

Tk 5,300

FROM PAGE 1

The board fixed Tk 3,200 as basic pay, Tk 1,280 house rent, and Tk 320 medical allowance. It also included Tk 200 transport allowance and Tk 300 as food subsidies, said judge AK Roy, chairman of the six-member wage board.

Failing to reach a consensus on the minimum salary thrice before, the board in its ninth meeting yesterday went for a vote and the recommendation was passed 4-0, with factory owners in the board refraining from voting.

The new minimum salary and the new salaries for 3.5 million garment workers in seven grades would be effective after a gazette notification in this regard is published.

"The salaries will increase proportionately in other grades," Roy told journalists at the wage board office on Topkhana Road in Dhaka after the meeting.

"When the board could not reach a consensus, I went for voting, as the board chairman has this right," said Roy.

Before finalisation of the recommendations, workers' representative Sirajul Islam

COUNTRY	MONTHLY MINIMUM WAGE (in US\$)
Bangladesh	37.5
Sri Lanka	71.25
Pakistan	71
Indonesia	72.8
Cambodia	80
India	98.3
Philippines	195
China	181
Thailand	116.5
Vietnam	110.24
Nepal	83.2

The above data is taken from Bangladesh Trade Union Centre (BTUC). Wages for Vietnam and Nepal are taken from Minimum Wage Board

Rony had agreed to make the minimum salary Tk 6,000. He previously wanted Tk 8,114, Roy said.

But the factory owners' representatives were sticking to Tk 4,250 minimum wage, including food subsidies.

Talking to The Daily Star, owners' representative Arshad Jamal Dipu said the garment makers would lose their competitiveness because of the salary hike.

"Our industry will not be able to sustain the recommended salary. Many small and medium factories will face difficulties in implementing the salary structure. I urged the chairman to review the recommendation," Dipu said.

Roy said the recommendations would be sent to the labour and employment ministry for reviewing. After the review, a gazette would be published in the next 14 days.

Workers' representative Sirajul Islam Rony said, "I accepted the Tk 5,300 minimum wage, which includes the food subsidy ... Now we need to work hard to increase productivity."

Brutality beyond belief

FROM PAGE 1

and blame-game.

Asked what would be his reaction if his child was burnt in front of him, like what happened to Monir in front of his father, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, "There is no doubt that such incident is very unfortunate. We definitely condemn such heinous activities."

Asked what they gain from such violent politics, Fakhrul said they enforce hartal not out of joy, but to ensure people's voting rights. "We don't have alternative."

He claimed the opposition was not involved in setting fire to vehicles or throwing petrol bombs on any individual. "It's the government agents who carry out such activities to defame our peaceful hartal."

Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said, "To any father, his child is the dearest of any other things in the world. Nothing can be more sorrowful than the killing of a child in front of a father, whoever he may be. The body of a son is the heaviest thing on a father's shoulders."

Demanding exemplary punishment to the culprits, he said, "As a father I have no words to express my feelings about this horrific incident."

The AL leader said cadres of BNP-Jamaat, which has called the "illogical hartal", were responsible for the arson.

About BNP acting secretary general's comments, Hanif said the arsons were launched by the "criminals of BNP-Jamaat" at the directives of Fakhrul to create panic among people who do not support hartal.

"Such incidents will make people hate politics," he added.

DHAKA TRIP, DHAKA TRAP

Monir, who was battling death with over 95 percent burns last night, had begged to his father to bring him to Dhaka.

"This was his first time in the city," said Ramjan Ali, a covered-van driver from Gazipur. He along with his son came to the capital for business on Saturday and was on his way back when the arson took place on the Dhaka-Gazipur highway yesterday.

"It was 9:00am, and we were just a few kilometres away from home. Sending trouble ahead, I parked my van and asked Monir to wait inside. I went out to check if it was safe to drive on," he said.

Little did he know picketers would spot the vehicle and set it alight.

Locals and police pulled out the burning child and doused him with water. He was first whisked off to Tongi Hospital and then to DMCH.

"I have not told his mother yet ... she will have a fit," said Ramjan.

DMCH sources said there was little hope for Monir's survival. But none had the heart to tell Ramjan that he should call his wife immediately if she were to see her son alive for one last time.

