

Jet fuel now costlier than ever

Airlines worried about more expenses; travellers may bear the brunt

RASHIDUL HASAN

Local airlines will have to face a huge blow, as the price of jet fuel has been hiked again, this time for domestic routes. The airlines are worried about their operational costs and said that this increase will ultimately hike airfares, burdening travellers.

Padma Oil Company Limited, a subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) increased the price of jet fuel by Tk 5 per litre. The new price came into effect on October 26.

So, a litre of jet fuel now costs Tk 130. BPC, however, slightly decreased jet fuel price for international routes.

The price for international routes will become \$1, as opposed to the previous price of \$1.09.

Stakeholders in the aviation industry blasted BPC for its “whimsical decision” to increase the price. They said it is illogical, as jet fuel price has remained static in the international market.

This is the 17th time Padma Oil Company increased the price in the last 23 months.

Due to the price hike, air travellers will have to pay more, sources in the aviation

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- » A litre now costs Tk 130
- » Price for int'l routes reduced to \$1 from \$1.09
- » New price came into effect on Oct 26
- » Price hiked for 17th time in last 23 months
- » 46-50pc of airline's operational costs are for jet fuel
- » Price increased by 170pc in last 23 months

industry told The Daily Star.

In December 2020, the price of jet fuel, which accounts for 46 to 50 percent of an airline's operational costs, was Tk 48 a litre.

The price increased by 170 percent in the last 23 months, according to sources in different local airlines.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mofizur Rahman, secretary general of Aviation Operators Association of Bangladesh (AOAB) and managing director of Novo Air, said there is no logic behind the latest decision.

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In order to avoid going all the way around Jahangir Gate, a school-van driver decides to take the wrong side just to save some time. Not only is this manoeuvre illegal and causing traffic congestion, it is also risky as the students can fall victim to accidents at any point. This photo was taken near Mohakhali flyover yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

FORESTLAND
Persuade BFF to relocate its training centre
11 civil society orgs urge Fifa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eleven civil society groups have urged Fifa, international governing body of football, to persuade BFF (Bangladesh Football Federation) to relocate its training facility from Cox's Bazar forestland.

They also urged FIFA to uphold its commitment to sustainable environment.

They made the request in a letter sent to FIFA President Gianni Infantino yesterday.

The signatories include Sultana Kamal, president of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon; Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori; Rasheda K Chowdhury, education

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From friendly phone calls to blackmail
DB arrests two members of extortion gang

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The group first collects phone numbers and professional details of noted people, especially men, from social-media platforms and websites.

Then a female member tries to get acquainted with the target by talking on the phone or through texting.

As per the plan, the member tries to convince the target to meet at a designated spot. If anyone shows interest, the gang takes the victim to a secluded place.

During that time, other group members, identifying themselves as police officials, take compromising pictures and videos and threaten to release in the media if the victim does not pay a certain amount.

Police's Detective Branch (DB) gave this information yesterday, following the arrest of two of the gang's masterminds on Wednesday.

The arrestees are Md Khokon Akanda and his partner Bilkis Begum.

Police arrested the duo from Savar, after a complaint was filed with Darussalam police station, Md Nazmul Hoque, additional deputy commissioner of DB, told The Daily Star yesterday.

In the complaint, the victim mentioned that Bilkis wanted to meet him, saying that she needs to file insurance for some of her relatives.

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Expats involved in anti-govt activities to face music

Foreign ministry tells JS body

RASHIDUL HASAN

Bangladeshi expatriates involved in anti-government activities abroad will be brought under law, the foreign ministry has informed a parliamentary standing body yesterday during a meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

During yesterday's meeting, the ministry officials submitted a report on the implementation progress of that recommendation.

“Sadly, besides playing a positive role in protecting the interests of Bangladesh and sending remittances, many of the expats are engaged in propaganda against Bangladesh and the government. The government is working to bring those to book who are engaged in anti-government activities and giving provocative and completely fabricated statements,” read the report.

The committee was informed by the

ministry that regular efforts are being made to publish informative news, essays and articles in the international and online media to counter the propaganda against the government and highlight the positive image of Bangladesh.

Besides, when false and misleading news reports are published in the international media, the foreign ministry takes measures to publish objective and informative protest letters (rejoinders) to counter those.

