

Fresh graduate from Cuet gets job at Google

CU CORRESPONDENT

A fresh graduate of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) has been appointed as a software engineer at Google.

Yamin Iqbal, who completed his bachelor's in Computer Science and Engineering this year, got the appointment letter from Google on Wednesday.

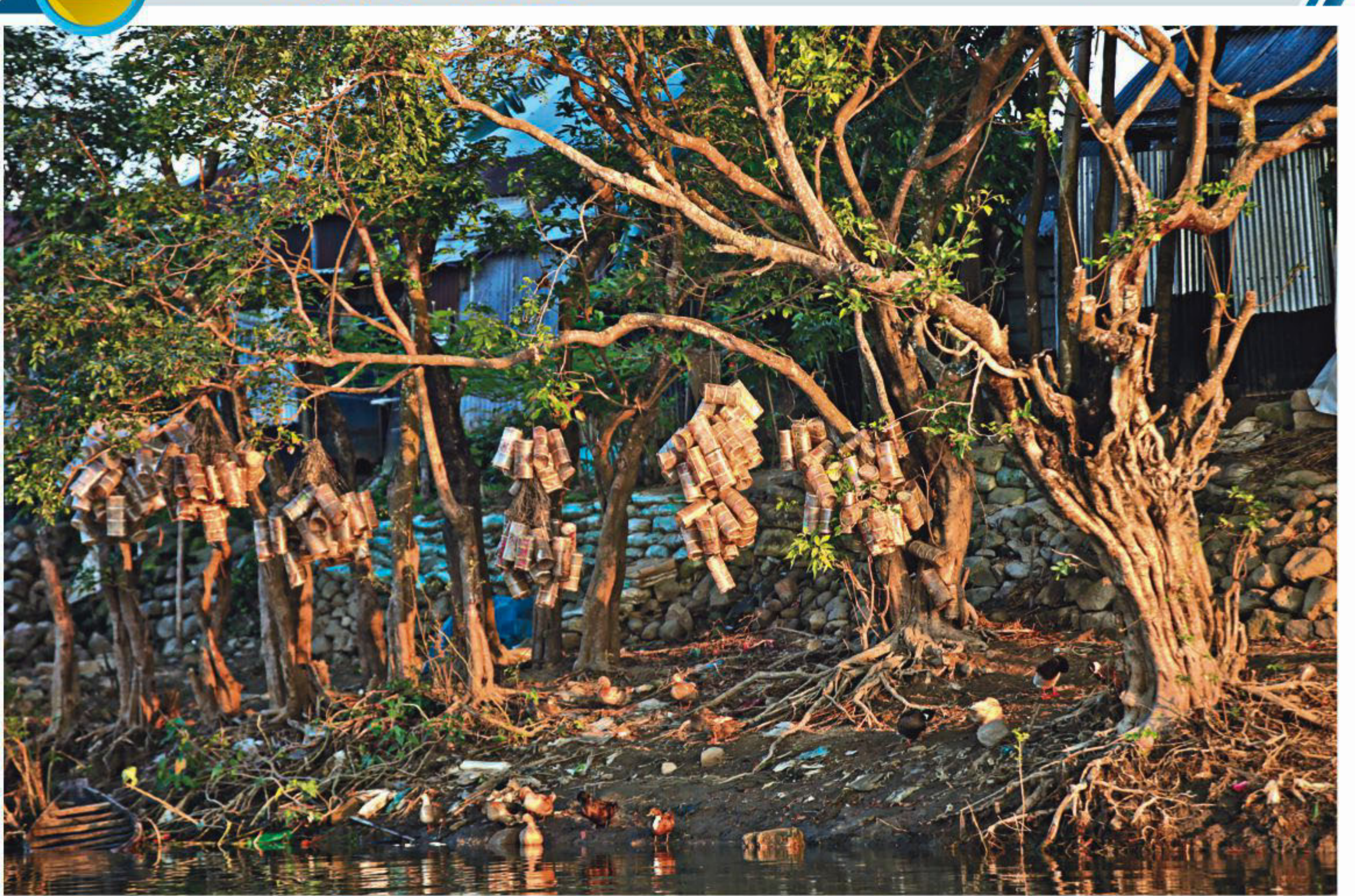
Yamin, from Chattogram, said since getting admitted to the university, he wanted to work on great technological projects that would improve people's lives.

