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BCS Written Syllabus: English (Compulsory)

Part – A

Marks - 100

Marks

- **Reading Comprehension** 2 × 30 = 60
- An unseen passage dealing with a topic relevant to our times will be set.
Candidates will be required to answer
- (a) a number of thematic questions that will test their understanding of the passage
- (b) a number of questions related to grammar and usage.
- Candidates will be required to write a summary of the given passage
in their own words within 100 words. 20
- Candidates will have to write a letter relating to the thematic issue of
the given passage to the editor of an English newspaper. 20

Chapter 02

Letter to the Editor of a Newspaper

বিসিএস লিখিত পরীক্ষার বর্তমান পাঠ্যসূচি অনুযায়ী ইংরেজি বিষয়ে প্রথম অংশ অর্থাৎ Part-A-তে সংবাদপত্রের সম্পাদক বা Editor-এর কাছে চিঠি লেখার জন্য একটি বিষয় দেওয়া থাকে। এই বিষয়টি সাধারণত কোনো সাময়িক এবং আলোচিত বিষয়বস্তু সম্পর্কিত হয়ে থাকে। প্রশ্নে প্রদত্ত বিষয়বস্তুর আলোকে কোনো একটি সমস্যার কথা জানিয়ে সংবাদপত্রে একটি চিঠি লিখতে হয়। সংবাদপত্রের সম্পাদকের কাছে চিঠি লেখার পদ্ধতিগুলো গতানুগতিক চিঠি লেখার পদ্ধতিগুলোর থেকে আলাদা। চিঠিগুলোর বিষয় আলাদা হলেও লিখার ধরন (Format) একই থাকায় এ অংশে Letter to the Editor of a Newspaper লিখার ফরমেট দেখিয়ে পরবর্তীতে শুধু বিষয়ভিত্তিক লেটারের মূল অংশের কিছু নমুনা দেখানো হলো। সাধারণত খবরের কাগজের সম্পাদকের কাছে যে চিঠি লেখা হয় তা ব্যক্তিগত সমস্যার কথা হতে পারে। আবার এটি এলাকার কোনো বড় সমস্যা নিয়েও হতে পারে। এছাড়া জাতীয় কোনো সমস্যা নিয়ে অনেক বিষয়ে দৃষ্টিপাত করার জন্যেও সংবাদপত্রে লেখা হয়। এই জাতীয় লেখায় সমস্যার বর্ণনা দেওয়া হয় এবং সেই সমস্যায় এলাকার জনগণ বা দেশের জনগণের কীভাবে ক্ষতি সাধিত হয় তা আলোচনা করা হয়। এছাড়া সমস্যার সমাধানও এই লেখাতে চাওয়া হয়। যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ বা সরকারের সুদৃষ্টি আকর্ষণের জন্য এই চিঠি লেখা হয়। সংবাদপত্রে প্রকাশিত এই চিঠিটি পড়ে দেশের সকল জনগণ যেন সচেতন হতে পারে- সেই উদ্দেশ্য সামনে রেখেও এই জাতীয় চিঠি সংবাদপত্রে প্রকাশ করা হয়। খবরের কাগজের সম্পাদক বরাবর লিখিত কোনো পত্রে সাধারণত দুটি অংশ থাকে। যথা:

1. Cover Letter

2. শিরোনামসহ এক ধরনের Report বা Article

এই ধরনের চিঠিতে কোনো বিষয়ে ঘটনার সাধারণ বর্ণনা ও লেখকের নিজস্ব মতামত প্রকাশ করা হয়। এই চিঠির উদ্দেশ্য হলো জনসাধারণের বা বিশেষ কোনো কর্তৃপক্ষের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা। এই ধরনের চিঠির মাধ্যমে প্রেরকের প্রত্যাশা থাকে যে, যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করে সমস্যাটিকে অতি দ্রুত সমাধান করবেন। এছাড়া জনগণের মধ্যে সচেতনতা বাড়াতে এই চিঠি অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করে।

প্রথম অংশ: Cover letter লেখার পদ্ধতি	দ্বিতীয় অংশ: শিরোনামসহ মূল চিঠি লেখার পদ্ধতি
(a) Date (Date, month, year)	(a) শিরোনামসহ চিঠির মূল অংশ
(b) দুই লাইন Gap-এর পরে প্রাপকের ঠিকানা (Editor-এর ঠিকানা)	(b) প্রেরকের নাম, পদবি, স্বাক্ষর ও ঠিকানা
(c) Subject (অনেক ক্ষেত্রে বাদ দেওয়া হয়)	(c) চিঠির খাম
(d) Dear Sir এবং (কমা)	
(e) প্রাপকের উদ্দেশ্যে Salutation	
(f) সৌজন্যমূলক সমাপ্তি ও প্রেরকের নাম	

খবরের কাগজে যে চিঠিটি প্রকাশ করা হয় তার ৭টি অংশ থাকে। যথা:

1. Date (Date, month, year)
2. Editor's Address
3. প্রাপকের উদ্দেশ্যে Salutation
4. সৌজন্যমূলক সমাপ্তি ও প্রেরকের নাম
5. শিরোনামসহ চিঠির মূল অংশ
6. প্রেরকের নাম, পদবি, স্বাক্ষর ও ঠিকানা
7. চিঠির খাম (এইচ্ছক)



নমুনা পত্র

প্রথম অংশ { June 10, 2025.

দ্বিতীয় অংশ { The Editor
The Monthly Moon
74 Green Road,
Dhaka-1215.

তৃতীয় অংশ { Dear Sir,
I would be highly appreciative and grateful to you if you kindly publish the following article titled “Topic Name” in the letters column of your renowned daily newspaper.

চতুর্থ অংশ { Yours faithfully,
Md. Goni

“Topic Name”

পঞ্চম অংশ {

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

I, therefore, request you to highlight the issue in your newspaper to generate public interest and create awareness on the matter.

ষষ্ঠ অংশ { Signature: Md. Goni
Designation: Student

সপ্তম অংশ
(ঐচ্ছিক)

From, (ঐচ্ছিক)
Md. Goni
Room No-201,
Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall,
University of Dhaka,
Dhaka-1000.

To,
The Editor
The Monthly Moon
74 Green Road,
Dhaka-1215.

Stamp



Write a letter to the Editor of The Monthly Moon about Globalization and Cultural Exchange in Art and Literature.

February 02, 2026

The Editor
The Monthly Moon
74 Green Road,
Dhaka-1215.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my concern about the impact of globalization on art and literature. While globalization has allowed diverse cultures to share and inspire one another, it has also led to a blending of traditional and contemporary ideas. I kindly request you to publish this letter in your esteemed daily to raise awareness of this important issue.

