

THE YOUTH IN THE ERA OF DIGITALISATION

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A packed day at MRT office, Farmgate.

PHOTOS: ORCHID CHAKMA

DHAKA METRO RAIL: Engineering new lines of youth employment

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Bearing this in mind, the third set of trainings take place at Telecom Staff College (TSC), the core training institution for the members of Bangladesh Civil Service Telecommunication Cadre, regulated by Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL).

Finally, after completing all the basic training and with an overview of the whole MRT operation system, the recruits will be sent to Delhi Metro Rail Academy (DMRA),

India, to participate in a cluster training programme. After the completion of this training, the new recruits will then get to apply their theoretical knowledge into practice.

"This is much like an internship programme where, after gathering technical knowledge on all the elements related to the metro rail, the graduates will now have to demonstrate their knowledge," Siddique added. "After they finish this training, they will first work as assistants to train operators

in India and then, after they have learned about the whole process, they will participate in running the MRT system under expert supervision. Only the ones who will perform exceptionally well will be appointed as train operators."

The first intake of this sector gave jobs to 145 new graduates, followed by the second phase where a further 120 graduates have been selected on the basis of their skills and merit. Another 103 people have been recruited in the third phase. Initially, foreign supervisors will be appointed in order to ensure that the train operation system is running smoothly. Gradually, all the positions will be taken by Bangladeshis.

Candidates who might feel less comfortable with taking charge in operating the MRT trains will also find work as trainers at a metro rail training institute which is soon to be inaugurated in Uttara, Dhaka.

Besides these trainings, special measures have been planned for female employees, including day care systems and pick-up drop-off facilities, with safe in-site living

dorms. "We believe empowering women will only make this project stronger. Initially, the number of female candidates who had applied to work with us was small. However, with positive word of mouth from selected candidates, their female peers were encouraged to apply and the number has been increasing with every new phase," Siddique added.

In addition, many other work aspects are also taken into consideration, especially regarding

new employment facilities.

Md Sajid Hasan, a CSE graduate from BUET who is currently employed in the operations and maintenance department of DMTCL, shares his experience of trainings. "The trainings maintain a lot of standards and we have to maintain a very compact time schedule. The day often starts with a physical training session at 7 in the morning and ends with a game session in the evening. In between



The fourth vacancy announcement for MRT is currently under process and it will provide employment opportunities to over 56 promising individuals in various sectors, as public relation consultants, managers, traffic controllers, section engineers and many more.

safety of the employees and workers. "Currently, the workers employed in the MRT construction sites have either worked before in similar foreign projects or are especially trained to perform such work," said N G Quig Mim, Project Manager, Planning and Operations Department, Utracon. "I have worked in Vietnam, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Indonesia, and I am very pleased regarding the safety measures of this project. I look forward to the same safety standards for future employees as well. In that way, we will not have to worry about accidents and injuries."

Besides technical requirements, many other needs have surfaced with time, including a police force especially designed to ensure security for MRT commuters. Each emerging necessity is giving way to

this, we have to attend several classes regularly," he shared. "We also have to take several exams, and submit assignments and reports from time to time."

The fourth vacancy announcement for MRT is currently under process and it will provide employment opportunities to over 56 promising individuals in various sectors, as public relation consultants, managers, traffic controllers, section engineers and many more. "We are working towards launching the MRT Lines 1 and 6 by 2021 and for that, we not only need to work on a fast-track process but also need to ensure that our employees are capable of operating this mode of transport. Thus, I encourage anyone who matches our requirements to apply," concluded M A N Siddique.



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