

Gulf returnees

Chances of getting compensation slender

By Asiuzzaman

Chances of the Bangladeshis, forced to leave Iraq because of the Gulf war, being compensated by the UN remain bleak, as the payments have to be made by Iraq, defeated in the War, informed sources in the Bureau of Manpower Development said Wednesday.

"The UN Compensation Commission and International Organisation for Migration has just begun assessing the damage done by Iraq to the expatriates in Kuwait and Iraq," a senior official said.

"The claim is not yet made to Iraq," he said adding that "the UN adopted a resolution that Iraq should compensate the victims."

Referring to last week's demonstration by the returnees from Kuwait and Iraq, the official said that "they have some feeling that the UN will compensate them but in fact the world body is just making an assessment of damages."

He said that the Bureau had already sent to the UN body a list of 62,130 Bangladeshis who fled the two Gulf countries following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait August 2, 1990.

The UN agencies were collecting similar data from victims of other countries to finalise the claim and to force Iraq to pay it.

The UN has put the victims into six categories from simple returnees to those injured or killed in the war.

The official termed the returnees' claim that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) had sanctioned Taka 113 crore for Bangladesh returnees "absurd".

Expressing his pessimism over getting money from Iraq, the official said that Germany had not yet completely met compensation and reparation claims of the victors after Second World War.

He urged the returnees to "realise the fact" and not be misguided by any quarter as none in the country could help them.

He said that the Bureau or the government could not force foreign employers take back all their former employees who had fled the country because of the war.

He, however, said that 30 per cent of the total returnees from Kuwait had been reinstated.



US Ambassador in Bangladesh William B Milam called on AL chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her parliament office yesterday. — Star photo

GCO, BCL lay 6-hr siege at RU

Administrative offices of Rajshahi University were kept under a six-hour siege laid yesterday by student activists demanding resignation of the Vice-Chancellor, reports UNB.

The left-leaning Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikyo (GCO) and pro-Awami League Chhatra League jointly went on the action as VC Prof Anisur Rahman postponed the RUCSU election scheduled for yesterday.

Campus sources said the agitated students locked all the offices, including the VC office, at 8 am, and the siege continued till 2 pm. The VC, however, functioned at his residential office.

GCO will organise a student gathering today (Thursday) and stage a sit-in in front of VC's residence on December 6 in support of its demand.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), which earlier stood for postponement of the RUCSU polls, will also organise a student rally on the campus tomorrow (Thursday) to demand immediate announcement of fresh election date.

Meanwhile, Islami Chhatra Shibir brought out a militant procession on the campus and submitted a memorandum to the Chief Returning Officer on the same demand.

Shibir also called a student strike at RU on December 5 to press its demand for Vice-Chancellor's resignation and recovery of illegal arms from the campus.

Dialysis units

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children with ARF over the last four years, claimed that patients, who within 24 hours of renal failure did not undergo dialysis die. The mortality rate was 19 per cent for patients taken to the IPGMR Hospital for dialysis within 24 to 48 hours of renal failure. Only 10 per cent of the babies treated after 48 hours of renal failure survived.

Dr Hossain identified dehydration as a major cause of the disease in children to control it, he said that children should be given adequate fluids specially when they suffer from diarrhoea.

"On top of all," Prof Hossain said, "the concerned parents must consult 'proper' medical personnel if the children do not urinate within a period of 12 hours at a stretch."

Prof Hossain also attached importance to adequate training of doctors and health workers to ensure proper treatment of babies affected by the dreadful disease.

Prof Habibur Rahman of the Dhaka Medical College, however, observed that dehydration was not always the main cause for renal failure in children.

Prof Rahman said that he had seen a number of patients, not previously dehydrated, affected by the disease all over the country.

He felt that research should be conducted to identify the causes of the disease.

Prof Harun-ur-Rashid, a kidney specialist at the IPGMR, giving his view on Dr Hanif's (the Dhaka Shishu Hospital) observations that 75 per cent of the children with ARF died in hospital because they took paracetamol syrups containing poisonous diethylene glycol said that "diethylene glycol not only causes kidney damage, but also affects liver functions and jeopardises the nervous system."

Dr Hanif however had not identified disruptions of liver functions or the nervous system as causes of the deaths of the patients in the Shishu Hospital. Prof Harun said commenting "it's not fair for anyone of us to come out with a 'concluding observation' on the cause of any disease without conducting a methodical research on it."