"In that sense, working at Google will allow me to develop projects that will serve the people," he said.

Yamin said he got selected by Google as he gave quick answers to their questions and successfully solved all the tasks during a performance test.

He will leave for Taiwan soon and join Google in February next year.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



These small cylindrical objects, tied to the branches of a tree, are actually traps to catch fish. With boat-load of these traps -- made of bamboo and plastic -- fishers head out to Tanguar Haor and put them in the water. They said they have been catching small fish this way for generations. But often, they leave the empty or used traps in the water, which is not only polluting the haor, but also harmful for aquatic life. The photo was taken from Sreepur of Sunamganj on Tuesday.

SHEIKH NASIR

Prof Ajoy Roy in critical condition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned academic Professor Ajoy Roy, father of slain blogger Avijit Roy, is in critical condition.

He is on artificial ventilation support at the capital's BIRDEM hospital.

Members of Ekattorer Chatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, a platform formed in 1992 to raise voice for the trial of war criminals, yesterday visited the ailing professor at the hospital.

A founder of Nirmul Committee, Ajoy Roy played a key role in the movement for trial of war criminals. He is now one of the advisers of the committee.

Prof Areef Ahsan, Intensive Care Unit in-charge of BIRDEM, said, "He [Ajoy Roy] was admitted to the hospital on November 25 with fever and difficulty in breathing. His health condition has been deteriorating from November 27 evening, and he was moved to ICU that night."

Replying to a query, Areef said Ajoy Roy's condition remains unchanged.

"Taking him abroad for treatment is also not possible," he said.

Nirmul Committee President Shahriar Kabir urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to take necessary steps for better treatment of the veteran educationist.

While testifying last month before a magistrate court -- in his son's murder case -- the 85-year-old professor, out of frustration, said he would not continue appearing for the hearings.

"I cannot come to the court again and again. I am an old man," said a feeble Ajoy Roy who had to be carried to the courtroom in a chair.



GRAFT CHARGES ACC asks police to bar BCB director from leaving country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has asked special branch (SB) of police to prevent incumbent director of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Mahbulul Anam to go abroad.

A letter signed by ACC's Deputy Director Manjur Alam yesterday requested superintendent of police of SB to take necessary steps to prevent him from leaving the country.

"There is an inquiry against Mahbulul Anam over allegations of amassing crores of money illegally through tender manipulation, recruitment business and misusing power in selecting sponsor," said the letter.

There are also allegations against him of amassing wealth beyond known sources of income, it also said.

The letter reads the ACC has learnt from confidential sources that the alleged person is trying to leave the country along with his family.

"For the sake of proper inquiry, it is necessary to prevent the alleged person from leaving the country," it said.

On October 27, ACC filed a case against another BCB director Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan for amassing wealth Tk 4.34 crore beyond known sources of income.

According to the FIR, Lokman, also director (in-charge) of Mohammedan Sporting Club, used to collect Tk 21 lakh per month from the casino business at the club. He transferred about Tk 41 crore to banks in Australia.

Army chief's Myanmar visit to 'open another line of negotiations': Momen

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen on Wednesday said the scheduled visit of the army chief to Myanmar will be good for Bangladesh, and "open another line of negotiation" between the two countries over Rohingya repatriation.

"We want to resolve it [Rohingya crisis] through discussions. I think it [the visit] will go in favour of us. It'll be good for us," he told reporters at the state guesthouse Padma.

