

Biman Bangladesh Airlines faces wave of flight disruptions, technical failures

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Dhaka : Biman Bangladesh Airlines is under mounting scrutiny after a series of technical glitches, unscheduled landings, and grounded aircraft have disrupted services on both domestic and international routes in recent weeks.

Industry observers warn that the state-owned carrier's maintenance and operational standards are being tested at a time when public confidence is already fragile.

Cabin temperature scare forces domestic flight turnback

On August 11, passengers on a Dhaka-Chattogram domestic service were startled when the cabin temperature began to rise sharply just minutes after takeoff from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The flight, operated by a Dash-8 aircraft, was airborne for only 21

minutes before the captain made the decision to return to Dhaka for safety reasons.

After inspection, the same aircraft was cleared to fly later in the day, with passengers rebooked for a departure around 4:00 pm.

While the incident ended without injury, several travelers expressed frustration over what they described as "recurring technical issues" on Biman's regional routes.

Dreamliner grounded in Rome

On the same day, a far more high-profile disruption occurred on Biman's Rome-Dhaka route. A Boeing 787 Dreamliner with 262 passengers on board was grounded at Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino Airport after a malfunction was detected in the aircraft's flap system—a critical component used during takeoff and landing.

The airline arranged overnight accommodation for passengers while engineers worked to fix the problem.

However, some travelers took to social media to voice their dissatisfaction with what they claimed was "a pattern of unreliable long-haul service" on Biman's European network.

Technical troubles pattern

According to recent investigations by local media, these are not isolated events. Sources inside the airline have alleged that maintenance procedures are falling short of international standards, citing underqualified engineering staff and inadequate technical oversight as persistent problems.

In the past few months, Biman has faced multiple schedule disruptions, with domestic flights experiencing extended delays and international services occasionally rerouted or cancelled due to aircraft faults.

Aviation analysts say that without urgent improvements to its maintenance regime, the airline risks further eroding its competitive standing.

Operational impact, passenger inconvenience

The string of mechanical problems has led to significant delays and has

disrupted travel plans for thousands of passengers.

In several cases, flights have been cancelled at the last minute, forcing travelers to rebook on other airlines or wait for replacement services.

Frequent flyers have complained that such disruptions have become "uncomfortably routine," adding to Biman's already mixed reputation for reliability.

Expert reactions

Aviation safety expert ATM Nazrul Islam commented that recurring technical failures point to "systemic lapses in preventive maintenance," warning that reliance on quick fixes rather than comprehensive repairs could lead to more serious safety risks.

"Even if incidents end without injury, repeated malfunctions chip away at passenger trust," he said.

Another analyst, Kazi Wahidul Alam, urged Biman to overhaul its engineering and quality control processes.

"This is not simply about one or two faulty flights - it's a question of whether the airline's maintenance culture meets the demands of modern aviation safety," he noted.

Mounting pressure for action

The recent disruptions come at a time when Biman is trying to position itself as a stronger player in regional and long-haul markets, competing with better-funded international carriers.

However, frequent technical issues could undermine expansion plans and open the door for rivals to capture market share.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has yet to announce any formal investigation into the latest incidents, though insiders suggest that pressure is building for an official review of Biman's technical and operational compliance.

Road ahead

As the airline continues to grapple with both mechanical reliability and customer satisfaction, industry experts say Biman must urgently invest

in staff training, modern maintenance facilities, and stricter quality assurance.

Without these measures, the carrier risks becoming synonymous with delays and disruptions rather than national pride.