

DOWN TO EARTH

Plight Of Deception Victims In City

By ASM Nurunnabi

With the fast growing population of the country, an alarming situation has been developing in the matter of unemployment of educated youths. Passing out of various educational institutions, thousands of educated young men and women are swelling the ranks of job seekers all over the country. According to a tentative estimate, the total number of the unemployed youth may approximate 2 crore 32 lakh.

Taking advantage of the serious unemployment situation in the country, some unscrupulous elements are reportedly resorting to deceptive practices to feather their nests by offering hopes for employment. Some allegedly spurious organizations place advertisements in the national daily newspapers inviting applications for various jobs under them. The applicants are required to furnish along with their applications nonrefundable postal orders, bank draft or pay order for amounts not less than Tk. 150. The fate of the applicants apart, the stipulated application fees bring in considerable financial gains for the organisations.

Recently it was reported that a computer company invited applications for 3000 jobs under it with offers of training and apprenticeship facilities. This organisation mounted high pitched publicity by running half-page advertisement in an important daily for a month requiring the applicants to enclose Tk. 150 worth of postal order or bank draft. A few days before the closing date for such applications, that organisation reportedly disappeared. The law-enforcing agency found the office of the organisation locked up when it went to enquire into the matter. It was thought that during the period of its month-long advertisement, the sponsors of that organisation might have netted in about Tk. 75 lakh from the applicants in the form of application fees.

The field of journalism is not free from such nefarious practices. Some time back, advertisements appeared in some newspapers inviting

applications for some journalistic posts. It was mentioned in such advertisements that no previous experience for those positions would be necessary and that the appointees would be given necessary training. This provided an added attraction for the large number of unemployed youths who applied.

From various sources it later came to light that the existence of such organisations lay in their signboards only. They rented office space in some area of the city for short periods and adopted devious techniques to create confidence in the minds of the applicants. Assuring their appointment, the applicants were given identity cards for which a charge was realised along with some additional amount ranging from Tk. 150 to Tk. 300. The applicants were thereafter told to make enquiries after sometime or the appointing authority would get in touch with them later. It was found after sometime that the offices of those organisations were locked up leaving no trace of their whereabouts. There was no doubt that sponsors of those fake media made substantial gains. In the opinion of some, a large number of declarations for publications were given in 1971 in the interest of press freedom. This raises a suspicion that certain unscrupulous elements, taking advantage of some of those declarations, found opportunities for resorting to fake media business.

Similar frauds are reportedly perpetrated in other fields such as voluntary organisations, insurance companies, etc. Since all these allegedly bogus organisations use box numbers of GPO or of newspapers without disclosing their address, it becomes difficult for the victims to take legal steps in the matter.

Sometime ago, some cases of alleged malpractices were reported in the matter of recruitment of teachers for some private colleges in the city awaiting affiliation. From such reports, it appeared that such malpractices were

of three kinds. First, the applicants were required to apply with postal order/bank draft/pay order for amounts ranging from Tk. 150 to Tk. 300. After interview, the selected candidates were told that, since affiliation was awaited, no pay would be admissible to them, pending affiliation. Since no indication was given about the possible limit for getting affiliation, most selected candidates balked at accepting such job offers. In the second category, the selected candidates who also applied with required fees, were asked whether they would be in a position to offer donation ranging from Tk. 10,000 to Tk. 50,000 for the college. They were also told that no pay would be admissible to them pending affiliation. In the third category, the applicants who also applied with required fees, were called for interview, but ultimately no appointment was made, for one reason or another. In all these three categories of cases, the sponsors of those institutions reaped a rich harvest of financial gains in the shape of application fees.

Particularly in the cases of unemployed educated youths, it is sometimes asked why they let themselves be duped by the fake agencies without proper verification. One answer may be that the distress of unemployment is so acute that they sometimes lose their sense of discretion. Moreover, such unemployed persons are spread all over the country, and there is limited scope for them to undertake any form of verification. In such circumstances, they fall for whatever seems to offer opportunity for employment.

Observers are of the view that since we come across novel practices of deception, it behoves the relevant government agencies to take immediate steps to probe the bonafides of any organisation, except in the cases of established ones, whenever it asks for money in any form from the applicants. This is the least one may expect to save unemployed people from financial loss and harassment.

Juba Dal activist shot dead in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 28: A Juba Dal activist was shot dead and two others were bullet-hit in a clash between two groups of youths here last night over a local football match.

The deceased was identified as Rafiqul, son of late Rahmatullah of Gobindapur in the town. Injured Selim and Mohiuddin were admitted to Pabna general hospital.

Local people claimed that the killing was not a political one.

Meanwhile, Juba Dal and Jattiyabadi Chhatra Dal activists today staged a demonstration in Pabna town carrying the body of Rafiqul. They held the Awami League and Chhatra League responsible for the killing. A protest rally was also held at Indrapati which was addressed by among others, local BNP leaders Rafiqul Islam Bakul and Abdur Rauf Abed.

Police arrested one person in this connection.