Dr Momen said Myanmar is not Bangladesh's enemy but a friend, and in Myanmar, their army plays a very significant role.

In this situation, he said, it will be good for Bangladesh if Army Chief General Aziz Ahmed goes there.

The army chief recently said he will go to Myanmar next month where they will discuss issues relating to improving relationship between the two countries.

Many issues will come up and they may talk about the Rohingya issue, but whatever happens, it will be in the interest of Bangladesh, he had said.

The foreign minister on Wednesday said Myanmar created the Rohingya problem, and its solution depends on them too.

He said they remain engaged on all fronts, and expect a solution to Rohingya crisis through negotiation and discussion.

'RELOCATION PROCESS TO BHASAN CHAR STILL ON'

Asked whether the government has postponed the Rohingya relocation plan to Bhasan Char, the foreign minister said, "Surely, it has not stopped. Our process is still ongoing."

He said Bhasan char relocation plan is a temporary arrangement, as the existing Rohingya camp is overcrowded with risk of landslides and subsequent deaths. "We won't force anybody to go there. Any relocation will be voluntary in nature. We wanted to relocate them there for their betterment and avoid risk or reduce risk," Dr Momen added.

The government has already developed Bhasan Char island to accommodate some 1,00,000 Rohingyas.

'HIDING EVIDENCE' 2 cops closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Two police officials were closed from Kawalipara police outpost under Dhamrai Police Station on Wednesday evening.

The officers are: Inspector Fazlul Haque, in-charge of the outpost; and Assistant Sub-inspector Shamim of the same outpost, confirmed Dipak Chandra Saha, officer-in-charge of Dhamrai Police Station yesterday.

Saha said the two were attached to Dhaka District Police Lines over allegations of negligence.

A police official, seeking anonymity, said the duo were closed for hiding evidence. Three battery-run auto-rickshaws were seized in a robbery case and kept at the outpost, which went missing, he said. Law enforcers suspect the two officials got rid of those to hide evidence, he added.

The two closed officials could not be reached.

DEATH OF PSYCHIATRIC PATIENT Rehab centre owner, staffers sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The owner and two staffers of a rehabilitation centre in Mirpur upazila of Kushtia were sent to jail yesterday after police arrested them on charge of providing wrong treatment and mercilessly beating a college student who eventually died.

Police on Wednesday night arrested Samarpan rehabilitation centre owner Abdul Matin (54), its supervisor Habib Uddin Malitha (52) and staffer Mintu Hossain (26).

The chief judicial magistrate's court in Kushtia sent all three to jail after police produced them before the court.

The deceased is Kamruzzaman Imon (19), an honours student of Rajshahi City College. He died on November 20.

"After interrogation, the arrestees said they injected Imon with sedatives to control him," said Abul Kalam, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, adding that they did not consult a registered physician for doing so and there was no full-time doctor to operate and supervise the centre.

Although Imon's family always claimed that he never took drugs, officials at the centre strongly believed otherwise, the OC said, relaying information extracted during interrogation.

"We strongly suspect that wrong treatment was the cause of his death," he said, adding that the autopsy report will make it clear.

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80,000 Satkhira locals to get drinking water at affordable prices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 80,000 people who have been facing crisis of drinkable water in Satkhira's Ashashuni, will get pure drinking water at an affordable price.

Due to climate change, saline water has gradually intruded towards the inland of Satkhira, leaving a large number of people suffering from saltwater.

WaterAid on Wednesday launched a five-year project, funded by UK-based water supply management company Severn Trent, to meet the crisis, and to be implemented by local NGO Rupantar.

At the press conference of the project launch, WaterAid's climate resilience programme manager Farhana Islam said saline water will be treated using reverse osmosis technology. She said they will choose women entrepreneurs who will sell the water. The project will also focus on improving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the communities.

Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman, director of fundraising and learning at WaterAid Bangladesh, said the fresh water will cost 30 paisa per litre.