Faithfully yours,
Sujon Roy

Globalization and Cultural Exchange in Art and Literature

In an increasingly interconnected world, the exchange of ideas, perspectives, and artistic expressions across borders has become an integral part of our cultural landscape. Globalization, with its rapid flow of information and people, has facilitated unprecedented opportunities for cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration, particularly in the realms of art and literature. Art and literature, as timeless mediums of human expression, have the power to transcend linguistic, geographical, and cultural barriers, forging connections that transcend borders and unite us in our shared humanity. From literature that explores universal themes of love, loss, and redemption to visual art that challenges our perceptions and expands our horizons, the diversity of cultural expressions enriches our collective tapestry and fosters mutual understanding and appreciation. Moreover, globalization has enabled artists and writers to reach audiences far beyond their immediate surroundings, amplifying their voices and broadening their impact on the world stage. However, as we celebrate the benefits of globalization in facilitating cultural exchange, we must also acknowledge the challenges and complexities that arise from this phenomenon. The homogenizing forces of globalization pose a risk of diluting cultural identities and erasing traditional practices in the face of dominant Western influences. It is essential that we strive to preserve and celebrate the rich diversity of cultural heritage that defines our collective humanity. Furthermore, as we engage in cross-cultural exchange, it is imperative that we approach it with sensitivity, respect, and humility. Cultural appropriation and exploitation must be avoided, and efforts should be made to ensure that marginalized voices are heard and represented authentically in the global conversation. In this spirit, let us embrace globalization as an opportunity to celebrate the richness and diversity of human culture, to learn from one another, and to forge meaningful connections that transcend borders and boundaries. Through art and literature, let us bridge the divides that separate us and build a more inclusive and interconnected world for generations to come.

Sujon Roy
Designation: Service Holder

From, Sujon Roy Room No-222, Jashimuddin Hall, DU, Dhaka-1000.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="792 1665 1003 1717">To,</td><td data-bbox="1003 1665 1177 1717">Stamp</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="792 1717 1003 1915">The Editor The Monthly Moon 74 Green Road, Dhaka-1215.</td><td data-bbox="1003 1717 1177 1915"></td></tr> </table>	To,	Stamp	The Editor The Monthly Moon 74 Green Road, Dhaka-1215.	
To,	Stamp				
The Editor The Monthly Moon 74 Green Road, Dhaka-1215.					

Politics

Hypocrisy on Minority Rights: India

The recent diplomatic clash between India and Bangladesh over the Murshidabad riots has laid bare the glaring contradictions in India's stance on minority rights. When Bangladesh expressed concern for the safety of Muslims in West Bengal—where protests against India's controversial Waqf law turned deadly, leaving three dead and Muslim-owned shops torched—Delhi reacted with indignation, deflecting scrutiny of its own record. Under BJP rule since 2014, India has witnessed a surge in state-sanctioned Islamophobia, with hate speech incidents targeting Muslims spiking 74% in 2024, per the India Hate Lab, and BJP leaders frequently inciting boycotts of Muslim businesses or threats to mosques. Contrast this with Bangladesh's interim government, which, despite its flaws, has pursued 88 cases and 70 arrests over minority attacks in six months, signaling a tentative institutional shift. In India, however, impunity reigns: from cow vigilante lynchings to the Citizenship Amendment Act's religious exclusionism, Muslims face systemic dehumanization. The BJP's electoral demonization of Bangladeshis as "infiltrators" now absurdly blames them for Murshidabad's violence, despite zero evidence. Meanwhile, India's outrage over Bangladesh arresting a monk linked to a lawyer's murder—while ignoring domestic persecution—exposes its selective morality. As bilateral ties fray, both nations must move beyond hypocrisy: a regional commission on communal harmony, interfaith initiatives, and accountability mechanisms could stem this toxic cycle. For India, introspection is urgent: while Bangladesh staggers toward progress, Delhi retreats into majoritarianism, torch in hand, fueling the fires it claims to condemn.

Bangladesh's Political Transition: From Regime Collapse to Fragile Reform

The dramatic downfall of the autocratic 16-year regime in August 2024 marked a pivotal moment in Bangladesh's history, triggered by her order to security forces to suppress a student-led uprising—a decision the military refused to enforce, ultimately leading to her abrupt exit. The United Nations documented over 1,400 civilian deaths linked to her government's crackdown, with a damning report now serving as key evidence in her ongoing trial for human rights violations. In the aftermath, Nobel laureate Prof. Muhammad Yunus has spearheaded an interim government, prioritizing institutional reforms and a roadmap for elections by mid-2026, though tensions persist between factions demanding immediate polls and those insisting on systemic overhauls first. The political landscape remains volatile. The dominant political forces face scrutiny as its cadres revert to rent-seeking practices, undermining its reformed image. Meanwhile, the National Citizen Party (NCP), born from the student movement, struggles to transition from protest rhetoric to actionable policies, while Jamaat-e-Islami seeks to rewrite historical narratives, stoking divisions over Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War. Regionally, strained ties with India—rooted in perceived bias during the former government's tenure—contrast with tentative overtures to Pakistan, though analysts caution against viewing this as a strategic counterbalance given shifting global dynamics. As Yunus navigates consensus-building amid competing agendas, the path to a stable, equitable political order remains fraught with challenges, testing the nation's resolve to transcend its turbulent past.

Rise of Populism and its Effects in Politics

In recent years, we've witnessed a profound shift in the political landscape, characterized by the rising tide of populism. This phenomenon, marked by its appeal to the frustrations and grievances of the masses, has swept across nations, reshaping the very fabric of democracy. Populism, in its essence, embodies a direct challenge to the established norms and institutions of governance. It thrives on simplification and polarization, dividing societies along lines of 'us versus them', 'the elite versus the people'. Populism tends to prioritize short-term gains over long-term sustainability. Policies driven by populism often lack nuance and foresight, catering to immediate desires rather than addressing underlying structural issues. This short-sighted approach can lead to detrimental consequences for economies, societies, and the environment in the long run. In light of these challenges, it is imperative that we foster a more nuanced and informed discourse in our political arena. We must resist the temptation to succumb to the allure of simplistic solutions and divisive rhetoric. Instead, we must engage in constructive



dialogue, grounded in evidence-based policymaking and a genuine commitment to the common good. As citizens, we have a responsibility to hold our leaders accountable and demand transparency, integrity, and inclusivity in governance. We must strive to bridge the divides that separate us and cultivate a sense of empathy and understanding towards those with differing viewpoints. Only through cooperation and collaboration can we hope to address the complex challenges facing our societies today. The rise of populism presents both a challenge and an opportunity for democracy. While it may reflect legitimate grievances and aspirations, it also poses significant risks to the principles of pluralism, tolerance, and rational debate. Let us rise to this challenge with courage and conviction, reaffirming our commitment to the values that underpin democracy and working towards a future that is inclusive, equitable, and sustainable for all.

Call for a Corruption-Free Society and Good Governance

I am writing to express my deep concern about the pervasive issue of corruption that continues to plague our society, hindering public service delivery and undermining the principles of good governance. The prevalence of corruption in various government agencies has become a significant impediment to progress and development in Bangladesh. In light of this, I would like to urge the government to consider and implement the following steps to eradicate corruption and promote good governance: Strengthening Anti-Corruption Institutions: Allocate additional resources and authority to the Anti-Corruption Commission to enhance their capacity in investigating and prosecuting corruption cases. Empowering these institutions is vital for creating a deterrent against corrupt practices. Transparent and Accountable Public Procurement: Implement transparent and accountable public procurement processes. Whistleblower Protection: Enact and enforce robust whistleblower protection laws to encourage individuals to come forward with information about corruption without fear of reprisal. Digitalization of Public Services: Embrace digitalization to minimize direct contact between citizens and government officials, reduce opportunities for corruption. Promoting Ethical Leadership: Promote a culture of ethical leadership within government agencies. And properly implement the National Integrity Strategy -2012. Public Awareness Campaigns: Launch comprehensive public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the detrimental effects of corruption on society. An informed and vigilant public can act as a powerful force against corrupt practices. Citizen Feedback Mechanism: Establish a citizen feedback mechanism to report instances of corruption. Judicial Reform: Undertake judicial reforms to expedite corruption cases and ensure fair and impartial trials. International Cooperation: Collaborate with international organizations and experts to benefit from their expertise in combating corruption. Addressing the issue of corruption requires a comprehensive and sustained effort from the government, civil society, and citizens alike. By taking decisive actions and implementing these recommendations, we can pave the way for a corruption-free society and foster good governance that benefits all.

