

Palpa casts PIA MD away

KARACHI: Captain Aijaz Haroon, Managing Director, Pakistan International Airline (PIA) and Senior Instructor Pilot of PIA Boeing 777 has been suspended from the membership of Pakistan Air Line Pilots' Association (PALPA).

Palpa sent the notice at the residence of Captain Aijaz Haroon, Palpa membership No. 208 which said, "Captain Aijaz was being a 'typical MD' that the executive committee's have dealt with previously". The notice addressed Captain Ejaz saying, "Palpa expected that you being a member of the association would benefit the association and plead the cause of Palpa and its members".

The notice also mentioned signing of the working agreement between Palpa and PIA management, "the signing of the working agreement of Palpa with PIA has been delayed, the Maximum Flight Duty Time limitations as provided by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has been adopted putting lives at risk, explanations have been called from members of the association, some members of the executive committee have

been removed as Instructors". Moreover, the notice by Palpa to Captain Aijaz mentioned that, "the executive committee members are extremely perturbed of the kind of comments you have made in print and electronic media. Calling the pilot com-

“
Capt Ejaz
asked to
surrender Palpa
club house
membership
card

munity as thieves, scroungers, arm twisters, black mailers and greedy."

Palpa has asked for a written reply from Captain Aijaz, suggesting that why your case should not be processed as per Palpa constitution, which may entail expulsion from the Association. Reply from the MD-PIA has been solicited within seven days of the receipt of letter.

Palpa executive thus suspended the membership of Captain Aijaz till finalisation of the matter and asked him to surrender the Palpa Club House membership card immediately as all rights and privileges shall remain inoperative.

It may be recalled that PIA management had almost completed negotiations, which continued for 16 weeks finally Palpa signed the MoU for 13 per cent raise in salaries and allowances of Pilots at midnight July 28.

On second thought after eight days of signing the MoU, Palpa reneged and declared the agreement void as the executive committee of 400 regular pilots was not ready to share the total amount of Rs226 million with 80 contractual pilots. PIA extends pay privileges benefits across the board to all sections of the employees even-handedly and the pay and benefits agreed and signed between PIA management and representatives of other 17,000 employees in different categories have also been passed on to all employees and not just to the members of the particular union or association. -APP