

Overseas jobs, govt service top career choices of youths

Brac study finds; experts say the trend is 'not healthy' for country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 20 percent of the youth of the country -- mostly males aged between 15 and 35 -- are interested to go abroad for better living and career opportunities, a non-government survey has found.

A majority of them -- 57 percent females and 42 percent males -- prefer government jobs as a career, the survey said.

Brac, in association with Brac Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) and Brac University conducted the survey -- titled "Youth Survey 2018" -- on 4,200 youths from across the country chosen through systematic sampling, the findings of which were unveiled at a seminar in a city hotel yesterday.

According to the findings, about one-third of the youths who want to go abroad have already started preparing for it, although a large number of them do not have sufficient education and English skills.

Those who have a lower level of education and are comparatively poor prefer to go to countries in Middle East and Asia, while others prefer USA, Australia and European countries, said the survey.

The eagerness for going abroad is comparatively higher among younger people. For instance, 25 percent of the survey participants -- aged between 15 and

19 -- would like to work abroad, it added.

The survey also found only one-fifth of the youths believe their education would help them get a job. This means the youths do not trust the quality and relevance of the education they are receiving, it said.

Asked about the tendency of going abroad, researchers told this newspaper that youths consider working abroad a better life choice, which can help them secure their future.

"The youths think doing well in the country is very difficult. Besides, competition for getting jobs is very high here," said Anindita Bhattacharjee, one of the researchers.

She termed the tendency of going abroad and getting government jobs "not healthy" for the country.

"A lack of innovation will be induced among the youths if they remain confined into these two [migration and government service]... And the country will not get new entrepreneurs," said Anindita, a senior research associate of BIGD.

She emphasised on more focus on disadvantaged young females, as they mostly lag behind in getting jobs or being involved in income-generating activities.

At the seminar, Head of Brac's Migration Programme Shariful Hasan suggested that the government curb the tendency through

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

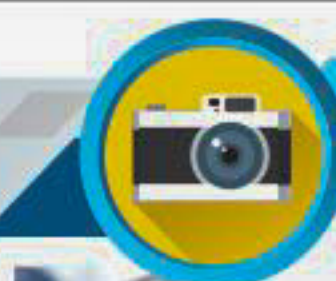


PHOTO OF THE DAY

PALASH KHAN



SWAGGER OVER SAFETY? With not one but two helmets at his disposal, this motorbike rider has decided that his sunglasses are more important than protecting his head and abiding by the law. Commendable efforts by traffic police has somewhat cemented the practice of motorbikers -- and even their pillion riders -- using helmets in the capital, as can be seen right next to him. But there will always be some who just don't care. The photo was taken at Bijoy Sarani.

Sell essentials in open market to rein in prices

Commerce minister asks TCB to take immediate measures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi yesterday asked Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) to take immediate measures to sell daily essentials including onion, sugar and garlic in open markets in order to keep prices within the limit of people.

The minister came up with the instant instruction at a review meeting on supply and prices of essential commodities with businessmen at his ministry's conference room.

The meeting was held with an aim to keep prices of essentials within the limit ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. Concerned officials from TCB, Tariff Commission, police, Rapid Action Battalion, FBCCI, wholesalers, among others, attended the programme.

At the meeting, Md Mofizul Islam, senior secretary to the commerce ministry, gave several directions including keeping

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Air quality can be managed without compromising economic growth

Noted environmental engineer Dr James J Schauer says

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

With Dhaka's air contaminated with heavy metals and other poisonous particles, a global expert on air pollution has suggested that continuous collection of data on air quality, identification of the polluting sources and apt planning can improve the air quality of the city.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, Dr James J Schauer, a senior civil and environmental engineer heading the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, yesterday said it is imperative to engage all stakeholders to find a way forward to curb air pollution in Bangladesh.

He said different strategies can be undertaken to reduce the impact of particulate matter (PM), given the complex nature of the sources of these pollutants.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO



"Chemical composition of PM_{2.5} [particles so small that they can only be detected with an electron microscope] needs to be investigated," he said. It should be constantly monitored because the chemical composition tells us what the source of pollution is, Dr Schauer -- currently visiting Bangladesh -- said.

Terming air pollution a serious public and environmental hazard, the renowned scientist said, no one wants to live in dirty, polluted city.

When asked why air quality deteriorates in Bangladesh during dry season, Dr Schauer said, "We have to understand that we cannot change meteorology, but we can think about what [polluting] sources we can control."

Saying that much of the data on Dhaka is old, the scientist added that dominant polluting sources are

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

ISSUING FITNESS CERTIFICATES

BRTA to work overtime if needed: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has been asked to prepare a plan and start working to ensure that all vehicles without valid fitness documents can renew fitness certificates by September 30, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

If necessary, BRTA would curtail its weekend and work six days a week, he said at a press briefing at his secretariat office.

The minister said this a day after the High Court directed owners of vehicles without valid fitness documents to collect their fitness certificates in two months, starting August 1.

If an owner fails to do so, their vehicles would not be allowed to ply on the roads after September 30, the HC also said on Tuesday.

The court issued the suo moto (voluntary) rule after BRTA submitted a report before it, saying a total of 4,79,320 vehicles without valid fitness certificates were operating on the roads across the country.

Quader said officials and staff of BRTA had worked till 9pm six days a week to issue registration of vehicles, following student demonstrations in August last year seeking safe roads.

Like previous occasions, BRTA officials and staff will work six days a week now, Quader said.

Asked whether BRTA would be able to check 4.49 lakh vehicles and issue fitness clearance within two months, Quader said manpower of BRTA has been increased and if they work overtime, they will be able to do it.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



A truck overloaded with ginger and garlic is stuck in traffic jam on Banglamotor in broad daylight, clearly violating restrictions on plying of such heavy goods-laden vehicles on the city streets during the day. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ

'Enumerators did not visit every home'

Dhaka residents claim

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Many Dhaka dwellers have complained that Election Commission's (EC) designated enumerators did not visit their homes for registering new voters.

The enumerators, mostly comprised of school teachers, were supposed to go door-to-door to collect information from July 3 to 23.

But a good number of residents of Pallabi, Mirpur 10, Jigatola, Azimpur, Segunbagicha, Mohammadpur, Dhanmondi and others parts of Dhaka, yesterday said that enumerators did not visit their homes.

"No one visited my home to update the voter list," said Mashur Rahman, a Mirpur 10 resident. "I am not sure whether my family members will be included in the list or not," he added.

Mia Mohammad Arnab of Jigatola Natun Rasta and Kader Miah of Shwerapara also made similar statements among many others.

Any citizen born on or before January 1, 2001 is eligible to get enlisted as a voter.

EC officials said data of citizens who were born on or before January 1, 2002, 2003 and 2004 were collected and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Emmy-winning author on board for screenplay on Bangabandhu

UNB, Dhaka

Cosmos Foundation has signed an agreement with Stephen Davis, an Emmy Award-winning screenwriter, playwright and novelist, to write the screenplay of a feature film based on the life of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

As per agreement, the first draft will be delivered by January 31 next year.

Earlier in May 2018, Cosmos Foundation published a book titled "Bangabandhu: Epitome of a Nation" authored by Enayetullah Khan, chairman of the foundation and editor-in-chief of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) and Dhaka Courier.

CONTAMINANTS IN MILK

HC to hear on BSTI reports on Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) has handed over four separate test reports on pasteurised milk -- produced by 14 companies -- to its lawyer for submission before the High Court.

Barrister Sarkar MR Hassan, who received the reports from BSTI recently, told The Daily Star yesterday that he will submit the reports to the HC during its hearing on the writ petition on the issue on Sunday.

The BSTI lawyer, however, refused to reveal the contents of the reports, terming them a sub-judice matter.

Earlier in the day, Barrister MR Hassan sought permission from the HC bench of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton to swear an affidavit for submitting the test reports before it.

The bench also adjourned hearing on the petition till Sunday, so that the writ petitioner's lawyer Aneek R Haque can get

copies of the reports and examine them.

Contacted, Barrister Aneek told this correspondent last evening that he was yet to get copy of the test reports from BSTI's lawyer.

While hearing the writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Tanvir Ahmed, the HC bench on July 14 directed the BSTI to test pasteurised milk produced by 14 companies, which are registered under the quality control authority, at four laboratories within a week.

The HC ordered for testing samples of the pasteurised milk to determine whether it contains hazardous substances such as antibiotics, detergent, coliform, staphylococcus and formalin.

The four institutions where the tests were conducted are -- Institute of Public Health, Bangladesh; International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr); Bangladesh Livestock Research

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

AFFILIATION WITH SEVEN COLLEGES

BCL activists again impede protesting DU students

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students demanding cancellation of Dhaka University's affiliation with seven colleges yesterday tried to padlock academic and administrative buildings on DU campus but failed as Chhatra League activists took position at the entrances.

After three days of deadlock, classes were held at few departments of the university but a small number of students attended.

To resolve the problems created centring the affiliation and demands of students, the university authorities yesterday formed an 11-member committee, according to a press release of the university.

The committee, headed by Pro Vice-chancellor (administration), was asked to submit their recommendation

in ten working days.

Other members of the committee include deans of Arts, Social Science and Business Studies faculties; principals of Dhaka College, Eden Mohila College, Kabi Nazrul Government College; vice-president and general secretary of Ducus; president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association, Assistant Proctor Prof Mainul Karim; coordinator of the seven affiliated colleges, the release added.

Earlier on Tuesday, demonstrating students padlocked all academic and administrative buildings of the university for the third consecutive day as part of their protest.

They also declared to continue boycotting classes and examinations until their demands were met while BCL leaders at a rally threatened to give befitting reply if anyone tries to

disrupt academic activities.

As per their announcement, Chhatra League men took position in front of academic buildings including Arts building, Curzon Hall, Mokarram Bhaban, law faculty, business faculty, Institute of Modern Languages, Institute of Education and Research, and social science building.

"We took position since 6am as per Chhatra League General Secretary Golam Rabbani's directive. Chhatra League is determined to maintain an atmosphere conducive to education," wishing anonymity, a Chhatra League activist told The Daily Star.

A section of BCL activists also assaulted a student.

Witnesses said, some BCL activists of Salimullah Muslim Hall barred four students of Sufia Kamal Hall while

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Saving Dhaka rivers

Govt to set up 10,820 boundary pillars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to set up a total of 10,820 fresh boundary pillars along the four Dhaka rivers under an ongoing project, said the national taskforce on protecting the country's rivers and navigability in a meeting at the shipping ministry yesterday.

The government over past one decade until last year has set up 9,577 boundary pillars of which around 4,000 were disputed, due to wrong boundary line, and almost all the pillars either broke down or were vandalised, displaced or dismantled.

The project also includes building 52km walkway, plantation, three eco-parks, six pontoons, 40km key-wall and 19 RCC jetties along the rivers Buriganga, Turag, Shitalakha and Balu by the year 2022, the taskforce informed.

It also said Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) evicted 5,239 illegal structures from within the Dhaka rivers between January and June and recovered some 145 acres of river foreshore area.

In order to enhance navigability of the inland riverways across the country, seven dredging projects are ongoing, the taskforce told the meeting.

The rivers and canals where dredging is presently going on are Bishkhali, Kirtankhola, Karnapara Khal, Pian,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2