

## UK MP presses Biman to reverse Manchester–Sylhet flight suspension

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dhaka: A Labor MP has raised concerns in Parliament over Biman Bangladesh Airlines' decision to suspend its direct Manchester–Sylhet service, warning that the move could cause significant hardship for British Bangladeshi communities across the country.

Paul Waugh, MP for Rochdale, highlighted the issue in the House of Commons on January 15, describing the route as an essential connection for families and businesses. He said, the service is widely used not only by people in the North West, but also by communities in Scotland and the Midlands.

Waugh criticized the airline for what he described as a sudden decision, saying the suspension would force passengers to travel via London, increasing both costs and journey times. He called on parliamentary leaders and fellow MPs to urge the airline to listen to affected communities and reinstate the route.

Responding to the appeal, Sir Alan Campbell acknowledged the importance of the Manchester-Sylhet link, noting that it is especially vital for family travel during emergencies and for maintaining business ties. He said, the concerns expressed reflected strong feelings within the Bangladeshi community and expressed hope that the airline would take them into account.

Biman announced earlier this month that it planned to suspend the route from February, citing Hajj operations and other operational challenges. On January 6, the airline said, it had delayed the suspension by one month, moving the planned start date to March 1.

The national carrier has said it will assist affected passengers under its existing policies, offering options such as rebooking on the Dhaka-London route, altering travel dates, or issuing refunds.

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