

More Bangladeshis now employed in Kuwait

By Asiuzzaman

The 'new Kuwait' has employed more Bangladeshis than were there when Iraq invaded, sources in the Labour and Manpower Directorate said Wednesday.

Until last month 61,357 Bangladeshis were employed in Kuwait against some 57,000 who had fled during the Iraqi invasion in August 1990, one official of the Directorate said.

He said that of the total employees, 19,695 were reinstated while 41,662 got fresh employments in Kuwait.

None of the nearly 5,000 employees, who fled Iraq during the war returned to that country nor was any fresh employment made by it because of a UN-imposed sanction on official said.

There are misgivings in the public mind that Bangladesh workers have lost their position in Kuwait and that the 'new Kuwait' is not taking many workers from abroad, the official said adding that 'the employment is still on'.

On the UN compensation for Iraq-Kuwait returnees, the

official said that chances of getting compensation were bleak as the payments had to be made by Iraq, defeated in the Gulf war.

The senior official said that the UN Compensation Commission and the International Organisation for Migration were just assessing the damages caused by Iraq to the expatriates in Kuwait and Iraq.

The assessment would continue until June 1993 in line with the resolution in the United Nations that Iraq should compensate war victims.

The claim is not yet made to Iraq and it is uncertain whether Iraq will be able to pay the compensation, the official said in reply to a question that the ILO had paid Taka 113 crore for the Bangladeshi returnees as claimed by the returnees' Association.

He said the Bureau of Manpower Development had already sent a list of 62,130 Bangladeshis who fled the two Gulf countries and now seeking compensation to the UN body.

Rao admits mistake

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puri is permitted to do puja every day.

When asked how the miniature had come up on the site after the Central government had taken over the UP administration, Rao said that the authorities could not reach the place because of fog for more than 12 hours. Subsequently, he said, the forces had to wait till dark to clear the site.

This was Rao's first meeting with editors and columnists to explain why the government did not get before December 6 when the Masjid was demolished. He said he obeyed the dictates of the Constitution, which said that no state government could be dismissed on mere suspicion. 'Had I done it, I would have been blamed for acting unconstitutionally,' he charged the BJP for going back on the affidavits in filed in the Supreme Court and deceiving the government and the public. He said the government would be bringing out a white paper to give the blow account to prove the UP BJP government's 'perfidy'.

Rao still was a picture of vacillation and that may explain why the banning of the RSS has not been effected so far.

This vacillation is under attack by the National Front and the academicians and intellectuals on the one hand and by a segment of the Congress party on the other. Although there is no danger to his prime ministership, the pressure to oust him continues and some opposition leaders have also sought the assistance of President Shankar Dayal Sharma for this purpose.

Rao has called for a joint front of all forces in favour of secular modes of thought and motion to face the crisis. He had discussion with members of Parliament belonging to the Left Front on the question of joint action and joint approach on the question of secularism.

In the meanwhile L K Advani, the BJP leader under detention, has issued a statement saying that the demolition of the mosque was 'part of movement'. He has gone back on his earlier expression of regret and has attacked the President, the Vice-President and political parties for 'betraying the nation and destroying the Constitution'.

It appears that the initial anguish of the BJP leaders over the destruction of the Babri Masjid was a mere formality and that from now on it would not only justify the Ayodhya vandalism but also take credit for it.

Reports culled on the rioting indicate that out of every five deaths in the country-wide Ayodhya-related violence, four took place in Congress-ruled States, including Uttar Pradesh where President's rule was imposed after the dismissal of the BJP government. The toll reached 779 till late on Wednesday evening. The worst-affected states were those ruled by the Congress. Maharashtra accounted for the maximum number of 215 deaths, followed by Gujarat 177, Uttar Pradesh 104, Assam 75, Andhra Pradesh 22, Karnataka 45 and Kerala 11.

The death toll in Madhya Pradesh reached 58 and in Rajasthan 43. Capitals of last two mentioned States have witnessed large-scale violence.

Two other batches of refugees are ready to leave voluntarily on December 12 and 14, it was learnt.



Jamaat-e-Islami brought out a procession in city yesterday demanding reconstruction of Babri Mosque. —Star photo

209 Rohingyas return home

By Staff Correspondent

Two hundred and nine Rohingyas returned home on Thursday the seventh batch being repatriated out of a quarter of a million refugees living in Bangladesh, officials said.

Officials reached by telephone at Cox's Bazar claimed all the returnees volunteered to go back home in Arakan, from where they had fled to Bangladesh to escape a military persecution.

Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Golam Murtaza and other officials were present on the bank of the river Naaf to give a send-off to the refugees.

