

Govt decision risks 1 lakh jobs in Kuwait

By Masud Hasan Khan

A recent government decision to give priority to sending back the returnees to Kuwait is likely to risk job prospect for about one lakh fresh Bangladeshi workers, local recruiting agencies feared.

The loss of jobs, if takes place, will deprive the country of nearly 1756 crore taka in foreign exchange in the next three years, they estimated.

The government decision envisages that the repatriated workers will enjoy priority for getting back their old jobs and new workers will get only new jobs.

At least 15 per cent of the posts in a new company should also be filled by repatriated workers, according to the decision.

The officials said that the country would fall back in the competitive manpower export market if the decision was not amended promptly.

Kuwait embassy in Dhaka meanwhile stopped issuing visas to the fresh workers on alleged violation of the decision to give priority to the returnees, sources said.

An embassy official, when contacted, however said that the reports on suspension of issuing visa were not fully correct and said they were still giving visas to the workers recruited by the newly established companies in Kuwait.

"But we are not issuing visas to fresh workers recruited for the old companies, he pointed out.

The decision to suspend issuing visas followed a request from the Bangladesh government, the official explained. The request was prompted when a section of local recruiting agents allegedly continued to send fresh workers in place of the old employees in violation of the decision.

Kuwait earlier assured to take back all the old employees from Bangladesh on humanitarian ground during Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's visit to the gulf state a few months back.

The Kuwait Ambassador in Dhaka held two meetings in August and November with a number of local recruiting agents whom he requested to

give priority to the returnees, who left Kuwait in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of the country on August 2 last year, according to the embassy official.

However, the local agencies argued that employers in Kuwait could not wait for old employees to line up for their jobs as they were urgently required workforce for the massive post-war reconstruction.

The government policy on manpower exports and the delay for bottlenecks in shipping the workers would force the Kuwaiti employers to recruit manpower from Sri Lanka, India and other countries ready with cheap labour, they pointed out.

The recruiters said, "if we fail to respond to the recruitment orders already arrived in the country due to the decision we shall lose Taka 1756 crore in foreign exchange in the next two to three years."

A local recruiting agency official pointed out that employers in the private sector were also unwilling to pay the pre-war wage to their employees because of the unfavourable economic condition.

"It will take at least two to three years for Kuwait government and the private sector to become financially sound," observed SI Dewan, a local recruiter.

The Kuwaiti employers, businessmen and top managerial personnel in various organisations preferred cheap labour to meet the present economic condition, he said.

"Of course, the priority given to the returnees is a humanitarian factor... but delay in sending workers from Bangladesh means losing the market," said GM Shahabuddin of the Employment Services Company.

"May be, by the time the government realizes the need for speedy shipment or workers, it will be too late because the employers will start recruiting from other countries," he added.

The local recruiting agents felt that a pragmatic policy should immediately be worked out by the government and formalities to export workers

to Kuwait be relaxed to maximise the earnings from the manpower exports. They also suggested a cut in airfare and related taxes to facilitate the export process.

They argued that airfare from Dhaka to Kuwait was more than 600 US dollar while it was only 495 dollar from Manila, 455 dollar from Bangkok and 320 from Bombay to the destination.

"This is another factor which makes it difficult to secure orders for Bangladesh and why Bangladeshi workers have to pay more money to get overseas job," they agents said.

Manpower Ministry sources also admitted that the manpower export to Kuwait has significantly slowed down since suspension of the visa stamping.

They, however, contradicted the argument that the country would lose job opportunities in the Gulf state because of the alleged delay.

An official of the ministry said "there is no scope for such delay in sending back the returnees because we have all the names and addresses of the repatriated workers at our hand."

"A returnee can be sent back to Kuwait because correspondence with him is easily possible," said the official requesting anonymity.

He emphasised that the returnees should be given priority because they were skilled, could speak Arabic and were already familiar with the working conditions in the Gulf state.

