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# Biman management continuing to victimise pilots despite assurances made by Prime Minister

Chertsey 8 February: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) is astounded to learn that the management of Biman Bangladesh Airlines is continuing to ignore assurances made by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. This disregard is evidenced by a systematic programme of intimidation and victimisation of pilots began when IFALPA member the Bangladesh Airline Pilots' Association (BAPA) held a press conference in October during which the association set out its bargaining position.

Over the last three months pilots involved in the work of BAPA have been subjected to a series of punitive actions by the airline's management including groundings, Check rides graded as "failures" and the cancellation of professional ratings. In addition, the airline has cancelled all leave for the entire pilot group. While these measures reveal a cynical vindictiveness by the management of Biman the fact that the airline has also published no roster for the past three months has safety implications since pilots do not have advance warning of duty days and times it is impossible for them to ensure that they are fully rested and fit for duty unless all other aspects of their private lives are put on hold.

Furthermore, attempts by BAPA's Executive Committee to set up negotiations aimed at resolving the dispute have been stalled by Biman Management refusal to deal with the Executive Committee preferring to only deal with the Association's former President who was impeached following an overwhelming vote of no confidence by the association's membership.

Accordingly, IFALPA has written to Prime Minister Hasina asking for her intervention to prevent further deterioration of the relationship between Biman and its pilots. The Federation also calls on the management of Biman to cease its campaign of fear and intimidation open a dialogue with the democratically elected representatives of its pilots so that an early resolution to this damaging dispute can be reached. As always, IFALPA stands ready to assist in the search for an agreement that is just and beneficial to both parties.

*Notes to Editors: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 100 countries world-wide. The mission of IFALPA is to be the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety and security world-wide and providing services, support and representation to all of its Member Associations.*

*See the Federation website [www.ifalpa.org](http://www.ifalpa.org)*

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