How can Bangladesh turn on its 'brain gain'?



Dr Shams Rahman

SHAMS RAHMAN

Over the last decade or so, Bangladesh has done well on both economic and social indicators. Development continues amid the challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. And it seems the effect of this development has gone beyond socioeconomic measures and quietly made a profound psychological impact on the people of the country. As a result, a kind of confidence is slowly taking root in the hearts and minds of Bangladeshis – the confidence that translates to, "Yes, we can."

Based on its economic and social accomplishments, Bangladesh has qualified to transition from the least developed country (LDC) status to that of a developing country. This is undoubtedly a landmark achievement. There is pride in it, but there are challenges, too. Strong leadership, foresight, and prudent policies and programmes are crucial for sustaining as a middle-income country and working towards attaining the goals of Vision 2041. Hence, the question arises: will human resources be a critical impediment on the way to progress? Does the nation have a strategy to counter such impediment?

Bangladesh is currently suffering from an acute shortage of skilled workers and managers. The situation is deteriorating day by day as the shortage is intensifying in keeping up with the development process. Today, many firms, both local and international, are hiring foreign

workers and managers to fill in the gap. The skill shortage is not only an impediment in the current situation, it will become a major deterrent in achieving further growth in the future, if not addressed appropriately and urgently. A 2019 report by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) revealed that various sectors such as ready-made garment (RMG), leather, ICT, infrastructure development, food processing, light engineering, healthcare, tourism, and ship-building industry will require several millions of skilled workers

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Bangladesh needs to develop a mechanism to tap into the huge resource of its expatriate citizens scattered around the world.

skilled workforce come from? The country's technical education and training centres as well as higher education institutes have long failed to keep up with the demand. Given the situation, is it worth considering a "brain gain" strategy as a viable alternative?

When, in the early 70s, I went abroad for the first time, I was introduced to the concept of "brain drain." The term was coined by the Royal Society in the 1950s when a large number of British scientists and engineers left Britain for Canada and the US. This term describes the process of any skilled or semiskilled individual leaving one country (mostly their native country) to another. Over the past four and a half decades, millions of Bangladeshis have migrated abroad for various reasons. These emigrants are skilled and engaged in various professions,

and experts by 2025. Where will this including health, IT, engineering, economic planning, academia, and business. How can this brain drain that has taken place for years be converted to brain gain?

On the other hand, brain gain is creating short- or long-term opportunities to bring back expatriates who have been working as skilled individuals and experts in various fields abroad back to their countries of origin. In the context of the contemporary business world, the phenomena of brain drain and brain gain can be considered in light of export and import in global trade. Both phenomena should be taken positively. A significant segment of Bangladesh's human resource exports – which is brain drain – are semi-skilled or unskilled. It is possible to further strengthen our manpower export by developing highly skilled and professional artisans and service providers through training and

education. By doing so, it would be possible to increase the export of skilled workforce on the one hand, while on the other hand, it would be possible to add high value in the work context. As a result, Bangladesh could even double the amount of remittance that it currently receives from expatriate workers in the foreseeable future.

In the early 1990s, when Rajiv Gandhi's government opened the door to India's economy, India became a part of the global market. Gradually, many Indians living and working in the US and other Western countries returned to India. Most of those who are involved in the "Silicon Valley of India" in Bengaluru today once worked for multinational corporations abroad in various capacities. This process of bringing expatriate experts back to The same happened in China.

Many Bangladeshi expatriates visit the country every year and make attempts to contribute to their respective fields of expertise at home. But it is done purely on a piecemeal basis. This is a major hindrance to the country's braingain effort. Can a coherent strategy be devised by the government to facilitate the country's brain gain? Needless to say, through the braingain effort, the nation can acquire the services of skilled experts at a bare minimum cost.

Following the roadmap of Vision 2021, Bangladesh will soon make the transition from a least developed country to a developing country. Achieving Vision 2041 requires the mobilisation of both internal and external resources. That can be done through brain gain, tapping into an untapped external resource.