The Transformative Impact of Women's Empowerment

Women's empowerment is the process of giving women more power and control over their own lives. This can take many forms, but it ultimately aims to ensure that women have the same rights, opportunities, and resources as men. The call for gender equality resonates louder than ever, demanding that we break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and create opportunities for women to thrive in all aspects of life. Women's empowerment is a crucial element of achieving gender equality. It is not merely a moral obligation; rather a strategic investment with far-reaching benefits. When women are empowered, societies flourish. They play pivotal roles as leaders, entrepreneurs, caregivers, and agents of change, driving progress in their communities and beyond. Despite significant strides in recent decades, gender disparities persist in various spheres, including education, employment, political representation, and access to resources. These disparities not only impede the full realization of women's rights but also hinder economic growth, social cohesion, and sustainable development. In this endeavor, governments, civil society, the private sector, and individuals all have to work together to create an enabling environment that fosters women's empowerment at all levels. We must redouble our efforts to eliminate gender-based violence, ensure equal pay for equal work, and dismantle systemic barriers that hold women back from realizing their full potential. Empowering women is not just the right thing to do; it is the smartest thing to do. It is an investment in a brighter, more prosperous future for all. Let us commit ourselves to building a world where every woman and girl can live free from discrimination, fulfill her dreams, and contribute her talents to the betterment of society.



Pahela Baishakh: From Agrarian Roots to National Cultural Icon

Pahela Baishakh, the Bengali New Year, traces its origins to Mughal Emperor Akbar's 16th-century fiscal reforms, which aligned tax collection with the solar agricultural cycle to ease farmers' burdens. However, its evolution into a vibrant public celebration is a testament to Bengali cultural resilience. The first organized public observance emerged in 1951. A pivotal shift in this occasion occurred in 1967, when Chhayanaut, a cultural organization, inaugurated the iconic Ramna Batamul celebrations in Dhaka. Their dawn recitals of Tagore's Esho He Boishakh became a defiant act against Pakistan's suppression of Bengali heritage, transforming Pahela Baishakh into a symbol of resistance. The 1971 Liberation War further cemented its role in national identity, with martyred intellectuals like Munier Chowdhury—present at the 1951 event—becoming emblematic of the festival's political significance. Post-independence, the festival expanded into a secular, inclusive tradition. The Mangal Shobhajatra procession, initiated in 1989 by Dhaka University's Fine Arts faculty during anti-autocracy protests, showcased art as a tool for social change, later recognized by UNESCO in 2016. Recent years have emphasized inclusivity, with ethnic communities like the Chakma and Garo joining processions, reflecting Bangladesh's multicultural fabric. Despite challenges—such as the 2001 Ramna bombing—Pahela Baishakh endures as a unifying force, blending ancient agrarian rituals like Haal Khata (ledger renewal) with modern urban festivities. From Akbar's tax reforms to today's drone-lit celebrations, it remains a living chronicle of Bengali pride, resilience, and unity.

Food Security: Crisis in Bangladesh

The world is facing a severe food crisis. This crisis affects the whole world, either developed or developing. The concept of food security has greatly been affected by this increasing crisis of food especially in developing countries like Bangladesh. In recent times, food security has created havoc to the economy of Bangladesh and the number of poor people is increasing here day by day. Present Food security has greatly been affected by the crisis of food all over the world. This food crisis is acute much in third-world countries like Bangladesh. Bangladesh is now facing a miserable situation in case of food security. The major food security problem is that about half of the Bangladeshis remain below poverty line, one third of them are in extreme poverty. For people in developing countries, the daily calorie average is 2,828. In Bangladesh, it is only 2,190. According to the World Bank, among 150 million people in Bangladesh, 33 million cannot afford an average daily intake of more than 1800 kilocalories. This is the minimum standard set by the World Food Program. Food crisis hampers food security and creates a lot of dietary problems in any country. It goes without saying that Bangladesh is in dire need of food security. Food security is faced with difficulties due to the existing food crisis in Bangladesh. At the same time, there are some solutions to overcome the problem of food crisis. There is no alternative to food in human life. So, all the careful citizens of our country should be conscious to control the havoc of the food crisis. Scientific methods should be applied in agriculture in order to ensure sustainable production of food crops. Agroforestry practice should be carried out for better production of food as well as ensuring socio-economic development of Bangladesh. Above all, our government should play an important role to ensure food security in our country.

Religious Harmony: Safeguarding Diversity in Bangladesh

Some recent incidents of religious intolerance and communal disharmony have created chaos in our country. The fabric of our society is at risk, and it is crucial that we address these issues promptly and decisively. The incidents of religious intolerance have not only disrupted the peaceful coexistence of various communities but have also led to a sense of fear and insecurity among the minorities. It is disheartening to witness the harmony that has existed for generations being overshadowed by acts of hatred and violence. Furthermore, the rise of hateful comments and misinformation on social media platforms is exacerbating the situation. It is alarming to see how these platforms are being misused to spread hatred and incite violence. I implore the government to implement stringent measures to control and monitor social media content that promotes religious intolerance. Collaborating with social media companies to identify and remove such content is essential in curbing the spread of hatred. Article 41 of the Constitution explicitly states, Every citizen has the right to profess, practice, or propagate any religion.



This constitutional provision underscores the nation's commitment to upholding the principles of religious freedom and fostering an environment where diverse religious beliefs can coexist harmoniously. Promoting tolerance and communal harmony should be a priority for the government. Initiatives such as educational programs, interfaith dialogues, and community-building activities can play a crucial role in fostering understanding and respect among different religious communities. The government should actively support and promote these initiatives to create a more inclusive and harmonious society. In conclusion, it is imperative that we act swiftly and decisively to restore communal harmony and protect the rights of minorities. The government must take a proactive stance in ensuring the safety and security of all citizens and work towards creating an environment where diversity is celebrated, and religious tolerance is upheld.

Enhancing Fire Safety Measures in Bangladesh

The escalating frequency of fire-related incidents in Bangladesh demands immediate attention and concerted efforts to enhance fire safety measures across the country. Bangladesh has unfortunately witnessed a long and tragic history of fire-related accidents, resulting in devastating consequences and extensive damages to various parts of the nation. From the heart-wrenching incident at Nimtoli in 2010 to the recent Gulistan explosion in March 2023, claiming the lives of at least 21 people, fire accidents have become distressingly common occurrences. In light of these unfortunate events, it is imperative that we rethink and expedite fire safety measures to ensure the safety and well-being of our citizens. The increasing frequency of such incidents underscores the urgent need for proactive and collaborative initiatives to mitigate the risks associated with fire outbreaks. I urge the government to take the following necessary initiatives to enhance the preparedness for fire incidents:

Comprehensive Fire Safety Training: Implement widespread fire safety training programs for citizens, focusing on both prevention and response strategies. **Regular Fire Drills in Public Spaces:** Conduct regular fire drills in public spaces, including residential areas, educational institutions, and commercial establishments. **Strict Implementation of Building Codes:** Enforce and strengthen building codes to ensure that structures, both residential and commercial, adhere to strict fire safety standards. **Investment in Modern Firefighting Equipment:** Upgrade and invest in modern firefighting equipment and technologies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of fire response teams. **Community Awareness Programs:** Launch extensive community awareness programs to educate citizens about fire safety practices, including the proper use and maintenance of electrical appliances, safe cooking practices, and the importance of smoke detectors in homes. **Collaboration with International Experts:** Learning from global best practices can provide valuable insights and contribute to the development of more effective fire safety strategies. It is crucial that we act collectively and swiftly to address the rising concerns related to fire incidents in Bangladesh. The safety of our citizens is of paramount importance, and a proactive approach to fire safety measures is essential for the well-being of our nation.

The Vicious Cycle of Dhaka's Traffic

Dhaka, the bustling capital of Bangladesh, is a city constantly on the move. However, this movement is often painfully slow, choked by a seemingly never-ending traffic congestion. The city's roads are often congested with vehicles, leading to significant delays, frustration among commuters, and adverse effects on the economy and environment. Dhaka's traffic congestion stems from a confluence of factors. Rapid urbanization has brought a surge in vehicles, while the public transport system struggles to keep pace. The road network itself is inadequate, with narrow lanes and poor maintenance. Indiscriminate parking and lack of traffic law enforcement further snarl traffic flow, creating a vicious cycle that discourages use of public transport and pushes more cars onto the road. The consequences of Dhaka's traffic congestion are far-reaching and deeply ingrained. The gridlock leads to significant economic losses due to wasted fuel, lost productivity, and delays in deliveries. Furthermore, air pollution caused by congested traffic contributes to respiratory problems and other health issues. Perhaps most noticeably, the constant stress and wasted time take a heavy toll on the quality of life for Dhaka's residents. A multi-pronged approach is needed to tackle Dhaka's traffic woes. Upgrading public transport with increased efficiency, reliability, and affordability is crucial. Smarter urban planning is essential, prioritizing public transport, implementing effective traffic management measures and improving overall road infrastructure. Dhaka can break free from the vicious cycle of traffic congestion and create a more livable and vibrant city for its residents.

Economics

How remittances shape labor market

Remittances significantly influence labor market dynamics in developing countries like Bangladesh, where they constitute 5% of GDP and exceed \$23 billion annually. While these inflows reduce poverty and enhance household welfare by funding consumption, education, and healthcare, they also create complex labor supply effects. Studies reveal remittances often discourage workforce participation as recipients perceive this income as "non-work money," leading to reduced labor force engagement. This moral hazard effect can foster economic dependency, potentially widening inequality despite improved living standards. The consumption surge from remittances may trigger inflationary pressures if productive investments fail to match rising demand. Bangladesh's experience shows these inflows create both opportunities and challenges for labor markets. Recipient households frequently prioritize immediate consumption over long-term investments, limiting broader economic benefits. Research indicates remittance-receiving families show lower labor market participation rates, particularly among secondary earners. However, properly channeled remittances could stimulate entrepreneurship and job creation through targeted policies. Financial literacy programs could help transform these funds into productive capital rather than mere consumption support. Exchange rate stability proves crucial since currency volatility disproportionately affects remittance-dependent labor markets. Policymakers must develop integrated strategies that link remittance management with labor market development. Incentivizing productive investments through tax benefits or matching funds could maximize remittance impacts. Improved financial access for recipient households would enable better resource allocation. Sector-specific interventions could direct remittances toward labor-intensive industries to boost employment. The government should monitor how remittance patterns affect different demographic groups in the labor force. Female workforce participation appears particularly sensitive to remittance inflows, requiring gender-sensitive policy approaches. Migrant-sending regions need special economic zones to absorb returning workers' skills and capital. Digital financial platforms could enhance remittance utilization while reducing transaction costs. Macroeconomic policies should buffer labor markets from exchange rate shocks tied to remittance flows. A balanced approach must address both the welfare benefits and potential labor market distortions of remittances. Bangladesh's policymakers face the challenge of converting this substantial foreign inflow into sustainable human capital development. Strategic partnerships between banks and migrant communities could improve investment outcomes. Labor market information systems should track remittance impacts on employment patterns across sectors. Vocational training programs could help remittance recipients transition into productive work. The government might consider establishing remittance-backed venture capital funds for small businesses. Financial regulators should develop remittance-linked insurance products to mitigate economic risks. Tax incentives could encourage remittance investment in labor-creating industries. Public awareness campaigns might reduce the "dependency mentality" associated with remittance inflows. Monitoring systems should assess how remittances affect regional labor market disparities. Ultimately, integrating remittance management with broader economic planning will determine whether these flows boost or hinder labor market development. With proper policies, Bangladesh can transform its substantial remittance inflows into engines for productive employment and inclusive growth.

Blue Economy and Bangladesh

The concept of 'Blue Economy' has become a topic of discussion in Bangladesh just after the maritime victory over India and Myanmar. This victory has brought a revolution in the aspect of the blue economy in Bangladesh. The concept of blue economy in our country can be developed in emerging sectors such as shipping and port facilities, seaborne trades, fisheries, coastal tourism, aquaculture, renewable blue energy, biotechnology, submarine mining etc. Oceans offer enormous potential resources for the generation of renewable energy - wind, wave, tidal -- biomass and thermal conversion, and salinity gradients. According to Article 56 of UNCLOS. This renewable energy source could help diversify our energy portfolios and secure higher levels of energy security. If we want to be benefited from China's economy, the world's largest economy according to International Monetary Fund (IMF), and to develop blue economy based on global seaborne trade among coastal states, the three ports Chittagong Port, Mongla Port and Paira Port -- have to be developed as transit points. Globally, 350 million jobs are linked to marine fisheries, with 90% of fishers living in developing countries. Marine fisheries contribute at least 20% of total fish production in Bangladesh and 500,000 people are fully and directly dependent on the sector, about 60 lac tons of fishes that constitute 16% of world production are produced annually from the Bay of Bengal, and about 45 lac people are engaged in fisheries (FAO). The settlement of maritime disputes with India and Myanmar has opened a new horizon for the country. The potential of the sea economy or blue economy has been discussed on many occasions with emphasis on framing strategies. Researchers, academicians and economists have suggested several options for exploiting maritime resources. A planned and coordinated effort, along with sustained political will, is required for exploiting these resources.



Addressing Challenges and Maximizing Opportunities Post LDC Graduation

I am writing to shed light on the potential challenges that Bangladesh may face upon graduating from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status, emphasizing the need for strategic planning to overcome these obstacles and maximize opportunities for sustainable growth. While graduating from LDC status is undoubtedly a source of pride for Bangladesh, it comes with economic ramifications that necessitate careful consideration and proactive measures. One of the major concerns is the potential loss of preferential market benefits, particularly Duty-Free and Quota-Free (DFQF) access under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). This could translate to a substantial setback for Bangladesh, with an estimated loss of roughly 14 percent of its annual export profits, equivalent to USD 5.73 billion.

