

Riyadh Air set to launch operations in Dhaka this year

- A Monitor Desk Report

Date: 10 May, 2026



Dhaka: Bangladesh's aviation sector is set to become more competitive as Saudi Arabia's new airline, Riyadh Air, prepares to begin operations in Dhaka later this year.

According to officials from the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), the airline has already received approval to operate flights in the country. While the carrier is yet to submit its final flight schedule, commercial operations are expected to begin once the schedule receives official clearance.

Initially, Riyadh Air plans to operate daily direct flights between Dhaka and Riyadh. The airline is also considering expanding services to Jeddah, Dammam, and Madinah in the future. In addition to Dhaka, the company is reportedly exploring the possibility of direct flights from Sylhet and Chattogram.

Currently, direct flights between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia are operated by Biman Bangladesh Airlines, US-Bangla Airlines, and Saudia.

Officials involved with the launch said, Bangladesh is a highly promising market because of the large number of migrant workers, business travelers, as well as Hajj and Umrah passengers traveling to Saudi Arabia each year. They believe the new airline will offer passengers more travel options and competitive fares.

The airline's local sales operations in Bangladesh will be handled by Rhythm Group, which said preparations for the launch are now in the final stage.

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