



Dhaka: Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi yesterday urged factory owners to pay the salary for the month of March to their workers within April 16.

“You (owners) can’t fire any labourer even though the factories are remained closed due to COVID-19 pandemic in the country,” he said in a statement.

“Rather all the labourers have to be given their salaries of March within April 16, 2020,” added Tipu.

To stop the spread of coronavirus outbreak in the country, the government declared a 10-day holiday started from March 26 and then the holiday extended to April 14.

In line with the government’s decision, BGMEA, BKMEA and other trade bodies also asked their members to keep their factories closed.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina earlier announced a Taka 5,000 crore incentive package for paying the salaries and allowances of export-oriented industries’ workers and employees.

On Sunday, she announced four fresh financial stimulus packages of Taka 67,750 crore. With the fresh allocations, the total amount of financial assistance would stand at Taka 72,750 crore, which is nearly 2.52 percent of GDP.