The official alleged that local recruiting agents wanted to send the new job seekers instead of the returnees only to make money.

"A prospective worker has to pay not less than Taka 60,000 to the local agent," he said adding that there were also village level subagents who received commission from the deals.

The official, however, suggested that the government should determine a well-defined policy to resolve the existing bottlenecks in the manpower export process.



DHAKA: Huge quantities of sea fish, currently in abundant supply, are shipped abroad through the capital city by air. But the lack of modern preservation facilities sometimes results in wastage of this valuable foreign exchange earning perishable item. — Star photo

BTMC financial state reviewed

A joint meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Standing Committee on Textile Ministry was held at the Sangsad Bhaban Monday, reports BSS.

The meeting reviewed the overall financial condition of the Textile Mills Corporation and the textile industries under it, an official handout said.

The financial transactions of the Textile Mills Corporation and the textile mills and the subject of loss and profit were given the highest priority during the discussion.

The meeting expressed shock at the demise of former Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts Ataur Rahman Khan. The meeting observed one minute silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The Chairman of the Committee on Textile Ministry and Minister for State of Textiles Abdul Mannan, Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts LK Siddiqui, and members of the two committees Syed Manjur Hossain, Anwar Hossain Khan Chowdhury, Abdul Gani, Rashed Khan Menon, Sakhawat Hossain, Abdur Rouf, Tabibar Rahman Sardar, Shajhan Siraj, Shahidullah Khan, Badul Ali,

AM Reasat Ali and Mesbahuddin Khan were present at the meeting.

Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh Golam Kibria, Secretary of the Textiles Ministry AZM Shamsul Alam and officials of the Parliament Secretariat and Textile Mills Corporation were also present.

Sirajganj Cotton Mills could not reopen

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 9: Sirajganj Spinning and Cotton Mills could not reopen today as workers staged sit-in demonstration at the Millgate protesting the termination of 20 labourers, reports UNB.

The Mills, laid off on November 7 last year, was scheduled to be reopened Monday after more than a year of closure.

The workers alleged the authorities in a notice on Sunday said it had terminated the 20 workers because of economic stringency and lack of raw material.

They (workers) threatened they would continue the deadlock until withdrawal of the terminations. About 500 workers joined the sit-in.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port						
Name of Vessels	Berthed	EID	Berth No	L/Port	L/Agent	
Kamalaverette	26/11	11/12	J/2	Singapore	EBPL	
Banglar Sumpad	01/12	09/12	J/4	NA	BDSHIP	
B Baari	01/12	09/12	J/5	NA	NA	
Banglar Asha	28/11	09/12	J/7	NA	AQUA	
Shan Yin	06/11	10/12	J/8	Jaka	BDSHIP	
Kota Buana	06/12	09/12	J/11	Singapore	CTS	
Dubal Pioneer	06/12	12/12	MPB/1	Bedi	SEACOAST	
Iron Thrust	04/12	14/12	MPB/2	Kand	DYNAMIC	
Al Dora	06/12	15/12	CCJ	Col	UMAL	
Hansa Economist	04/12	09/12	CSJ	Singapore	EOSL	
Banglar Mamata	02/12	10/12	TSP	S Arabia	AQUA	
Fong Yun	21/11	10/12	RM/4	Singapore	BDSHIP	
Eso Bayonne	03/12	05/12	RM/6	Singapore	EBPL	
Vivari No 2	23/11	08/12	DD	NA	BEC	
Maritz Star	22/10	10/11	DD/2	Singapore	UNISEA	
Shakti-2	24/11	12/12	RM/6	NA	NA	
Banglar Swapna	05/12	15/12	RM/9	NA	BEC	

Name of Vessels	EID	EID	Berth No
Atlantic Clipper	08/12	NA	NA
Optima	08/12	NA	J/12
Bangla Jyoti	08/12	NA	RM/6

Vessels Due At Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	ETA	L/Port Call	Local Agent
Optima	08/12/91	COL	RSL
Mento	08/12/91	Tamb	OWSL
Atlantic Clipper	08/12/91	Singapore	BDSHIP
Andrian Goncharov	09/12/91	Mars	BEC
Banglar Gourab	09/12/91	NA	BEC
Piya-1	09/12/91	NA	PSAL
Bona	09/12/91	Silka	MSPAL
Seabulk Hope	10/12/91	NA	BBA
Aghion Oros	10/12/91	Singapore	CT
Genclik	10/12/91	Mars	BSCS
Hafez	10/12/91	NA	SSL
Nikos A	10/12/91	Mongla	AQUA
New Genlord	11/12/91	NA	BDSHIP
Amitie	11/12/91	Kand	TMIL
Chong Chon Gang	12/12/91	NA	H&H
Banglar Urm	12/12/91	Hong Kong	BEC
Infinity	12/12/91	NA	RSL
Weser Star	14/12/91	Singapore	BDSHIP
Qing He Cheng	15/12/91	NA	BDSHIP
Fong Shin	15/12/91	NA	BDSHIP
Ping Yin	15/12/91	Kand	OWSL
Thomasverett	15/12/91	NA	EBPL
Knud Jespersen	15/12/91	NA	CT
Atalanta-T	15/12/91	Cann	ROYAL
Anting	16/12/91	Kand	TMIL
NGS Ranger	17/12/91	Singapore	BDSHIP
Ronjoy Choomie	18/12/91	Kand	TMIL
Kabreverette	23/12/91	NA	EBPL
Johnverette	27/12/91	NA	EBPL
Ocean Brave	29/12/91	Singapore	JF

Vessels At Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessel	Ready On	L/Port	L/Agent
Boutar	NA	NA	TSLL
Sea Star	07/12	Col	OWSL
Safir	10/12	Hong	ASSL
Burgu Kesumba	08/12	Col	OWSL
Banglar Kiron	NA	NA	AQUA
Al Ishrat	NA	NA	UNISTAR
Min Hai You-12	NA	NA	UNISTAR
Splendor	NA	UAE	JF
Carol Bay	NA	Tuti	ULA
Alyn	NA	Singapore	ALAMIN
Red Deer	NA	NA	BISL
Al Tajwar	NA	Mongla	AQUA
Shezan	NA	SFAK	AQUA
Sparkle Moon	NA	NA	BISL
Langchang Jiang	NA	NA	BISL

Mongla Port

Name of Vessels	Berth	ETA	EID	L/Port	L/Agent
Vigorous Swan	10/12	NA	NA	China	SGSSA
Genclik	15/12	25/12	Chittagong	NA	BSC
Safina-e-Najam	30/12	27/12	Chittagong	NA	ATLAS
Safina-e-Ismal	05/12	15/12	Chittagong	NA	ATLAS
Langang Jiang	10/12	NA	Chittagong	NA	MANH
Shaplevertet	22/12	24/12	Calcutta	NA	BOL
Swan Glory	04/12	12/12	Bengkulu	NA	BML
Kamal Everette	08/12	11/12	Chittagong	NA	EVERETTE
Ronjoy Choomy	27/12	NA	Chittagong	NA	TMIL
Anting	25/12	NA	Chittagong	NA	TMIL
Mento	10/12	NA	Chittagong	NA	OWSL
Chong Ghongang	08/12	NA	Chittagong	NA	NKH
Lion of Vulf	09/12	NA	Colombo	SEA COAST	
Ocean Voyager	17/12	NA	Chittagong	NA	AGM
Sadir	10/12	NA	Chittagong	NA	ATLAS
Altessa	09/12	NA	Colombo	NA	AGT
Andrian Goncharov	10/12	14/12	Chittagong	NA	CTK
Zi Yun	09/12	NA	Qingdao	NA	BRIGHT
Tae Chong	15/12	NA	Qingdao	NA	BRIGHT

Note:
Berthed = Vessel At Port Jetty.
ETA = Expected Time Of Departure.
ETA = Expected Time Of Arrival.
NA = Not Available.
ETB = Expected to Berth.
Source: Aquamarine Limited.

