

Dhaka airport sees flight operations threefold

A Monitor Report

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Dhaka : The Bangladesh aviation sector is witnessing a rebound following the pandemic as flight operations and passenger traffic to and from Dhaka airport have increased threefold in three months.

During the coronavirus crisis from March 2020, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport only saw a handful of flights, mostly chartered and cargo, for about a year as scheduled services remained off while, before the pandemic, about 120 flights operated at HSIA every day.

However, to its luck, flight operations have tripled at Dhaka airport in the last three months, said Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman.

"Almost all the 28 foreign airlines have resumed flight operations to and from Bangladesh," he added.

Over 10,000 passengers - many of whom are Bangladeshi expatriate workers - are flying from the Dhaka airport every day on average, he mentioned, adding, the number ranged between 3,500 and 4,000 three months ago.

Currently, 80 flights are operated from the airport every day and that the number will further increase within the next week, CAAB Chairman foresaw.

Biman Managing Director and CEO Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal said the airline has spread resumed flights on 15 out of its 18 international routes with 80 per cent passenger capacity while they are flying with 70 per cent of passenger capacity on

the domestic routes.

Kamrul Islam, General Manager (Public Relations) of US-Bangla Airlines, said they resumed flight operations on seven out of their nine international routes. The airline is now operating 34 flights on seven domestic routes, which is close to the pre-pandemic level, said reports.

Kamrul said they were flying with 80 per cent of their passenger capacity on the local routes compared to 85 to 90 per cent during the pre-pandemic times.

Mofizur Rahman, Managing Director of NOVOAIR, said the airline was now operating flights on all seven domestic routes with 70 per cent passengers capacity.