The team included 47 male, 54 female, 53 boys and 55 girls.

The latest returnees raised so far the number of refugees sent home to 1767 since the repatriation began in September.

The officials said the refugees were provided with food ration for at least one week.

Meanwhile United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has stopped monitoring the repatriation over the allegation that many are being sent home against their will.

No official from UNHCR were present during Thursday's repatriation.

The UN officials monitor the four previous batches of returnees.

Two other batches of refugees are ready to leave voluntarily on December 12 and 14, it was learnt.

3 killed, 16 hurt in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

Three persons were killed and 16 others injured yesterday in three road accidents in the city and Narayanganj.

Our DMCH Correspondent said, an unidentified truck helper was killed Thursday when the truck dashed a road-side tree to save a child in the city.

Police said that the young man (30) died on the spot at Mirpur at about 6-30 pm.

In another accident, a teenage boy died and his father critically wounded yesterday when a truck hit their motor-bike at Tipu Sultan Road in the capital.

Police said Syed Mahub Hossain (14) died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Our Narayanganj Correspondent adds: At least one passenger was killed and 15 others injured when a Dhaka-bound bus skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch at Char Syedpur on the Dhaka-Munshiganj Highway Thursday afternoon.

Those admitted in the DMCH are: Imam Ali (60), Fatema (30), Shirin (35) and Tota Mia (28).

Nirmul human chain

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of the demands then it will fulfil the demands."

She said that "our struggle is also against the incident in India which was an outcome of fundamentalism."

No untoward incident occurred during the programme that spread over the areas of Mirpur Road, Science Laboratory, Shahabag, Purana Paltan, Zero Point and Nawabpur Road, witnesses and organisers said.

The police officials were

seen active in maintaining the traffic in major cross sections, where they requested the committee supporters to keep free parts of the movement of vehicles.

Riot police were however deployed in some points to maintain order.

The human chain programme was followed by a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club. Samannaya Committee leaders including Abdur Razak, MP, Nurul Islam Nahid, Kazi Aref Ahmed, Syed Hassan Imam and Nirmal Sen addressed it.

Our JU Correspondent adds: Hundreds of teachers, students and employees of Jahangirnagar University joined hand-in-hand Thursday to form a human chain in the Dhaka Aricha Highway in solidarity with the Nirmul Committee's programme.

Ghatik Dal Nirmul Committee organised the human chain at 10 am it stretched from Shaheed Hades Park to the Dakbungalow Square, about one kilometer in length.

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Taka two crore misappropriated in Khulna TCB

From Staff Correspondent

Khulna, Dec 10: The amount of misappropriation of money is likely to exceed Taka two crore in last two years in TCB, Khulna branch.

According to source, a section of TCB officials in collaboration with some Customs officials, surveyors, carrying agents have misappropriated the amount by various means during the last two years.

The four-member audit team working here since last month has submitted a report on defalcation of more than Taka 1.35 crore, it was learnt.

The team detected a case of defalcation of more than 800 MT of salt imported from India last week of November. In two other cases the team detected defalcation of more than 175 MT of salt.

The audit team reports that TCB did not follow existing rules and norms in appointing carrying agents, renting godown and paying of bills.

Last year another audit team also submitted a similar report of defalcation of Taka 50 lakh, but no action has so far been taken, it was alleged.

The workers union of TCB Khulna demanded a high level inquiry committee to probe into the matter, the source added.

Meanwhile, the TCB Chairman has arrived in Khulna today.

When contacted, local TCB officials refused to give any information or admit or deny allegations of the audit team.

Our Khulna Correspondent adds: The TCB Khulna branch has been facing a series of allegations of misappropriation of funds for some time now. The workers union has been demanding a high level inquiry into the matter.

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HC orders release of Nazrul after 12-yr illegal jail

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court Division of the Supreme Court in an unprecedented decision Wednesday ruled that the detention of Muhammad Nazrul Islam, jailed for 12 years in Sathkira, was "illegal and without jurisdiction" and ordered his immediate release.

A Division Bench consisting Justice Mozammel Haque and Justice Mahfuzur Rahman made the rule "absolute and the detention of Md. Nazrul Islam right from his date of arrest till today is hereby declared illegal and without jurisdiction."

Declaring all criminal proceedings against him were illegal, void and without jurisdiction "as if no criminal proceedings were started against him at any time", the ruling added "the detenu ... shall be set at liberty forthwith from custody without any delay for a single moment."

Nazrul Islam was jailed at Sathkira jail in 1980 at the age of 12 years falsely implicated in connection with a number of mostly dacoity and gang cases. In spite of his acquittal from all of these cases he was still being detained in jail.

The High Court issued a suo-moto rule on October 18 after a report was published in a national daily in the same month.

Former Attorney General and senior Advocate Rafiqueul Haq was appointed by the court as Amicus Curie to represent the detenu.

The court issued a rule against the Deputy Commissioner, the Superintendent of Police and the Jailor of Sathkira but all failed to respond while the detenu was produced before the court on November 3 by the sub-jailor chained with 'danda-ber'.

The court learned that the detenu was being harassed by the administration and that he was chained for the duration of his term except for one year while he was undergoing medical treatment.

The court ordered that the detenu be immediately freed from the 'danda-ber' and issued a show-cause notice on the Home Ministry as to why he should not be released from detention.

He also noted that in the other cases he was discharged and or acquitted long before but was not released from jail.

The court also asked that a copy of the judgement be sent to the Prime Minister so that "she should personally consider and feel as to how an ordinary citizen of her country being a poor minor boy ... was put to such unexpected sufferings and inhuman torture ... because of malafide action of some interested person and due to administrative negligence ... while the Constitution of Bangladesh with all its fundamental rights is functioning, rule of law is being claimed to have been set up in the country and the democracy has been established."

Our Dhaka Correspondent adds: The High Court's decision is a landmark one in the history of Bangladesh. It marks the first time that a person has been released from prison after being declared a detenu.

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The Midnight File

Rao rules out imposition of internal emergency

NEW DELHI, Dec 10: The Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao today ruled out imposition of an internal emergency in the country to restore normalcy. In an interview to Doordarshan, the Prime Minister said, "I don't think that will be necessary" when asked whether one of his options would be to impose an internal emergency to bring the situation under control rapidly.

Pro-communist forces seize downtown Dushanbe

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan, Dec 10: Pro-Communist forces led by the new interior minister and backed by tanks, combat helicopters and armoured vehicles took downtown Dushanbe on Thursday. They seized control of key government buildings and industrial sites in the capital of Tajikistan, a former Soviet republic of 5.1 million people in Central Asia. Heavy fighting was reported throughout the city, but casualty figures were not immediately available, reports AP.

PM: Babri Mosque

From Page 1 Col 4

said that only democratic environment could ensure rule of law and implementation of human rights.

People have regained the environment of free thinking and freedom of speech with the restoration of democracy in the country after nine years of struggle against autocracy, she said. "Freedom of press has been ensured," she added.

The Prime Minister mentioned that democracy and rule of law were inter-related and said that the present government had laid emphasis on establishment of rule of law. "Efforts are being made to recast the colonial laws to suit a democratic country."

Education, as a driving force for development, has been given importance, she said and also mentioned some other priority sectors, including women uplift, health and population, marked by the present government.

Begum Zia stressed the need for eradicating poverty to ensure human rights and development of the people.

"Poverty, illiteracy, disease and terrorism are the enemies of human rights," she said.

Referring to the new anti-terrorism law, the Prime Minister said democracy and terrorism cannot go together. "The anti-terrorism law has been enacted to ensure unhindered development of democracy and the country."

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda in his address said that the BSEHR with 250 branches over the country and three others abroad was ever vigilant to ensure human rights to all.

The Swiss Charge d'Affaires and the Deputy Chief of US Mission in Dhaka, in their speech, hoped that the organisation (BSEHR) would continue to provide legal aid to the needy and in establishing rule of law in the society.

Amnesty International Chairman Ross Daniel said that government must have sincere will to stop "systematic torture" that prevailed in many countries.

Later, the Prime Minister gave away BSEHR's 'Best Human Rights Chapter Award' to its Jessore branch.

Our Dhaka Correspondent adds: The Prime Minister's speech was a landmark one in the history of Bangladesh. It marks the first time that a person has been released from prison after being declared a detenu.

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PM to head Nat'l Council for Women

From Page 1 Col 8

A National Council for Women headed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia is in the process of formation for the overall advancement of women, reports BSS.

This was stated by the Minister of State for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Mrs Sarwar Rahman when UNDP Resident Representative Charles H Larsson called on her at the Bangladesh Secretariat office yesterday.

The State Minister discussed the different development projects undertaken by the Women's Affairs Ministry in accordance with the Geneva Declaration for rural women adopted at the summit on economic advancement of rural women in Geneva in February this year.

Our Dhaka Correspondent adds: The formation of the National Council for Women is a landmark one in the history of Bangladesh. It marks the first time that a person has been released from prison after being declared a detenu.

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