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EMPLOYMENT ABROAD

Govt sleeps as job market shrinks

PORIMOL PALMA

The government has not adopted any alternative measures over the last few years to make up for the shrinking labour market abroad against the backdrop of global recession that has already halved the number of overseas jobs.

This year a total of 3.58 lakh workers have gone abroad till September while the figure during the corresponding period of the last year was around 6.88 lakh, official statistics say. At least 8.75 lakh workers went abroad last year, which might come down to around 5 lakh this year, recruiting agencies feared.

The government attributed this slump to global recession. Businesses, however, said if the government had been sincere and innovative the overseas job market could have been better utilised through diversification of manpower.

The country fetches annually over \$9 billion from overseas markets from around 60 lakh Bangladeshis working abroad. Saudi Arabia (KSA), Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Malaysia and Singapore are the major labour markets of Bangladesh.

The UAE, Malaysia and Singapore were affected by recession while KSA and Kuwait reduced the number of overseas

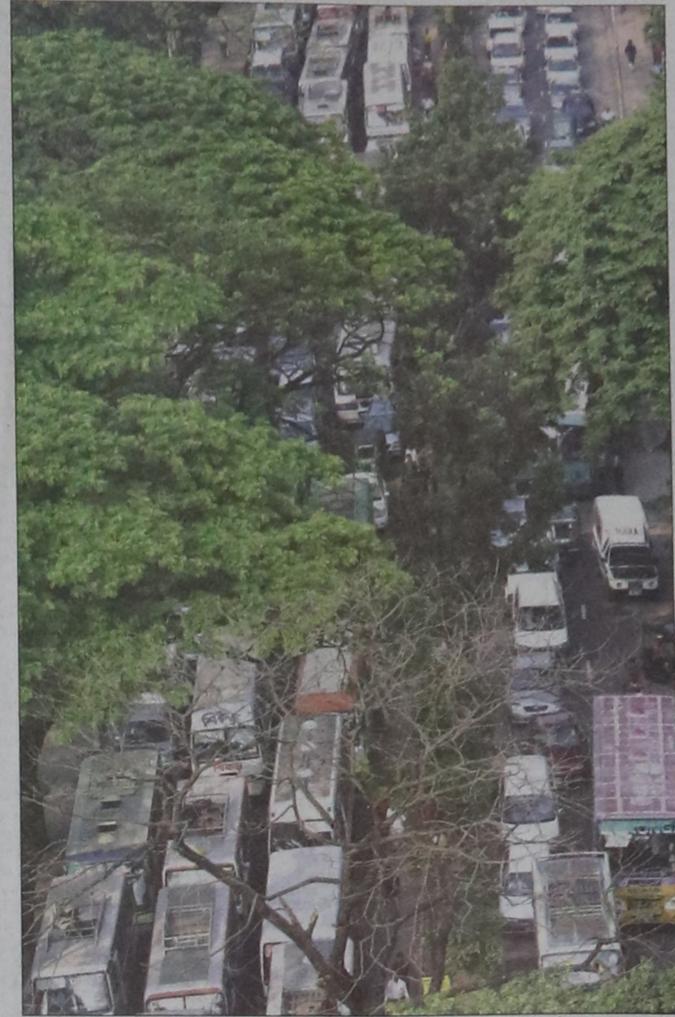
workers partly for internal policies and irregularities in recruitment process earlier.

The UAE, Malaysia and Singapore hired 4.19 lakh, 1.31 lakh and 56,581 Bangladeshis last year respectively but the numbers plummeted to 1.73 lakh, 12,213 and 26,147 from January to August this year.

Bangladesh's biggest labour market KSA hired 1.32 lakh workers in 2008 while this year up to August the number is only 10,777. The picture is more or less the same in other countries.

Businesses and experts say basically

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These buses stationary at the lights between Khamar Bari and Farmgate Police Box yesterday show how the traffic situation is during the morning rush. The photo was taken at 9:00am.

Govt to go tough on militancy

Says Matia

UNB, Sylhet

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said the government would take strict measures against those who want to destabilise the country by setting off bombs in the name of religion.

The minister sounded the warning while exchanging views with eminent people of different professions at the local circuit house on Saturday night.

Referring to the killing of two children of a militant's wife and the wife in a bomb blast in Comilla, she said no religion supports killings.

"Those who indulge in militancy in the name of religion..."

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Explosives case 4 JMB men jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court here yesterday sentenced five years' rigorous imprisonment each to four members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in an explosives case filed with the Cox's Bazar Police Station.

The convicted were JMB Chittagong divisional chief Javed Iqbal alias Mohammad, his explosives expert Zahidul Islam alias Boma Mizan, Ayub Ali alias Abu Jar and Naimuzzaman alias Shohag.

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Pak raid ends army HQ hostage drama

3 hostages, 2 soldiers, 4 militants killed; Taliban claim responsibility

AFP, PTI, Rawalpindi/ Islamabad

Troops stormed Pakistan's army headquarters yesterday ending a day-long hostage drama and freeing 39 people held by militants who brazenly struck at the heart of the military establishment.