The boy was conscious and writhing in pain, Dr Samanta Lal Sen, project director of the DMCH burn unit, told The Daily Star around 11:30pm.

"It is difficult to say if he will last the night - but he is in unimaginable pain. His wind-pipe has been burnt and every breath he takes is through excruciating pain," he said.

Dr Sen, who is almost on the verge of retiring from his career, went on to say that he has never seen a case this bad in his life.

who travelled all the way from Netrakona on Sunday to visit her cousin sister in Uttara, is fully aware of her wounds.

The pain from the 13 percent burns she has suffered was far more than what a child could bear. But the brave little girl didn't cry out even for once. She was murmuring "Ma" over and over again through her swollen lips.

Her mother is in Netrakona, unable to rush to her daughter because of the hartal, said Sumi's maternal grandmother.

Around 7:00pm Sunday, at Gazipur Chourasta, the little girl faced the worst nightmare of her life as picketers torched the bus she was in.

"Someone pulled me out, cut through my clothes and poured water on me," said Sumi.

Sumi's parental grandmother was also injured in the attack. She suffered 15 per-

cent burns.

Sumi's father, a fisherman, will not be able to bear the costs of the expensive treatment.

In a hall near Sumi's ward, the body of Mostafizur Rahman Mukul, 35, was lying on a stretcher. His wife was crying her heart out.

Mukul died from 60 percent burns around 10:30am yesterday, 12 hours after miscreants hurled a petrol bomb on the auto-rickshaw he was riding in Savar.

His elder daughter Mahi, 5, was waiting with dinner for her father on Sunday night, her uncle Biplob said yesterday. "She waited till 11:00pm before falling asleep without having dinner."

Younger daughter Moushumi, 3, had stayed awake almost the entire night, and was seen dropping off to sleep in a hospital bench yesterday morning. Mahi was left home.

Neither of the daughters knew their father was never coming back.

Asad Gazi, 40, was admitted to the DMCH burn unit yesterday. An auto-rickshaw driver, he suffered burns after criminals hurled a crude bomb at him in Savar on the hartal eve Sunday night.

At the end of last month, during the 60-hour hartal enforced by the 18-party opposition coalition, six children were injured, and one died.

Murad, 10 and Rahima, 9, from the capital, Rony, 7, and Milton, 8, of Bogra, and Sumon, 16, of Jhalakathi, had got themselves critically injured after picking up unexploded cocktails strewn about public places by pickets.

All of the children thought the red objects were toys.

Murad's father said yesterday that nearly a week has passed since the fateful day when his son picked up a bomb, but the boy still screams in pain throughout the day. Doctors said the fingers of his left hand might need amputation if the condition deteriorates.

Rahima has become blind in the right eye; the other one is about to lose vision.

Several hartal victims complained that they have received little help from the government, a clear contradiction to a promise made by Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque on October 31.

Addressing the press during a visit to DMCH, he pledged that the government would bear all expenses of hartal victims.

Murad's father added he was paying his way through the treatment of his son. He just gets the bed for free.

"No one extends help to those civilians who are caught up in hartal blasts -- no one even bothers to offer an apology," said rights activist Shaheen Anam.

She went on to say that only the hartal victims with political affiliations get attention, that too because their deaths and injuries can be used politically.

"Hartals violate citizen rights ... Most of us have to be outside at least to go to work."

Furthermore, hartals violate children's right to education -- schools are forcibly closed down, she said. "Not to mention more direct effects when children end up being injured or dead."

Shaheen Anam added if the civil society tries to oppose the hartals -- any hartals, given by any parties -- they are labelled as belonging to the opposition. "Why does the society have to be bi-polar? Why cannot there be neutral people who just want to oppose hartal because it violates some of our most fundamental rights?" she asked.

ASM Shahjahan, former inspector general of police, told The Daily Star yesterday that the culture of violence during hartals grew because politicians know they are immune from the law.

"Sometimes cases are lodged in these connections. But more often the cases fail to accuse any identifiable criminal. Even more often, the cases are made to be dropped because they can easily be labelled as politically motivated. Thus the criminals enjoy impunity," said Shahjahan.

However, these are crimes and need to be treated as such, he added.

