaza's civil defence agency said that 56 people had been killed in Israeli strikes since midnight, with medics reporting dozens more injured. When asked by AFP, the Israeli army made no comment on the strikes.

"We're looking at Gaza. And we're going to get that taken care of. A lot of people are starving," Trump told reporters in Abu Dhabi.

Israel cut off aid to Gaza on March 2, a tactic it has said is intended to force concessions from Hamas, which is still holding dozens of Israeli hostages it seized in October 2023.

Hamas insisted on Thursday night that the restoration of humanitarian assistance to the war-ravaged territory was "the minimum requirement" for talks.

It also warned that Gaza was not "for sale" hours after Trump again floated taking over the territory and turning it into "a freedom zone".

The World Health Organization said that the last hospital in Gaza providing cancer and cardiac care had stopped functioning after an Israeli attack.

The UN health agency chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on X that an attack on Tuesday left the European Hospital in

Khan Yunis "severely damaged and inaccessible".

It is "no longer functional", he said, adding that a WHO team had evacuated emergency medical staff who had worked through the attacks.

"A strike hit nearby just before the mission," Tedros said, adding that the staff had been taken to the Nasser Medical Complex.

» **Hamas official says Gaza not 'for sale'**

» **Entry of aid 'minimum requirement' for talks: Hamas**

» **WHO says Gaza's last cancer hospital stops working**

Two stabbed to death in the capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two men were stabbed to death in separate incidents in the capital's Shankar and Jigatala areas last night.

The deceased Nure Islam, 26, a freelance photographer, was a resident of Shankar Bus Stand area, while Samiur Rahman, 23, a student of Dr Maleka University College, lived near Hazaribagh BDR Gate 5.

Nure Islam's elder brother, Usman Gani, said muggers stabbed his brother and took his two cameras. When he was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, doctors declared him dead around 9:30pm.

Meanwhile, around 7:30pm, Samiur was stabbed by unidentified assailants near Jigatala Bus Stand area.

Locals rescued him and took him to Japan Friendship Hospital. Later, when he was transferred to DMCH, where doctors declared him dead at 9:00pm, said his friend Tanvir Hossain.

Hazaribagh Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Saiful Islam said, "Some 15 assailants armed with sharp weapons attacked Samiur and several others. Samiur died while at least three others were injured."

The OC added preliminary information suggests a previous dispute resulted in the attack.

Inspector Md Faruk, in charge of the police outpost at DMCH, said the bodies have been kept in the hospital morgue.

Political consensus a must on aid corridor: NCP

The party launches youth front

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must hold discussions with the political parties before finalising any decision on the proposed humanitarian channel to send aid to Myanmar's Rakhine, National Citizen Party Member Secretary Akhter Hossain said yesterday.

"Whether a humanitarian corridor is needed, who will control that corridor, and what kind of movement will take place through it -- all these issues must be discussed with political parties before any decision is made," he said.

Akhter made the comments while addressing the inaugural ceremony of NCP's youth wing, Jatiya Juboshakti, at Abrar Fahad Avenue in the capital's Gulistan area.

"Because it is the people of Bangladesh who will determine the country's future. No foreign lords will be allowed to interfere in our politics," he said.

He called upon the government to ensure that decisions related to Bangladesh's independence, sovereignty, and national security are taken in consultation with all political parties.

The NCP leader also urged anti-fascist forces to continue their fight against fascism, oppression, and authoritarianism despite their ideological differences. "The people do not wish to rehabilitate the Awami League."

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Rows of CNG-run autorickshaws and makeshift stalls illegally occupying the majority of the road near the capital's Jurain rail crossing area leave little room for other vehicles, which causes severe congestion frequently throughout the day. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

BGB, locals step up vigil amid push-in fears

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

To resist any attempted push-in of people from India, Border Guard Bangladesh intensified patrols and heightened vigilance in the bordering villages of Brahmanbaria's Bijoyagar upazila.

Amid the situation, residents of Nalgarghya and Noabadi also joined the efforts on Thursday night, according to local government officials and villagers.

Around 11:00pm, announcements from mosques urged residents to stay alert, locals said.

Sadhana Tripura, upazila nirbahi officer of Bijoyagar, said, "Locals stood by the BGB to resist any attempted push-in. Everyone in the border areas remains alert. The situation is now under control."

Lt Col Jabbar Ahmed, commanding officer of BGB Battalion 25, told The Daily Star, "Given the overall situation in the country, we are maintaining maximum alert along the border. Anticipating a possible push-in, we have taken advance preparations and strengthened patrols in the area."

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