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DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 10, 2018, BAISHAKH 27, 1425 BS starbusiness@thedailystar.net

Power tariff to be hiked soon: Muhith

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STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government is going to increase electricity tariff soon as the cost of raw materials has gone up, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith on Tuesday.

He said a committee was working on the issue and would submit a report within a week.

"I am certain that the tariff of electricity will rise," he said at a discussion on the upcoming national budget. The minister, however, said the hikes would be gradual to make those bearable.

"But if you think about the future, the power tariff will continue rising because the prices of raw materials have risen."

Private television channel ntv and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) jointly organised the event at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden hotel.

Muhith described the existing power situation well and said investments have already been made to set up power plants to generate 30,000 megawatts of electricity by 2024.

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Analysts attend a discussion organised by the CPD at the Khazana Gardenia Grand Hall in Dhaka yesterday.

Disquieting trend in job market

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Some 8.5 lakh women lost jobs in the industrial sector between 2013 and 2016-17 -- a development that the Centre for Policy Dialogue has termed 'truly disquieting'.

It appears that many jobs were displaced for adoption of technology by factories after the increase in minimum wages for garment workers, said CPD Distinguished Fellow Mustafizur Rahman at a dialogue yesterday.

Besides, a large number of workers became jobless owing to the closure of sub-contracting factories after the Rana Plaza collapse, he said, citing that the number of employed female in the

industry fell to 3.15 million in 2016-17 from 3.99 in 2013.

"The major challenge is to ensure jobs for them," said Rahman at the discussion organised by the CPD on promotion of female employment to realise the demographic dividends enjoyed by Bangladesh now, held at the Khazana Gardenia Grand Hall.

After analysing the latest Labour Force Survey of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the independent think-tank said one-third of the working age population above 15 years of age are not in employment, education or training (NEET) And 57 percent of them are women, the CPD said.

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Transsion investing Tk 100cr in handset plant

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Chinese mobile phone manufacturer Transsion Holdings will start running its handset assembly plant in Gazipur by June while the commercial launch of its devices is expected in July.

The plant has already been set up and the company is moving ahead with its plans to invest Tk 100 crore, which is coming into the country as foreign direct investment, said Rezwanul Haque, chief executive officer of Transsion Bangladesh, yesterday.

Transsion Holdings rolled out its products in Bangladesh in July last year and has already grabbed about 15 percent of the market share.

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Denim makers cut use of water

Operators get good response from buyers; Denim show begins in Dhaka

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Water consumption by denim fabric makers has fallen dramatically over the last few years thanks to adoption of the latest technologies in production, said machine suppliers and producers yesterday.

Previously, the denim fabric makers in Bangladesh used 270 litres of water for washing a kilogramme of denim fabrics, for which the ground water level in Dhaka and its adjacent areas has been depleting at three metres every year.

The global standard for washing a kilogramme of denim fabrics is 70 litres.

Now, some of the companies in

Bangladesh can produce a kilogramme

of denim fabrics with only 15 to 16 litres of water on an average, said Jordi Juani, director for the Asia Division of Jeanologia, a Spanish garment finishing machinery manufacturer.

Such low levels of water consumption were enabled by Jeanologia's stateof-the-art technology, which not only cuts down on water consumption but also the time needed. "We are replacing the traditional stone wash method that requires a lot of water."

"But the number of such companies is still low," he said from his stall at the eighth edition of the Bangladesh Denim Expo at the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka yesterday.

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