

Biman not performing as per potential: Board Chairman Hassan

A Monitor Report

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Dhaka : The flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines is not performing in line with its potential, said Sajjadul Hassan, Chairman, Board of Directors of Biman while speaking at a discussion during the unveiling of Biman's logo to mark the 50th anniversary of the airline at Biman's head office in the capital's Kurmitola.

He further stressed that Biman board is a high-power body with huge figures like finance secretary and secretary to the Prime Minister's office. "Yet, the Biman board cannot perform in line with its potential. Can the board members demonstrate their performance according to their potentials?" questioned the Board Chairman.

He said, "We need to question ourselves whether we are able to take Biman to that stage in the last 50 years where it should stand." "Those working in Biman should consider what we wanted and where we are now," he added.

The Biman Board Chairman requested the airline's Managing Director and CEO Dr Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal to look into the matter.

Coming down heavily on those responsible for recent disruption in flight schedules of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Sajjadul Hassan said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has instructed to identify those responsible for the sufferings of passengers due to continuous delay in flight schedule.

Later, on this note, State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahbub Ali warned that everyone responsible for affecting the service provided to passengers will have to face stern action.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Mokammel Hossain, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman, Biman MD and CEO Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal, also spoke at the programme.

Biman resuming flights to Bangkok

Biman Bangladesh Airlines is going to resume flights on Dhaka-Bangkok-Dhaka route from December 2. However, passengers travelling to Bangkok will be required to have USD 50,000 in health insurance coverage.

The national flag carrier will operate two weekly flights on the Dhaka-Bangkok route on Thursdays and Sundays. The flights will leave Dhaka at 11:30am and the return flight will leave Bangkok at 4:15pm local time, Biman said in a statement on November 22.

A passenger who wishes to travel to Bangkok must have a Covid-19 vaccination certificate showing that he/she was fully vaccinated at least 14 days before arrival.

Thailand-bound passengers must also collect a "Thai Pass" after registering online.

Passengers entering Thailand must have a Covid-19 negative rt-PCR test issued at most 72 hours before departure.

Upon arrival in Thailand, passengers will have to undergo a Covid test again and, if the test result is negative, they will be able to visit designated tourist destinations. However, they must stay in the Sandbox area (designated tourist centres) for seven days under the Sandbox programme prescribed by the Thai authorities.