

Knit owners urged to follow new pay scale

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
The leaders of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) yesterday urged the owners of garment and knitwear factories to follow the new pay scale announced by the government.
They also called for forming a participatory committee comprising both the owners and workers' representatives at all the factories to solve the workers' problems in order to avoid any unrest.
They were speaking at a meet-

ing with the factory owners on productivity, new pay structure, and prospects of the knit sector at the conference room of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI).
BKMEA acting president Mohammad Hatem chaired the meeting, where Senior Social Compliance Officer Md Mijanur Rahman presented a keynote on 'New Minimum Wage Structure: Implementation and its Importance'.
Rahman said the factory owners should not curtail any existing additional facilities the work-

ers have been enjoying from before while implementing the new pay scale.
Hatem said BKMEA is working for the capacity building of its member factories through implementing modern management and setting production strategy.
He urged the factory owners to become more conscious about maintaining compliance, the implementation of the new pay structure and enhancement of the workers' efficiency.
BKMEA Vice President (Finance) AH Aslam Sani said Ban-

gladesh is now the second biggest knitwear exporter in the world.
He emphasised ensuring compliance and implementing the new pay scale in the knitwear factories to become the number one in knitwear export.
Sani said the workers in Vietnam and China are getting minimum wage of \$47 and \$200 per month, while the Bangladesh government has set the amount at around \$45.
CCCI President MA Latif MP blamed the recent workers' unrest on some wrong steps taken by some owners at differ-

ent factories in Chittagong Export Processing Zone while implementing the new pay scale.
BKMEA Director and also the Managing Director of Four H Group Gouhar Siraj Jamil urged the knit sector leaders to discuss with the government the issues such as the shortage of gas, electricity and raw materials.
CCCI Vice President SM Shafiqul Hoque, directors SM Salaudin, Golam Zakaria Bhuiyan, Md Humayun Kabir Khan Shilpi and Md Syed Hossain Sarker, and former director Showkat Osman also spoke.



RASHED SHUMON
Vehicles rumble through Tejgaon Industrial Area in Dhaka yesterday, in a rally for Tuesday's countrywide strike. Owners of CNG refuelling stations and conversion workshops called the strike as the deadline for fulfilling their seven-point demands ends tomorrow.

Govt, WB sign \$150m credit deal

STAR BUSINESS DESK
The government signed a \$150 million credit agreement with the World Bank (WB) for a three-year programme yesterday to create employment for the poor in rural areas.

The programme will address seasonal poverty by allowing the poorest to earn, and can be scaled up if the situation demands, the WB said in a statement.
The programme -- the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest -- will target both the poorest upazilas and households, and is expected to create 200 million person-days of employment over a three-year period, it added.
M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, secretary of Economic Relations Division (ERD), and Ellen Goldstein, country director for the World Bank, signed the deal in Dhaka.
"The government is committed to extend the safety-net to protect the poorest and the vulnerable population while ensuring an efficient, accountable and transparent system," Bhuiyan said.
"Wages to the day-labourers will be paid through formal financial channels to ensure the efficiency and transparency," he added.
The programme will benefit the day-labourers, especially women, who are often out of work during the lean season, and ensure that at least one-third of those employed are women, said the officials.
"Our mandate is to reduce poverty, and this requires shared growth in which the poorest are not left behind," said Goldstein. "The World Bank will provide funding for wage-earners, but will also ensure that funds are well-targeted to those who need it most."
The programme will run for 100 days each year, spanning over two lean seasons: one from October to December and another from March to May, when rural day-labourers are out of work.



MINDSHARE
Officials and members of the jury panel pose at the grand finale of Brandwitz 10, an inter-university marketing and branding competition, at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka on Wednesday. Twenty teams from public and private business schools took part in the event.

NSU emerges as Brandwitz champ

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
North South University (NSU) has emerged as the champion of the Brandwitz 10, an inter-university marketing and branding competition, defeating three teams.
The grand finale was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.
Twenty select teams from both public and private business schools took part in the competition organised by the Institute of Business Administration Communication Club (IBACC) in association with CLEAR, a brand of Unilever Bangladesh.