TA Chowdhury, Director of the IPGMR, chaired the seminar.

Spirulina an all-cure food: French expert

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh has an environment suitable for growing Spirulina, a microscopic plant containing high quality edible proteins.

Spirulina grows well in a warm, dry climate, according to food expert George Bonnin from France, presently an advisor of the Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) on producing and expanding spirulina culture.

"As the climate of Bangladesh remains the same all over the country," he said, "maybe Bangladesh is the only monsoon region where this blue-green algae grows."

Spirulina can act as an all-cure food, Bonnin told the Daily Star. It can help fight diabetes, cure anaemia in two months, night-blindness, and malnutrition.

BCSIR has successfully launched a Spirulina culture pilot project adopting the Bureau of Studies and Consultancy of Culture of Micro-Algae (CBCECMA) technology of France.

The consultant said, "We calculated that in a 100-sq-metre pond, we could provide vitamins to at least 2000 babies, 100 children or 500 adults."

BCSIR has given responsibility to five non-government organisations to produce the algae on a commercial and semi-commercial basis.

Commenting on the local people's reaction over the algae Bonnin said that "BCSIR scientists first rejected our proposal because they thought that developed countries always use the developing countries as human guinea pigs. They were not ready to expose their people to such hazards."

"Slowly they made their own studies and found out that it is a highly recommended human food supplement in Europe, America and other countries, and they agreed to experiments."

"Actually What I am trying to say is that people are always afraid to try new things, every where. Here in Bangladesh if the rich educated urban people accept this, then the poor rural people will automatically come forward."

The French expert also talked to the press Wednesday at the Alliance Francaise.

BCSIR Principal Scientific Officer Md Shahjahan, Dr Flora Majid and Dr Mir Nasirul Alam accompanied him.

Sharif to lead Pak team at SAARC summit

ISLAMABAD, Dec 2: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will lead the Pakistani delegation at the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit to be held in Dhaka from December 12-13, an official said Wednesday, reports AFP.

Heads of state or government from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan will attend the organisation's annual summit, which rotates among the member countries' capitals.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that topics to be discussed at the summit would include economic cooperation, poverty alleviation, regional trade, the environment, population and combating drug trafficking.

Myanmar yet to return seized trawler

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 2: Myanmar is yet to return a Bangladeshi fishing trawler its border forces forcibly took away from Bangladesh water in the Bay on Sunday, officials here today said, reports UNB.

The Luthin, the Myanmar border security forces, seized the trawler worth Tk 14 lakh along with all its 14 fishermen on board from the bay near St Martin's island. It was also carrying fishing nets worth Tk 2 lakhs.

Abu Sayeed of Cox's Bazar, owner of the fishing boat, has filed a case with local police in this respect.

Pak citizens asked not to travel to India

ISLAMABAD, Dec 2: Pakistan Wednesday advised its citizens not to travel to India for security reasons and those already there should return, reports AFP.

The move came as tension mounted between mutually hostile neighbours over the killing of two Pakistanis allegedly by the Indian security forces in October.

"The government of Pakistan strongly recommends that Pakistani citizens and nationals should avoid travelling to India," a foreign office spokesman told a news briefing here, adding that all those who were in India should curtail their trip.

Repatriation of 4,000 more Rohingyas begins Saturday

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 2: About 4,000 more Rohingya refugees will return home in four batches from Saturday, officials said today.

A team of two officials who returned from Myanmar town Maungdo this evening told UNB that the dates for repatriation of 4 thousand refugees had been set for December 5, 7, 9, and 11.

Myanmar authorities gave clearance for repatriation of 1,700 refugees already waiting at transit camp. Clearance for others will be issued soon, the officials said.

A total of 1,148 refugees have so far been sent back home out of some 2.65 lakh who crossed over to Bangladesh to escape persecution of the military junta.

BCL threatens movement against govt 'harassment'

Awami League-backed Chhatra League yesterday alleged a government blueprint to hook its activists and warned of an anti-government movement if the administration did not cease "harassment", reports UNB.

The government has prepared a list of BCL leaders and activists to arrest them in the wake of forthcoming SAARC summit in Dhaka, Chhatra Leaguers told a protest rally.