Executive Tips

Shahabuddin Mahtab
Think

The executives and administrators are paid to think; plan and innovate. A member of the management cadre is expected to bring in improvements in his own sphere of work. The thinking process is connected with concentrated attention.

In the early seventies Mr. Matul Islam was the Finance Secretary of the government. In his office chamber, there was a small wooden tablet which contained only one word "THINK", which was a very important message.

In the context of Bangladesh, a senior administrator or a top executive hardly gets any time for thinking and contemplation. Most of us often use our time in routine matters and trivial things, so we are unable to go deeper into important matters and cannot make our best contribution to the case / problem at hand. A grasshopper mind gathers nothing.

'Telephonitis'

Have we ever wondered how much time we squander in making useless phone calls and also lengthening a call? Observations indicate that many executives/senior administrators use the telephone frequently during their working hours, and some of the calls are purely personal and private. All such calls rob an executive of valuable time and energy, and more importantly, these diversions make it impossible for an executive to concentrate in his work and go deeply into the problems at hand.

Observations also indicate that it is extremely difficult to reach and executive quickly, because their telephones are otherwise engaged. This practice needs to be changed if we want to achieve efficiency in our work, and survive as a dignified nation.

Bark but Don't Bite

Some three and a half decades back as a probationary officer, I went to see an uncle of mine (father's closest friend), who was then a Secretary in the erstwhile East Pakistan Government, for advice. He advised that in running the administration you may bark sometime but don't bite. He added, "In case you are compelled by circumstances to bite, you should not inject poison." This is an advice which I have tried to follow for the last three and a half decades and found it very helpful.



Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Abdur Razzak Monday handed over financial aid, provided by Karnaphuli Insurance Company, to distressed journalists at the Jatiya Press Club. — Star photo

Tk 4 cr power bill arrear in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 9: Taka four crore worth of electric bill has been lying outstanding from the consumers of the district for a long time, reports UNB.

According to Power Development Board, the main defaulters are Sirajganj Qaumi Jute Mills, Spinning and Cotton Mills, Sadar Pourashava, Kazipur and Kamarkhand upazila parishad.

Hides & Skin

(Wet/Salted)
December—9
(Taka per 100 pieces)

Cow	15,000.00	—	30,000.00
Light	50,000.00	—	57,000.00
Medium	58,000.00	—	65,000.00
Heavy	66,000.00	—	72,000.00
Very heavy	75,000.00	—	80,000.00
Rejected	22,000.00	—	25,000.00
Goat			
Big & Heavy	8,500.00	—	9,800.00
Light & Medium	6,500.00	—	7,500.00
Rejected	3,000.00	—	4,000.00
Sheep	8,500.00	—	8,800.00
Buffalo	54,000.00	—	60,000.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Gold & Silver

December—9

Gold	(Taka for 11.66 grams)
Tajabi	6,200.00
Quinn	6,100.00
Silver	200.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Biman hanger complex to be completed this month

Work on one of the biggest hanger complexes in Asia, under construction at the Zia International Airport, is expected to be completed within the current month, ahead of the schedule, reports UNB.

Biman officials said the complex, being built at a cost of 29.528 million US dollar, was scheduled to be completed by next January 31.

Managing Director of Biman, Bangladesh Airlines, Mr. Abdul Mueed Chowdhury hoped that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia would inaugurate the complex by the first week of February.

Biman undertook the project in April, 1989 to develop the in-house maintenance facilities for different types of aircraft of its fleet.

The hanger complex is a 'turn-key' project which includes finance, design, documentation, procurement, construction, commissioning and training of the local workforce.

