



Minhazul's story

## Getting the healthcare I could never afford

“I feel very lucky and privileged to have this insurance facility that helped me get rid of a disease I have been suffering for the past two years,” said Minhazul Islam, a 25-year old employee from Echotex Ltd.

Minhazul, an Assistant Officer at the factory, underwent a surgery for anal fistula at Savar Gonoshasthaya Hospital on 18 March 2018. He needed to be hospitalised for four days for a complete recovery. All the costs for medical tests, surgery, medicine and hospitalisation fee worth a minimum of BDT 20,000 was covered under the ‘Health Insurance for RMG Workers’, supported by Weave our Future (WoF), a foundation of Auchan, one of the largest French retail chains. The health insurance scheme made a big difference in the lives of many workers like Minhazul by enabling them to access health facilities that they otherwise can't afford.

“It all started with a perianal abscess that kept popping up. Sitting down while working became difficult. Then I started taking medication to suppress the pain. During a visit to my hometown in Jessore back in 2017, I saw a doctor who told me the surgery alone for this would cost BDT 10,000. There was no way I could afford this,” Minhazul said. From his limited income, he has to send money every month to his wife, daughter and his parents back home in Jessore. “Thank God I had this insurance scheme. The entire treatment cost me almost nothing. Otherwise, I would not have been able to send money to my family this month. This makes me feel very happy,” Minhazul said, lying in the hospital bed at Gonoshasthaya hospital.

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-Minhazul Islam  
Assistant Officer  
(production)  
Echotex Ltd

He strongly feels that such health insurance facility should be introduced in every garment factory because healthcare costs are often a huge burden on people like him. “Feeding my family would be difficult if I had to spend my hard-earned money on treatment like this,” Minhazul said.