

Amazon to lay off 9,000 more employees

Amazon CEO Andy Jassy recently mentioned that he was cutting 9,000 more jobs from the online retail giant's workforce, following the 18,000 that were axed in January. "Given the uncertain economy and the uncertainty that exists in the near future, we have chosen to be more streamlined in our

costs and headcount," Jassy said in a memo to staff.

The layoffs account for a smaller percentage of Amazon's total workforce, which ran up to 1.5 million people in December 2022, than the cuts seen at some other tech giants. Amazon's Jassy told his workers that the extra

layoffs were necessary after more feedback came from departments as the company seeks a way to downsize after years of sustained hiring. The cuts would mainly impact Amazon's cloud computing, human resources, advertising and Twitch video game streaming businesses, Jassy told staff.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The other side of the lens

Photography is a tough career. Add on top of the existing difficulties of being a working woman anywhere in the world - especially Bangladesh - and you will find that it requires a special amount of dedication and passion to find success as a female photographer in this country. In this week's Cover Story, we talked with some local female photographers to find more out about their everyday struggles and challenges.

As for other pages, check out our two-page review of the brand new Kia Carens in Shift and some handy tips to earn money online in Next Step. As always, variety for everyone.

With that, another weekend comes around and another month ends. Stay safe and have a pleasant Ramadan.

Shams Rashid Tonmoy
Sub-editor & Feature Writer



LinkedIn offering 100+ free AI courses

Professional social networking platform LinkedIn is offering more than 100 free AI courses in order to allow users to build AI-related skills and navigate their careers. The offered courses include high-demand topics such as Generative AI, AI and Machine Learning Foundations, Responsible AI, Advanced AI and Applied AI.

Additionally, LinkedIn will be rolling out more than 20 new Generative AI courses and a series taught by LinkedIn's artificial intelligence and engineering leaders. LinkedIn will offer free courses across 7 languages, including English, Chinese, French, Spanish, German, Brazilian Portuguese, and Japanese. Moreover, the free AI courses will be available on the LinkedIn Learning platform till 15th June 2023.

Govt launches ProGRESS Project for inclusive skill development

A new project called ProGRESS has been launched by The Ministry of Education of the Government of Bangladesh and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Bangladesh. This initiative aims to strengthen the TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) and enterprise development systems in Bangladesh. The ProGRESS project also plans on making skill development training more inclusive and accessible for women working on policies, systems and operational levels.

As per an official press release, ProGRESS stands for 'Promoting Gender Responsive Enterprise Development and TVET Systems'. The project will be implemented by the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), Technical and

Madrasah Education Division (TMED) and the Ministry of Education with technical assistance from ILO. The Government of Canada is the funding partner of the project.

The ProGRESS project is designed to positively address the issues linked to low labour force participation of female workers in both wage and employment markets. It will also bring up issues regarding the limited access to business development services required for initiating self-employment. Additionally, the initiative will support the promotion of employability of the female workforce of Bangladesh to improve their economic well-being and maximise their contribution to the national economic growth.

TECNO launches SPARK 10 Pro in Bangladesh

TECNO has recently launched the new SPARK 10 Pro smartphone in Bangladesh. The SPARK 10 Pro contains a MediaTek Helio G88 processor, which features two Arm Cortex-A75 CPUs that can operate up to 2GHz.

SPARK 10 Pro is equipped with a 50MP AI rear camera and adjustable dual soft lights on its 32 MP front camera. The device also features a hard-wearing starry glass back panel and a

6.8-inch 90 Hz FHD+ display. The smartphone is also supported by a 5,000mAh battery and has an 18W fast-charging capacity.

TECNO SPARK 10 Pro will be available in Starry Black and Pearl White colours. It is available in two versions: 128GB+16GB (8GB Extended RAM) priced at Tk. 17,990/- and 128GB+8GB (4GB Extended RAM) priced at Tk. 15,690/-.



Shikho raises funding worth US \$900,000

Edtech startup Shikho has recently received US \$900,000 from three new and one existing investor as part of a strategic funding round. The firm has raised US \$900,000 in a round with 4 investors, including 3 foreign venture capital funds: Goodwater, Sturgeon Capital, Black Kite Capital. Sajida Foundation, a charitable organisation, is also a part of the fundraising endeavour as Shikho

looks to strengthen its focus on creating social impact through online education. Shikho has raised US \$6.5 million to date, the most by any edtech startup in the country, according to a press release. Shikho already has some well-known global names backing it, like Learn Capital from Silicon Valley and Wavemaker Partners from Singapore.



TOGGLE

Editor and Publisher
Mahfuz Anam

Editor (Toggle)
Shahriar Rahman

Team
Zarif Faiaz
Shams Rashid Tonmoy
Tanzid Samad Choudhury

Graphics
DS Creative Graphics

Production
Shamim Chowdhury

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