Of them, four teams were selected to fight for the championship after participating in the first and the second rounds of the competition.
Through the first engaging round, 12 teams made it to the second. The second round focused on product branding.
Two teams from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University became the first and second runners-up.
The finalists were from United International University, NSU and the IBA.
The champion of the tournament is awarded a cash prize of Tk 1 lakh, with the first and second runners-up bagging TK 50,000 and TK 25,000 respectively.
The adjudication panel comprised Ather Ali Khan, Shah Imam Masud and Aly Zaker.

Khulna takes up Tk 112cr waste management project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
Khulna City Corporation (KCC) and Renovo Technologies Private Ltd of Singapore yesterday went into an agreement to implement a project worth Tk 112 crore for the modernisation of the city's waste management system.
KCC Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Renovo Technologies Lone Andersen signed the deal in the conference room of Nagar Bhaban.
The city corporation went into the agreement to modernise its waste management and recycling system, and Renovo will develop and implement waste collection mechanisms to make Khulna a 'zero waste city',

the mayor said after signing the agreement.
KCC will facilitate and provide necessary support in the development and implementation of the project within a timeframe of 18 months.
Under the scheme to be implemented on build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis, Renovo would invest in building and running a biogas project, he said.
The implementing party will collect the city's clinical, hospital and hazardous wastes and manage disposal using appropriate technology, Khaleque said.
A project steering committee will be formed comprising waste management standing committee, con-

servancy division, engineering division of KCC and representatives from Renovo Technologies.
The steering committee will play an advisory role for the development of waste separation, transportation, skill development, enhancement of environment and awareness building activities. Renovo will operate the plant and carry out commercial activities on its own, the mayor said.
Renovo Technologies will start the project activities within the next three months.
The company will also set up a laboratory with skilled human resources to monitor any environmental pollution and ensure quality of the by-products, said the mayor.

WB stresses accountability in public spend

STAR BUSINESS DESK
The Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is a must to ensure accountability of governments for public spending through transparent use of taxpayers' money, said the World Bank's country director yesterday.
"Accountability is a critical ingredient of good governance because it leads to better economic outcomes and reduced poverty," said Ellen Goldstein at the inaugural session of a meeting of the Asia Regional Public Accounts Association at

Ctg ICT fair Wednesday

BSS, Dhaka
A three-day information and communication technology (ICT) fair will be held at Woodland Park at Sholashahar in Chittagong on December 22-24.
Inpace Management Services Ltd is organising the fair, 'Banglalion Chittagong Digital Expo-2010'.
Banglalion Communications Limited (BCL), a leading broadband wireless access operator of the country, is the title sponsor of the event, while HP (Imaging and Printing Group) and E-Scan are its co-sponsors.
In this connection, a press conference was held at the National Press Club here yesterday where various aspects of the fair were highlighted.
Muhammad Kamrul Ahsan, managing director of Inpace Management Services Ltd, said the fair has been arranged to provide detailed information about computer and ICT to the people of Chittagong, particularly students of schools, colleges and universities.
Kamrul said more three mega pavilions and 67 stalls will be set up at the fair by the country's leading IT firms, like Computer Source and Smart Technologies.
The fair will remain open to all from 10 am to 7 pm every day with Tk 10 entry fee. However, school students will be able to visit the fair without any entry fee.



BANK ASIA
Erfanuddin Ahmed, president and managing director of Bank Asia, attends a foundation course for the bank's 25 officers at its training institute in Dhaka on Wednesday.



Advertorial
LBSL Awarded CSE Trade Performance Award 2009
In 15th Annual General Meeting of Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd., LankaBangla Securities Limited, (LBSL) one of the largest stock broking firms in Bangladesh Capital Market has been awarded Trade Performance Award 2009 on 14th December 2010. On behalf of LBSL, Mr. Mohammed Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, CEO & Director were present to receive the said award. In the Award giving ceremony, Mr. Fakhur Uddin Ali Ahmed - President, Mr. Al Maruf Khan FCA - Vice-President, Mr. A.Q.I. Chowdhury, OBE Vice-President, Mr. Tareq Kamal - Vice-President, Professor Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Mamun - Chief Executive Officer & Director and other directors, members and high officials of Chittagong Stock Exchanges Limited were present. LankaBangla Securities Limited has secured its Top Position for last consecutive 6 years in Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited. Recently it has subscribed Bloomberg Professional Service of Bloomberg L.P an internationally renowned professional service provider.