

## Flag carrier of Bahrain envisions further growth, connectivity

- A Monitor Special

Date: 17 May, 2025



Dhaka : Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, has reaffirmed its commitment to the Bangladeshi aviation market with the appointment of a seasoned industry professional as its new Country Manager in Bangladesh Saeed Dashti.

With over two decades of experience in the aviation and banking sectors across the Middle East and Asia, the new appointee brings a wealth of knowledge and strategic insight to one of the airline's most important regional markets.

While talking to The Bangladesh Monitor, Saeed Dashti shared highlights of his professional journey, which began at Gulf Air in revenue accounting and network analysis.

He later held senior commercial roles at Qatar Airways, including Sales

Manager in Iraq and Commercial Manager in Iran, before leading operations for Oman Air and Salam Air across key Gulf and South Asian cities.

"I'm excited to be back with Gulf Air and leading our operations in Bangladesh - a market with immense potential," said Saeed Dashti. "Having worked across Bahrain, Iraq, Abu Dhabi, Iran, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, I see this role as a continuation of my commitment to strengthening regional connectivity."

Focus on expansion, service excellence

Gulf Air has served Bangladesh for more than 40 years, and the new Country Manager is determined to enhance that legacy. His immediate priorities include optimizing operational efficiency, expanding the airline's route network, and strengthening local partnerships.

A key initiative is the recent deployment of the wide-body Boeing 787 Dreamliner on the Bahrain-Dhaka route, a move designed to accommodate increasing passenger demand with enhanced comfort and capacity.

"While we are proud of our Dreamliner service, I believe there is still untapped potential in cities beyond Dhaka," Saeed Dashti explained. "We are prepared to scale further, though global aircraft availability remains a limiting factor."

Strategic market development

Gulf Air's strategy for Bangladesh under his leadership involves a multi-faceted approach: competitive pricing, product innovation, and superior service delivery. Enhancements to premium offerings and a refreshed focus on optimizing the passenger mix are in the pipeline.

Additionally, the airline is actively engaging with local travel agencies, OTAs, and tourism stakeholders. "Our partners in Bangladesh are instrumental to our success. These long-standing collaborations continue to help us reach travelers more effectively," the Country Manager added.

Understanding market, looking ahead

Bangladesh's strong labor ties with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

countries-home to over eight million Bangladeshi workers-make it a crucial market for Gulf Air.

The Country Manager acknowledges both the opportunities and challenges of operating here, including regulatory hurdles and infrastructure constraints, but remains optimistic about the sector's growth.

He also envisions Bangladesh playing a central role in Gulf Air's broader expansion strategy, acting not only as a point-to-point destination but also as a vital feeder for westbound international routes.