How can Bangladesh gain access to this untapped, inexhaustible resource, then? A global network of Bangladeshi expatriates can be formed, bringing in experts in various fields such as education, health, economy, technology, and agriculture, located in the developed world including Australia, the UK, and the US, under one platform. The Bangladeshi missions around the world can play the role of coordinators in developing databases of such experts. These experts can participate and work in teams in various institutions and megaprojects in Bangladesh. Such a network of experts with the skills and experience acquired in developed countries can infuse both hard and soft skills into our economy quickly and at a minimum cost. In addition, it would be quite natural to witness a multiplier effect in the efforts of the expatriate experts due to their connection to Bangladesh. India and China have benefited and continue the country was India's brain gain. to be benefited from the brain-gain effort. I believe we can, too.

WORLD HABITAT DAY 2022

Must urbanisation be all-devouring?

Commodore MN Absar. BN (retd) is the chairman of the Cox's Bazar

MN ABSAR

Development Authority.

In 1985, the United Nations declared through Resolution 40/202 that 2023 is localising the SDGs. Local cities in Bangladesh, Cox's Bazar the first Monday of every October leadership and local action plans has a lot of potential to successfully Day. Countries commemorate this day in order to draw attention to the challenges caused by the rapid rise of urbanisation and its direct or indirect effects on the environment and the state of human poverty. The purpose of this day is to consider the condition of our cities and the fundamental right of all people to adequate shelter. It also aims to remind the global community of its shared responsibility for the future of human habitat.

The UN Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 - to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable identifies sustainable urbanisation as one of the most important goals for global development. To complement this goal, "Urban October" begins on October 1 and ends with World Cities Day on October 31. On these precise dates and throughout the month, events are held around the world to commemorate Urban October.

The first World Habitat Day was observed in Nairobi, Kenya in 1986 under the theme "Shelter is My Right." This year, the day has been observed in Balikesir, Turkey, with the theme "Mind the Gap. Leave No One and Place Behind." This year's theme was chosen to of the world's population predicted address the problem of growing inequality and challenges in cities and human settlements and to draw attention to growing inequalities and vulnerabilities that have been exacerbated by the triple 'C' crises: Covid-19, climate, and conflict.

The aim is to bring representatives of local governments from megacities to medium and small cities, to discuss their current challenges and ways to address growing inequalities, how to narrow the gap between the urban poor and rich, between the rural and urban areas or different neighbourhoods within the cities.

The first of the three priorities is central to UN-Habitat's mandate and is contained in the "Leave No One Behind" commitment in the

progress towards implementing cities have the capacity, capability, adaptation priorities set in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). And the third priority for 2022would be observed as World Habitat on the SDGs have been identified as address this year's World Habitat central to realising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Cities and metropolitan regions are where the effects of change are felt acutely in a passive manner. The economic and social vulnerabilities of our urban way of life was also highlighted by Covid. With two-thirds region.

With increased local climate finance, transformation. It has become a cities could make significant serious global problem to ensure that and tools to face the difficulties posed by urbanisation.

> As one of the most crucial coastal Day goals. Cox's Bazar is the site of the largest refugee camp in the world. More than 1.1 million Rohingya refugees who fled persecution in their home country of Myanmar have placed a great deal of strain on the already fragile ecosystems in the



A Bangladeshi villager evacuates to a cyclone shelter on the coast in Cox's Bazar district on May 30, 2017.

to reside in urban areas by 2050, of Economic and Social Affairs, sustainable urban development has never been more challenging. This task will only get harder and more daunting in the upcoming future if unplanned urbanisation is not tackled systematically.

Urbanisation brings some of the greatest opportunities and challenges in the world today. Cities are hubs for economic growth and development, but they also have demographic, environmental, economic, and social difficulties. With the adoption of the new Urban Agenda in 2016 by in 2022 is to provide adequate the UN, national and municipal housing to all. Adequate housing governments across the world have embarked on a transformative route towards achieving SDG 11. By involving all stakeholders, cities may secretary-general's "Our Common harness transformative change and Agenda" report. The second priority enhance the lives of their residents.

Cox's Bazar is also one of the most vulnerable coastal according to the UN Department cities in Bangladesh; therefore, it may effectively contribute to climate solutions by addressing the challenges and local ways of confronting those challenges. The city also has the potential to localise the sustainable development goals by using its numerous resources in a sustainable manner, such as through utilisation of the Blue Economy, fishing, and ecotourism sectors. Here, the local government of Cox's Bazar, especially the Cox's Bazar Development Authority, can play an essential part in making sure that the objectives of World Habitat Day are met and that they function properly together. By collaborating with this particular local authority, it will be possible to effectively confront growing inequality, close the gap between urban poor and rich, bring out possible solutions to tackle the addresses the key role of cities as In many instances, however, cities climate crisis, and make the SDGs contributors to climate solutions. lack the capacity to implement this more localised to the area.



যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশনের একটি অঞ্চ প্রতিষ্ঠান)

যমুনা ভবন, আগ্রাবাদ বা/এ, চট্টগ্রাম

স্মারক নং: ২৮.২৪,০০০০,০০৫,১১,০০২,২২(১০/২)১

তারিখ: ০১/১০/২০১২

বিষয়: যুমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এ কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী

গত ০৮/০৩/২০২২ ভারিখে দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক, লৈনিক সমকাল, ভেইলি ষ্টার এবং দৈনিক আজাদী পত্রিকায় যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এ কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগের জন্য প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির প্রেক্ষিতে আইবিএ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক ২৯/০৭/২০২২ তারিখে ওয়েক্ট ইড হাইস্কুল, আজিমপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৫ এবং বুয়েট কর্তৃক একই ভারিখে বুয়েট এ গৃহিত লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্প প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা "য<u>মুনা ভবন</u>" আগ্রাবাদ বা/এ, চাপ্রাম এ নিমেবর্ণিত সময়সচী মোতাবেক অন্তিত হবেঃ

a :	পদের নাম	লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রাধীদের রোল নং	ভারিশ/বার	সময়
2	সিনিয়র অফিসার (একাউন্টস)	5500009, 5500058, 5500054, 5500058, 5500084, 5500088, 5500050, 5500053, 5500054, 5500054, 5500078, 5500056, 5500550.	১৪/১০/২২ শুক্রবার	সকাল: ৯টা হতে সকাল: ১১টা
		\$\$00\$5\; \$\$00\$48, \$\$00\$4\; \$\$00\$4\; \$\$00\$0\; \$\$00\$08, \$\$00\$0\; \$\$00\$0\; \$\$00\$8\; \$\$00\$8\; \$\$00\$8\; \$\$00\$6\; \$\$00\$8\; \$\$00\$8\; \$\$00\$8\; \$\$00\$8\; \$\$00\$6\; \$\$00\$8\;		সকাল: ১১টা হতে দুপুর: ১২:৩০ট
×	সিনিয়র অফিসার (মেইনটেইন্যাব্দ)	\$2000\$, \$20000\$, \$20000\$, \$2000\$\$, \$2000\$\$, \$2000\$£, \$2000\$\$.		দুপুর: ২টা হতে বিকেশ: ৩:৩০টা
9	সিনিয়র অফিসার (অপারেশন্স)	\$50008, \$500085, \$500054, \$50088, \$500085, \$500069,		
8	অফিসার (টেকনিক্যাল সার্ভিস)	5400005, 5400008, 5400009, 5400054.		বিকেল: ৩:৩০ট
æ	অফিসার (কনফিডেনসিয়াণ)	280000%, 280000%, 2800020, 2800020, 2800028, 2800028, 2800020, 280000000, 280000000, 280000000, 280000000, 28000000000, 280000000000		হতে বিকেল: ৫টা
		\$800034, \$800034, \$800034, \$800034, \$800084, \$80	১৫/১০/২২ শনিবার	সকাল: ৯টা হতে সকাল: ১১টা
		2800058, 2800050, 2800052, 2800058, 2800059, 2800055, 2800205, 2800205, 2800206, 2800220, 2800222, 2800222, 2800228, 2800226, 28002255,		সকাল: ১১টা হতে দুপুর: ১টা
		\$800\$\$\ \$800\$\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\		দুপুর: ২টা
৬	অফিসার (এইচ আর)	\$60000, \$60000\$, \$60000\$, \$6000\$ \$6000\$		হতে বিকেল: ৩:৩০ট
٩	জুনিয়র অঞ্চিসার (পিঃ এশু ইঃ)	2000003, 2000003, 2000008, 2000008, 2000004, 20000005, 2000033, 2000028, 2000038, 2000034, 20000039, 2000080, 2000088, 2000039,		বিকেল: ৩:৩০ট হতে বিকেল: ৫টা
ь	অফিসার (ইঃ এশু ডিঃ)	2500002, 2500000, 2500000, 2500000, 2500000, 2500025, 2500028, 2500020, 2500024, 2500026, 2500006, 250	১৬/১০/২২ রবিবার	সকাল: ৯টা হতে ১১টা
		2500063, 2500068, 2500066, 2500069, 2500043, 2500043, 2500043, 2500093, 2500093, 2500093,		সকাল: ১১টা হতে দুপুর: ১টা
9	জুনিয়র অফিসার (সেল্স)	১৭০০০০১, ১৭০০০০১, ১৭০০০১৮, ১৭০০০১৯, ১৭০০০২০, ১৭০০০২৪, ১৭০০০৩৩		
		590008, 5900096, 5900095, 5900093, 5900080, 5900088, 5900088, 5900085, 5900		দুপুর: ২টা হতে বিকেল: ৩:৩০টা
		5900090, 5900095, 5900090, 5900090, 5900096, 5900096, 5900062, 5900064, 5900080, 5900084, 5900089, 5900506, 5900556.		বিকেল: ৩:৩০টা হতে বিকেল: ৫টা
50	জুনিয়র অফিসার (একাউন্টস এন্ড ফাইন্যাপ)	\$\foods, \$\f	২৮/১০/২২ শুক্রবার	সকাল: ৯টা হতে ১১টা
		2500098, 3500099, 3500060, 3500053, 3500059, 3500050, 35000502, 3500058, 3500058, 3500308, 3500308, 3500308, 3500336, 3500336, 3500339, 2500335.		সকাল: ১১টা হতে দুপুর: ১টা
		১৮০০১৪২, ১৮০০১৫৪, ১৮০০১৫৫, ১৮০০১৫৬, ১৮০০১৪১, ১৮০০১৪২, ১৮০০১৫৬, ১৮০০১৫৭, ১৮০০১৫৯, ১৮০০১৭০, ১৮০০১৭১, ১৮০০১৭৬, ১৮০০১৭৯, ১৮০০১৮১.		দুপুর: ২:৩০ট হতে বিকেল: ৩:৩০টা
		2600392, 2600392, 2600394, 2600394, 2600394, 2600303, 2600306, 2600324, 2600334, 2600334, 2600393, 2600393, 2600394, 2600394,		বিকেল: ৩:৩০টা হতে বিকেল: ৫টা
55	জুনিয়র অফিসার (পারচেজ)	2200008, 2200022, 2200028, 2200029, 2200022, 2200028, 2200022, 2200028, 2200080, 2200080, 2200088.	২৯/১০/২২ শনিবার	সকাল: ৯টা হতে ১১টা
		\$\$00049, \$\$00045, \$\$00040, \$\$00045, \$\$00045, \$\$00049, \$\$00045, \$\$00095, \$\$00090, \$\$00098, \$\$00094.		সকাল: ১১টা হতে দুপুর: ১টা
		>>00046, >>00049, >>00060, >>0008, >>00064, >>00066, >>00064, >>00060, >>00066, >>0060, >>006050		দুপুর: ২:৩০টা হতে বিকেল: ৩:৩০টা
		১৯০০১০৬, ১৯০০১০৭, ১৯০০১৩, ১৯০০১৪, ১৯০০১৬, ১৯০০১২১, ১৯০০১৩১, ১৯০০১৩২		বিকেল: ৩:৩০টা হতে বিকেল: ৫টা

মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময় আবেদনপত্রের রঞ্জিন প্রিন্টেড কপি, সদ্যুতোলা ০৩ (তিন) কপি রঞ্জিন ছবি, সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার মূল নাৰ্টিফিকেট, সাৰ্কশীটট্ৰাসক্ৰিণ্ট, অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ (প্ৰযোজ্য ক্ষেত্ৰে), জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্ৰ (এনআইডি/ম্মাৰ্ট কাৰ্ড) উপস্থাপন করতে হবে এবং বৰ্ণি দলিলাদির একসেট ফটোকপি প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তার মাধ্যমে সত্যায়ন পূর্বক পরীক্ষা শুরুর কমপক্ষে ৩০ মিনিট পূর্বে মানব-সম্পদ বিভাগে জমা প্রদান করে যথাসময়ে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণকারী প্রার্থীদের কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