As part of the government design, police are arresting BCL members one after another without any specific charges in the name of smooth holding SAARC conference, they said.

The rally to protest the alleged move was held at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla of Dhaka University yesterday.

21 Sikhs shot dead in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, Dec 2: Indian troops shot dead 21 Sikh militants in Punjab, stepping up a final operation aimed at crushing separatist violence which has left thousands dead in the northern state, police said today, reports AFP.

Police and federal troops ringed a farm in Ferozepur district, a separatist bastion, on Tuesday.

DSE gets FIBV corresponding exchange status

Star Report

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has been extended the 'corresponding exchange' status of FIBV, the International Federation of Stock Exchanges.

According to DSE officials, the Paris-based Federation Internationale des Bourses de Valeurs (FIBV), in a letter this week, confirmed the 'corresponding exchange' status to DSE.

DSE thus becomes only the fifth stock exchange in the SAARC region to be given this prestigious status after the Colombo, Bombay, New Delhi and Bangalore stock exchanges.

All major stock exchanges in the world are members of the federation. Set up in 1961, the FIBV has 33 full members, 10 associate members and 36 corresponding exchanges.

Stock exchanges in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand are the only full members in Asia.

The other stock exchanges with 'corresponding exchange' status in Asia are Kuwait, Iran and the Philippines.

Member stock exchanges of FIBV are required to meet specific business standards.

The 'corresponding exchange' status will enable DSE to improve on its regulatory and operational functions with the help of FIBV and through interactions with other leading stock exchanges around the world.

Experts pointed out that this would also help in further developing the capital market in the country and will also facilitate the introduction of DSE in international markets.

Two slaughtered in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Dec 2: Two young men, who were allegedly involved in smuggling, were slaughtered by unknown assailants in Kotchandpur town early today (Wednesday), reports UNB.

Police and local people said the dead men, identified as Lailu (27) and Ali (25), had been dragged away by armed men numbering 10 to 12 from a liquor shop while they were drinking late in the night.

The bodies of the two, their throats slit, were found in the morning — one lying on a nearby railway track and the other on a brickfield.

Local people said both of them hailed from Gabtala village of the thana and alleged they were involved in smuggling.

The bodies were brought to Jhenidah hospital morgue for autopsy and police was investigating the case.

AL retains

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Independent Motahar Hossain Maita secured 12,309 votes while Prof Shahed Ali of Jatiya Party got 4,530.

The seat fell vacant with the death of Awami League MP Principal Nazrul Islam.

With yesterday's win, Awami League regained all the three parliamentary seats it had lost with the death of its MPs.

Earlier, Awami League won the by-elections in Rajbari-1 and Mymensingh-3 constituencies, beating BNP nominees.

The Midnight File

Greek govt resigns

ATHENS, Dec 2: The Greek government resigned Wednesday at the request of Prime Minister Constantinos Mitsotakis, who plans a cabinet reshuffle to bolster his position on Macedonia at a European Community summit December 11. A new cabinet is expected to be sworn in at noon Thursday, according to Minister of State responsible for Information Andreas Adrianopoulos, reports AFP.

Bundestag okays Maastricht Treaty

BONN, Dec 2: Germany's lower house of parliament overwhelmingly approved the Maastricht Treaty on Wednesday, heeding Chancellor Helmut Kohl's warning that only a unified Europe could combat resurgent nationalism. The Bundestag voted 543-17, with eight abstentions, in favour of the treaty. The treaty now goes to the upper house, the opposition-controlled Bundesrat, where approval of the treaty is also needed for Germany's final ratification, reports AP.

Vance, Owen spurn

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The airport also stopped land convoys bringing desperately needed supplies to the city, which has been under siege by Serb rebels for nearly eight months.

Asked why the combat had increased, UN civil affairs officer Mik Magnusson said that "perhaps signals are being sent" to negotiators at peace talks in Geneva and at a summit of Islamic nations in Saudi Arabia.

Kessler said a truck convoy was held up in Vitez, to the northwest, because of fears of fighting along the route ahead.

Others were reported stopped at the Serb-held western suburb of Ildiza.

An aid convoy of 12 trucks trying to reach Gorazde, 50 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of Sarajevo, had been stopped by Serb authorities at the village of Kukavice to the north, said Michael Keats, a UNHCR spokesman in Zagreb, Croatia.

