

Biman's new Dash-8 grounded due to damage by pilot error

A Monitor Report

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Dhaka : A comparatively new De Havilland Canada Dash-8 aircraft of the national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines has been grounded since February 2 due to engines damaged by pilot error.

The damage allegedly happened when Biman's pilot Ali Rubyat Chowdhury deployed the aircraft's emergency power system in mid-air on the way to Sylhet from Dhaka on February 1. It is usually used to prevent an impending accident, said reports citing Biman officials.

The move damaged the aircraft's two engines, which will now cost the airline a huge amount of money to repair, added Biman officials, according to reports.

The pilot is supposed to report the incident to the authorities concerned and make an entry in the logbook so that the aircraft is not used until the repairs are done.

However, Chowdhury, who is also the Deputy Chief of Training at Biman, did not report the matter to the proper authorities, the airline's flight crew members said, reports claimed.

As a result, the "unfit aircraft" was used on the return flight to Dhaka with 49 passengers on board. There was a real possibility of the engines exploding during the flight, they claimed.

Even after landing in Dhaka, the matter was not reported to the engineering

department. And the plane was being prepared for use the next day.

At the last minute, the aviation engineering department revoked the flight permit seeing data in the system logs that the emergency power was used. Since then, the 74-seater aircraft, one of the three purchased from Canada's De Havilland, has remained grounded.

De Havilland Canada and engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney have been asked to assess the damage.

The plane was brought to Dhaka in February 2021, said Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal, Managing director and Chief Executive Officer of Biman. They have formed a probe body to know under what circumstances did the pilot use the emergency power, and whether there was any fault in his handling of the aircraft, he added.

New arm badge for upper wing staff

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has introduced new arm badge for its upper wing staff at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital in an effort to help passengers easily trace the staff for required assistance.

"This is a new initiative of the national flag carrier to enhance quality of passenger service at the prime airport of the country," Dr Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal, Managing Director and CEO, Biman Bangladesh Airlines said.

Explaining the new move, Biman MD said, lower wing staff of the airline are mainly engaged in ground service. Hence, they can be easily traced as they wear reflective vests.

However, passengers were facing problems finding upper wing staff of Biman to seek assistance as they wear plain clothes, the Biman Chief added.

The Biman MD and CEO further mentioned, after the introduction of the new arm badge, authorities will be able to monitor activities of its staff through surveillance camera as well to figure out whether they are serving passengers since-rely or not.