

SIA pilots agree to more pay cuts to save jobs amid COVID-19

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Dhaka: Singapore Airlines pilots have agreed to take deeper pay cuts of up to 50 per cent so that more of them can stay employed during this coronavirus crisis.

This is on top of a 10 per cent cut in the monthly variable component (MVC) of their salaries, according to reports.

With the new agreement reached between SIA and the Air Line Pilots Association – Singapore (Alpa-S), reemployed captains and first officers will see their salaries cut by 60 per cent and 50 per cent respectively, starting October 1. This includes the 10 per cent MVC cut.

Other captains will take pay cuts of up to 28.5 per cent, while first officers will take cuts of up to 18.5 per cent, depending on their current pay.

According to reports, in an internal circular, the pilots were told, "We are pleased to announce that a memorandum of agreement (MOA) was signed with Alpa-S

effective October 1, 2020 to March 31, 2022 on additional pay cuts to avoid further job losses."

This latest agreement supersedes the previous one dated August 6, said Quay Chew Eng, Senior Vice President, Flight Operations of SIA and Kenneth Lai, President of Alpa-S.

The pay cuts will be reviewed and adjusted if flying hours increase, the pilots were told.

An SIA spokesman confirmed that an agreement has been reached. He said, "As per today's agreement, the company will implement additional pay cuts for all remaining pilots in Singapore Airlines and SilkAir with effect from October 1, 2020. As a result, this agreement will help to mitigate further job losses for our pilots."

"The SIA Group is focused on navigating and overcoming the challenges ahead of us in this extremely uncertain operating climate."

SIA, which has about 2,600 pilots, has retrenched about 50 of them, mainly foreigners.

The airline has said that it expects to operate at under 50 per cent of its capacity at the end of this fiscal year, compared with pre-COVID-19 levels. It now operates at about 8 per cent of its passenger capacity, compared with before the pandemic.