

New Age
November 25, 2013
Back page

Farash Uddin leads temporary pay commission

Staff Correspondent

The government on Sunday appointed former Bangladesh Bank governor Farash Uddin Ahmed as the chairman to the 8th Pay Commission deviating from its previous stand of setting up a permanent one, officials said.

He will lead the 17-member Service and Pay Commission in which three former secretaries will act as full-time members and 12 other public officials as the temporary members.

The commission was asked to submit its proposals in six months taking into consideration of a six-member family, educational and medical expenses for maximum two children and improvement of service of the public servants.

Former secretaries Abul Quasem, Khurshid Alam and former controller general of accounts Shahad Chowdhury are full member of the commission, according to a circular issued in the evening.

A 20 per cent dearness allowance was already announced by the present government in the last month.

The present government had announced establishing a permanent pay commission for 1.2 million officials and employees who had long been demanding so.

Finance minister AMA Muhith said they were not setting up a permanent pay commission because of legal complexities.

He, however, said that the next elected government would have scope of turning it into a permanent commission.

He criticised those who termed the establishment of the commission as a major policy decision to appease the public servants ahead of the next national poll.

According to an assessment of the finance ministry, the implementation of 20 per cent dearness allowance for public servants is expected to cost Tk 4,000 crore a year.

The sharp rise has been attributed to payment of monthly pay order benefits to 4,70,000 teachers and employees of over 27,000 secondary schools, madrassahs and colleges. They have been getting monthly pay order or MPO benefits, many of them, since the previous pay commission award.

Since July 2010, it cost the exchequer an additional expenditure of Tk 6,222 crore to implement the previous pay hike, Tk 3,570 crore to pay salaries and the rest for the perks.

The military-backed interim regime had declared 20 per cent dearness allowance for the government servants while appointing the seventh Pay Commission in September 2008.

The pay hike announced by the seventh Pay Commission was implemented in November 2009, with retrospective effect from July 2009.

It increased highest monthly salary to Tk 40,000 from Tk 23,000. The pay hike announced by the sixth Pay Commission was implemented in January, 2005.

The fifth pay hike was implemented in 1997 while the fourth one in 1991.

