



TEACHERS, STAFF UNDER MPO Govt may delay pay hike by 6 months

Wants to review performances of MPO-listed educational institutions

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Teachers and staffs on Monthly Pay Order (MPO) are unlikely to get increased salary from next month under the new national pay scale, as the government might delay the hike by six months to evaluate the performance of MPO-listed educational institutions, said finance ministry officials.

The Pay Commission and a review committee advised the government to measure the possible impact of the salary increase on next year's budget before implementing it, they said.

The secretary-level committee led by Cabinet Secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan recommended raising salary of teachers and staffs on the MPO from January next year in

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MPO-listed teachers

around **3.5** lakh

Allocation in 2014-15 for their salaries

Tk **5,677** cr

Requirement in 2015-16 if pay hike implemented

Tk **7,365** cr



Bang Ben Bay in Thailand's Ranong province from where 295 Rohingyas and Bangladeshis were rescued in November last year. Inset, a trawler that carried the migrants to the Bay. The photos were taken on May 27.

PHOTO: SHAMIM ASHRAF



MP's son sent to jail

Police fear he might meddle in probe if freed on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators fear that Bakhtiar Alam Rony, a ruling party lawmaker's son who shot and killed two people in the capital's New Eskaton on Pahela Baishakh, would try to change the course of the police probe if released on bail.

"The accused is an influential person," Sub-Inspector Dipak Kumar Das of the Detective Branch of police wrote in a forwarding letter to a Dhaka court yesterday.

"If released on bail, he would try to influence the plaintiff and witnesses in the case," said the DB official.

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Dhaka for fair deal on all common rivers

Delhi given 'strong message' for solution to water issues

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is now pushing for a fair and comprehensive solution to sharing of water not only of the Teesta but of all the 54 common rivers with India.

Though Dhaka has long been pursuing an interim agreement on equal sharing of the Teesta water only, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina now wants a package

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SNAPPING JAMAAT TIES Khaleda still unwilling

RASHIDUL HASAN

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is still reluctant to cut ties with Jamaat-e-Islami, a key component of the 20-party alliance, despite pressure at home and abroad to leave the Islamist party for its "fundamentalist and terrorist roles," party insiders said.

She would rather keep the BNP-led 20-party combine "inactive" for now to hide from public view her party's relations with Jamaat, they added.

Khaleda believes the government might try to get Jamaat on its side if BNP parts with Jamaat, and this will weaken the opposition further. Besides, considering "the politics of votes", she wants electoral coalition with Jamaat.

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Beauty belies dark trade

Picturesque hills, jungles in southern Thailand offer perfect place for human traffickers to confine victims

SHAMIM ASHRAF, back from Thailand

The dense mangrove forest on both sides of the road to the Bang Ben bay through Laem Son National Park is indeed intriguing.

But with 15 islands having beaches, coral reefs, mangrove swamps, and a rainforest jungle, the national park in Thailand's southern Ranong and Phang Nga provinces has not only attracted adventurous tourists, but also has offered a perfect place for traffickers to hold smuggled

people for years.


"That's the place where we intercepted a large boat carrying 295 Rohingyas and Bangladeshis, including seven Rohingya traffickers, last November," said Santaya Kaewsri, the assistant district officer of Kapoe, pointing his finger to the Andaman waters between two hills not far from the pier which falls in Ranong.

The mesmerising serenity of the layers of hills turning blue from green hides a dark secret that visitors do not see.

The district officer, who earlier took this correspondent to another place to show the seized boat, claimed most of the people-smuggling incident takes place in Phang Nga. But Ranong is no less infamous than Phang Nga, Songkhla and Satun provinces for Thai ransom business that had become so lucrative in recent years, creating a major humanitarian crisis.

The trend of Rohingyas, who tried to flee persecution in their homeland,

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TOP QUOTE

"Prioritisation is totally missing in our budget."

STATE MINISTER FOR FINANCE
M A MANNAN
AT A POST-BUDGET ANALYSIS ORGANISED BY THE CPD IN THE CITY




FROM LEFT... Finalists Jebunessa Khan and Umme Kulsum prepare for the final showdown.

Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef's Grand Finale airs tonight

Umme Kulsum and Jebunessa Khan; these are the two names that will be on everyone's lips as the Grand Finale of Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef airs tonight, sharp at 9:00 pm, only on Ntv. The two participants, a doctor and a housewife/restaurateur, will go head to head for the last time, vying for the Super Chef crown. The crown comes with a cheque of 10 lac BDT for the winner and 5 lac BDT for the runner up. However, this contest will not be about the money; it never was. It is all about the title; the ability to call oneself, without a shred of doubt, a Super Chef. Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef has been, since its inception, a spectacular celebration of the culinary world. Throughout this competition, the show has managed to uncover some hidden gems whilst polishing the obvious rough diamonds. Tonight, two of their finest competitors face-off for what has become a true clash of the titans.

Scouring through the districts of Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal, Mymensingh, Bogra and Jessore, Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef had their judges picking up the best possible participants for the show. Every district observed the audition rounds with much pomp and fanfare. Whenever Super Chef came to town, everyone in the city would know and as word spread, the number of applicants began increasing. After the audition rounds of over 5000 individuals, the best ones were selected to come to Dhaka to try their hand for the main show. Those numbers began to be steadily whittled down to 25, then 15 to 10 and so on until now, when there are only two chefs remaining.

Whoever wins tonight, both Umme Kulsum and Jebunessa Khan have a lot to be proud of. They are warriors in their own right, being the only two standing tall as the dust settles after a stampede of 5000 people. Throughout the competition, they have built a reputation for themselves, with both seemingly infallible. The two have also managed to develop quite a fan base, while carving an identity for themselves that history will never forget.

Umme Kulsum, known as The Doctor, meets Jebunessa Khan, The Motherly Figure, for one final battle. Tonight,

they will be preparing a full course meal, consisting of an appetiser, an entrée, the main course and of course dessert. Each component of their course must complement the other, while they adhere to a particular cuisine. The Grand Finale will test each participant's culinary skill but at the same time their endurance will be tested and their ability to handle the pressure. There will be no easy wins, with each dish individually marked, so in a way, it will be a Grand Finale of many rounds.

Judges Shaheda Yesmin, Tazammul Huq Tareq and Tariq Anam will be joined by French culinary sensation Frédéric Olivier Insisienmay, who will also be joining the regular judges with Naziba Basher continuing her role as the Master of Ceremony. Umme Kulsum will rely on her presentation and innovation while Jebunessa Khan, as usual, will continue her cause of providing healthy and tasty food. Will innovation triumph tradition? All that remains to be seen. Find out by tuning into Ntv tonight, sharp at 9:00 pm.

by OSAMA RAHMAN



Photo: Shahrear Kabir Heemel