"What is morally wrong cannot be politically correct," said Shahjahan. He encouraged ordinary citizens and civil society to stand up against hartal violence.

2009 tragedy back in mind

FROM PAGE 16

armed border troops indulged in an act of mindless violence.

The mutiny that rolled on for next 33 hours left the nation benumbed, as people stood aghast at the extent of the barbarity perpetrated on the officers. It left 74 people dead, 57 of them were army officers. As things started to unfold, many theories popped up centring the mutiny.

The verdict of the mindless killing is set to be pronounced today, after over four years and nine months since the incident.

The Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka will hand down the verdict around 10:00am. The court had earlier set October 30 for the judgment delivery.

The number of accused in the case is 846, of whom 823 are BDR jawans and 23 civilians. Of the accused, 813 are in jail, 13 on bail, four died in custody, and 20 are on the run.

The court on January 5, 2011 took into cognisance the charges of the killing case and framed charges against 850 accused on August 10 the same year. The trial started on August 24, 2011.

The mutineers chose February 25, 2009 to revolt, as the day was scheduled for the yearly Darbar (assembly) of the force on the occasion of BDR week.

As the Darbar began around 9:00am and former director general of BCB Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed was addressing the gathering of officers and lower tier personnel, some rebellious jawans created a commotion pressing for some demands including pay and benefits.

As the jawans kept on arguing, another group suddenly opened fire on the dais. The former DG was believed to be killed first.

The mutineers took many officers hostage and seized control of the headquarters within a few minutes, spraying bullets indiscriminately on the HQ compound. Thick plumes of smoke were billowing out of the headquarters.

The rumble of gunfire left the locals of neighbouring areas in panic. Army personnel reached the spot around 11:00am and took position at various points. Before them, members of the Rapid Action Battalion arrived at the scene.

Vehicular movement on nearby roads came to a halt. Shops and schools in the area were closed down. As the day wore on, many families living around Pilkhana opted to flee their homes. Those living close by watched in horror as army person-

nel ringed the compound and their choppers hovered overhead. The entire capital was overcome by panic.

Around 12:30pm, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Jatiya Sangsad Whip Mirza Azam arrived at the headquarters to hold talks with the mutineers.

The mutineers talked to reporters of various television channels and newspapers demanding an end to the army's control over the force. They demanded withdrawal of army personnel from areas around the headquarters and also talks with the prime minister and the home minister.

Around 2:00pm, Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Mirza Azam entered the headquarters with a white flag. The then home minister Sahara Khatun followed them.

Around 3:40pm, a team of mutineers reached the prime minister's official residence 'Jamuna' for talks and the premier announced amnesty for the rebel soldiers following the meeting.

The mutineers stopped firing around 7:30pm and many injured including women and children were allowed to come out of the headquarters.

But around an hour later, the rebels started firing again near the gate No. 1. Additional army personnel were deployed. The mutineers put forward a condition of withdrawing the army personnel from Pilkhana by that night for laying down the arms.

Around 9:30pm, a team of four BDR members met Sahara Khatun, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Mirza Azam and Fazle Noor Taposh at Ambala Inn on Road 2 in Dhanmondi. Eight more members joined the team within a few minutes for the talks with the government representatives.

The army personnel started retreating from their positions at New Market, Nilkhet and Balaka around 10:40pm and the meeting between the rebel personnel and the government representatives ended at 12:10am.

Taposh came up with an announcement that the rebel jawans agreed to lay down their arms within two hours.

Around 20 minutes later, Sahara Khatun again entered the border guards' headquarters.

Through intense negotiations, the government could rescue 29 army officers: two colonels, five lieutenant colonels, 21 majors and one captain. A combined force of Rab, police and army conducted an overnight search for the rebel soldiers who had fled the site of mutiny before day-

break.

The mutinous soldiers started turning in their arms to police in presence of Sahara Khatun around 2:30am. But, within a few minutes heavy gunshots were heard and the mutineers announced to fight back if attacked. A little later, Sahara urged the soldiers to surrender their arms.

Elsewhere in the country, paramilitaries in some districts took position on the highways and roads, leaving a long stretch of border unprotected.

They came out of their camps and outposts in Chittagong, Rangpur, Chapainawabganj, Satkhira and Jessore to resist a possible military onslaught in reprisal for bloodshed at Pilkhana.

