



Students of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University prepare for the Bangla new year celebrations on the faculty premises yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

RETURN FROM LIBYA

Horrors still haunt him

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Even twenty days after returning home, Humayun is still being chased by the horrific experiences he underwent in troubled Libya.

Narrating the days in Libya, he said, "We, around 300 Bangladeshi workers, got trapped inside the company camp for eight days with no access to food or water."

The Libyans used to come in the camp almost everyday and looted valuables and money, he said.

"If anyone tried to delay to handover the valuables to them, the Libyans pointed the weapons at our heads and chests," he said, adding, "During that moment, I closed my eyes giving out the hope of life and prayed to God. Only fate has saved me."

"One of my colleagues was injured by stabbing while another was shot at in front of me for making delay for two minutes to handover the keys of their baggages to the Libyans," he said.

28-year-old Humayun from Joydevpur of Gazipur went to Zawiyah in Libya spending Tk 2.5 lakh through 'Man is Power' travel agency about 16 months ago.

He worked as an electrician in a Korean construction company in Az Zawiyah, a city located in north-western part of Libya.

In the first two days, they came for three times daily. During the rest six days, they used to visit once a day because all the valuables and money had already been gone to the Libyans' hand, he described.

"No one could sleep for a while, because everyone was chased away by the fear of attacks of Libyans," he said.

As per the instruction of company authorities, all the Bangladeshi workers remained alert and kept vigilance round the clock, he said.

"We were served food once a day for the five to six days. But we had to starve the rest days," Humayun with tears told this correspondent.

He alleged that despite repeated requests, the Bangladesh embassy in Libya did not help them. "We have nothing to do for you," Humayun said quoting an official of the embassy.

"At the ninth consecutive days, the com-

pany manager arranged a truck and filled it keeping us stiff in array one laying over another like goods or cattle," he said.

During the 4-hours-long journey to Libyan border, they could not move their body. Some started vomiting and urinating on the truck, he said.

After reaching the Libyan border, all the Bangladeshis became exhausted due to hungry, sleeplessness and painful journey.

"We stayed two days in Libyan border under the open sky having little food that were thrown from other side of the boarder. I did not know who threw the foods," he said.

At the 3rd day, we walked for 15 km to enter into the Tunisia border and stayed for another two days there under the open sky. On March 8, he got his passport back. One day after, he got on the plane on the border and

Around 300 Bangladeshi workers were trapped inside the company camp for eight days without access to food or water

landed in Dhaka in the evening of March 10.

"I could not think that I could come back home," he said.

Like thousands of Bangladeshi migrant workers, Humayun is also a victim of swindling by the manpower-recruiting agency in terms of salary structure.

"They (recruiting agency officials) promised me to arrange a job of at least Tk 25,000 monthly. But I was paid only 10,000 to 12,000 including my overtime allowances. If I asked for increasing my salary, they did not pay any heed," he said.

Now Humayun is going through a tremendous frustration thinking of financially tougher moments in the coming days, as he could not save coins during his expatriate life.

Humayun hopes for financial assistance from the government for their rehabilitation and employment.

Dyeing factory fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment in a drive fined a factory Tk 24.92 lakh yesterday for discharging untreated liquid waste in the Bongshai river of Kaliakoir in Gazipur.

RS Knit Composite Ltd, a garment-dyeing factory, has not set up any effluent treatment plant (ETP) till now, despite a notice served for this in 2007, said a DoE press release.

In the last 177 days, the factory had discharged over 78,000 cubic metres of untreated liquid waste in the river, according to an estimate of the DoE mobile team.

Director (monitoring and enforcement) of DoE Munir Chowdhury led the drive.

Two killed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bus crushed to death an eight-year old boy in the city's Maniknagar yesterday while another boy was found dead on the roof of a train at Kamalapur Wednesday.

Asaduzzaman, OC of Sabujbagh police, said a Tongi-bound bus from Sayedabad ran over the unidentified boy at TT Para of Maniknagar while crossing the road around 4:00pm.

Meanwhile, Kamalapur railway police said they recovered the body of a boy from the roof of Suborna Express from Chittagong at the station at 4:00pm.

30 killed in crossfire over last three months: ASK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 30 people were killed in "crossfire" with law enforcers and 25 others died in police custody over the last three months, revealed a report of rights group Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK).

The report has been prepared based on newspaper reports published in 12 national dailies, said a release of the group yesterday.

Among the crossfire victims, 17 were killed in gunfights with Rapid Action Battalion, six with police and three others with joint teams of police and Rab.

Political violence accounted for deaths of 14 people and injuries to 1413 more. However, angry mobs beat 33 persons to death during the period.

According to the report, 10 journalists were implicated in false cases and 15 others received death threats allegedly from ruling party men, government officials and criminals for publishing reports against them.

Besides, 40 other newsmen were assaulted physically.

Thirteen women committed suicide due to stalking and eight people were killed for protesting stalking

incidents.

The report also found that 148 women were raped. Of them, 22 were killed after they were violated while 10 committed suicide failing to stand humiliation.

Eleven female domestic helps died mysteriously while four others succumbed to their injuries after being tortured by their employers.

Some 72 women were killed in domestic violence and 16 others committed suicide.

Two of a total of 67 women, subjected to torture for dowry, killed themselves, added the study.

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Spa Drinking Water
পানির জন্য ভালোবাসা