

S Korea to recruit 1600 Bangladeshis this year

Bangladesh is expected to get a preferential access to South Korea's potential labour market which is braced for welcoming foreign workers to spur on its burgeoning economy.

Seoul's Ambassador in Dhaka Jong Kyoo Byun said some 20,000 foreign workers will be recruited this year as South Korea opens the gate for guest labour. Of them, 1,600 will be from Bangladesh.

But Dhaka can have a larger slice of the Korean labour market with the prospect of Korea recruiting an additional 10,000 workers this year from three Asian countries — Bangladesh, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

"Bangladeshi workers are hard working and sincere and they deserve preference," said Ambassador Jong, a career diplomat since 1968, in an interview with UNB at his office on Tuesday.

He said the Korean companies operating in Export Processing Zones in Bangladesh are also impressed by the quality of Bangladeshi workers.

"I myself too was impressed by their work... they are producing world class products," he said referring to his recent visits to Korean factories in

the Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ).

Some 15,000 local workers are now working in 28 export oriented Korean industries, mostly garments units, in Dhaka and Chittagong.

Jong said the foreign workers will be taken as 'technical trainees' for the industrial sector. The recruitment will be handled by the Korean Federation of Small Business, a forum of small and medium entrepreneurs.

"If the first batch of foreign workers turns out successful, the government will then consider to continue its recruiting programme," said the Korean Ambassador, who took up his assignment in Dhaka last February.

No classes at CU

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 26: No Classes were held at the Chittagong University today because of separate strike calls by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Islami Chhatra Shibir.

The JCD unit of the university called strike in protest against assault on the party activists allegedly by Shibir activists.

The JCD alleged that as a sequel to the Khulna incidents, Shibir activists had attacked some of its workers on the campus on Monday night and forced them out of the dormitories.

The JCD said the strike will continue until the culprits are brought to book.

Two Shibir activists were killed in JCD-Shibir clashes at Khulna recently.

Due to the strike, the university shuttle train did not operate while barricades were put up on the entry points of the campus by the strikers.

No untoward incident was reported but tension gripped the campus.

Shibir observed the strike at the university as part of its countrywide programme to protest the attack on its workers by allegedly JCD activists.

43 Rohingyas arrested

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 26: The Detective Branch of Police in Chittagong rounded up 43 Rohingya refugees, five of them women from a hotel in Khatungang area of the district yesterday.

They had reportedly fled refugee camps in Cox's Bazar in their attempt to go to the Middle East.

According to police sources, a group of people are involved in trafficking Rohingyas refugees to various countries in the Middle East.

The detained Rohingyas were produced before the court today.

Foreign diplomats

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gathering on invitation.

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Peter J Fowler, when asked about his opinion about the current political scene following Tuesday's developments, felt strongly that the parties should resolve their differences through the good offices of Sir Ninian. Otherwise he felt, "The consequences could be serious."

Fowler said, "I hope the continuation of the dialogue can see a successful agreement. It would give parliamentary democracy the chance to establish itself on a firm footing for the development of Bangladesh and in helping domestic investment."

"I am very happy to learn that the process of dialogue remains on. We are indeed very concerned," Fowler added.

Several Western diplomats who declined to give personal opinions, however, told this correspondent yesterday that they were keenly observing the political developments.

One Commonwealth head of mission on condition of anonymity, suggested that Sir Ninian, the Commonwealth Secretary General's special

emissary, should now adopt a strategy for future dialogues with very limited number of persons and should also try to arrange a one-to-one discussion in an endeavour to bring the negotiations to a logical conclusion.

Referring to previous occasions, the said envoy posed: "How can one expect 30 persons sitting in a dialogue to reach any sort of understanding?"

Australian High Commissioner Kenneth William Aspinall, when contacted said: "I am definitely optimistic. I am hopeful that given Sir Ninian's negotiating skills something positive would happen."

Jon J Scott, the Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka said: "Canada is fully supportive of the initiative of the Commonwealth Secretary General."

