

Pakistan to deport illegal immigrants

ISLAMABAD, Jan 4: Pakistan said today it would deport all its illegal immigrants a move that could affect many Arab Muslims who fought for the Mujahideen guerrillas in the Afghan civil war, reports Reuters.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Kanju told parliament the decision to deport all illegal immigrants was made at a high-level government meeting in Islamabad on Sunday.

No official estimate of the number of illegal immigrants was immediately available, but the daily newspaper The News put the figure at 1.5 million.

Kanju said several methods of dealing with illegal immigrants were adopted at the meeting, but he did not give details.

"The law of the land should be respected and all those foreigners who have been illegally staying in Pakistan should go back," Kanju said.

Government officials say many immigrants have illegally secured Pakistani national

identity cards and passports. Local newspapers said the expulsion decision could affect hundreds of thousands of immigrants from the subcontinent and Sri Lanka, most of whom live in the port of Karachi.

"Most immigrants are from the subcontinent. Sri Lanka, Egypt, Sudan and Saudi Arabia," the news said. "Some of them are said to be involved in anti-state activities."

Thousands of Arab volunteers who fought alongside the Mujahideen in their war against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul are also in Pakistan.

Kanju was speaking in parliament today in answer to a member's question about the recent deportation of some 2,000 Pakistanis from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Pakistan said last week that the UAE had deported 1,920 Pakistanis after violent demonstrations there over the raising of an ancient mosque by Hindu revivalists in northern India. Some 500 more were awaiting deportation.

3 contractors bid for JMB approach roads

Star Report

Only three out of total ten prequalified contractors of Contract No Three and Four of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) project submitted their bid till Monday, the last day of dropping tender.

These are Samwhan of Korea, China Harbour of China, and STFA of Turkey.

Concerned sources said Samwhan's bid was found to be the nearest to the estimated cost of the contracts.

The estimated cost of the two contracts is 52 million US dollars. The contracts are for east and west approach roads of the bridge.

JMB project has four components namely the bridge, the river training works and the two approach roads.

The tenders for the works were floated on September 1, 1992. A total of 22 contractors prequalified for the job.

The JMB project would involve about 528 million US dollars. The work of the project would be awarded by the middle of this year and the final work would begin in January, 1994 and end in 1997.



AN YEARLY ANXIETY: Uptight parents waiting outside Viquarunnessa Noon School sending their wards inside for school admission test yesterday. —Star photo

Arrested 21 JCD activists sent to jail

RAJSHAHI, Jan 4: Twenty-one of the 24 JCD activists, who were arrested from Rajshahi University campus Sunday, were sent to Rajshahi Jail today, reports UNB.

One of the arrested was released and two others were enlarged on bail.

On Sunday, police arrested the JCD activists when they tried to prevent some examinations from entering the examination hall in the 3rd RU Science Building.

Rajiv murder trial may resume this month

NEW DELHI, Jan 4: The Rajiv Gandhi murder trial is expected to resume in a specially made high-security court complex near Madras this month end, Special Investigation Team (SIT) sources said here, reports PTI.

Support to Kashmiris will continue: Pindi

ISLAMABAD, Jan 4: Pakistan would continue to provide moral, diplomatic and political support to militants in Kashmir without bowing to pressures from any quarter, Foreign Minister Siddique Khan Kanju said today, reports PTI.

In reply to a member's query in the National Assembly, Kanju reiterated his government's decision to draw attention of the international community to what he described as atrocities by security forces in India.

Retreating Islamabad's demand for implementing the UN resolution for exercising

the right to self-determination in Kashmir, Kanju said Pakistan believed the 1972 Simla Agreement provided that and the UN resolutions the framework for resolving the issue.

Foreign Secretary Shahryar Khan had informed New Delhi during secretary-level talks last August that Pakistan did not consider the UN resolutions and the Simla accord mutually exclusive, Kanju said.

PTI adds from Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Sheikh Ghulam Rasool, escaped an attempt on his life here this morning.

India condemns expulsion of Palestinians

NEW DELHI, Jan 4: India condemned today the expulsion by Israel of 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories, describing the action as "excessive and unacceptable," reports AFP.

In its first official reaction to the December 17 expulsions, the Indian government urged Israel to withdraw the expulsion orders and to allow the Palestinians to return home from Southern Lebanon, where they have been living in a tent camp in sub-zero temperatures.

It said the expulsions were "excessive and unacceptable from any point of view or value system which should govern relations between peoples."

