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## Jobs abroad in decline

*Malpractices in recruitment, falling demand, lax efforts to find new market draw grim picture for Bangladeshi employment seekers*

- Demand for foreign workers in the Gulf declining
- Irregularities in recruitment lead to labour exploitation, market restrictions
- Market-driven skills programme and international accreditation needed
- Experts say Bangladesh needs to initiate strong labour diplomacy
- The country should look for labour markets in the developed world

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh continues to witness decline in overseas jobs over the last two years amid unabated malpractices in recruitment process, falling demand in the Gulf countries and an absence of effective steps to explore new markets.

More than 10 lakh Bangladeshis secured jobs overseas in 2017 but that came down to 7,34,181 last year, according to the Bureau of Manpower

Employment and Training.

In the first eight months this year, the number of jobs Bangladeshis got were 4,17,084. The projected number of jobs by the year-end is 6,25,620.

Labour migration experts and recruiting businesses fear this trend will affect the inflow of remittance, create pressure on local job market and the economy.

An estimated one crore Bangladeshis working abroad sent home around \$15 billion last year, which

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**UNSTOPPABLE ...** Differently-abled Mukta Begum gives the go-ahead to a train at the city's Tejgaon level crossing. A mother of two, Mukta secured the gatekeeper's job over one and a half years ago. Her right leg never worked properly after she contracted polio at the age of seven. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Samrat placed on 10-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former Juba League leader, Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat, an alleged kingpin of the illegal casino business in the capital, was placed on a 10-day remand in two cases filed under the arms and narcotics control acts.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Tofazzal Hossain passed the order after two investigation officers produced Samrat with a total 20-day remand plea in two cases.

Samrat's alleged accomplice Enamul Haque Arman was also placed on a five-day remand.

Defence lawyers sought bails for their clients saying they were implicated in the cases as part of a conspiracy to harass them.

Besides, a vested quarter is trying to drive Samrat away from politics as he is a popular figure, the

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## Where is my failure?

Buet VC in interview with Star

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and  
WASIM BIN HABIB

In the aftermath of the gruesome murder of Abrar Fahad last week, Buet Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Saiful Islam says he thinks he had no failure in handling the situation.

"Where is my failure? I, from my position, have done everything possible to tackle the situation," he said in an

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## No classes, exams until killers expelled

*Say Buet protesters; another confesses; Anik was not beaten in jail, says IG prisons*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Buet students yesterday called off their protests but declared they will boycott classes and exams until the authorities expel those involved in Abrar killing.

They made the announcement at a press conference in front of the Shaheed Minar on the Buet campus after holding a series of meetings.

"Showing respect to the prompt actions taken by the Buet authorities and law enforcers and the progress made in the ongoing investigation, we are calling off our protests," said Mahmudur Rahman Sayem, a batch-15 student of the electrical and electronic engineering

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