Speaking about Sir Ninian, he said: "He is the right man at the right place at the right time."

A spokesman of the US embassy, when asked about the US position, replied: "The US embassy would not like to make any comment at this time."

Samad Azad demands

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will to resolve the problem."

Samad Azad refuted the allegations of ruling party leader and Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain that the dialogue had failed because of a pre-planned blue-print of the Opposition.

Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim, Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Maulana Matur Rahman Nizam, NDP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, Ganatantri Party leader Suranjit Sengupta and Islami Oikya Jote leader Moula Obaidul Haq also spoke at the press briefing.

Mohammad Nasim blamed government's intransigence for the 'collapse of dialogue' Tuesday night and said that statements and comments of two of the government's policy-makers that night were mainly responsible for the situation.

Nasim said that the prospect of success of the dialogue became bleak when the Prime Minister made public statements against a caretaker government which was the main issue at the talks. "We could walk out of the talks after the Prime Minister's comments, but we didn't as we wanted a fruitful end of the

dialogue."

Moudud Ahmed said that the consequence of failure of the dialogue might be dangerous and the ruling party would have to take the responsibility for this.

Moula Matur Rahman Nizam said that the ruling party had taken no initiative during the dialogue to reach a consensus on the caretaker government issue. "The government has failed to create conditions to resolve the problem through negotiation."

Suranjit Sengupta cautioned that if the dialogue failed, the opposition MPs would be compelled to resign which might turn the present political impasse into a constitutional crisis.

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury termed the Opposition's present stance as part of a constitutional movement and said although the Opposition had made a positive approach towards resolving the problem, the ruling party failed to reciprocate.

Moula Obaidul Haque said strengthening of the Election Commission will only partially solve the problem relating to free and fair elections, while a caretaker government can ensure free and fair polls in the true sense.

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia lit a gas-burner at the Netrokona Shishu Sadan marking the inauguration of natural gas supply to Netrokona town yesterday. —PID photo

2 housewives commit suicide

By DMCH Correspondent

Two housewives reportedly committed suicide in the city's Mirpur and Mohakhali areas late Tuesday night and Wednesday.

Beauty Begum, 23, was found dead on the roof top of her father's house at 2/D in Mirpur Section-8. She had black scars on her throat.

Beauty's husband, Jahangir Alam, fled the house immediately after the body of his wife had been recovered.

Jahangir was living in the house of his father-in-law Guljar Hossain who is now in America.

Relatives reported to Mirpur police that Beauty had committed suicide over a feud with her husband.

Another housewife, Lilia Zakir, 23, wife of one Zakir Hossain, was found dead at her New DOHS residence at Mohakhali.

Zakir Hossain lodged a case with a Cantonment police saying his wife had committed suicide by hanging herself with a ceiling fan.

The bodies were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Netrakona gets gas

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inhabitants of Netrokona on this happy occasion Begum Zia said their long-time expectations were fulfilled through the inauguration of gas supply here.

The natural gas supply started in greater Mymensingh in January last year under the Brahmaputra Basin Project of the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited, a subsidiary organisation of Petrobangla.

Kishoreganj and Jamalpur were brought under the natural gas distribution network in the recent weeks.

Officials said the Tk 322 crore Brahmaputra Basin Project aims at supplying gas to the Jamuna Fertiliser Factory and to Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Trisal, Bhaluka and Garogaon town.

The Prime Minister described natural gas as one of the main factors of the country's development efforts and said the government was striving to accelerate the pace of industrialisation through its maximum utilisation.

The natural gas, she said, meets 70 per cent of the country's commercial fuel requirement resulting in the

saving of a huge amount of foreign currencies.

"But our gas reserve is not unlimited," the Prime Minister said, adding the government had started the exploration of the alternative sources of fuel and their production.

The BNP works for boosting production and changing the lot of the commonman. Thus, there is no alternative to the BNP in the country, she said and urged the people to continue their support to the BNP for ensuring development. "If the hands of the BNP are strengthened, a change in people's luck as well as uplift of the country will be guaranteed."

Addressing the meeting, BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder reminded that the BNP had come to power from the streets and, if necessary, would go back there. "We have not leased the streets to anyone."

After visiting the mazar, Begum Zia briefly addressed a huge crowd waiting near the mazar to have a glimpse of her. She went close to the people and talked to the women and children.

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PM: Opposition

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constitutional and anti-parliamentary and anti-democratic norms.

"The BNP will not pamper any unlawful request from any quarter. It will always uphold the Constitution and run the state under the constitutional framework," the Prime Minister said categorically.

She said the people of the country would not allow anyone to loot the public wealth and assume power by any means.

She said the Opposition became unrivaled at seeing the development spree in the country and indulged in various destructive activities like hartals and arson instead of cooperating in the welfare programmes for the people.

"Whenever the BNP goes ahead with development efforts, a certain quarter starts conspiracy to oust the government," Begum Zia told the meeting. She expressed her government's determination to carry forward the development programmes despite all odds and obstacles.

The Prime Minister alleged, some people and quarters were creating issues and indiscipline to jeopardise the hard-earned democracy and the development efforts undertaken by the government and called upon all to guard against them.

The BNP works for boosting production and changing the lot of the commonman. Thus, there is no alternative to the BNP in the country, she said and urged the people to continue their support to the BNP for ensuring development. "If the hands of the BNP are strengthened, a change in people's luck as well as uplift of the country will be guaranteed."

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2 get life term for murder in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 26: Two persons were sentenced to life in prison here yesterday for committing a murder.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge, First Court, Sylhet Sunil Chandra Paul passed the judgement.

The case in brief is that, on March 19, 1991, Nuruddin, son of Irfan Ali of Fenchuganj, was called out of his house by a group of people of the same village. He was later killed.

Fenchuganj police submitted chargesheets against six accused persons. The court found two of them guilty and acquitted the four others. The convicted persons are Barat Ali and Dulu Miah. The court also sentenced them to pay fines of Taka 3,000 each.

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Hasina blames BNP for foiling talks

From Page 1 Col 5

Hasina yesterday blamed the ruling BNP for foiling the Commonwealth-brokered dialogue and urged the people to strengthen the agitation for a caretaker government, reports UNB.

"The dialogue has failed because of the obstinate attitude of the government... the people will realise their just demand through struggle," she told a brief rally at Bangabandhu Avenue before leading a party procession.

The City Awami League organised the procession as part of the Opposition programme demanding a constitutional provision for a caretaker government to hold national elections.

"We thought a solution would be forthcoming through the dialogue, but the ruling party does not want any solution, they want to keep the way open for rigging, corruption and violence," said Hasina, the Leader of the Opposition.

She said the Awami League demanded a constitutional provision for a caretaker government to conduct the next three elections to establish an electoral system for holding fair elections.

"We're demanding amendment of the Constitution to establish the voting rights of the people. The BNP, which amended the Constitution in the past to protect its own interest, is now hesitating because the proposed amendment will serve the interest of the people."

The Awami League president called upon the people to make the party's grand rally at Manik Mia Avenue on November 1 a success.

Both the camps told The

Daily Star that they would once again stick to their original positions on the issue of caretaker administration at today's meeting.

Sources both in the BNP and the Awami League told this correspondent that Abdus Samad Azad had contacted over telephone three ruling party leaders including, Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Oli Ahmed two hours, after the Opposition announcement of the failure of the talks Tuesday midnight.

Leaders of both the sides are learnt to have expressed regrets for the collapse of the dialogue process and had requested each other to take fresh initiatives to resolve the crisis through the talks. They are also learnt to have agreed that there must be an end to the impasse in the greater interest of the nation.

Ninian's denial

From Page 1 Col 3

the Commonwealth news release said:

"It is totally untrue that Sir Ninian has received any fax from the Commonwealth Secretary-General withdrawing him, or