

Bangladesh Hajj flights beginning April 18 with reduced fares

- A Monitor Report

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Dhaka : Hajj flight operations from Bangladesh are set to begin on April 18, with the inaugural flight scheduled to depart from Dhaka under the supervision of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, officials said.

Authorities confirmed that around 78,500 Bangladeshi pilgrims will travel to Saudi Arabia for Hajj this year, with all passengers being transported through scheduled flights rather than chartered services. In a relief for pilgrims, airfare has been reduced by BDT 12,000 per ticket compared to previous years.

Hajj operations will not be limited to Dhaka. Flights from Shah Amanat International Airport are expected to begin on April 19, with a total of 16 direct flights planned-12 to Jeddah and four to Madinah.

Despite the preparations, concerns remain over potential disruptions

due to aircraft shortages. Biman Bangladesh Airlines is currently operating with a limited fleet, and one of its larger aircraft is undergoing repairs abroad. Industry insiders warn that the airline may struggle to meet the high demand for Hajj travel without additional capacity.

The government has directed all relevant agencies to ensure smooth travel and high-quality services for pilgrims. Officials have been instructed to maintain strict coordination so that travelers do not face difficulties during their journey.

Each year, thousands of Bangladeshi pilgrims travel to Saudi Arabia for Hajj, making it one of the country's largest seasonal aviation operations. Authorities remain hopeful that, despite global uncertainties and operational challenges, this year's pilgrimage flights will proceed without major disruptions.