It is being implemented with a supplier's credit from Export Finance and Insurance Corporation, Australia as interest-free soft loan. The loan is repayable in 23 half yearly instalments with a moratorium of two years.

The project includes aircraft hanger and workshop facilities, fuel depot, gatehouse, fire services, pump-house and reservoir and flammable goods store plus car parking and access roads.

Price Barometer Essentials

December—9

RICE	(Taka per kg)
Amantine	14.00-15.50
Pajam	12.50-13.50
Ushu	13.00-14.00
VEGETABLES	(Taka per kg)
Potato(New)	10.00-12.00
Bronal	8.00-10.00
Patil	6.00-10.00
Karolla	14.00-16.00
Lalshah	4.00-5.00
Papa	5.00-6.00
Green Banana (Four Pieces)	5.00-6.00
OTHER FOODGRAIN	(Taka per kg)
Flour	12.00-13.00
Ama	10.00-11.00
Wheat	8.50-9.00
Suzi	16.00-18.00
FISH	(Taka per kg)
Ruhit(bag)	140.00-150.00
Karal(bag)	100.00-110.00
Hilsha	65.00-70.00
Pangas	100.00-110.00
Shrimp(big)	80.00-90.00
Sring	60.00-55.00
Koi	60.00-70.00
EGG (dozen)	
Han	10.00-10.50
Duck	9.00-9.50
Firm	11.00-11.50
PULSES	(Taka per kg)
Mash	26.00-28.00
Matar	28.00-31.00
Moggh	28.00-31.00
Chhola	23.00-24.00
Matar	23.00-24.00
Kharai	14.00-15.00
OH	(Taka per Litre)
Mustard	52.00-54.00
Soybean	36.00-37.00
Cocunut (Columbo)	75.00-80.00
Vegetable Oil	45.00-48.00
SPICES	(Taka Per kg)
Onion	19.00-20.00
Garlic	40.00-44.00
Chillies	80.00-85.00
Tumeric(Round)	50.00-52.00
" (Long)	54.00-56.00
Green chillies	35.00-40.00
Cumin	12.00-14.00
Chinaman" (10gms)	3.00-3.50
Cardamom" (large)	3.00-4.00
Jain (50gms)	6.50-7.00
MILK (Two Ltr)	
Dano	267.00-268.00
Red-Cow	264.00-265.00
Elen	254.00-255.00
MISCELLANEOUS	(Taka)
Oil	220.00-240.00
Salt	7.00-7.50
Sugar	27.00
Molasses	15.00-16.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Sales-Purchase-Tender & Employment News

- Employment**
- Shaw Wallace Bangladesh Limited, 52, Motijheel C/A, (3rd floor), Dhaka-1000 requires "Female Telephone operator-cum-Receptionist" must be fluent in English, knowledge of PABX systems, good typing speed, knowledge of computer use will be given preference. Please apply with full bio-data to the above address by 20.12.91.
 - Partex Group, Sena Kalyan Bhaban, 16th floor, 195, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, requires (a) "Lady Secretary," must be graduate with pleasant personality (b) Lady Telephone Operator-cum-Receptionist, must be HSC pass with 2 years experience in similar position, smart, presentable, capable of handling PABX BOARD. Please apply with CV, photograph, certificates to administrative officer, Partex Group, Sena Kalyan Bhaban 16th floor, 195, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 latest by 15.12.91.
 - Director, Public Health Institute, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 invites applications for the following: (1) "Deputy Chemist," (a) must have MBBS/M Sc in Microbiology, Zoology, Botany, Bio-Chemistry, Applied Chemistry, M Pharm/B Sc Engineering (Chemical) DVS or BSc (Veterinary Science) degree, (b) Must have M Pharms, PhD degree in concerned subject with 10 years experience in production; (2) "Senior Technical Assistant," must be 2nd class BSc degree holders with 2 years experience in Chemical or bio-Ch