The garment sector, a cornerstone of Bangladesh's economy, is expected to bear the brunt of this loss, facing a potential 8-10 percent reduction in overall export earnings, equating to almost USD 2.5 billion per year. Such a significant impact on the country's export revenue underscores the urgency of adopting proactive strategies to diversify markets and reduce dependency on preferential trade benefits. To navigate these challenges, it is imperative that Bangladesh considers the following measures:

- 1. Market Diversification:** Actively pursue market diversification strategies to reduce dependence on specific markets.
- 2. Product Diversification:** Encourage diversification of products within the export portfolio.
- 3. Value Addition and Quality Improvement:** Emphasize value addition and quality improvement in existing products.
- 4. Infrastructure Development:** Invest in infrastructure development to streamline logistics and reduce production costs.
- 5. Trade Facilitation and Agreements:** Actively engage in trade facilitation initiatives and negotiations to secure favorable trade agreements.
- 6. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Align economic strategies with the Sustainable Development Goals to foster sustainable growth.

It is essential for Bangladesh to proactively address these challenges and transform them into opportunities for sustainable development. By adopting a multifaceted approach that includes market and product diversification, value addition, and infrastructure development, Bangladesh can navigate the post-LDC graduation landscape successfully.

Creation of resilience fund to address the impacts of climate change

This is highly appreciated that the government has taken initiatives to create a resilience fund to combat the impacts of climate change. Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. The southern part of Bangladesh is at the risk of going under water owing to rising sea level. This may result in tremendous humanitarian disaster for the country as a whole. Besides, salinity intrusion in agricultural land is a direct threat to produce various agricultural crops and maintain the current level of food production. Apart from this, excess pollution may invite many new diseases including airborne and waterborne ones and may cause the death of many human beings. Breeding and resurgence of bacteria, parasites, mosquitos and their vectors are the results of environmental pollution that is seen due to climate change. All the above features have been highlighted in the article. But it lacks some specific details that should be clear to general people. Firstly, we are not clear whether the fund raised to combat climate change will solely be used for addressing the adverse impact of climate change or it will be spent for any other purpose. Secondly, whether the money will be given to Bangladesh in the form of donation or loan. To ensure greater welfare, the fund should be used not only to combat adverse impacts of climate change but also be used to improve the condition of the environment and to reduce all types of pollution. Again, the implementation process should be transparent and competent and skilled people should be employed. In addition, the government should create continuous stress on the developed nations to release funds in time and to give the money in the form of donation.

The Gig Economy and the Changing Nature of Work

The gig economy has emerged as a defining feature of the modern workforce, fundamentally altering the traditional notions of work and employment. In this landscape, individuals are increasingly engaging in short-term, freelance, or contract-based work arrangements, facilitated by digital platforms and technological advancements. While the gig economy offers flexibility and autonomy, its impact on workers' rights, economic stability, and social welfare warrants critical examination. One of the primary advantages touted by proponents of the gig economy is its flexibility, allowing individuals to choose when, where, and how much they work. This flexibility can be especially appealing to students, caregivers, or those seeking supplemental income. However, it also comes with significant drawbacks. Gig workers often lack access to essential benefits such as healthcare, retirement plans, and job security. They bear the burden of financial instability, without the safety nets provided by traditional employment arrangements. Moreover, the gig economy exacerbates inequalities and vulnerabilities within the labor market. Workers are often subject to precarious conditions, unpredictable income streams, and exploitation by platform companies. The lack of regulation and oversight further compounds these issues, leaving gig workers vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Additionally, the rise of gig work has far-reaching implications for societal structures and economic dynamics. Traditional employment models, characterized by stable, long-term relationships between employers and employees, are being supplanted by transient, transactional arrangements. This shift undermines the social contract between workers and employers, eroding labor protections and collective bargaining power. Addressing the challenges posed by the gig economy requires a multifaceted approach. Policymakers must enact regulations that protect the rights and well-being of gig workers, ensuring access to benefits, fair wages, economic inequality, social justice and job security. It is imperative to engage in meaningful dialogue and take decisive action to ensure that the changing nature of work benefits all members of society, rather than exacerbating existing disparities.



Environment

The Shibsa River: Needed to be saved

The Shibsa River, vital to millions in southwestern Bangladesh, is under siege from siltation, pollution, and unplanned development. Brick kilns, shrimp farms, and illegal sand mining are narrowing its channels and reducing depth. Unassessed embankments and sluice gates disrupt tidal flow, drying wetlands and raising salinity. As rice paddies and gardens lose fertility, fishermen struggle in waters that once teemed with fish. Industrial effluent and sewage further degrade water quality, threatening health and biodiversity. Seasonal floods now devastate unprotected settlements, while dry-season algal blooms choke aquatic life. Despite expert warnings, enforcement remains lax across the twelve agencies overseeing the river. Conflicting policies and the absence of a unified basin authority allow powerful interests to continue harming the Shibsa unchecked. Restoration demands reestablishing tidal exchanges by restructuring embankments and sluices. Public-private partnerships can fund mangrove replanting and wetland revival, which trap sediment and nourish fish nurseries. Rigorous regulation of brick kilns and shrimp farms—backed by monitoring and penalties—is crucial. Empowering local communities through participatory planning ensures that fishermen, farmers, and women's groups shape restoration. A Shibsa River Basin Authority should integrate scientific data with local knowledge, crafting adaptive management plans. Community-led monitoring using simple testing kits can hold polluters accountable in real time. Financing must tap climate adaptation funds, donor grants, and green bonds. Restored fisheries and wetlands will boost incomes, reduce flood losses, and attract eco-tourism. A healthy Shibsa would also bolster coastal defenses against cyclones and storm surges. Time is running out. Continued degradation will make recovery costlier and perhaps impossible. Policymakers, regulators, and civil society must unite behind a comprehensive plan now. Restoring the Shibsa not only safeguards livelihoods and ecosystems but also underscores Bangladesh's commitment to sustainable, equitable development.



Aligning Finance with the Planet: Strategies for Sustainable Lending

Earth Day 2025 reminds us that atmospheric CO₂ has climbed from roughly 330 ppm in 1974 to over 424 ppm today, making 2024 the warmest year on record at 1.55 °C above pre-industrial levels. The financial sector holds immense power to curb emissions by channeling capital into renewables and sustainable infrastructure. A 10 percent rise in per-capita GDP could shield nearly 100 million people from climate risks, says the World Bank. So far, 129 countries—including Bangladesh—have National Adaptation Plans under the UNFCCC, outlining 110 actions needing \$230 billion by 2050. Yet global climate finance must swell six-fold to \$8.5 trillion annually by 2030. In 2024, the World Bank Group earmarked \$42.6 billion for climate finance; Bangladesh received \$1.16 billion, including a \$500 million Green and Climate Resilient Development Loan for healthcare, water, sanitation, and resilience. Domestically, lenders mobilized Tk 1.16 trillion for green finance in Q2 2024—a Tk 281 billion jump—split between banks (Tk 1.13 trillion) and NBFIs (Tk 29.92 billion). From 2025, Bangladesh Bank mandates that 40 percent of private-sector loans back eco-friendly projects, with 5 percent dedicated to green initiatives—cementing sustainability in lending. Beyond quotas, institutions are adopting paperless banking, digital payments, and customer education to shrink environmental footprints. Local banks support green buildings, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture. While funds like the Green Climate Fund remain vital, many wealthy nations have scaled back pledges. To bridge the gap, public-private partnerships and blended-finance models must leverage philanthropy and concessional loans to de-risk green investments. Risk management also matters: integrating climate scenarios into credit-risk models can price long-term threats and steer borrowers toward resilience. Insurers can reward flood-resistant designs with lower premiums. Institutional investors should divest from carbon-intensive assets and increase holdings in renewables, circular-economy ventures, and nature-based solutions like reforestation. Green bonds and sustainability-linked loans offer more channels—provided strong standards prevent greenwashing. For climate-vulnerable Bangladesh, these funds can protect livelihoods, lower adaptation costs, and fast-track the SDGs. As incomes rise, resilience grows. Prioritizing sustainable finance thus both safeguards the planet and fuels economic progress. This Earth Day, banks, regulators, and investors must unite to align every taka with Earth's limits. Only by embedding climate considerations into every lending decision can we avert the worst of global warming and secure a safer future.