Ruling Awami League lawmaker Kazi Nabil Ahmed, a member of the committee in the previous meeting of the JS body, said due to the continuous propaganda against the government, representatives of some countries belonging to the European Union have started to express negative attitudes towards Bangladesh.

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New Indian envoy presents credentials to the president



BSS, Dhaka

President M Abdul Hamid yesterday received the credentials of India's new High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Kumar Verma at Bangabhaban.

Welcoming him, the president said India is a tested friend of Bangladesh, president's Press Secretary Md Joinal Abedin told the news agency.

Hamid said in the current context, international cooperation is crucial to deal with the situation caused by the existing global problems, especially the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war.

He hoped the two countries would help each other in various fields to overcome this situation.

Verma said his country attaches importance to increasing cooperation and developing relations with Bangladesh.



Dengue death toll **123**

Total number of patients **34,822**

3,480 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients **31,219**

899 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

This photo was taken in Suhrawardy hospital in the capital recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

HOSPITALS STRUGGLING

UNB, Dhaka

Many hospitals in the city, including Dhaka Medical College Hospital, are struggling to provide treatment to the rising number of dengue patients due to the shortage of beds.

In scenes reminiscent of the country's worst-ever dengue outbreak in 2019, many patients suffering from dengue fever were seen receiving treatment on the floors and corridors as hospitals run out of beds to accommodate them.

Visiting various areas in the city, the news agency found that hospitals, including Holy Family Hospital, Mugda Medical College and Hospital, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital & Institute, Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Kurmitola General Hospital, are treating patients on the floor as all the beds in their respective wards have been filled with patients affected by the mosquito-borne disease.

However, the number of infections may start to fall in the first week of November, said Dr Nazmul Islam, director of the Disease Control Department of DGHS.

Recently, the number of dengue patients has

increased across the country. But the fatalities can be considerably reduced if patients go to doctors at the right time, he said.

He also said dengue fever has increased due to climate change. Besides, due to a lack of awareness, mosquito-borne disease has increased this time.

A total of 123 people have died of dengue till yesterday. Doctors said children are the worst sufferers.

“Creating awareness among people is a must to rein in the dengue menace. We have taken various steps in this regard,” Health Minister Zahid Maleque told the news agency.

Dhaka North City Corporation Hospital -- a new unit of BSMMU -- and Lalkuthi Hospital have been kept ready in case of emergency, he added.



The minister said the city corporations and municipalities have been urged to stay vigilant about killing mosquitoes.

If the number of mosquitoes is reduced, the number of patients will automatically decrease resulting in the low pressure of dengue patients in the hospital, the minister observed.

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هو القدير الغفور. هو الذي خلق الحياة والموت ليختبر من هو أفضل في الأفعال من بينكم.

He is the One who created life and death in order to test which of you is best in deeds. And He is the Almighty, All-Forgiving. (Surah Mulk, Verse 2)

Mir Mustafizur Rahman (Jan 7, 1935 – Oct 28, 2021)

M. Mustafizur Rahman, a former renowned senior Government official, passed away one year ago, on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at his residence in Gulshan, Dhaka. He was 86 years old.

He was born in a respectable Muslim family in 1935 at Fakirbari, Barisal. He completed his B. A. and M. A. in Economics from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and another M. A. in Development Economics from Williams College, Massachusetts, USA.

Mr. Rahman qualified in the Civil Service examination in 1959, and served the Government in different capacities including Chairman, Water Development Board, Secretary, Civil Aviation and Tourism, Information and Broadcasting, and Education. He was also Finance Secretary, President's Principal Secretary, Alternate Executive Director of World Bank and the first Executive Chairman, Board of Investment, Government of Bangladesh. He was the Chairman of the Revenue Reform Commission (2003) and Chairman of the 7th Pay Commission (2009) appointed by Government.

On retirement from the Government service, Mr. Rahman involved himself in the development of life insurance, leasing, credit rating agency and private university in this country.

Seeking prayers for the departed soul, are:

Prof Salma Rahman, (Retired Professor of English, former Director, Secondary Education and Project Director, Female Secondary Education Stipend Project)

Nahid, Runa, Saadia, Mahfuz, Kamran, Murad, Shaheen, Bitalie, Nahiyan, Lamisa, Shanza and Marzuq.