



STOCKS SOAR
DSE's benchmark index rose 3.75pc yesterday riding on hopes for rate cuts
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BLOCKADE, HARTAL EFFECT
Education minister for cutting summer vacation to make up for lost time
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'GIVE US MORE POWER'
Scotland leader Nicola Sturgeon says Cameron must go further on devolution
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Pay hike to raise govt expenses

Tk 14,500cr more needed in next FY for partial implementation of new pay scale; basic salary rise to remain unchanged

REJAUJ KARIM BYRON

The government will need around Tk 14,500 crore more in the next fiscal year for implementing the first phase of the new pay scale in line with the recommendations of the review committee on the National Pay Commission, say finance ministry officials.

Of the amount, around Tk 10,000 crore will be required to pay salaries of civil servants and the rest for defence staffs and teachers getting monthly pay order (MPO).

In the budget for the current fiscal year, Tk 19,040 crore has been allocated for paying salaries of civil servants, defence staffs and teachers receiving MPO.

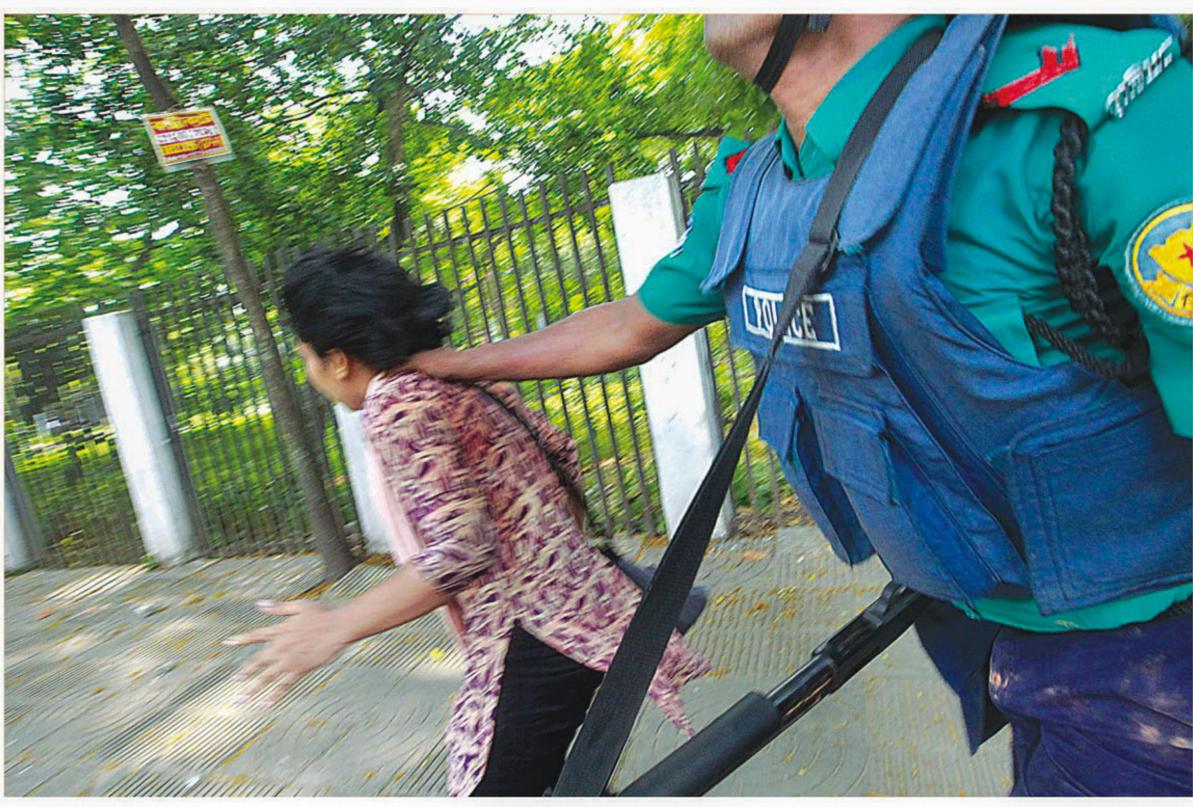
The committee led by Cabinet Secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan might submit its report to the finance minister by this week, and suggest bringing minor changes to the commission's recommendations, a finance ministry official told this correspondent.

It might propose keeping unchanged basic salaries suggested by the commission for all grades except for three or four, said the official.

The secretary-level committee was formed on December 31 last year to review the reports of the National Pay Commission led by Mohammed Farashuddin and the pay commission for the armed forces division.

The National Pay Commission handed over its report to Finance Minister AMA Muhith on December 21 while the one for the armed forces submitted its report a couple of

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Above, a policeman grabs a female demonstrator by her neck during a protest against the police failure to make any arrest over the Pahela Baishakh sexual assault. Left, cops beat up another demonstrator. Right, knocked to the ground, two protesters are being kicked.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN/COLLECTED



BAISHAKH SEX ASSAULT Protest met with police brutality

34 injured; 5 picked up
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday used brute force to crush a demonstration against their failures to make any arrest over the Pahela Baishakh sexual assault on women.

