

RMG WORKERS' MINIMUM WAGE

Tk 1,700 final pay package to be announced today

MONJUR MAHMUD

The Minimum Wage Board will announce today a final and single pay package for the workers in the readymade garment (RMG) sector recommending around Tk 1,700 as the minimum wage for the entry-level workers.

Earlier a draft proposal with recommendation for three-tier pay package failed to get support from owners and workers.

The final proposal may also have seven grades like the draft proposal but there would be significant reduction of pay in the grades other than

the seventh, sources said, adding that the final proposal is likely to be accepted by all the six members of the board.

Besides, there may be a marginal change in the pay offer of Tk 1,200 for the apprentice workers.

At a meeting on Tuesday, the board decided to make the final announcement today after reviewing more than 400 opinions and objections sent by factory owners and workers on the draft proposal. The draft was announced on September 12 and it was kept in circulation for 14 days for opinions and objections.

Around 30 organisations representing garment workers sent their opinions about the draft proposal urging the board to increase the minimum wage for the workers that would range between Tk 1,650 and Tk 1,800, sources said.

"In the face of severe opposition from the garment owners, there has been an understanding that instead of a three-tier proposal a single pay structure will be sent to the government for consideration," Zafrul Hasan, permanent representative of the workers on the board, said yesterday.

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A scared family sits helplessly in a taxicab as electricity-starved people of Tejgaon in the capital vandalised the vehicle yesterday while protesting against persisting load-shedding.

Karwan Bazar kitchen market to be relocated

Ecneec okays Tk 206cr project; businesses to be shifted in 4 areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to shift the wholesalers and retailers from the city's Karwan Bazar kitchen market to four other places in the capital with a view to introduce an improved market monitoring system and better supply and distribution of agro-products.

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved a Tk 206 crore project for constructing four new wholesale kitchen markets in the city's Jatrabari, Aminbazar, Lalbag and Tejgaon.

Presided over by Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur

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Sanitation coverage goes up to 84pc in 3 years

Unicef report says on Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh made a spectacular progress in sanitation coverage from 33 per cent in 2003 to 84 per cent in 2006, a Unicef report revealed yesterday.

The report titled "Progress for Children: A Report Card on Water and Sanitation" charts progress towards Millennium Development Goal (MDG)-7, which includes the

target of halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015.

The report, however, said although Bangladesh made impressive progress in sanitation coverage, safe water is still a challenge and the country is likely to miss one of the MDGs to bring 86 per cent of its population under

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ASSAULT ON SHOOTERS Federation to file case against cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Shooting Federation (NSF) yesterday decided to file a case against the policemen who assaulted national shooters and NSF employees at its complex in Gulshan on Monday.

The NSF, at an executive committee meeting yesterday afternoon, also decided to move in the higher court to defend the three shooters, a cook and an on-duty Ansar member who are facing charge for assaulting policemen.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday

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Abbas mulls dissolving Hamas-led government

Rice seeks to boost Fatah standoff with radicals

REUTERS, Ramallah, West Bank

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said yesterday he might opt to dissolve the Hamas-led government and that unity talks with the Islamist group had broken down.

"My constitutional powers, granted by the basic law, will be used in (the appropriate) time," he said at a news conference, in a clear reference to a possible presidential edict to dissolve the government.

"The dialogue now does not exist," Abbas, speaking hours

before a scheduled meeting with visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, said about talks with Hamas.

Rice is on a regional visit partly aimed at bolstering the moderate Abbas in his power struggle with Hamas, an Islamic group dedicated to Israel's destruction.

"It is very necessary that we increase our efforts to end this crisis, and reach a solution towards forming a new government," Abbas said.

"I hope to reach this end as soon

as possible because the people have been suffering for the past seven months and cannot endure further suffering," he said.

Abbas pointedly did not refer to the formation of a unity government, an issue under discussion with Hamas for weeks in talks that have reached a stalemate over policy towards Israel.

Ismail Rudwan, a Hamas spokesman, urged Abbas to continue unity talks. "Hamas warns against any attempt to carry out a

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Fitra fixed at Tk 37

UNB, Dhaka

This year's fitra has been fixed at Tk 37 per head for Dhaka and its adjoining areas.

For other parts of the country, the fitra has been fixed at the local market price of 1.650kg of flour or wheat.

The decision was taken at a meeting on fixing fitra in the conference room of Islamic Foundation Bangladesh yesterday with Khatib of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque Maulana Obaidul Haq in the chair, said a press release.

The meeting discussed the market prices of flour and wheat of different bazars in six divisions of the country and fixed the fitra at Tk

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Sehri, Iftar timing

Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar
11	5	4-33	5-45
12	6	4-33	5-44
13	7	4-33	5-43

Prayer Timing

October 5

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-32	4-42
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-45	6-00
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

