

Tunisian President calls for urgent rescue of struggling Tunisair

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Dhaka: Tunisian President Kais Saied has called for urgent action to improve the struggling national airline Tunisair during a meeting with CEO Halima Ibrahim Khouaja and Transport Minister Rachid Amri on March 24.

At the meeting, Saied highlighted the significant decline in the airline's fleet, which has decreased from 24 to only 10 aircraft, many of which are in poor condition.

He noted that the technical inspection process for planes in Tunisia takes over 123 days, compared to just 10 days for other airlines, leading to substantial financial losses amounting to “tens of billions of dinars.” This financial burden, he argued, could have been invested in acquiring new aircraft.

Saied also criticized Tunisair for having unworthy arrival and departure slots, and underscored the need for improved service. Furthermore, he accused the airline of past recruitment practices based on favoritism.

He emphasized the urgency to "stop this bleeding quickly", and has mandated the development of a rescue plan to restore Tunisair to its former status. Saied assured that neither the airline nor its hub at Tunis Carthage airport would be overlooked, highlighting its unique advantages and potential for expansion.

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