

## **Biman finally launches committee to investigate pilot hiring scam**

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dhaka: National carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines on March 6 formed a three-member committee to investigate the allegations of irregularities in hiring Boeing 777 pilots who were unqualified.

Captain Siddiqur Rahman, Director of Flight Operations of Biman, is the convener of the committee while Capt Enam Talukder, Chief of Flight Safety, member, and Taposh Ahmed, Deputy Chief of Training, member-secretary.

The probe body was asked to submit its report within three working days.

The flag carrier formed the probe body in response to reports claiming Biman hired unqualified Boeing 777 pilots with hefty salaries, putting passengers on flights at risk.

The body will also investigate the alleged forgery of HSC certificate by Sadia Ahmed, a first officer of Boeing 777. Sadia is the wife of Biman Chief of

Training Capt Sazid Ahmed.

According to reports, Biman in February 2022 recruited a batch of contractual pilots to fly its Boeing 777-300ER aircraft as the airline needed pilots immediately due to a shortage.

In 2023, only five of the batch of 14 pilots, have taken to the air while the rest are lost in a quagmire of forged certificates, incompetence and failed licensing exams.

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