

## **Biman didn't request to disembark passengers: Kolkata Airport**

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- A Monitor Desk Report

Date: 26 July, 2022

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Dhaka: The authorities of Kolkata airport have denied Biman's allegations that they did not allow the passengers from a Biman flight to disembark, leaving them stranded inside the plane for four hours on July 18, over a technical glitch.

Airport authorities mentioned there was no provision that disallows boarded passengers to disembark.

"But it has to be requested and it has costs. The Biman pilot or their ground duty manager posted at the airport did not even make such a request," said the Kolkata airport authorities.

Earlier, Biman Bangladesh Airlines shifted the blame to Kolkata airport authorities.

The airline said, the airport was responsible for the sufferings of its

passengers on Dhaka-bound flight as they did not let the passenger disembark.

Flight BG 396 remained stuck with around 150 onboard in Kolkata from 9:00 pm local time on July 18 at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport as the Boeing 737 aircraft suffered a technical glitch in its landing gear, said reports.

During the four hours, the passengers were left without food and air conditioning.

The Biman MD said they could not serve food or turn the AC on as repair work was ongoing.

After the fix, the flight, however, landed in Dhaka at 1:42 am on July 19.

"Food was stored in the aircraft as per our information. In the worst case scenario, if there is insufficient food or water, they can be delivered from local agencies like Taj Stats on short notice," said the Kolkata airport authorities as per reports.

Several passengers who went to India for medical purposes started feeling unwell as the air condition system of the aircraft was not working due to the unavailability of ground electricity.

The Kolkata airport authorities said Air India ground handling provides support to Biman at Kolkata. Ground-based power units can be connected to aircraft for the AC to be powered. Ground-based AC units are also available but the Biman pilot did not request any of them.

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