The heaviest fighting in Sarajevo was at Ildiza and Otes, a government-held suburb of about 6,000 residents north of the airport, where Bosnian forces have been under attack by Serb artillery, tanks and mortars for three days.

Kessler said the airlift to Sarajevo was scheduled to resume on Thursday with 20 flights, although it was unclear whether the renewed fighting might disrupt those plans.

He said UN liaison officers were trying to determine whether Tuesday's incident was the result of deliberate fire or a stray bullet.

JP regrets Press Club incident

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party regretted Tuesday's incident inside the National Press Club in which a club employee was allegedly assaulted by the JP supporters.

In a press release party Secretary General A B M Shahjahan said that the JP leaders and workers took shelter in the Press Club to escape police action on their rally, Tuesday.

Referring to the statement of the Press Club Employees Union, he said the JP did not occupy the hall room spilling any press conference as claimed by the union and said JP leaders held an unscheduled press conference in the empty hall room.

He assured that such incidents would not occur again and urged the club management to end the misunderstanding.

Anniversary of B A Siddiqi's death today

The first anniversary of death of former Chief Justice, Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to United Nations Justice B A Siddiqi will be observed today (Thursday), reports BSS.

A discussion meeting will be held at 17, New Eskaton, Gausnagar at 3.30 pm on this occasion.

Justice A K M Nurul Islam, Justice Badrul Haidar Choudhury, Prof K M A Munim, Advocate Khondokar Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Barrister Ishfaq Ahmed, Barrister Mainul Hossain, Shahidul Haq Zamal MP, journalists Reazuddin Ahmed and Gias Kamal Choudhury will participate the discussion.

Qul Khawani

Mr. Mohammad Ali Hashmi, younger brother of Mrs. Shakera Rahman and brother-in-law of late Khan Bahadur Mujibur Rahman passed away at the early hours of 30th November 1992 (Inna lillahi... Rajun).

His Qul Khawani will be held after Asr prayers today 3rd December 1992 at House No. CEN(H) 13, Road No. 109, Gulshan, Dhaka.

All relatives, well wishers and friends are requested to attend the Qul Khawani.

Those who are unable to attend the Qul, are requested to offer doa for the departed soul.

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JU Syndicate members

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The Provost said the demand could not be met according to the rules. Dr Hossain, who teaches at the Department of Government and Politics, is a former leader of the student organisation, backed by the ruling BNP.

Hossain reportedly threatened the students with expulsion from the organisation during a heated exchange that followed.

Provosts, House Tutors and officials of all seven dormitories resigned in protest after Friday's incident.

The Syndicate ended its meeting at 10.30 pm but its nine members including Vice-Chancellor Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed were not allowed to come out by the students who announced they would not accept any punitive measure.

The Syndicate did not disclose its decision.

According to some sources, the disciplinary body suggested the measures, the JCD activists apprehend, were endorsed by the highest body.

Earlier in the morning yesterday, the disciplinary committee put forward its officially undisclosed recommendations to the Syndicate.

Huda urges Nirmul Body to withdraw programmes

BELKUCHI (Sirajganj), Dec 2: Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda has urged the leaders of Ghatak-Dal Nirmul Committee to withdraw its hartal and human chain formation programme on the eve of SAARC summit taking into account the interest of the nation, reports BSS.

Addressing a big public meeting at the local Alhaj Siddique High School ground yesterday the Minister said when the SAARC summit was going to discuss 'Dal-Bhat' programme enunciated by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to meet the needs of the poor people in the region and strengthening regional cooperation the people would not tolerate such agitational programmes which might go against national interest.

Organised by Belkuchi thana BNP the meeting was also addressed, among others, by Shahidullah Khan MP, and local BNP leaders Shamim Khan, Sohel Rizvi and Saidur Rahman.

Nirmul body

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bandhu Avenue, Jatiya Press Club, Suhrawardy Uddyan, Science Laboratory and Mirpur Road areas.

Besides, the committee has also taken up a special programme on December 14 at Rayerbazar where the country's leading intellectuals were brutally murdered. The day is observed as Martyred Intellectuals' Day. This would be the first programme of its kind since independence.

The central convening body of Samannaya Committee had discussed its preparations for the hartal and other programmes elaborately yesterday and the day before, sources said.

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