

Gulf war returnees

UN to examine prayers for compensation

The UN Commission for Compensation to workers returned from Iraq-Kuwait in the wake of the Gulf War will start examining applications for compensation in December, according to a report from the Bangladesh Mission in Geneva, reports UNB.

More than 65,000 Bangladeshi workers affected by the 1990 Gulf War had returned home leaving behind money and belongings.

Clarifying the latest position, Labour and Manpower Ministry sources yesterday said applications under 'B' category will be examined by the UN Commission from December '94 to March '95 for considering payment of compensation.

Applications under 'A' and 'C' categories will be scrutinised from October next and the Commission will start payment of compensation subject to availability of funds, the sources said.

Applications from Bangladeshi affected workers included 62,352 under 'A', 95 under 'B', 8,770 under 'C' and 1 (one) under 'D' category. All the applications were processed in computer at a cost of more than Tk 15 lakh and duly sent to the UN Commission.

The sources further said the UN commission categorised under 'B' the foreign nationals died or injured in the Gulf War for considering payment of compensation on priority basis.

The government, the sources said, has been making concerted efforts to secure compensation for the affected Bangladeshi workers from the UN Commission through the Mission in Geneva.

The Labour Minister during his visit to Geneva last year had met the Executive Secretary of the UN Commission and urged him to consider payment of compensation to Bangladeshi workers on priority basis. The UN Commission officials who had assured the Minister of his consideration is expected to visit Bangladesh shortly to see for himself the condition of the workers affected by the Gulf War.

DMFA Cup

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The DMFA president Azizul Huq, who is one of the vice presidents of the BFF, too, maintained his customary bureaucratic tone. "We have got nothing to do. It is entirely Abahani's decision. We have got nothing to do with it." But the seasoned BFF vice president confessed "The chaos that followed was beyond our control."

Once the dust settled down a bit after the commotion, the unpalatable Abahani supporters stoned the DMFA office and slogans demanding measures against the referee reverberated through the Stadium arena for quite some time into a tender summer night.

As far as the match was concerned, it was played on a fast pace with no undue bout of the nerves so commonplace in a finale and, in fact, it more than fulfilled the expectations from two combatants depleted by the desertion of some of their key players at the outset of the season.

Abahani, who entered the field with the twin quest of avenging their defeat to Brothers Union earlier in the tourney as well as annexing the trophy for the first time, controlled the midfield and the match in the first half with Zakir playing a key role.

They got the goal before Brothers Union had the measure of the Abahani offence that contained an unknown commodity in Nazir Ali, the Iraqi striker who was in the Dhanmondi combination that went down by a solitary goal to the Gopibagh side in the last pool engagement at the round robin stage.

As ill luck would have it for the men in orange, it was the stocky, intelligent Iraqi who got the match-decider following a shabby defensive work 14 minutes after the kick-off.

Abahani's new nippy outside-right Mintu swung in a cross from the right and two Brothers defenders rose with Aslam who failed to get his head to the floater and the ball went to an unmarked Nazir whose overhead flick again beat the recovering defenders and before a slightly unsighted goalee Ponir could reach the ball the pouncing attacker in delightful exhibition of mental and physical agility found the net (1-0).

Abahani custodian Saidul, who made a couple of important saves on the day, thwarted a Brothers' attempt for the equaliser when he dived to his left to block a stinging Ranjan Malaysian investors keen to set up PVC plant

Visiting Malaysian investors yesterday said they are interested in setting up a 40,000-ton annual production capacity PVC plant in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

A three-member team, led by Abdul Karim Ahmed Tarmizi, expressed its willingness during a meeting with Industries Minister AM Zahuruddin Khan.

They also discussed with the minister matters relating to investment in joint ventures on the basis of mutual benefit.

The delegation informed the Minister that Bangladeshi labourers were working in Malaysia with due responsibility and skill.

The investors said they were appointing Bangladeshi workers in their factories and assured him of recruiting more workers.

6 get life-terms for killing one

A court in Dhaka yesterday sentenced six persons to life imprisonment for murdering a man at a village in Keraniganj thana following land dispute, reports UNB.

The court also fined them Tk 5,000 each in default to suffer another one year rigorous imprisonment.

The convicts are Bashani (absconding), Salauddin, Leha-juddin, Niamal Ali, Amanullah and Safar Ali. They all hail from Ekuria Maddyapara village under Keraniganj thana.

DCC mayor

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commissioners to identify the terrorists.

