

## Jet fuel price hiked again

A Monitor Report

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Dhaka : Air travellers now will have to pay more as Padma Oil Company, the subsidiary of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, has increased the jet fuel prices for the 11th time in the last 13 months.

Jet fuel now costs BDT 77 per litre. Meaning, the government agency has hiked the price by 67 percent since October last year, according to airline officials.

The development comes at a time when the aviation industry is rebounding from the travel plunge caused by the coronavirus pandemic with the relaxation of travel restrictions.

Air travel will inevitably get costlier as a consequence and it is the passengers who will have to bear the burden at the end of the day, said Kamrul Islam, General Manager of Public Relations of US-Bangla Airlines.

Different airlines around the world are getting support from their governments to stay afloat during the Covid-19 period. "When we need support from the government on an emergency basis, the BPC has been increasing the jet fuel price regularly in the last one year," he added, claiming that fuel costs account for 40 to 46 per cent of an airline's operation outlays.

The jet fuel price is higher in Bangladesh than elsewhere in the region and this hike will make survival even more challenging for the two private airlines, said Kazi Wahidul Alam, an aviation expert and Editor of premier tourism publication The Bangladesh Monitor.

"Our government has done nothing so far to ensure the aviation industry survives the pandemic storm. Instead, it has increased jet fuel price without any logical reason," he claimed.