Three hostages, two soldiers and four suspected Taliban militants were killed in a rescue operation hailed by the military as "highly

successful", despite a total of 19 dead since the rebels launched their assault.

Six soldiers and four other militants had already been killed in the nearly 24-hour siege, which began Saturday in the garrison city of Rawalpindi and was the third dramatic militant strike in the nuclear-armed nation in a week.

Tehreek-e-Taliban has claimed responsibility for the brazen attack on the Pakistan Army's

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Bela serves notice to save Bara Katra

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela) yesterday served a legal notice upon the authorities concerned to take immediate action against the demolition of the historical Bara Katra and preserve the same.

Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Archaeology, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka Metropolitan Police and Bangladesh Police were served the notice, among others, says a press release.

The notice stated that Bara Katra

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Environment Pollution 200 industries told to relocate outside Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has so far directed around 200 industries considered responsible for environment pollution to relocate outside the capital and a process is underway to serve notices on another 19 industries.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud yesterday in a scripted answer to lawmakers' queries informed the House about the government's move to shift industries outside the city in phases.

Of the industries, 132 are situated in Hazaribagh while 46 are in the city's residential areas.

"The government is working to shift tanneries from Hazaribagh by February 28, 2010 in line with the High Court (HC) directives," the state minister said.

He said the government has already issued notices to eight

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Journo Assault Aide to Ctg MP's son freed on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The bodyguard of SM Al Mamun, son of Awami League lawmaker ABM Abul Kashem, was released on bail yesterday a few hours after his arrest in connection with the case filed for assaulting journalists.

Sitakunda police arrested Mahmud Hasan Manna from Dhaka-Chittagong bus counter at Dampara in the city at around 1:15am after the lawmaker on Saturday apologised before the journalists for the attack.

Manna got the bail following a prayer when he was produced before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate KM

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Injured during BDR mutiny Compensation did too little for him

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and EMRAN HOSSAIN

The government compensation handed out to the injured in the mutiny at the Bangladesh Rifles headquarters during Feb 25-26 has not been enough to restore the life of a young tea vendor who has been left disabled from his injuries.

Akhter Hossain, 14, one of the worst injured during the mutiny -- he was shot in his shoulder as well as chest -- is now dependent on the mercy of well-wishers for two square meals a day.

"I received only Tk 25,000 from the BDR headquarters, and that was long after I was released from Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH)," the boy told The Daily Star.

"I did not receive any help all the time I was at the hospital. The home minister visited me once, she consoled me and said prayers for me. She also instructed the doctors to look after me well," Akhter said.

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Akhter Hossain

August 21 Case Salam Pintu on fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed former deputy minister and BNP leader Abdus Salam Pintu on a three-day fresh remand to trace suppliers of Arges grenades used in the August 21 carnage that left 23 people dead.

Third Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani passed the order after Criminal Investigation Department (CID) produced Pintu before the court seeking a seven-day fresh remand to extract new information about the heinous grenade attacks on an Awami League rally.

Earlier on October 8, Pintu was produced before the court on completion of his three-day remand and CID sought a further seven-day remand for interrogation. But the court fixed yesterday for hearing on the prayer.

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PHOTO: COURTESY

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha with the help of a bulldozer demolishes illegal structures on Sat Masjid Road in Dhanmondi yesterday.

MISUSE OF PARKING SPACES Drive launched against 198 errant buildings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday launched drives against 198 roadside buildings as their authorities are using the parking space for other purposes while the designated cars are parked on roads causing traffic congestion.

Rajuk officials and staff led by magistrate Rokon-Ud-Dowla in collaboration with Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) initiated the drive around 11:00am that continued till 5:00pm.

On the first day, they demolished illegal structures on the parking spots of five multi-storied buildings on Satmasjid Road. Witnesses said unauthorised structures on the parking spaces of Bikalpa Dental Hospital, Prime Bank, Kakoli High School, Almas Shopping Mall and Utsab Restaurant on Satmasjid Road were knocked down.

However, they could not take actions against Xinzian Chinese Restaurant and Star Kabab due to stay orders from the High Court (HC).

Sources said Rajuk has launched the drives on request from the DMP, which identified 198 buildings on some specific roads. DMP officials said they listed the buildings for their designated vehicles on roads creating difficulties in traffic movement.

Meanwhile, Rajuk officials said the authorities faced difficulties in conducting drives against the enlisted buildings due to the stay orders of the HC.

Rokon-Ud-Dowla told The Daily Star, "We took actions against seven buildings and demolished unauthorised structures on five parking spaces but could not take actions against

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you support the idea of converting the underground Barapukuria mine into an open pit mine for large scale coal production to cater to the country's energy needs?

Yes (92.6%)
 No (6.5%)
 No Comments (0.9%)

Total votes: 1301

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the government's plan to curb the ACC's mandate of acting unilaterally to file graft cases against public officials, policymaker, lawmakers and local body representatives?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

October 12

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-45	6-20
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-15	5-30
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation