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BKMEA favours fixed festival allowance for workers

FE Report

The Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) called upon the authorities to fix minimum festival allowances for the workers to avoid potential unrest in garment hubs.

The trade group, in a statement issued on Monday, said the sector often witnesses violent agitation over the issue of festival allowance ahead of Eid as there is no

official benchmark for such perks.

Despite having no obligation, the factory owners normally pay 35 per cent to 60 per cent additional money to their workers during each Eid festival on humanitarian grounds, but the payment often triggers violent protest as each factory has different rate of festival allowances.

The BKMEA said the disproportionate creases anger among the workers that leads to violence.

"If we can fix minimum festival allowance like minimum monthly wage, the serious problem can easily be avoided," the statement said.

The BKMEA statement also requested the government ministries and public agencies to take immediate measure in this connection so that no more chaos is created in the coming days, especially in the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha, which will be celebrated in next month.

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