"I am the mayor of 75 lakh people of Dhaka city. I have to look into the problems of every individual and group," said the first ever elected mayor of the capital city.

He pledged all out efforts for the well-being of the people and hoped that all quarters would extend their cooperation to him in discharging his responsibilities.

Hanif, who is also the president of Dhaka City Awami League, criticised the negative attitude of political leaders toward everything of their opponents.

"In a democracy, there will always be political competition, but that does not mean political violence and negative criticism. Every government has its good and bad aspects."



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a two-day national seminar on "Equality, Peace and Women in Development and Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)" at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

PM: Women

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ernment wants equal participation of all, irrespective of gender, to ensure development of the country and improve the lot of the common man.

She said the government has created a conducive political atmosphere to create awareness among the women community as well as improved the environment of work for them.

She mentioned the country's garments industry where the vast majority of workers are women. A huge amount of foreign exchange is being earned from this sector alone, she pointed out.

She said women in the country are coming up and proving their worth. "We whole-heartedly welcome this positive trend. We believe not only the women, but also the whole country will be benefited if our women are given more opportunities."

The Prime Minister said her government has given importance to female education, because education is the way towards freedom and development.

She said government has been providing very soft-terms loans for the distressed rural women and some laws have been framed for checking repression on women.

A large number of women representing all concerned government and non-government agencies participated in the seminar which was designed to provide inputs for the forthcoming regional women's conference this year and global conference in 1995.

A R Yusuf says on 10th day of hearing

Notification cancelling Azam's citizenship void

The government, in exercising power under Article 3 of the Constitution for removal of doubt, cannot disqualify the citizenship of someone who is a citizen by birth, A R Yusuf, Bar at-Law, submitted before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on behalf of his client Golam Azam yesterday, reports BSS.

Arguing on the 10th day of the hearing of the government's appeal against the verdict of the High Court Division restoring the citizenship of Azam, Yusuf said the notification which cancelled the citizenship of Azam was illegal.

Elaborating, Yusuf said, in Article 3 it is provided that in case of doubt whether a person is qualified to be deemed to be a citizen of Bangladesh, the question shall be decided by the government and such decision shall be final.

He submitted that the government is vested with power to decide in respect of citizenship. Such power is a quasi-judicial power and not a mere executive power, he said.

Yusuf further argued that while making such a decision, hearing of the parties is needed. He referred to the word "decision" and relied on the definition given by Black's Law Dictionary.

Yusuf submitted that the decision in respect of Golam

Role of a national daily resented

By Staff Correspondent

Several persons, representing arts, literature, culture and the various professions, in a statement Tuesday, resented the role of a national daily against some of the progressive newspapers of the country.

They alleged that a newspaper, whose name they did not mention, has been publishing false and fabricated news items against those other newspapers.

The statement alleged the Daily has been creating confusion among the people by propagating that its target newspapers were preaching atheism.

The signatories to the statement also said that the owner of the Daily was a collaborator of the Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War. He was also involved in the misappropriation of a huge amount of money which was given by a Middle Eastern country as grant to Bangladesh, they alleged.

They called upon the people to resist the owner of the newspaper.

The signatories to the statement include Shawkat Osman, Kabir Chowdhury, Obaidul Huq, Shamsur Rahman, Kalim Sharaif, Badruddin Umar, Zillur Rahman Siddiqi, Mustafa Noor-ul-Islam, Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Wahidul Huq, Rafiqul Islam, Moham-mad Abdul Quayum, Gazi Shamsur Rahman, Abul Kalam Manzur Morshed, Rabeya Khatun, Akhtaruzzaman Elias, Shawkat Ali, Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Quayum Chowdhury, Rashid Haider, Rafiqun Nabi, Hayat Mahmud, Belal Chowdhury, Bashir Al-Helal, Muntassir Mamun, Rizia Rahman, Bulban Osman, Shikder Aminul Huq, Rahat Khan, Munmun Rashid, Kamal Ahmed, Naima Huq, "Abdus Sattar, Abul Barak Alvi, Shamim Shikder, Abdur Shakur Shah, Saleh Mohammad Nazib, Meghna Guha Thakurata, Karunamoi Goshwami, Dalim Chandra Barman, H K M Arefin, Hasina Ahmed, Suraya Begum, Rezaur Rahman and Khair Jahar.

He submitted that the government acted and took into account irrelevant considerations.

Yusuf said the notification was, in effect, a cancellation of citizenship under the cover of 'removal of doubt', as is clearly evidenced by a subsequent notification issued by the government on January 17, 1976 inviting applications from those whose citizenships were 'cancelled'.

He argued that the power of cancellation was not available to the government under Article 3 or under the Presidential Order 149 of 1972. As such the notification issued is totally illegal and not in accordance with law, he submitted.

Hearing resumes today.

Riyadh to probe Mina stampede

DUBAI, May 31: Saudi Arabia's King Fahd said on Monday the Kingdom is to investigate a stampede in which hundreds of pilgrim died last week during a Hajj ritual symbolising stoning the devil, reports Reuter.

The Saudi press agency said King Fahd told the Saudi cabinet: "We have reviewed all the security and administrative reports pertaining to the intense crowding during the hurling of the stones... which led to some deaths..."

Schoolboy murder: One arrested

Police yesterday arrested one Soheli, 20, for his alleged involvement in the murder of Khokon.

Abu Zafar Khokon, who appeared in the SSC examinations from the Dhanmondi Boys High School this year, was stabbed to death at Mohakhali Madhyapara in the city Monday night when two groups of local bullies clashed.

Soheli was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail. Earlier, he was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Court by Gulshan police. The magistrate rejected the remand prayer and ordered to send Soheli to jail.

Khokon's father, Sirajul Islam, lodged a case with Gulshan police accusing several persons including Soheli.

Nirmul's call to make June 4 programme a success

By Staff Correspondent

The Ghatok Dalai Nirmul Jatiya Samannaya Committee Tuesday called upon all to make its June 4 programme demanding trial of Golam Azam a success.

The call was made at a meeting of its central steering committee held yesterday morning with Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Abdur Razzak, MP, Kazi Aref Ahmed, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Syed Hasan Imam, Nurul Islam Nahid, Shahrier Kabir and others.

The meeting criticised the provocative propaganda against some of the pro-liberation newspapers by a national daily and said the owner of the daily was one of the collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces during the War of Independence.

The leaders of the Samannaya Committee also hailed the European Parliament for its support to the movement launched by the committee and called upon its foreign units to create more public opinion in favour of its movement.

NAM confce

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NAM along with India, Yugoslavia and Indonesia, its current chairman.

Fears for its future were voiced by Sri Lankan Foreign Minister A C Shaul Hameed, who said it had 'lost its clout' and asked whether it was being 'marginalised and mummified'.

The Midnight File

Gunmen kill 5 cops in Sialkot

LAHORE, May 31: Gunmen attacked a police van in the Punjab province town of Sialkot today, killing five policemen and two prisoners, police said. The unidentified attackers sprayed the van with automatic gunfire from a car as the policemen were taking the two prisoners to court for a murder hearing, a police official in the provincial capital Lahore said, reports Reuter.

UN begins debate on Yemen

UNITED NATIONS, May 31: The Security Council began debate today on efforts to bring about a ceasefire and resumption of negotiations to end the civil war in Yemen. Oman, which takes over the Chairmanship of the 15-member Council Wednesday, has said it would propose a plan to help reconcile Northern and Southern Yemen, which have been at war since May 5, reports AFP.

10 killed, 27 injured in road accidents

From Staff Correspondent

At least ten people including two minors were killed in road mishaps in Chittagong, Jhenidah, Mymensingh and Gaibandha during the last two days.

Twenty seven others were injured eight of them critically. Separate cases have been filed with respective thanas.

BSS reports: Three persons were killed and another was injured seriously when an autorickshaw and a speeding truck collided head-on at Mansurabad on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in Chittagong yesterday afternoon.

According to Dubleemooing police: the accident occurred when a Chittagong bound speeding truck collided with an autorickshaw which was coming from the opposite direction. Three passengers of the autorickshaw died on the spot.

The dead were identified as Sadek, 25, Abdul Matin, 65, while the third victim aged about 40 was not identified. Police seized the truck but its driver managed to escape.

Our Correspondent from Jhenidah reports: Two children were killed when a Jes-

Hasina

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the matter for discussion at the meeting of the opposition parties in Parliament, scheduled for June 5," the AL leader added.

Meanwhile, another source in the AL said members of both the presidium and advisory bodies would also discuss the timing of the public announcement of the outlines of a caretaker government.

However, according to an earlier announcement, Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to announce the outlines at a rally at the Panthapath in the city on June 7.

The date of the announcement may now be changed, an insider hinted last night.

Airbuses

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technical committee which found only three fulfilling the necessary details.

The financial offers of the three firms would be reviewed separately only after the Biman board okays the technical evaluation reports.

