

7 Oct 2015 **Back Page** 

### Unreasonable raise in fares

# CP sump

#### RECORDER REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Flexing its muscles in its inquiry against the private airlines, the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) on Tuesday passed an order using its powers under section 36 of the Competition Act, 2010, binding the Chief Executive Officers of the airlines to submit information on recent unreasonable increase in the air fares and to appear before the inquiry committee on 8 October 2015.

Sources informed Business Recorder that the order has a binding effect and non-compliance could lead to a legal action against the CEOs of the airlines, including imposition of penalties.

The CCP has jumped into the fray to overcome crisis created due to a strike by the Pakistan Airlines Pilots Association (PALPA) resulting in deadlock between the PIA and its own pilots. The crisis has badly hit the flight schedule and people have been forced to depend on private airlines only. Taking advantage

of the situation, the private air- 37 of the Competition Act into lines increased their fares manifolds, thus burdening the consumers. The Prime Minister also took notice of the situation and ordered an inquiry into the matter. The PM wants the issue to be resolved forthwith to relieve the consumers.

Sources said that the anti-trust watchdog has seriously pursued the matter and will take every legal action to save consumers from the exploitative practices.

A press release issued by the CCP here on Tuesday that the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has passed a special order under Section 36 of the Competition Act, 2010 to the Chief Executive Officers of the private airlines operating in Pakistan to submit information regarding the recent unreasonable increase in the air fares and to appear before the inquiry committee on 8 October 2015.

The special order to seek information has been passed as part of an inquiry initiated under Section the CEOs.

the alleged unreasonable increase in air fares by private airlines taking advantage of the cancellation of flights due to the on-going deadlock between PIA management and Pakistan Airlines Pilots Association (PALPA), on domestic routes. The sudden hike in air fares resulted in an extra burden on the consumers who were already suffering due to strike by PALPA.

Section 3 of the Competition Act prohibits unreasonable increase in the prices of goods and services while Section 4 of the Act prohibits undertakings from colluding on price. Through the inquiry, the CCP will investigate the possible abuse of dominant position or collusion amongst the private airlines to raise air fares, therefore adding burden on the consumers. In case the airlines failed to comply with the special order, the Commission will further proceed in accordance with law against

7 Oct 2015 **Page 5** 

### Private airlines' CEOs called over fare hike

By Our Staff Reporter

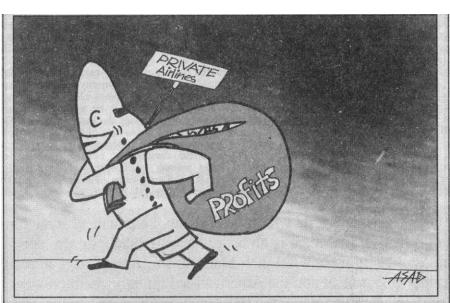
KARACHI: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has ordered the chief executive officers of private airlines to submit information about what it called the recent unreasonable increase in air fares and appear before an inquiry committee on Thursday.

The order was passed on Tuesday as part of the inquiry initiated under Section 37 of the Competition Act into the alleged unreasonable increase in air fares by private airlines which apparently had taken advantage of the cancellation of PIA's flights on domestic routes because of a deadlock between its management and the Pakistan Airlines Pilots' Association.

Through the inquiry, the CCP will investigate the possible abuse of dominant position or collusion among the private airlines to raise their air fares.



7 Oct 2015



## Private airlines on a rampage

Sir: Private airlines, which were allowed under the Aviation Policy to offer competitive, affordable and reliable air travel facilities on domestic flights, went on a rampage, hiking fares almost by double to make astronomical, unethical profits while PIA is stranded by striking pilots. This went on for days till the Prime Minister (PM) returned from his foreign trip and took notice of the abuse. What purpose do state regulatory institutions and federal bureaucracy, created to prevent such exploitation, serve if they are to remain inert till the PM intervenes?

intervenes?

There exists an aviation division, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and various other state regulatory agencies such as the Competition Commission of Pakistan. One of these private airlines has amongst its owners a federal minster. It seems that it is PIA that is preventing these private airlines from literally lynching clients,

instead of them serving as fair competition to offer alternate options to air travellers. As it is, private airlines in violation of the Aviation Policy refuse to operate on socio-economic routes and choose instead to pay miniscule fines, which do not serve as deterrence. Even before private airlines were allowed to operate in Pakistan, there existed competition for PIA on international and regional routes.

There have been too many accidents involving these private airlines. Some of them, like Bhoja, have shut down following crashes primarily because their aircrafts were aged, poorly maintained and the CAA had failed to enforce strict regulatory controls to prevent them from cutting corners. It is not only PIA that requires revamping but also these private airlines and the CAA.

ALI MALIK

Lahore



7 Oct 2015

Page 8

# CCP begins probe as private airlines increase fares

## OUR STAFF REPORTER ISLAMABAD

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In case the airlines failed to comply with the special order, the Commission will further proceed in accordance with law against the CEOs.



#### Page # 10 7 Oct 2015

# CCP starts inquiry into increase in air fares by private airlines

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has passed a special order to the chief executive officers of the private airlines operating in Pakistan to submit information regarding recent unreasonable increase in the air fares and to appear before the inquiry committee tomorrow (Thursday). The special order to seek information has been passed as part of an inquiry initiated under Section 37 of the Competition Act into the alleged unreasonable increase in air fares by private airlines taking advantage of the cancellation of flights due to the ongoing deadlock between the PIA management and Pakistan Airlines Pilots Association (PALPA) on domestic routes. The sudden hike in air fares resulted in an extra burden on the consumers who were already suffering due to strike by PALPA. Section 3 of the Competition Act prohibits unreasonable increase in the prices of goods and services while Section 4 of the Act prohibits undertakings from colluding on price. Through the inquiry, the CCP will investigate the possible abuse of dominant position or collusion amongst the private airlines to raise air fares, therefore, adding burden on the consumers. In case the airlines failed to comply with the special order, the commission will further proceed in accordance with law against the CEOs. STAFF REPORT



7 Oct 2015 Online

# CCP begins probe as private airlines increase fares

October 6, 2015

By: Samaa Web Desk

KARACHI: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) took notice of the increase in air fares by some private airlines while allegedly taking advantage of ongoing dispute between Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and Pakistan Airline Pilots Assocaition (PALPA).

According to a statement, the CCP has launched an inquiry to investigate whether private airlines took advantage of the crisis situation in the PIA.

The commission would take action against the airlines if any violation of law was found during the probe.

The inquiry report would be presented to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who had also taken notice of unreasonable increase in air fares. –Samaa



### Private airlines' CEOs called over fare hike



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Published in Dawn, October 7th, 2015



7 Oct 2015 Page 3

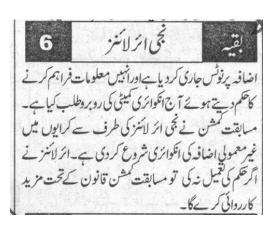




کیا۔انکوائری میں یہ بات دیکھی جارہی ہے کہ لہیں کی ائیر السُز کی طرف سے حالیہ دنوں میں فضائی کرایوں میں کیا گیا نامعقول اضافہ نی آئی اے انتظامیہ اور پالپا کے درمیان ڈیڈ لاک کے نتیج میں پروازیں منسوخ ہونے کا فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے تونہیں کیا گیا









7 Oct 2015 Page # 14



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