The next day around 2:00pm, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave a televised speech and urged the mutineers to immediately lay down their arms and return to barracks so that she was not compelled to use force to break the standoff.

Following her speech, a convoy of armoured personnel carriers and tanks from the army's Division in Savar and 46 Brigade in Dhaka Cantonment drove into Dhanmondi area.

The arrival of the army commandos had apparently intimidated the mutineers into hoisting a white flag on the main gate of their headquarters around 6:00pm. Many fled the site through its Azimpur and Hazaribagh gates.

With the surrender of the mutineers, police and the Armed Police Battalion took control of the headquarters and its armoury in an evening push. The army with around 20 tanks and APCs took position on Satmasjid Road near the Abahani playground.

The ordeal for more than 100 family members of BDR officers and jawans -- trapped inside or held hostage -- finally ended. They came out with tears in their eyes.

The following day was more shocking. Army and Rab rescuers found a mass grave inside the BDR headquarters and recovered bodies of officers and the DG of the paramilitary force. The sheer scale of savagery as witnessed in the mass grave left the nation numb with grief.

Pilkhana looked like a battlefield as hundreds of thousands of bullet shells, several hundred pairs of boots and as many caps had littered the premises of the headquarters.

The government decided to form a special tribunal for trying those guilty of criminal acts during the mutiny.

Refusal leads to attack on Hindus

FROM PAGE 16

Sensing the presence of police, the assailants left the scene around 1:30pm.

Of the injured, nine received treatment at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital.

On Sunday night, Shaon and his cohorts demanded Tk 5,000 from each of the 15 local fish traders for hartal expenses, which the traders could not entertain, said villager Narayan Chandra Das.

Villagers that night complained about the matter to local BNP leader Abdul Mazid Mandal, he added.

Infuriated over the complaint against him, Shaon stormed the village to take revenge on the

Hindus.

Sexagenarian Sumitra Rani Roy said she was assaulted at her house as she tried to save her son Nikhil Chandra Roy from the cruelty of the attackers.

"Pro-hartal pickets beat up my son mercilessly in front of me, but I couldn't do anything to save him," she rued.

Mohona Rani Das, 55, said the attackers assaulted her, vandalised her house and looted assets, including a cash amount of Tk 30,000.

Contacted, general secretary of Mohendranagar union BNP Abdul Mazid Mandal admitted receiving the complaint for

extortion by some BNP men.

He claimed that none of his party men were involved in the attack on the Hindu village. The BNP men must help the minority people to live peacefully, he added.

Additional police super (Lalmonirhat) Aslam Khan said they have already identified the perpetrators of the crime and were trying to nab the criminals.

A police platoon was deployed at the village in the evening to maintain law and order. No case was filed in this connection till 8:00pm yesterday.

Villager Chanchal Chandra Roy said he received threats from the attackers over the phone for not filing any case in this regard.



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Quarterly Financial Statements for the 3rd Quarter (Q3) ended on September 30, 2013

Unaudited Balance Sheet as at 30th September 2013

	As at 30th September 2013	Amount in Taka As at 31st December 2012
A) Fixed Assets	317,727,251	305,858,816
B) Current Assets:		
Stock of stationary	1,273,170	900,627
Government Treasury Bond	25,000,000	4,500,000
Investment (Share)	181,009,752	168,077,992
Sundry Debtors	337,343,485	311,843,485
Cash and Bank balance	382,719,535	329,566,190
Total Current Assets:	927,345,942	814,888,294
C) Less: Current Liabilities:		
Creditors & Accruals	159,347,310	135,920,662
Net working Capital	429,362,258	427,601,994
Net Assets:	747,089,509	733,460,810
Financed by:		
Share Capital	403,415,725	322,732,580
Share premium, Revenue reserve & Contingency accounts	343,673,784	410,728,230
Total Shareholders' Equity:	747,089,509	733,460,810

