

[Also in News -

1. The total number of Haj pilgrims this year topped 2.521 million

2. Swiss ban mosque minarets]

Dubai debacle

**likely to hit
workers and
remittances**

**[The news of
Dubai World's
inability to
repay the \$59**

**billion debt has
triggered
similar fears
among the
relatives of
immigrants
back home.**

**According to
Norka, 10
lakh
Malayalees li
ve and work
in Dubai,
along with**

**4 lakh people
from Andhra
Pradesh and
4.5 lakh
Tamils.**

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Despite the
brave front
put up by
Indian
government,
the debt

crisis that
has
enveloped
Dubai World
threatens to
hit the

struggling Indian overseas

labour
market that
is largely
dependent
on short-term
Middle East

job contracts.
The latest
crisis comes
at a time
when official
estimates

have
admitted that
unemployment
rates have
spiralled to
30% in the

Middle East
in the last
one year.

Industry
sources say

unemployment
figures
could be
higher than
the official
estimates

and that
remittances
to India -
\$43.5 billion
in 2007-2008
- are certain

to be much
lower this
year in the
wake of the
continuing
recession in

the region.
The Dubai
World's debt
just adds to
the bad
news.

UAE is
the
favourite
destination
for a

maximum
number of
overseas
Indian
workers -

3.4 lakh
people
went to the
country in
2008 - but

the number
has been
fast
declining
as Indian

workers are
unable to
get new
contracts or
extensions

in the
country
that's in the
grip of
recession.

Over 5
lakh
Indians
have
returned

from

Dubai

since

Septembe

r 2008, of

which two
lakh are
Malayalee
s. Almost
60% of

these
people
are
technical
or

non-technical
professionals. Over
50 lakh

Indians
work in
the Middle
East of
which 20

lakh are

from

Kerala.

We do not

expect

large
number of
returnees
now," K V
Mohanku

mar, CEO
of Kerala
NRI
group,
Non

Resident Keralites' Affairs (Norka).

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Malayale

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live and

work in

Dubai,
along
with
4 lakh

people
from
Andhra
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4.5 lakh

Tamils.

During
the last
10
months

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of Indian

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Dubai to the oil-rich emirate

of Abu
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stability.

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said an

Indian diplomat in UAE.

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Dubai debacle likely to hit workers

Monday, 30 November 2009 07:59



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Dubai debacle likely to hit workers

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