New election alliance in the offing

By Staff Correspondent

Some left-leaning political parties have decided to form an alliance of "pro-liberation and anti-communal parties" to contest the upcoming parliamentary elections unitedly.

Leaders of Ganatranti Party, Communist Kendra and Gano Azadi League met here on Thursday and decided to announce formation of the alliance on August 23.

"We are working for broadening the alliance. We are keeping contact with different progressive political parties believing in the spirit of the liberation war," said Ahmedul Kabir, leader of Ganatranti Party.

He said they discussed the matter with the Gano Forum and received a "go ahead" signal. "We had also talks with some member organisations of the Left Democratic Front," he added.

The name of the new alliance is yet to be fixed. The proposed names are: Gano Oikya Jote and Gano Pragati Jote. The name would be finalised at a meeting on August 23.

Ahmedul Kabir said they were keeping contact with "progressive" political parties to forge a larger alliance to promote democracy, revive the 1972 Constitution and establish the spirit of the Liberation War.

Thursday's meeting was attended by among others, Ahmedul Kabir, Azizul Islam Khan and Mohammad Afzal of Ganatranti Party, Ajoy Roy, Moulana Hossain Ali and Nurur Rahman Selim of Communist Kendra and Alhaj Abdus Samad, Hafez Mohammad Daniel and Advocate Samir Kanti Shikder of Gano Azadi League.

Illegal occupants evicted from Dholaikhal

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation, with the help of police, evicted illegal occupants and removed old junk of locomotives from the Corporation's Dholaikhal truck stand in the old part of the city yesterday.

The DCC also made parking arrangement for about 200 trucks in the stand. These vehicles were parked on the road from Tanjil Bazar to Dholaikhal, blocking movement of traffic.

Trucks and mini trucks could not be parked in the truck stand for about last ten years because of the illegal occupants.

Bangladeshi troops

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diary committees and chairman of the sub-committee of South Asian affairs of foreign relations committee, described as a "human tragedy" the present situation in Bosnia.

He strongly pleaded that a line should be drawn immediately to deter the wanton attacks by the Bosnian Serbs on the "UN safe areas," which were falling one after another.

Senator Brown shared Bangladesh's concern for its troops in Bihac when Bangladesh ambassador to the United States called on him at his chamber yesterday.

Senator Hank Brown assured the Bangladesh ambassador that he would lend his support to immediate actions including the use of air strikes to protect the "safe areas" including Bihac and their protectors.

He appreciated the contributions made by Bangla-

Croats capture towns

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source told Reuters.

Croat troops were pushing towards Knin, the main town in the Serb-held Krajina region in Croatia, 20 km from Grabovo, said a Bosnian Serb army officer who asked not to be named.

Meanwhile heavy fighting rocked the northwest Bosnian enclave of Bihac today, UN officials said following a recent lull in combat as evidence of a further troops build-up grew.

"This morning we had reports of pretty heavy activity along the northwestern confrontation line in the enclave. There were at least 1,000 detonations reported in the first hour. These are very worrying reports," Alexander Ivankov, a UN spokesman said.

AP adds: The United Nations and NATO are drafting plans to deter Bosnian Serb attacks on Bihac, but the UN commander today ruled out immediate allied airstrikes to defend the "safe area."

French Gen. Bernard Janvier, UN commander for the former Yugoslavia, suggested airstrikes were unlikely for now because attacks on the northwestern pocket had not reached the area around Bihac town itself.

"The enclave of Bihac and the safe area of Bihac are different," Janvier said after talks at NATO headquarters. "The safe area has not yet been attacked."

Another report says, President Bill Clinton attempted to thwart congressional efforts to lift an inter-

Faridpur Krishi Bank looted

FARIDPUR, July 28: Armed dacoits looted Tk 50,000 from a branch of Krishi Bank and three shops here Thursday night, reports UNB.

According to police, a gang of 20 to 30 robbers stormed into the Bakhundabazar branch of Krishi Bank in Sadar thana and looted Tk 13,644 from its strong room after tying up its guard at gunpoint.



Muslims burn the effigy of UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali following Jumma prayers at the Jama Masjid in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP photo

200 LTTE men killed in battles with troops

COLOMBO, July 28: In their biggest one-day loss in nearly two years, at least 200 Tamil rebels were killed in five battles with the military today, officials said, reports AP.

The fighting came as three influential Buddhist monks criticized the government for drawing up a peace plan aimed at ending the Tamil fight for a separate homeland. They urged the government to pursue the war and shelve the plan that had been widely praised by politicians on both sides of the ethnic conflict.

The Tamil separatists attacked four military camps in northeastern Sri Lanka, and at least 182 guerrillas died in the fighting, said army chief Lt Gen Gerry de Silva.

In the other battle, army commandos raided a guerilla base and killed at least 18 rebels, de Silva said. The soldiers destroyed the rebel based inside guerilla territory in Vettikalkerni, he said, then returned to their camp, 290 kilometers (180 miles) north of Colombo.

Tanbazar

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tend as mothers of the babies. This was done to influence the situation in favour of the brothel owners.

A police constable popularly known as the "Thana Cashier" had arranged the babies for these underaged girls, the sources claimed.