NEC meet

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decided that the revised ADP would not be downsized drastically, as had happened in the past," a government official said. "Therefore, the amount was raised to the present estimated level."

But now questions have been raised as to how realistic this revised ADP is.

In the past, there had always been a big gap between the original, revised and actual ADP outlays. In 1991-92, the actual size of the ADP was Tk 7500 crore, the revised sum was Tk 7100 crore and the actual amount spent was Tk 6300 crore. The following year, the original ADP was set at Tk 8500 crore, the revised at Tk 8121 crore and the actual at Tk 7300 crore.

Observers feel the high allocation for the ADP has been made because the BNP government wants to increase the GDP rate before the next elections.

"The ADP in the past had been a subject of political considerations," another high official said. "High expectation and poor achievements had always affected the credibility of the government, he explained.

Floods in Sylhet

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dated affecting at least 500 labourers. These quarries are in Jaisong, Sipur, Ferrighat and Sarighat.

Some 6000 acres with standing crops were inundated in Gowainghat thana.

The water level of the river Plain marked a sharp rise today.

In Companiganj thana, 85 per cent of standing crops were inundated. Official sources said at least 10,000 acres with standing crops were affected with the sudden rise of the river Dholoi.

However, no casualty has been reported so far.

Presentation on computerised rly ticket sale

A presentation was held yesterday on the "Computerised seat reservation and ticketing system of the Bangladesh Railway".

The presentation was attended by Dr Moshir Rahman, Secretary, Railway Division, Ministry of Communications, railway officers, the country representatives of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.



A procession was brought out in the city yesterday on the occasion of World No-Tobacco Day '94 organised by Adhunik, an anti-smoking campaign group.

Striking teachers hold rally in front of Dhaka Edn Board

By Staff Correspondent

The Central Teachers Action Liaison Committee at a rally on Tuesday called upon the government to fulfil the demands of the teachers and end the impasse created in the education sector by their strike.

The rally held in front of the Dhaka Education Board office was addressed by Abdur Rab Mia, Azizur Rahman, Md Afzal Mia, Prof Fazlul Huq, Prof Firoza Begum, Mostafa Shah Alam, Shahidur Rahman and Nazir Hossain with Mohammad Shahidullah in chair.

The committee decided to hold another meeting at the same venue on June 3. Later, a procession was brought out and ended in front of the National Press Club.

Meanwhile the Leaders of the Central Teachers' Action Liaison Committee also met the Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder yesterday to discuss their demands.

The minister said he would inform the authorities of their problems.

The leaders present in the meeting included Sheikh Amanullah, Dr M Akhtaruzzaman, Kazi Faruk Ahmed, A K M Zahurul Islam, S M Habibur Rahman, Prof Asadul Haq, Majeed-Talukder, Prof Shahadat Hossain, Prof Abdul Gaffar Khan and S M A Zaili.

Meanwhile, Conveners of the Liaison Committee Sheikh Amanullah and M Akhtaruzzaman and Coordinator Kazi Faruk Ahmed in a statement yesterday strongly condemned the alleged police assault on the teachers in Jessore

Police raids help nab 15 wanted criminals

By Staff Correspondent

Police, in several raids Monday night and Tuesday, arrested 15 wanted terrorists from the Babupura slum, Nilkhet, in the city.

Of the arrested people, six were remained in the Dhanmondi Police Station for interrogation, seven were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail and two others, arrested Tuesday afternoon, were detained in the Dhanmondi police custody. All the suspects are likely to be produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CM-M) today.

The main accused of terrorism and extortion in the area Sekander, however, eluded arrest.

Dhanmondi police raided the slum several times Monday night and yesterday. When police raided the slum at noon yesterday, local people apprehended two fleeing persons - Rashid and Suruj - and beat them up.

Later the two suspects were handed over to police.

The raids were made following a case filed by one Jahangir with the Dhanmondi police after his shop near the slum was ransacked by the extortionists when he refused to pay tolls Monday, according to police.

Local people said that the arrested people had also been involved for long in street muggings in the Nilkhet and Katabon areas. They used to hijack auto-rickshaws, tie up the drivers and use the vehicles for muggings," said an owner of an automobile workshop in the area.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of

Indonesian envoy Nana Sutresna said the end of the cold war had only reignited forces instead of creating a new world order. "Physically, the colonial era may be coming to an end," he said. "But mentally, the desire to dominate and exploit still exists."

Sutresna, delivering a chairman's report in place of Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who suffered a heart attack last week, said the period since the Jakarta summit had been scarred by an "alarming upsurge" in ethnic and religious strife.

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