The statement called for all concerned to exercise restraint and to reduce tensions.

Long-marchers

From Page 1 Col 5

march committee violated an agreement with Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam that (they (protestors) would reach Hazratullah peacefully and return.

Several hundred marchers sneaked through villages and reached Navarona Bazar, some eight kilometre from Benapole border. There, they were stopped by the security forces and forced to return.

Tariqul Islam and State Minister for Religious Affairs Abdul Mannan have been staying in Jessore since Sunday to convince the long march organisers to return peacefully.

The two ministers held meeting with the organisers Monday morning and reportedly settled the matter but the marchers allegedly violated it.

The minister and senior police officials also rushed to the scene, official sources said.

The injured included at least 40 police personnel including a number of officers. A number of police vehicles were also damaged by the agitators.

An additional 1,500 police backed by BDR and Armed Police were deployed to tackle the situation.

After police action Azizul Huq briefly announced the end of the march and urged the followers to return home but threatened further action if the demolished mosque was not rebuilt immediately.

The Hindu zealots destroyed the 16-century mosque in Indian town of Ayodhya on December 6 and erected a makeshift temple on the site.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: In Dhaka, several religious groups brought out procession in some areas of the capital protesting the police action on long march in Jessore.

Security was reinforced in different city points.

PM: Jatra

From Page 1 Col 6

is a source of entertainment for the toiling masses. She said the art of Jatra has to be protected from the influence of anti-social activities. Jatra is deep rooted in the soil of the country and needs patronisation of all concerned.

She said the recommendations of the Cultural Ministry, parliamentary standing committee and Shilpakala Academy are working together for the promotion of national culture including the art of Jatra. She said the government wants to restore the art to its just place.

Press Note

From Page 1 Col 5

militant Hindus on December 6 last year, gathered at Jessore on a call given by the Long March Implementation Committee demanding reconstruction of Babri Mosque.

"These protesters, joining from different parts of the country subsequently moved in a procession and forced their way towards Indo-Bangladesh border, breaking three barricades raised by the law enforcing agencies. They also defied the urging of the local administration and political leaders not to move further ahead."

"As the crowd crossed the 3rd barricade at a place near Laozani Check Post under Jhikargachha Police Station, they faced obstruction from the police on duty. A splinter group from among the processionists at a stage turned violent, attacked the police with 'Ramda' and threw cocktails towards them, severely injuring 50 police men including the officers of Sarsha and Jhikargachha police stations."

"The police then resorted to lathi charge and used tear-gas to disperse the unruly crowd. Later on the police had to open fire in self defence. Two persons died and some others were injured during the encounters. The long marchers then retreated towards Jessore. Situation is now under control."

"Government has ordered an immediate enquiry into the incident to be held by Divisional Commissioner, Khulna, and urged the people to exercise restraint and maintain peace and order."

The Midnight File

Third test launch of 'Agni' in March

NEW DELHI, Jan 4: India will carry out the third test launch of its intermediate range ballistic missile 'Agni' (fire) in March this year. Quoting sources of the Defence Research and Development (DRDO), the Hindustan Times today said that the defense scientists are working overtime to meet the objectives of higher payload and longer reach. The sources said that the third test flight would experiment with 1,000 kilogram payload over a 'longer distance' which they refused to reveal, reports Xinhua.

Heavy snow disrupts life in Bulgaria

SOFIA, Jan 4: Heavy snow on three successive days has cut communications, paralyzed traffic and disrupted life in many areas of Bulgaria. The capital, Sofia, and surrounding areas are buried under snow half a meter deep. In the mount Balkan, Rila and Rodopi areas it is a meter deep, reports Xinhua.

Smuggled aid to deportees dropped

MARJ EZ-ZOUHOUR, (Lebanon), Jan 4: Smuggled aid to more than 400 Palestinian deportees has dropped sharply since Israeli shelling near their camp but food supplies could last a week, the men said today. The deportees claimed that Israeli mortar shells on Saturday targeted a nighttime convoy of mules carrying clandestine supplies to the 415 Palestinians stranded in an icy no-man's land between Lebanese and Israeli lines, reports AFP.

Drug smuggling case

Chief Security Officer of ZIA cross-examined

By Staff Correspondent

Five accused persons, four of them foreign nationals, in the sensational drug case were put on trial in the court of the Second Additional Sessions Judge, Dhaka, Monday.