At night the two babies were taken to their mothers for breast-feeding and were returned to Hashi and Nazi in the next morning under police custody, the sources also claimed.

Meanwhile, different NGOs have taken up the case to rescue the underaged girls from the 'red light' area. But the sources said the influential and rich brothel owners have already removed the girls to accommodations located at Narayanganj Gymkhana Railway Colony, Khanpur Bandar, Rally Bagan and some other parts of the town.

Police allegedly helped the owners in this connection.

Shilpi, the notorious 'mistress' of the area was arrested following repeated reports in the national dailies. Another woman, Baby who allegedly lures underaged girls into the brothel is still at large.

Bangladeshi troops

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deshi peacekeepers in maintaining peace in various trouble-torn areas of the world.

He expressed his sorrow at the present flood that inundated various parts of Bangladesh.

He enquired about the water resources and irrigation projects of Bangladesh and showed interest to know more about the question of sharing the Ganges waters and its augmentation during the dry season.

Ambassador Humayun Kabir expressed his grave concern over the future of Bihac and Gorazde after the fall of Srebrenica and Zepa in such a short span of time.

He stressed the need that the international community and the Western leaders should spare no efforts including use of air strikes in Bosnia to deter advancement and attack by the Bosnian Serbs, particularly in occupying the UN declared "safe areas."

The Midnight File

Wives urge Kashmiri militants to free their husbands

JAMMU, India, July 28: The wives and a sister of five western tourists kidnapped in Kashmir almost a month ago urged a Muslim guerilla group today to free them immediately. The wives of two Britons, an American and a German and the sister of a Norwegian said in a signed appeal published in a newspaper here that the kidnappers, the Al-Faran Group, would gain a lot by freeing them, reports AFP.

SAARC ministers meet

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whom are females.

The conference will be split into two plenary sessions — working group's discussion and the concluding session.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman of the host country will preside over the sessions.

The meeting will work out a common position on determination of status and privileges of women in the changed global condition of the SAARC countries that will be focused at the Fourth World Conference on Women due in Beijing next September.

Bhutanese Minister for Planning Lynopo C Dorji, Nepalese Minister for Education, Culture and Social Welfare Madhavi Prashrit and Indian Minister of State for Women and Children Development Basava Rajeshwari, who will lead the delegations of their respective countries, are already in the city.

Director General of the Ministry of Youth, Women Affairs and Sports of the Maldives Ahmed Selim will lead his country's delegation to the conference. He is already in the city.

Heads of the delegations will make a joint courtesy-call on the Prime Minister tomorrow.

DSE
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and debentures worth Tk. 16,10,88,890.37 were traded last week as against 6,46,998 shares and debentures worth Tk. 10,22,55,764.75 of the previous week.

The market capitalisation increased to Tk 4762 crore from Tk 4718 crore of the previous week.

The number of total issues traded last week was 530 having 219 gainers and 221 losers as against 539 having 245 gainers and 208 losers in the previous week.

Last week's trading was dominated by Beximco shares as in the previous week. While trading of Ashraf Textiles shares, which is one of the most frequently traded issues having an upward price trend, had dropped to zero Thursday. It's prices were also showing a declining trend during the last two weeks.

The volume leader of the week, Beximco Pharma, sold 2,07,350 shares, while Ashraf Textiles 52,480 shares, Beximco Textiles 64,565, Apex Footwears 29,300, BOC 22,719, Apex Weaving 17,169, Reliance Insurance 21,753, Sonargaon Textiles 22,337 and Shine Pukur 17,250 shares.

Of the 187 enlisted issues at the DSE, 41 shares and debentures were sold below their face values last week as against 43 shares and debentures in the previous week.

No scope
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least by 21 days for formal declaration of vacancy by summoning Parliament through gazette notification as required under the Rule 178 (5), he added.

K S Nabi further said that law, including limitation to hold by-election, cannot be extended by referring to provision of the Article 123 (3) (4) of the Constitution, which relates to entirely a different contingency i.e. act of God.

He strongly urged the government to hold the general elections under a neutral caretaker government by dissolving the "unconstitutional one party Parliament."

Justice T H Khan said there is no provision of caretaker government in the country's Constitution. "Our Election Commission is not inferior to that of India," he said.

Defending the opposition demands, Barrister Amirul Islam said a formula can be found if they reach a consensus to solve the problem within the framework of the Constitution.

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The Company has Published Prospectus on July 19, 1995 in the Following Dailies
THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS & THE DAILY JANAKANTHA

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|---|---|--|
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Khulna Branch, Khulna
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Branch, Dhaka
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St. Mulla Road Corporate Branch, Chittagong.
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Rajshahi Principal Branch, Rajshahi.
Barisal Principal Branch, Barisal. |
| | 6. Sonali Bank
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Dhaka Cantonment Branch, Dhaka.
K.C. Day Road Branch, Chittagong.
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Main Branch, Sylhet.
Main Branch, Mymensingh. | 11. United Commercial Bank Ltd.
Local Office, Dhaka.
Foreign Exchange Branch
Dhaka C/A, Dhaka. |

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