About a hundred protesters came under police attack near Officers Club on Shaheed Captain Mansur Ali Sarani as they tried to lay a siege to the DMP headquarters.

They were beaten up with truncheons, helmets and rifle butts while some, including female protesters, were kicked and knocked to the ground.

About 34 suffered injuries and 19 of them took treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Five activists were picked up from the spot.

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SCAN THIS QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO OF POLICE ACTION ON PROTESTERS

TO USE QR CODE ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, INSTALL FREE QR READER SOFTWARE LIKE "NIGMA BARCODE SCANNER" FROM GOOGLE PLAYSTORE OR APPLE STORE. TURN ON THE SOFTWARE AND HOLD THE PHONE CAMERA OVER THE QR CODE TO GET THE VIDEO LINK.

For farmers, but it's too late

Govt decides to impose 10pc duty on rice import when Boro harvest already halfway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to impose 10 percent duty on rice import from Sunday to curb import of the staple food.

The decision comes at a time when farmers across the country have been incurring heavy losses from sale of paddy way below its production cost this Boro harvest season.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith unveiled the plan yesterday at a pre-budget meeting with chairmen of different parliamentary standing committees at the National

Economic Council Auditorium in the capital. He said farmers would benefit from the decision.

But rice millers and experts said it was already "too late" as almost half the Boro output had already been harvested and many growers sold their crops as low as Tk 450 a maund (40kg) -- almost half the production cost.

Farmers spent Tk 800 to grow a maund of Boro paddy this season, according to government estimates.

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING Accused killed in 'gunfight'

Govt updating list of traffickers: Kamal

STAR REPORT

An alleged human trafficker was killed in a "shootout" with detectives in Cox's Bazar's Ulkhia upazila early yesterday.

With yesterday's incident, four "traffickers" have been killed in such "gunfights" with members of law enforcement agencies in the district since Friday.

Zafar Alam, 37, son of Zahir Ahmed of Paschim Sonarpara village in the upazila, was killed yesterday. He stood accused in at least four cases filed for human trafficking, reports our Cox's Bazar correspondent.

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469 migrants rescued at sea

83 women, 41 children among the fortune seekers from Bangladesh, Myanmar

AFP, Jakarta

Rescuers yesterday brought ashore 469 migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh after their wooden boat arrived off Aceh in northwest Indonesia, an official said.

"We received a report from fishermen this morning that there were boat people stranded in the waters off north Aceh," Aceh provincial search and rescue chief Budiawan told AFP.

"We despatched teams there and evacuated 469 migrants who are Rohingya from Myanmar and Bangladeshi. There are women and children among them. So far, all of them are safe," he added.

He said the group would be taken to a detention centre in north Aceh district, where police and immigration officials would carry out "further

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TOP QUOTE

"The huge number of policemen deployed today to stop us could have saved many women from molestation if they had been deployed in the TSC area on Pahela

CHHATRA UNION PRESIDENT
HASNAT HOSSAIN
WHILE SPEAKING AT A DEMONSTRATION



Women workers winnowing paddy at Savar on the outskirts of the capital on April 29 after Boro harvesting began in the third week of that month. This season yielded a good harvest but farmers are still incurring losses due to low prices.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Govt to ensure welfare of enclave people

PM tells UN official

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday underscored the need for mainstreaming the people of enclaves following the passage of the Land Boundary Agreement in Indian parliament.

She came up with the view when UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Robert Watkins, met her at her office in the capital. PM's Press Secretary AKM Shameem Chowdhuri briefed reporters after the meeting.

Hasina said her government would consider steps for overall development of the enclave people so that they could have them connected with the country's mainstream.

Watkins told the PM that the United Nations would also lend its support to this end.

To attain the vision 2021, Hasina said, her

MODI'S VISIT NEXT MONTH Mamata might accompany

STAR REPORT

Dhaka and New Delhi have begun hectic preparations for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's maiden official visit to Bangladesh, likely on June 6-7.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, among others, would accompany Modi during the visit, said diplomatic sources.

The two countries would discuss the Teesta River Water Sharing Agreement issue then, a source told The Daily Star.

It said Mamata, who had blocked the signing of the deal in 2011, is now fully on board. On Saturday, she had a lengthy meeting with Modi in Kolkata, and the Teesta issue was prominent there, it claimed.

Sources added that officials of both the sides had already prepared renewals of the revised trade agreement between India and Bangladesh and Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade to have inked those during Modi's Dhaka visit.

The Coastal Shipping Agreement, under which Bangladesh and India would initiate water-route transit and use each other's important seaports, has also been finalised.

Besides, the two neighbours are also expected to sign fresh agreements and memorandums of understanding in the areas of trade and investment, security,



Narendra Modi Mamata Banerjee

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