Unaudited Income Statement for the 3rd Quarter ended 30th September 2013

	2013		2012	
	Jan-Sept	July-Sept	Jan-Sept	July-Sept
INCOME:				
Gross Premium income	469,131,524	155,647,829	476,367,993	163,913,583
Less: Re-Insurance ceded	132,791,786	44,746,007	165,931,624	44,449,696
Net Premium income	336,339,738	110,901,822	310,436,369	119,463,887
Add: Re-Insurance Commission	48,294,664	15,295,917	49,395,557	16,942,495
Net Income	384,634,402	126,197,739	359,831,926	136,406,382
Less: Commission, Management expenses, Claim & unexpired risk adjustment	266,499,814	84,492,526	276,501,520	28,240,348
Underwriting profit	118,134,588	41,705,213	83,330,406	108,166,034
Add: Investment & others	33,254,911	12,712,395	50,509,401	27,001,135
Profit before Tax	151,389,499	54,417,608	133,839,807	135,167,169
Less: Provisional estimate for IncomeTax	36,000,000	10,000,000	19,500,000	57,446,047
Profit after Tax	115,389,499	44,417,608	114,339,807	77,721,122
Earning per share (Restated)	2.86	1.10	2.83	1.93



Monoranjan Kundu
Chief Financial Office



Md. Jamirul Islam
Managing Director & CEO

Statement of Changes in Shareholders' Equity for the 3rd Quarter ended 30th September 2013

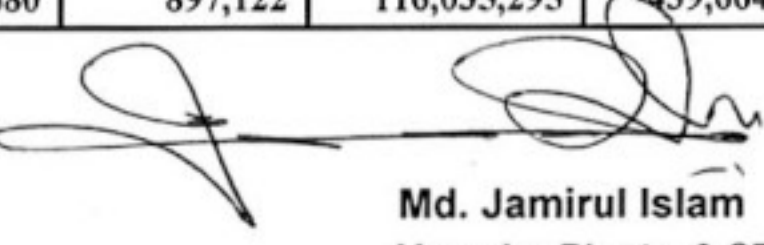
	Amount in Taka			
Particulars	Share Capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Total
Opening balance	403,415,725	897,121	1,445,873	405,758,719
Profit after Tax	-	-	115,389,499	115,389,499
Total	403,415,725	897,121	116,835,372	521,148,218

Statement of Changes in Shareholders' Equity for the 3rd Quarter ended 30th September 2012

	Amount in Taka			
Particulars	Share Capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Total
Opening balance	322,732,580	897,122	1,695,488	325,325,190
Profit after Tax	-	-	114,339,807	114,339,807
Total	322,732,580	897,122	116,035,295	439,664,997



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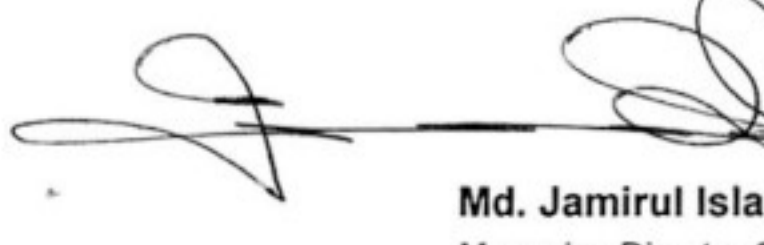
Md. Jamirul Islam
Managing Director & CEO

Unaudited Cash Flow Statement for the 3rd Quarter ended 30th September 2013

	Amount in Taka	
	Jan-Sept 2013	Jan-Sept 2012
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
COLLECTION FROM PREMIUM & OTHER INCOME	530,138,583	489,030,167
LESS: PAYMENTS FOR COSTS & EXPENSES INCOME TAX PAID AND /OR DEDUCTED	418,716,803	374,739,515
	111,421,780	114,290,652
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
ACQUISITION OF FIXED ASSETS	(11,868,435)	(9,813,950)
FIXED DEPOSIT ENCASHED/OPENED	(46,400,000)	-
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:	(58,268,435)	(9,813,950)
LOAN RECEIVED	-	-
LOAN REPAYED	-	-
TEMPORARY LOAN & DIVIDEND	-	-
	53,153,345	104,476,702
NET CASH INFLOW/ OUTFLOW FOR THE 3RD QUARTER:		
OPENING CASH AND BANK BALANCES	329,566,190	195,883,711
CLOSING CASH AND BANK BALANCES	382,719,535	300,360,413



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Md. Jamirul Islam
Managing Director & CEO