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700 Bangladeshis unpaid in Kuwait for six months

Fear eviction from employer's camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 700 Bangladeshi workers who have been denied salaries for the last six months are passing days in inhuman conditions with shortage of food and amid fears of being evicted from the camp of their employer at Hasawi in Kuwait.

These workers employed by a cleaning company told Arab Times on Wednesday that residence permits of most workers had expired but the company has not taken any initiative to renew them.

The Kuwaiti daily noted that complaints of non-payment

among Bangladeshi workers in Kuwait are common, especially those employed with cleaning companies.

Kuwait stopped hiring Bangladeshi workers in the last quarter of 2006, saying Bangladeshi workers were involved in criminal activities.

There are over 2 lakh Bangladeshis working in that country.

The workers filed a complaint with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour regarding non-payment of their salaries. The female workers have urged the

Bangladesh Embassy to expedite their repatriation process.

The workers, around 50 percent of them women, alleged that the company has filed false cases against a few of them, accusing them of abstaining from work, in an effort to deport them and so is denying them their unpaid salaries.

The workers were being paid a monthly salary of 20 dinars, Arab Times reported on June 25.

One of the workers expressed concern that the company may have them evicted from the camp rendering them homeless.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Dhaka Zoo authorities brought 27 animals of different species including these giraffes from South Africa on Thursday night. There was no giraffe at the zoo since 1998. (Story on back page).

AL to take part in Aug 4 polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday decided to take part in the August 4 polls to four city corporations and nine municipalities.

The crucial decision came at a two-day meeting of the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC), the party's highest decision-making body.

"After weighing up the pros and cons, we have unanimously decided to participate in the local polls in the interests of democracy, peace and stability in the country," said AL acting president Zillur Rahman.

He was talking to reporters after the meeting at party chief Sheikh

Hasina's political office in Dhanmondi.

AL also demanded that the government announce a date for parliamentary polls immediately.

Besides, it reiterated its call for complete withdrawal of the state of emergency.

The ALCWC meeting began Thursday and with a break continued till 7:30pm yesterday.

Most of the participants there suggested taking into consideration pro-election sentiment of the people and AL rank and file.

In the light of their suggestions, the meeting decided in favour of going to the polls, which would be the first ones under the present

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Manekshaw passes away

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, who was the chief of Indian army during the Bangladesh's War of Independence in 1971, died at a military hospital in Wellington in the southern state of Tamil Nadu late on Thursday night. He was 94.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

More power cos in the pipeline

PDB to be planner, coordinator

SHARIER KHAN

After nearly 20 years of experimentation, the government's vaguely perceived donor-driven reforms in the power sector might take a final shape next year with the creation of three distribution and several power generation companies.

The new companies will be formed by separating parts of the Power Development Board (PDB), said a top power ministry source.

The three distribution companies in formation are South Zone Power Distribution Company, Central Zone Power Distribution Company, and Northwest Zone Power Company, while the power

generation companies will be based in each of PDB's power plant zones.

"This will be the ultimate reform measure for PDB as it will redefine the board's role as the power sector's main planner, coordinator and power purchaser," said a top ministry official.

PDB might become the mother company of all the companies originated from it.

"PDB will then be based in Dhaka with its manpower restructured anew. The present PDB manpower will be absorbed by the new companies," the ministry official added.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

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সাহস বদলে দেয় সবকিছু

২৫টি ঘটনাবল্ বর্ষিল সাহসী বছর পেরিয়ে

গুরুতাই ছিলো প্রচণ্ড আত্মবিশ্বাস নিয়ে। এদেশের কয়েকজন উদ্যোক্তা ব্যবসায়ী মিলে ১৯৮৩ সালে গড়ে তোলেন ইউনাইটেড কমার্শিয়াল ব্যাংক। তারপর শুধুই এগিয়ে চলা। সময়ের অস্থিরতা, অর্থনীতির নাজুক অবস্থা কিছুই দমাতে পারে নি আমাদের। ব্যাংকিং-এ নতুন নতুন সব প্রোডাক্ট উদ্ভাবনের পাশাপাশি আমরা অনুপ্রেরণা দিয়েছি সাহসী উদ্যোক্তাদের। ঝুঁকি নিয়ে হলেও দাঁড় করাতে চেষ্টা করেছি দেশের বেশ কয়েকটি শিল্পখাত - গার্মেন্টস, টেক্সটাইল, ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারি উদ্যোগ, কৃষি, পরিবহন ইত্যাদি। পেরিয়ে এলাম ২৫টি ঘটনাবল্ বর্ষিল সাহসী বছর।

লক্ষ্যে পৌঁছানোর নতুন এক অভিযাত্রায় আমরা। আমাদের সব চেষ্টা আপনারই জন্য। আপনার সাহসে ভর করেছে। আমরা জানি - সাহস বদলে দেয় সবকিছু।

আপনার সাহসী অগ্রযাত্রার সঙ্গী - ইউনাইটেড কমার্শিয়াল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড।



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