

Biman to resume flights to Saudi Arabia from Oct 1

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Dhaka: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has finally permitted Biman Bangladesh Airlines to resume commercial flights to the kingdom from October 1.

The operation of Biman's flight will provide much needed capacity increase on routes between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. At present severe shortage of seat capacity on the routes is posing serious problems for thousands of Bangladeshi migrant workers, many of whom got stranded at home amid the coronavirus pandemic.

More than 22 lac Bangladeshis are now working in Saudi Arabia. Many Bangladeshi expatriates came to the country on vacation from Saudi Arabia before the closure of flights due to the pandemic.

They remained stranded as only few chartered and specially arranged flights operated between the two countries after the closure of the air communication.

Saudi Arabian Airlines is scheduled to resume its flights from Dhaka from

September 23.

At present, 13 airlines, including 11 foreign carriers, are operating 46 weekly flights to seven countries from Bangladesh.

International flights resumed in Saudi Arabia on September 15 following the decision of the Saudi authorities to exempt certain categories of Saudis and expatriates from the temporary travel ban imposed since March as part of precautionary measures to stem the spread of coronavirus, according to reports.