Out of 33 witnesses, plaintiff of the case, Captain Ekramullah (Retd), Chief Security Officer of the Zia International Airport (ZIA), Dhaka, was cross-examined before the Judge Mohammad Ansaruddin Sikder on the day.

Ekramullah also said that he heard that the accused American girl was searched on suspicion by an airport security supervisor, Nighat Sultana, in presence of Mrs Elen, a traffic officer of British Airways and four packets of heroin were found hidden under her attire.

Hafizul Kabir, a customs official of the ZIA tested the seized item and confirmed that it was heroin, said Ekramullah.

Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdur Razzak and Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) M Nayemuddin moved the case on behalf of the prosecution while Advocate Khorshed Alam appeared on behalf of absconding co-accused Qayum and Godwin as state defence.

Advocate SK Chawdhury, lawyer for two other foreigners was absent during the trial.

When Blankson and Goddy were asked in the court if they had something to ask the witness, Ekramullah, both of them replied that the witness was not known to them and they had nothing to ask.

The Judge Mohammad Ansaruddin Sikder adjourned the court until January 16 after one and a half hours examination and cross-examination that ended at 3:25 pm yesterday.

Janata Tower case reopens Next hearing Jan 10

The Janata Tower Case against former President HM Ershad and others reopened here yesterday in the Special Judges Court after seven months when several writ petitions were moved in the Supreme Court for quashing proceedings, reports BSS.

All the writ petitions were rejected by the High Court Division and Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. The first writ petition was moved in a division bench of the High Court early June to quash proceedings in the Special Judges Court.

It was a day of production and appearance with the new judge now presiding over the court. Former President, Begum Roushan Ershad, former Chief Whip of Parliament MA Sattar, former RAJUK Chairman Rahmatullah and others, except five, appeared.

Two of the 20-accused were absconding while three could not appear in the court for lack of communication as their Advocate Anwarul Quader submitted. He undertook to produce all the three in the next hearing.

New judge Ansaruddin Sikder of the court fixed January ten for the next hearing. His predecessor, Ismail Mia, has been transferred and during his tenure two prosecution

witnesses were examined when the High Court gave a stay-order.

Appearing for Ershad, Khondker Mahboob Hossain alleged that Ershad was denied the facilities which he was entitled and submitted a four point list. He also later gave an application. Ershad's position "has changed" after enquiry headed by a judge, he added.

Advocate Hossain said he was supplied two duffles, which was "stopped". In protest, he said, Ershad went on hunger-strike from 'yesterday' and after the court was over he had a Tikka Kabab and a cup of tea around midday at the request of his wife.

Attorney General Aminul Huq, however, told the court that he had no "knowledge about his condition" on the alleged denial earlier made by Advocate Hossain. The court would, however, decide the matter on January 10 after hearing from the jailor's version.

Besides, the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Hasan Arif, Obaidur Rahman and Masud Ahmed Talukdar appeared while MA Malek, Yusuf H Humyun, Shudhir K Hazra, Saidur Rahman, Mostafizur Rahman Mazumdar, Amanur Noor Panna and others appeared for the defence.

Bandartila still tense

From Page 1 Col 7

Halishahar areas where a large number of police and BDR have been guarding to prevent any further outbreak of violence. Besides, authorities have clamped Section 144 banning the holding of any protest rally and procession that could spark off further trouble.

Meanwhile, in a bid to pacify the agitated local people an all-party peace meeting was organised today morning at Halishahar near EPZ which was addressed among others by Abdullah Al Noman, Minister for Environment, Fisheries, Forest and Livestock, Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation and local leaders.

However, in Chittagong today all kinds of transports excluding rickshaws, stayed off the roads and highways following a strike called by the transport workers union in protest against the killing of a bus driver Nurul Absar and a tempo driver Abdur Rashid, by the Navy personnel in the Halishahar incident.

The local units of Awami League, 5-party, PDF, Ganatantrik Biplobi Jote and Ganatantri Party have also jointly given a call to observe

half-day hartal tomorrow in Chittagong in protest against the rampage by the Navy personnel.

Tens of thousands of people who vacated the violence-torn Halishahar and adjoining areas fearing a fresh outbreak of trouble, have not yet started returning to their residences, sources said.

Meanwhile, BS4 adds: Leaders of political parties and trade unions in Chittagong have demanded punishment to those who were responsible for the incident at Bandartila and south Halishahar.

In separate statements today, they said the persons involved in the incident could not go unpunished as the offence they had committed was of grave nature.

