

RAJSHAHI JOB FAIR

Employers struggle to find skilled candidates

Job seekers blame low salaries, benefits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Despite offering over 15,000 jobs at "Smart Employment Fair" in Rajshahi, employers were unable to find enough qualified candidates.

The event, jointly organised by Rajshahi City Corporation and ICT Division, was held at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Hi-Tech Park on Thursday.

Nine institutions participated at the fair, including National Intelligence for Skills, Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship which alone offered around 13,820 jobs through online application.

Additionally, 24 business organisations offered 900 on-spot jobs. However, only three of those companies were able to make recruitments for one position each.

Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton handed over appointment letters to the recruited individuals.

Most job-seekers do not want to go outside Rajshahi while some lack necessary skills like computer literacy and communication proficiency, said Mehedi Hasan, human resources manager at Pran RFL Group.

Also, the employers were primarily offering marketing and sales jobs with low salaries and benefits.

"I am not interested in such jobs as they are labourious but offer lower rewards," said Omor Faruk, a job seeker from Shaheb Bazar area.

The country has around 47-66 percent of literate but unemployed people who need to develop essential skills to secure jobs, said Habibur Rahman, a policy associate of a2i.

"The participating companies have taken applications from job seekers, and 900 people will be provided with jobs within a month," he added.

BGB seizes 1.9 lakh yaba pills from Myanmar border

UNB, Dhaka

Border Guard Bangladesh, in two separate drives, recovered 1.9 lakh pieces of yaba in Teknaf along Myanmar border in Cox's Bazar on Thursday.

Tipped-off, a team of the border force conducted a drive in Ishak's Gher area around 8:30pm and made the seizures, said a BGB media release yesterday. The suspected drug peddlers fled the scene leaving the yaba pills in a bag.

Around 1,10,000 pills were found in the bag. Another BGB team recovered 80,000 yaba pills in the Hacharkhal area in an anti-drug drive on Thursday morning.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Every morning, Dilruba sets off from her home in the capital's Kalachandpur area with her small tea-stall on a bicycle. Being the lone earning member of her family, the mother of five roams around various streets in Gulshan, selling snacks and tea, until she has enough to feed her husband, a person with disabilities, and children, for the day. The photo was taken yesterday.

Killing a river in name of fish cultivation

Fingers pointed at Muktagachha mayor who set up bamboo structures on the waterbody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The flow of the Ayman river in Mymensingh's Muktagachha upazila has been obstructed with bamboo structures erected for fish cultivation a year back.

This century-old river, a tributary of the Old Brahmaputra, has become narrow over the decades due to encroachment.

Locals alleged that a group led by Billal Hossain Sarker, mayor of Muktagachha municipality and secretary of the upazila Awami League unit, made two bamboo structures across one kilometre stretch of the river in Trimohoni area a year ago, where fish used to be cultivated.

After one harvest, they stopped fish cultivation, but left behind the structures in the river.

The mayor's men prevented villagers from using the river in the restricted areas, they alleged.

Within the bamboo structures, water hyacinth has grown densely, preventing anyone from crossing the river now.

Previously, people from several villages – Poyarkandi, Mozati, Paika Shimla, Dowakhola, Goiraghat, Tarati, Sonapur – used to catch fish in the river, but now there is no scope.

Joyнал Abedin, 70, said once this river was a great source of water for agriculture



and fishing.

Advocate Nazrul Islam Chunnun, convener of a citizens' forum, said these structures are in violation of environmental laws and will accelerate the river's demise.

Asked, Billal Hossain Sarker said he built the structures to protect the area from garbage.

All drains of the municipality fall into the river and cause pollution to such an extent that there is no scope for fish cultivation, he claimed.

Speaking to this correspondent, AKM Lutfor Rahman, UNO of Muktagachha, said following a recent report, the

administration asked the mayor to remove the structures, but he is yet to act to this end.

The mayor told them that he made the structures to obstruct the spread of water hyacinth and he has not resumed fish cultivation. "If it is not removed, we will take legal action," the UNO added.

Md Akhlak Ul Jamil, executive engineer of Water Development Board, said, "A project worth Tk 46 crore to dredge the river has been approved recently and we will begin work soon."

Prior to the dredging, a survey will be conducted and no grabbers would be spared, he added.

63-year-old field under acquisition threat in Savar

Locals form human chain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Residents of Savar's Kabirpur area yesterday formed a human chain demanding that the authorities stop the acquisition of their lone 63-year-old playground in the area.

A total of eight acres of land, including the 2.15-acre playground, have been acquired in the area for setting up of the Survey and Settlement Institute.

In protest, thousands of locals, including students from several educational institutions, held the human chain beside Nabinagar-Chandra highway in Kabirpur area around 11:00am.

Protesters said they have been using the ground since 1960s for various purposes. Several applications have been made to various departments, including the Ministry for Youth and Sports, to protect this field, to no avail.

"At least 50,000 people in our village use the ground for sports, janaza, and religious events. So, we demand that the authorities protect it," said Farid Hossain, a local.

Mazharul Islam, Savar upazila nirbahi officer, said he was not aware of the matter. "If the locals come to me in this regard, I will look into it," he added.



JnU student sent to jail for sexually harassing fellow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent a student of Jagannath University to jail after he was produced before being shown arrested in a case filed over sexually harassing a fellow female student.