Strategies for sustainable waste management in a developing nation

As our world grapples with the mounting challenges of waste management and environmental degradation, it is imperative that we prioritize sustainable solutions, particularly in developing nations where the impact of waste can be most acutely felt. Implementing effective strategies for waste management not only mitigates environmental harm but also fosters economic development, public health, and social well-being. One key strategy for sustainable waste management in developing nations is the promotion of waste reduction and recycling initiatives. Encouraging individuals and businesses to minimize waste generation through practices such as composting, reusing, and recycling can significantly alleviate the burden on landfills and reduce environmental pollution. Furthermore, the implementation of integrated waste management systems are essential for addressing the diverse array of waste streams in developing nations. Adopting a holistic approach that incorporates waste segregation, collection, transportation, treatment, and disposal ensures that different types of waste are managed efficiently and responsibly. Apart from this, community engagement and stakeholder participation are critical for the success of sustainable waste management initiatives. Empowering local communities to take ownership of waste management practices fosters a sense of responsibility and accountability while promoting environmental awareness and civic pride. Collaborating with grassroots organizations, civil society groups, and the private sector can harness local knowledge and expertise to develop context-specific solutions that are tailored to the needs and priorities of each community.

However, sustainable waste management is a multifaceted challenge that demands comprehensive, integrated approaches grounded in environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic viability. By embracing strategies that prioritize waste reduction, recycling, and community engagement, developing nations can chart a path towards a more sustainable future where waste is viewed not as a problem to be disposed of but as a valuable resource to be managed responsibly.



Action Needed to Combat Air Pollution in Dhaka

I am writing to express my deep concern about the escalating air pollution crisis in Dhaka, a matter that demands immediate attention and strategic intervention. Dhaka, the bustling capital of Bangladesh, is unfortunately positioned unfavorably on the global Air Quality Index (AQI), indicating a severe threat to the health and well-being of its residents. The detrimental impact on public health is becoming increasingly evident as respiratory diseases and other health complications are on the rise, posing a significant public health concern. To address this menace effectively, I urge the government to consider the following recommendations:

1. **Relocation of Factories and Industrial Setups:** It is imperative to relocate factories and industrial setups outside the city limits.
2. **Adoption of Modern Air Pollution Control Mechanisms:** The adoption of state-of-the-art air pollution control mechanisms and strategies is crucial for curbing the hazardous levels of pollutants in Dhaka.
3. **Enforcement of Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) 2020:** A significant contributor to air pollution in Dhaka is the haphazard construction practices involving cement, sand, and other materials scattered without adherence to regulations.
4. **Stringent Regulations on Industrial Emissions:** Enforce and strengthen regulations governing industrial emissions, ensuring that factories adhere to strict emission standards.
5. **Promotion of Public Transportation:** Invest in and expand public transportation infrastructure to reduce the number of private vehicles on the road. Encourage the use of electric or hybrid vehicles and prioritize the development of pedestrian-friendly areas.
6. **Green Spaces and Urban Planning:** Increase green spaces within the city and enforce sustainable urban planning practices.
7. **Promotion of Renewable Energy:** Invest in renewable energy sources to decrease reliance on fossil fuels. Incentivize the use of solar, wind, and other clean energy alternatives to power homes, businesses, and industries.
8. **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Encourage responsible waste disposal, reduce vehicle emissions, and the importance of planting trees.

Learning from successful initiatives in other cities can provide valuable insights. I implore the government to prioritize the health and well-being of its citizens by taking immediate steps to combat air pollution in Dhaka.

The effects of microplastics on marine life.

The pervasive issue of microplastic pollution in our oceans is a pressing environmental concern with far-reaching consequences for marine lives and ecosystems. As microscopic plastic particles accumulate in marine environments worldwide, the detrimental effects on aquatic organisms are becoming increasingly apparent, underscoring the urgent need for concerted action to address this growing threat. Microplastics, defined as plastic particles smaller than 5 millimetres in size, originate from a variety of sources, including the breakdown of larger plastic debris, microbeads in personal care products, and synthetic fibre released during the laundering of textiles. These tiny particles pose a significant risk to marine life, as they are often mistaken for food by a wide range of species, including fish, seabirds, and marine mammals. Ingestion of microplastics can lead to internal injuries, blockages in the digestive system, and impaired feeding and reproductive capabilities, ultimately jeopardizing the health and survival of affected organisms. Moreover, microplastics act as vectors for harmful chemicals and pollutants, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals, which can adsorb onto their surfaces. When ingested by marine organisms, these contaminants can bioaccumulate and biomagnify up the food chain, posing additional risks to both wildlife and human health. Furthermore, microplastics can alter marine ecosystems and disrupt vital ecological processes, such as nutrient cycling and habitat formation, with potentially far-reaching consequences for biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. Addressing the issue of microplastic pollution requires a multifaceted approach that encompasses regulation, research, and public awareness. Efforts to reduce plastic consumption, improve waste management practices, and develop sustainable alternatives to plastic products are essential for stemming the flow of microplastics into marine environments. Additionally, monitoring and research initiatives are needed to better understand the sources, distribution, and impacts of microplastics on marine ecosystems, informing evidence-based policy decisions and conservation strategies. By taking decisive action to mitigate plastic pollution and protect marine ecosystems, we can safeguard the health and integrity of our oceans for future generations.

Literature

Importance of Reading Nazrul Beyond Bangla

Kazi Nazrul Islam's legacy extends far beyond the boundaries of Bangla language and literature, embodying a universal message of rebellion, unity, and humanism that resonates across cultures and geographies. Nazrul's works—composed in Bengali, Urdu, Persian, and Arabic—transcend linguistic barriers to speak to global struggles against oppression and injustice. His poetry and songs, infused with Sufi mysticism and revolutionary fervor, have inspired liberation movements from South Asia to the Middle East, proving that his vision was never confined to a single nation or tongue. Nazrul's ghazals, deeply rooted in Indo-Islamic traditions, found audiences in literary circles across the subcontinent, while his essays on equality and freedom anticipated postcolonial thought decades before it gained academic prominence.

What makes Nazrul uniquely relevant today is his ability to harmonize seemingly opposing forces—faith and reason, tradition and modernity, East and West—without diluting their essence. His critique of religious bigotry and caste oppression, articulated in works like "Mazhab" (Religion) and "Dalit Pathay" (The Path of the Oppressed), foreshadowed contemporary debates on pluralism and social justice. Beyond literature, Nazrul's musical innovations—blending classical ragas with folk rhythms—created a cultural bridge between communities, a legacy that continues to influence musicians from Bangladesh to Pakistan and India.

Yet, despite his global appeal, Nazrul remains understudied outside Bengali-speaking regions. Translating his works into more languages and integrating them into world literature curricula could amplify his message for new generations. Nazrul's life—marked by relentless resistance against colonial and societal chains—mirrors the struggles of marginalized voices worldwide. In an era of rising authoritarianism and cultural polarization, his call for unity in diversity is not just poetic brilliance but a necessary philosophy. To read Nazrul beyond Bangla is to discover a thinker who belongs as much to the world as to Bengal.

Chilekothar Sepai: Life of the middle class.

Akhtaruzzaman Elias' Chilekothar Sepai explores power, hegemony, and resistance during Bangladesh's 1971 liberation struggle, portraying how Pakistan's oppressive regime sought to erase Bengali identity through cultural and linguistic domination. The protagonist, Anwar, embodies the internalized effects of hegemony, initially paralyzed by fear and apathy, asking, "What difference does it make if I rise or fall?" Yet, as he witnesses state violence and connects with his heritage, his gradual awakening mirrors the collective resistance emerging around him. The novel depicts defiance in both overt and subtle forms—armed struggle, secret poetry, clandestine education—showing how even whispers and memories undermine oppression. The attic, where Anwar retreats, becomes a metaphor for suppressed histories, and his discovery of his father's diary links past and present struggles, emphasizing resistance as an intergenerational legacy. Elias avoids romanticizing dissent, instead portraying its costs: betrayal, trauma, and anonymous deaths. Yet, repression fails to extinguish defiance; bloodshed fuels mobilization, and cultural preservation becomes an act of rebellion. Anwar's journey—from passive observer to active resistor—reflects the broader societal shift, culminating in his quiet yet decisive acts of resistance. The novel ends ambiguously, questioning whether new power structures might replicate old oppressions, urging vigilance. Ultimately, Chilekothar Sepai asserts that true resistance lies in reclaiming identity, honoring memory, and finding courage not in fearlessness, but in defiance of fear. Through intimate and collective struggles, Elias immortalizes the resilience of a people refusing to be silenced.



Inquilab Zindabad: How the slogan become timeless

The slogan Inquilab Zindabad ("Long Live Revolution"), coined by Maulana Hasrat Mohani in 1921, remains a timeless cry for justice, transcending eras and borders. A poet, scholar, and freedom fighter, Mohani envisioned revolution not just as political upheaval but as a radical transformation toward equality, inspired by the Bolshevik movement. The slogan gained prominence through Bhagat Singh, who infused it with socialist ideals, declaring revolution as the dismantling of systemic oppression—not mere violence, but a fundamental restructuring of society. When Singh and B.K. Dutt threw non-lethal bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly in 1929, their shout of Inquilab Zindabad echoed as a warning against tyranny, a call to awaken the oppressed. Decades later, Bangladesh's July Revolution of 2024 revived this spirit, as citizens united to overthrow 16 years of autocratic rule, demanding democracy and accountability. The revolution, marked by mass protests and the military's rare alignment with the people, mirrored Bhagat Singh's vision—rejecting superficial change for deep, systemic justice. Yet, the struggle continues: true revolution requires addressing economic disparity, corruption, and institutionalized discrimination, challenges that persist globally. From U.S. racial justice movements to Latin American anti-austerity protests, Inquilab Zindabad resonates as a universal anthem against oppression. Its power lies in adaptability—whether confronting British colonialism or modern authoritarianism, it fuels the fight for dignity. Mohani and Singh's legacy reminds us that revolution is not a singular event but an ongoing pursuit of equity, where each generation must challenge injustice anew. As long as inequality exists, this slogan will endure, a rallying cry for the marginalized and a beacon of hope. The July Revolution proved its relevance, but the deeper work—building a just society—remains unfinished. Inquilab Zindabad is not history; it is a living demand for change, urging us to never settle for oppression. Long live revolution—because the fight for justice never ends.

Stemming the Tide: Retaining Bangladesh's Talent

Bangladesh, like many developing nations, faces a critical challenge – brain drain. This phenomenon, particularly prevalent among highly-educated students pursuing higher studies abroad, poses a significant threat to our nation's progress. Statistics paint a concerning picture. UNESCO's report highlights a staggering 60,390 Bangladeshi students studying abroad in 2017, with an alarming annual increase of 10%. However, the return rate is dwindling. Many talented individuals are lured by the allure of high salaries, secure futures, and access to world-class research facilities – opportunities often lacking in Bangladesh. The inadequacy of our education system is a key culprit. According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), a mere 1% of university expenditure goes towards research in 2019. This falls far short of nurturing innovation and fostering research ambitions within our own borders. Aspiring researchers, unable to pursue their dreams here, are forced to seek greener pastures abroad. Developed nations further exacerbate the issue by actively attracting skilled individuals. While this contributes to their development, it weakens ours. However, attributing brain drain solely to external factors is a mistake. We must delve deeper and understand what truly discourages educated citizens from returning home. Policymakers must prioritize factors influencing quality of life: employment prospects, social structures, financial security, and gender equality. Freedom for all walks of life is also paramount. Only through these improvements can Bangladesh become a vibrant hub of opportunity, attracting and retaining its most talented minds. This isn't just about stemming the tide of emigration; it's about harnessing the collective brilliance of our people to propel Bangladesh toward a brighter future.

Navigating the Perils of 'Mind Bubbles'

In an era dominated by information overload and rapid digital connectivity, a new cognitive phenomenon—dubbed "mind bubbles"—poses a silent yet profound threat to rational decision-making and societal cohesion. Much like financial bubbles that inflate and burst, mind bubbles emerge when collective biases, echo chambers, and unchecked emotions distort reality, leading individuals and communities to embrace irrational beliefs or behaviors. These bubbles thrive in environments where algorithms prioritize engagement over accuracy, social media amplifies extremes, and confirmation bias blinds people to opposing viewpoints. The consequences are stark: polarized societies, misinformation epidemics, and poor personal or economic choices. Social media platforms, designed to maximize screen time, exacerbate this crisis. Algorithms curate content that aligns with users' existing beliefs, deepening divides. A 2023 MIT study found that falsehoods spread six times faster than truths on platforms like X (formerly Twitter), illustrating how mind bubbles distort public discourse. Meanwhile, political polarization intensifies as opposing groups vilify each other, mistaking caricatures for reality. The stakes are high. Unchecked mind bubbles threaten democracy, economic stability, and mental health. Recognizing this vulnerability is the first step toward fostering a society where reason prevails over rhetoric, and collective wisdom triumphs over cognitive chaos. The time to act is now—before the next bubble bursts.



Modern World

Cyber Crime

The use of cell phones, computers and the Internet in Bangladesh is growing rapidly. It has opened a new window in every segment of our life. The revolutionary changes in the information technology sector have made our life very comfortable. But modern information technology has its advantages and disadvantages also. One of the most worrisome disadvantages of modern information technology is cybercrime. Cybercrime also includes traditional crimes conducted through the Internet. In other words, cybercrime is conducted through the Internet. Cybercrime is a form of crime where the Internet and computers are used as a medium to commit any unlawful work such as hacking on unauthorized entry into information system; virus introduction; publishing or distribution of obscene content in electronic form; frauds using electronic content; violation of privacy rights, copyrights and patent designs, defamation through email; holding out threats through email; illegal recognition of electronic transaction or signature etc. Unlike conventional communities, there are no policemen patrolling the information superhighway, leaving it open to everything from Trojan horses and viruses to cyber stalking, trademark counterfeiting and cyber terrorism. In Bangladesh, cybercrime has drawn public attention for the last few years. According to newspaper reports, various types of antisocial activities take place in these cafes in the name of net browsing. We have to be more careful while surfing the internet. We mustn't click any risky links. Personal information should never be visible to general users of the internet. This is how we can keep ourselves safe from cybercrime. The principal responsibility to stop the same lies the Bangladesh government should take immediate measures to prevent cybercrimes and make strict cyber laws to punish the cyber terrorists.

The Rise of social media and its Impact on Mental Health

The meteoric rise of social media has woven itself into the fabric of our lives, fundamentally altering how we connect and interact. While it offers a plethora of benefits for fostering connection and belonging, its impact on mental health presents a complex narrative. Undoubtedly, social media platforms excel at facilitating social connection. They bridge geographical distances, allowing us to stay in touch with loved ones and build communities around shared interests. This can be particularly beneficial for those struggling with social anxiety, as online platforms offer a safe space for self-expression and interaction. Social media can also combat feelings of isolation, foster a sense of belonging through online groups and interactions. However, the very tools that connect us can also lead us down a path of negativity. The meticulously curated portrayals of perfect lives on social media can fuel feelings of inadequacy and social comparison. The constant bombardment of other people's highlight reels creates a distorted perception of reality, breeding envy and dissatisfaction with our own lives. This phenomenon, known as "fear of missing out" (FOMO), can be a significant source of anxiety and depression. Furthermore, the anonymity afforded by the online world can be a breeding ground for negativity. Cyberbullying and online harassment are prevalent, taking a heavy toll on mental well-being. The lack of face-to-face interaction can embolden negativity, leading to feelings of insecurity and isolation. The impact of social media on mental health is a double-edged sword. While it offers opportunities for connection and support, it can also contribute to feelings of inadequacy, isolation, and anxiety. To cultivate a positive and balanced online experience, mindful use is essential. We must be critical consumers of online content and prioritize real-world connections to ensure social media complements, rather than detracts from, our mental well-being.



The Race for Space Exploration and Colonization

A modern space race is upon us, fuelled by ambition and the promise of a future beyond Earth. While venturing outward ignites our sense of exploration, this race demands careful navigation. Undeniably, space exploration offers immense scientific and technological advancements. Each mission pushes the boundaries of human ingenuity, fostering innovations with applications that benefit life on Earth. One notable example is the renewed interest in lunar exploration, with NASA's Artemis program, this initiative, supported by international partners like the European Space Agency (ESA) and private companies like SpaceX, seeks to establish sustainable lunar exploration and pave the way for future crewed missions to Mars. Moreover, the race for space exploration extends beyond governmental and commercial entities to include emerging spacefaring nations like China and India. China's ambitious space program, exemplified by its recent missions to the Moon and Mars, underscores its determination to establish itself as a major player in space exploration. Similarly, India's Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has made significant strides in space technology, with successful missions to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. However, a blind race for dominance carries risks. Nationalistic competition could lead to militarization of space, a chilling prospect for a fragile global order. The race for space exploration in today's world is characterized by a diverse array of actors, from established space agencies to commercial start-ups and emerging spacefaring nations. With technological advancements, international collaborations, and growing commercial interests driving progress, the possibilities for human exploration and colonization of space are more promising than ever before. However, as we embark on this journey, it is essential to ensure that the benefits of space exploration are shared equitably among all nations and peoples.

Urgent Need for Educational Reform to Embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution

I am writing to bring attention to the transformative impact of the fourth industrial revolution on our civilization and the urgent need for corresponding reforms in our education system. As technology continues to reshape the world, it is imperative that we adapt our educational practices to equip the upcoming generation with the skills needed to thrive in this rapidly changing landscape.

The fourth industrial revolution, characterized by the fusion of digital, physical, and biological technologies, has the potential to revolutionize industries, economies, and societies. To harness the full benefits of this revolution, we must reevaluate and modernize our education system. The current model, rooted in traditional practices, may not adequately prepare students for the challenges and opportunities presented by advanced technologies. I strongly urge the government to take necessary initiatives to reform our education system in the following ways:

- 1. Integration of Technology in Education:** Incorporate technology into the curriculum to ensure that students are familiar with digital tools and platforms. Emphasize the importance of coding, programming, and digital literacy to enhance their ability to navigate the technology-driven world.
- 2. Promotion of Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving:** Shift the focus from rote memorization to fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Encourage students to analyze information, think creatively, and apply their knowledge to solve real-world problems.
- 3. Emphasis on STEM Education:** Strengthen Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education to prepare students for careers in high-demand fields. This will contribute to the development of a skilled workforce capable of driving innovation and technological advancements.



4. **Flexible Learning Environments:** Create flexible learning environments that facilitate collaboration, creativity, and adaptability. Encourage project-based learning, interdisciplinary studies, and hands-on experiences to enhance students' practical skills.
5. **Teacher Training and Professional Development:** Invest in the training and professional development of teachers to ensure they are well-equipped to integrate technology into their teaching methods. Continuous learning for educators is essential to keep pace with technological advancements.
6. **Partnerships with Industry:** Foster partnerships between educational institutions and industry players. Collaboration with technology companies, research institutions, and other stakeholders can provide students with real-world exposure and align the curriculum with industry needs.
7. **Inclusive Education:** Ensure that the benefits of technological advancements in education are accessible to all students, irrespective of their socio-economic background. Promote inclusive practices that bridge the digital divide and provide equal opportunities for learning.
8. **Continuous Evaluation and Adaptation:** Establish mechanisms for continuous evaluation of the education system and curriculum. Regularly assess the relevance of educational practices in the context of technological developments and make necessary adjustments to keep pace with the evolving landscape.

By taking these essential steps, the government can position our education system as a catalyst for innovation and empower the upcoming generation to navigate the challenges and opportunities presented by the fourth industrial revolution. It is crucial that we act proactively to ensure that our education system remains a driving force for progress and prosperity.

Race for the rare earth minerals

The global scramble for rare earth elements -those seventeen obscure but indispensable metals powering everything from electric vehicles to wind turbines and advanced weaponry- has laid bare Europe's precarious position in the new resource geopolitics. A recent investigation reveals how the continent's dream of mineral self-sufficiency is crumbling under the weight of its own contradictions. While the European Union loudly proclaims its Green Deal ambitions, its rare earth mining projects remain stuck in permitting purgatory, its recycling infrastructure is shockingly primitive, and its industrial policy lacks the decisive state intervention that has made China the undisputed master of this sector.

China's strategic dominance is staggering controlling 90% of rare earth processing and 60% of global mining output. The Asian giant has weaponized this advantage, as seen in its recent export restrictions on gallium and germanium, sending shockwaves through European manufacturing. In response, the EU set modest targets: to mine 10% and recycle 20% of its rare earth needs by 2030. Greenland's mining projects, capable of supplying a quarter of global demand, were shelved after political opposition. Meanwhile, China quietly secures African mines through its Belt and Road Initiative, while European bureaucrats debate impact assessments.

The consequences are already manifesting. European automakers face supply chain nightmares as EV production scales up. Defense contractors warn of vulnerabilities in precision-guided munitions. The recycling sector - a potential lifeline - recovers less than 1% of rare earths from discarded electronics, lacking both technology and incentives. Industry analysts note the bitter irony: Europe's stringent environmental standards, designed to protect its ecosystems, are inadvertently reinforcing reliance on Chinese mines with far worse pollution records. Without urgent reforms, fast-tracked permits, sovereign wealth fund investments, and a Marshall Plan for mineral processing Europe risks becoming a mere assembler of others' raw materials in the clean energy age.