They demanded adequate compensation for the affected people.

The signatories to the statement were Muhammad Ashraf Khan, Secretary General of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity, Sultan Ahmad and Azizul Huq, President and General Secretary of Bandar Nagari Chattala Bus Sramik Karmachari Union, city Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Maulana Abutaber.

Clinton 'a good man to work with', says Bush

PARIS, Jan 4: "US President George Bush predicted... when I say to my friends (such as) President Mitterrand that I believe he will find governor Clinton a good man to work with who supported many current US policies, reports Reuters."

Talking to journalists after meeting French President Francois Mitterrand during the last stop of his final foreign tour as a world leader, Bush sought to allay reservations about Clinton's foreign policy inexperience.

"I certainly would understand if they were wondering what new policies would come into being and what policies would continue," Bush said of foreign leaders.

"I am one who wants very

much to see governor Clinton succeed as President... when I say to my friends (such as) President Mitterrand that I believe he will find governor Clinton a good man to work with one these important problems, I can say that from the heart."

Bush hands over power to Clinton on January 20.

AFP from South Carolina adds: Bill Clinton said Sunday he hoped to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin soon after taking office, but set no timetable for such a summit.

Clinton also said he was looking forward to meeting Mexican president Carlos Salinas and a possible session with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

BCL observes founding anniversary

Different factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday (Monday) observed its 45th founding anniversary through various programmes including rallies, processions and discussion meetings, reports UNB.

Workers and leaders of Awami League-backed Chhatra League (M-I) hoisted national and party flags at the party office and garlanded the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

It brought out a huge procession from Dhaka University campus and paraded the city streets. A photographic exhibition and blood donation programme were also held at TSC.

Leader of the Opposition in parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will attend a reunion and discussion to be held by BCL (M-I) at Engineers Institute at 10 am tomorrow.

The programme of Montu Chhatra League included garlanding the portrait of Bangabandhu in the morning.

It will bring out a procession and hold a reunion and discussion at 10 am today (Tuesday) on the DU campus where Mostafa Mohsin Montu will be the chief guest.

To mark the day, JSD (Inu)-backed Chhatra League organised a rally at the foot of Arapajeya Bangla in the DU Arts Faculty Building premises and hoisted national and party flags.

Foreign aid strategy

From Page 1 Col 6

microentrepreneurs succeed in lifting themselves and their families out of poverty."

They added that "a micro-enterprise development initiative, akin to the creation of the Peace Corps and the Alliance for Progress, could be a hallmark of the Clinton administration's foreign aid programme."

It also noted that such an initiative would produce "tangible benefits" for the US by promoting economic self-sufficiency and growth within the developing world trading partners.

The letter noted that a number of congressional and non-government foreign aid reform initiatives are now being presented to address the new challenges and opportunities presented by the end of the Cold War.

"No matter what reform model you ultimately choose to follow, we believe that micro-enterprise development should be embedded into the strategy for attaining broad-based economic growth and democratic development."

The letter was signed by members of Congress Edward F Feighan, Sam Geidenson, Tony Hall, Benjamin A Gilman and Bill Emerson and Senator Slade Gorton and Senator Dennis DeConcini.

The congressmen in their letter put forward the following four-point recommendations as "the foundation of a bipartisan microenterprise de-

For Attention of Factory Owners

- As per provisions of Factories Act, 1965 and Rules made thereunder:
- * No Child who has not completed 14 years of age shall be required or allowed to work in any factory.
 - * No Women shall be allowed to work in a factory after 8.00 pm.
 - * Previous permission in writing be obtained in the prescribed manner from the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments for the construction or extension of any factory or class or description of factories.
 - * Registration and licencing of factories or any class or description of factories and payment of fees for such registration and licencing or for the renewal of licences, in the prescribed manner are required.

Addresses of the Divisional Offices of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments

1. Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories and Establishments (General), 75, Nayapaltan, Dhaka, Phone: 415894.
 2. Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories and Establishments (General), Jampurimath, Agrabad, Chittagong, Phone: 300439.
 3. Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories and Establishments (General), Boyra, Khulna, Phone: 60703.
 4. Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories and Establishments (General), Sutrapore, Bogra, Phone: 6387.
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DPP (C) 2202-31/12
C-17
Ministry of Labour and Manpower
- Editor: S. M. Ali
Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam
- Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500091-4. Advertisement: 500091. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM : DAILY STAR DHAKA.