"Through this project, we aim to provide sustainable and resilient long-term solutions to communities residing in the country's coastal areas, in order to fulfil their basic needs -- water, sanitation and hygiene," he said.

5 illegal brick kilns knocked down

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The Department of Environment (DoE) in a drive yesterday demolished five brick kilns and fined the owners Tk 12 lakh each for causing massive environmental pollution in Dautia area of Dhamrai under Dhaka district.

The brick kilns are: Sun, USA, Dautia, Aziz and Halima enterprises, said Executive Magistrate Maksudul Islam, who led the drive.

As per law, there should be no brick kilns within 1.5km of residential areas, educational institutions and hospitals. But these companies had been operating illegally, defying law.

In additions, those were using topsoil from arable lands and polluting the environment, he added.

Owners of four brick kilns have already paid the fine, said the executive magistrate.

He said they also dismantled four other

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An illegal brick kiln being dismantled by the Department of Environment in Dhamrai yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Illuminated road for safe commute

220 street lights, blue LEDs set up at Mymensingh city

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Three and a half kilometres of road from Digarkanda bypass to Charpara intersection where the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway starts, is now illuminated at night to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

A total of 220 street lights have been set up on 110 polls by Mymensingh City Corporation (MCC). There are blue LED ribbon lights on every poll as well, for beautification purpose.

The engineering department of the city corporation completed the large-scale project worth around Tk one crore, under "LED Light Installation Programme" of MCC, said its superintending engineer Md Rafiqul Islam.

The project will be extended a further eight kilometres, to the end of MCC's jurisdiction at Beltoli area on the highway, said the engineer, adding, "They are preparing a budget for the extension."

"We have been monitoring the lights in case any problems occur, and received good feedback from pedestrians and drivers," said the engineer.

Talking to this correspondent, MCC Mayor Ekramul Hoque Titu said they prioritised the safety of commuters especially during the night, so they undertook this project considering that the road to Dhaka remains busy around the clock.

"The initiative will not only help citizens feel safer but also beautify the streets," he added.

Now the bus passengers and the staff will feel secure when they reach the area from Dhaka, said Biswajit Sen, a transport worker at city's Shambhuganj Bridge area.

Advocate Johirul Hoque said he returned from Dhaka with his family on Tuesday evening and he was delighted to see the lights.

Ashraf Ali, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver said he feels safer as the area is now illuminated, especially because he has to wait at Charpara intersection for trips until midnight. Some residents of the area also hailed the initiative.

MCC mayor inaugurated the lights on November 20 evening.

PHOTO: STAR

Road, train accidents kill five in three districts

STAR REPORT

Five people were killed in separate accidents across three districts yesterday.

A seven-year-old was killed when a power-tiller backpedaled onto him in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur yesterday morning.

According to eyewitnesses, Monnaf Hossain (7) was playing in front his house when he spotted a power-tiller on the road and decided to walk behind it. While attempting to get onto a high road, the tiller slipped back, severely injuring Monnaf.

Family members rushed him to Birganj Upazila Health Complex in critical condition, where doctors declared him dead.

The power-tiller driver managed to flee the spot, leaving the vehicle behind, said OC Shakila Parvin of Birganj Police Station.

Police handed the body over to the boy's family.

In Kushtia, three people were killed when a CNG-run auto rickshaw crashed into a bus on Kushtia-Meherpur highway in Nawapara area of Mirpur upazila yesterday.

One of the deceased was identified as Hamidul Islam (55). Police are yet to confirm identities of the other two.

Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, said the accident took place around 6pm, leaving all three passengers of the auto-rickshaw dead on the spot.

MAN CRUSHED UNDER TRAIN IN CTG

Railway police recovered a body from the Dhaka-Chattogram railway line in Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Rasel Mahmud (40).

Police managed to contact family members through the deceased's mobile phone.

Police assumed Rasel was crushed under the train at some point in the night. The body was sent to Chattogram Medical College for autopsy.