The arrestee, Mehedi Hasan alies Saikat, a 15th-batch student of JnU's philosophy department, was arrested on Thursday for allegedly harassing the victim publicly near the Shanto Chattar area on the campus while she was participating in JnU's 18th anniversary ceremony.

The victim lodged a complaint to the JnU proctor's office in this regard immediately after the incident. JnU authorities later handed Mehedi over to the police.

A case was filed with Kotwali Police Station on Thursday.

Confirming the matter, Shahinur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said the accused has been disturbing the female student for at least a year.

"As per rules we will take academic action against the accused after investigating the allegation," said JnU Proctor Prof Mostafa Kamal.

Even veggies too pricey

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challenges in affording fish and meat due to high prices, the recent vegetable price hike has exacerbated the situation.

Visiting Karwan Bazar, Mohammadpur Krishi market, Kochukhet, Shewrapara, Senbag, Mirpur-II and 14 kitchen markets in the capital on Thursday, these correspondents found that the prices of all vegetables and leafy greens had increased by Tk 20 to Tk 40.

Indian spinach is being sold at Tk 40, spinach at Tk 50, water amaranth at Tk

35, mustard leaves at Tk 40, edible fern at Tk 50, jute leaves at Tk 30, taro stems at Tk 30, radish leaves at Tk 35, pumpkin leaves at Tk 40, sweet gourd at 45, and stem amaranth at Tk 40.

Also, brinjal is being sold at Tk 120-130, up from Tk 80; hyacinth bean at Tk 240, up from Tk 200; pointed gourd at Tk 80, up from Tk 60; string beans at Tk 120, up from Tk 80; snake gourd at Tk 100, up from Tk 80; ribbed gourd at Tk 80, up from Tk 60; sponge gourd at Tk 100, up from Tk 70; bitter gourd at Tk 100, up from Tk 70; lady's finger at Tk

80, up from Tk 60; pair of plantains at Tk 20, up from Tk 10; pumpkin at Tk 60, up from Tk 40; sweet gourd at Tk 60, up from Tk 35; and spiny gourd at Tk 90, up from Tk 70.

Babul Miah, a trader at Kochukhet Kitchen Market, said, "Prices of vegetables are usually a bit high at this time of year. But the rise in price this year has been significant due to the recent heavy rains, which damaged vegetables across the country."

People are now reducing the consumption of vegetables due to the higher prices, he added.

Transport

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of South Rangunia Police Station said, "We have only a double cabin police van which is used for OC's movement. We use requisitioned vehicles for patrol duties. During an emergency, the force uses the official van to move fast."

"Based on the current situation, we need a minimum of four vans to ensure better and smoother services," said the OC.

OC Md Helal Uddin of Bhujpur Police Station in Fatikchhari echoed the same.

Earlier, a High Court bench in 2019 directed police not to use requisitioned private cars, CNG-run auto-rickshaws and taxis.

Saddam Hossain, a microbus owner in Patiya, said, "Frequent requisition by police caused trouble in our business. Also, local drivers don't enjoy the ride with police for various reasons."

SM Satiullah, superintendent of police in Chattogram, said they are trying their best with limited resources.

Oct 28 will be

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the party's attention, and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep concern upon receiving the news. "We are investigating the entire situation, and disciplinary measures will be taken against anyone responsible," he said.



Sets of young and eager eyes attentively observe an artist as he paints on a clay plate at a pottery festival in Barishal Sadar yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Kuakata now a major entry point

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Police records indicate there were around 248 drug dealers in the Barishal division. However, over the past year, the number has increased to around 1,000, police sources said.

Enayet Hossain, assistant director of the Department

of Narcotics Control in Barishal division, said, "We are currently searching for a wholesale fish trader in connection with yaba smuggling."

Sources revealed that steps are on to install global positioning system trackers in all fishing boats and

trawlers in Barishal division to monitor their locations and determine if they have crossed the country's maritime boundaries.

These GPS systems are also expected to aid in preventing illegal smuggling via sea routes. "GPS trackers have

already been installed in 4,000 out of 12,000 fishing boats and trawlers in the division, while the rest will also be brought under the coverage for complete monitoring," said Md Kamrul Hasan, a fisheries officer in Patuakhali district.

Take to streets for 'one last time'

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and non-partisan government," he said.

"Sonali Dal", (Golden Panel) an organisation of BNP-supported teachers of Bangladesh Agricultural University arranged the seminar at Dhaka

Reporters' Unity (DRU). Fakhru alleged that the people are suffering due to unusual hikes in prices of daily essentials.

"The rise in commodity prices is unprecedented. Prices have increased somewhat

in all countries. But the increase in Bangladesh is unprecedented. There are many reasons behind this. But the main reason is lack of accountability of the government," he said.

He said the government is procuring new vehicles for

the DCs and UNOs while the people cannot buy necessary food items and vegetables.

The BNP leader said the country's people have lost their rights to vote and get justice as the government has established a reign of terror.

পুট বিক্রয়
বারিধারা বসুন্ধরা আবাসিক প্রকল্পে "পি" ব্লকে ৩+৩=৬ কাঠা বাড়িভারিকৃত পুট জরুরী প্রয়োজনে বিক্রয় হবে। যোগাযোগ করুনঃ ০১৩০০-৫৮৬৩৩৪

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PRAYER TIMING
OCTOBER 21
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-15
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-39 7-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION