

IBM plans to replace 30% jobs with AI

Arvind Krishna, CEO of the multinational technology firm IBM (The International Business Machines Corporation), recently stated in an interview with Bloomberg that he plans to downsize the company's workforce by almost a third because he believes most jobs can be done by modern AI. He also said that the company plans on pausing hiring new employees, as well as reducing the wage of 7,800 jobs over several years.

"These non-customer-facing roles amount to roughly 26,000 workers," Krishna said. "I could easily see 30%



of that getting replaced by AI and automation over a five-year period." Back office employees are only a

fraction of IBM's roughly 260,000 workers, and the company has continued to hire in certain roles, even after recently letting go about 5,000 workers in other areas, the Bloomberg report said.

In a recent statement to AFP, an IBM spokesman cautioned that "there is no blanket hiring 'pause' in place" at the company, based in Armonk, New York. "We're being very selective when filling jobs that don't directly touch our clients or technology," the IBM spokesman added.



Motorola to locally assemble smartphones with Edison Group

Edison Group has recently signed an agreement with the international mobile brand Motorola to assemble smartphones in Bangladesh. As per the agreement, Motorola will use Edison Group's mobile factory, Edison Industries, to locally manufacture new handsets. Edison Group will also act as Motorola's partner in Bangladesh. Previously, the online shopping platform Salextra has been the national distributor of Motorola in Bangladesh.

During the agreement signing, Motorola also unveiled two new smartphones to their lineup: the E32 and E22s. Motorola E32 will feature a 6.5-inch HD+ punch-hole display, 90Hz refresh rate, 5000 mAh battery, 2.3 GHz octa-core processor, 4 GB RAM and 64 GB memory that is expandable up to 1 TB. This phone will also have a 50 MP main, 2 MP depth and 8 MP front camera setup.

Motorola E22s will feature a similar 6.5-inch HD+ punch-hole display, 90Hz refresh rate, 5000 mAh battery, 2.3 GHz octa-core processor and the same RAM and memory specs as E32. However, the E22s will feature a 16 MP PDAF rear camera instead.

Both the E32 and E22s will be available in two colours: Eco Black and Arctic Blue. Motorola E32 is priced at Tk. 15,999 and Motorola E22s is priced at Tk. 14,999.

Samsung brings Galaxy A34 5G and Galaxy A54 5G in Bangladesh

Samsung Bangladesh has added two new smartphones under its 'AWESOME' A series in Bangladesh: the Galaxy A34 5G and the Galaxy A54 5G.

The Galaxy A34 5G features a large 6.6-inch Super AMOLED display with a 120 Hz refresh rate. The device is equipped with a 48 MP OIS camera and boasts a 5000mAh battery that ensures long-lasting usage. The Galaxy A34 5G comes in three colours - Graphite, Silver, and Lime, and is priced at Tk. 49,999 for the 8/128 GB version.

The Galaxy A54 5G has a 6.4-inch FHD+ Infinity-O display with a refresh rate of up to 120 Hz. The device is equipped with a 50 MP main camera and Samsung's 'Nightography' feature. The Galaxy A54 5G also features Gorilla Glass 5 and comes in four colours - Lime, Violet, Graphite, and White. The device is priced at Tk. 59,999 for the 8/128 GB version. Both the devices feature IP67 dust and water resistance and offer 4 OS updates.



Smart delivery lockers to be installed in metro rail stations

Digibox, a locally developed smart delivery locker system, is set to be installed in Dhaka's various metro rail stations, according to a recent press release. Using this secure delivery box, Metro Rail users can receive goods they have ordered from local e-commerce platforms. These boxes work via an OTP (one-time password) that will be sent to the user's smartphone. Users can collect their products at any time of their convenience without the presence of delivery men.

The agreement is subject to the terms and conditions of DMTCL's Rent/Lease Policy 2023. Within the conditions, a2i can use dedicated spaces in all MRT-6 stations on a commercial basis. As per the press release, an internet-based IoT system will be used to install and manage these smart delivery lockers. These spaces will also be used for cost-effective delivery, facilitation, and payment of various government services, including emergency and e-ticketing services.

National IT Competition for Youth with Disabilities awards 12 winners

The National IT Competition for Youth with Disabilities 2023 recently awarded 4 individuals as the first-place winners this year, among 12 participants who reached the final round. The day-long contest tests the participant's knowledge in using Microsoft Office programs, namely Word, Excel and PowerPoint, as well as general internet skills.

The competition is divided into 4 categories: visually impaired, physically impaired, speech and hearing impaired and Neuro-Developmental Disorder (NDD). This year, a total of 117 participants took place in the 7th

iteration of this annual competition. The top three winners from each category, i.e. a total of 12 contestants in 4 categories, were awarded. Additionally, one person from each category, i.e. 4 meritorious names in 4 categories, is declared the winner.

Organised by the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) of the ICT Division, this year's contest took place at the BUBT University campus in Mirpur, Dhaka in collaboration with the Center for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) and the Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT).

EDITOR'S NOTE

Flying to new heights

As technology advances, so does the way we travel. With self-driving cars to electric vehicles, the future of transportation is looking brighter than ever. This week, we talk about a startup that plans to release a hypersonic plane that, in theory, can take you from Hong Kong, China to Memphis, Tennessee, US in under 4 hours, instead of the typical 16 hour flight. Now that's fast travelling!

Zoom to the other pages to find a handy guide on understanding employee benefits in your new job, in Next Step, and a list of the top earthquake detector apps you can find on the app stores, in Bytes. Variety, as always.

And that's another week wrapped up. Stay safe everyone. Until then.

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