



BASIS
SOFT EXPO 2018

February 22-25, 2018



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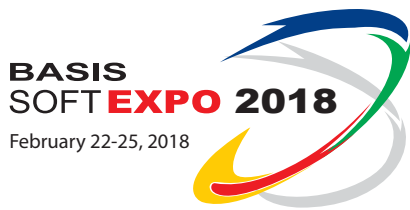


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Bangladesh Association of
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the **FUTURE**

BASIS
SOFT **EXPO** 2018
February 22-25, 2018

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ABOUT BASIS

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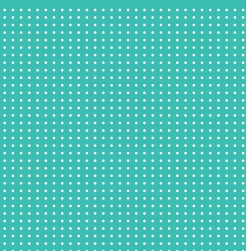
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- ▶ **MEMBER PRIVILEGE CARD**



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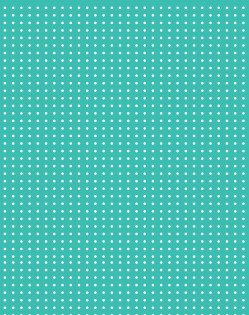
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRESIDENT
People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangabhaban, Dhaka



MESSAGE

10 Falgun 1424
22 February 2018

I am delighted to know that Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) is going to organise its annual mega software exposition 'BASIS SoftExpo 2018' in Dhaka. On this occasion, I extend my sincere thanks to the organiser, participants and everyone related to this mega event.

Information Technology gives fast and easy access to information which is essential for the development of a nation. The advancement of information technology has accelerated the development process throughout the world and nations of the world are becoming closer. The present government under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has undertaken massive development programmes aimed at implementing Vision-2021 and Vision-2041 to turn our country into 'Digital Bangladesh'. In line with the policy, the government has taken some mega initiatives including establishment of Hi-tech Parks and Software Technology Parks at Divisional and District levels. Development of Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City, Kaliakoir is also going on in full swing and construction of Sheikh Hasina Software Technology Park, Jessore has already been completed. Besides, Janata tower Software Technology Park is functioning efficiently. Ensuring connectivity, e-governance and strengthening the domestic IT industry are the focus of all those activities.

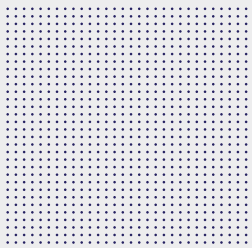
BASIS SoftExpo 2018 is a unique platform for showcasing the initiatives, adroitness accomplishment and achievements and innovations of IT sectors of Bangladesh. I believe that this exposition will play a vital role in sharing the Bangladesh's experience with the global ICT leaders, promoters, policy makers and thinks-tanks. I hope SoftExpo will create enormous opportunities in developing and expanding IT sectors in Bangladesh.

I wish the BASIS SoftExpo 2018 a grand success.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

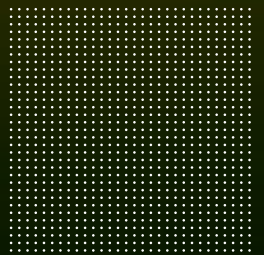
Md. Abdul Hamid

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জাতীয় স্মৃতিসৌধ
NATIONAL MARTYRS' MEMORIAL





Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury MP
Speaker
Bangladesh Parliament



MESSAGE

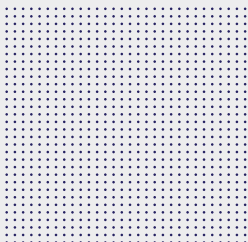
This gives me immense pleasure to know that Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) is organizing its annual mega software and IT- enabled services showcasing event “BASIS SoftExpo 2018” on 22-25 February 2018 in Dhaka.

BASIS has been closely working with the government of Bangladesh in achieving the goals of “Vision 2021: Digital Bangladesh.” The government has taken remarkable measures and extensive programs to develop the ICT sector. Endeavors of private stakeholders, such as BASIS have strengthened this process. Today almost every corner of Bangladesh has been interconnected through high-speed and uninterrupted internet facility which has helped the youth and women to obtain more symmetric information and take digital entrepreneurial initiatives. I see it as a remarkable achievement in bringing everyone under the light of digitalization on the way to ensure good governance throughout the country.

I wish “BASIS SoftExpo 2018” a success.

Shirin S. Chaudhury.

Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury MP





Abul Maal A Muhith
Minister

Ministry of Finance
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh



MESSAGE

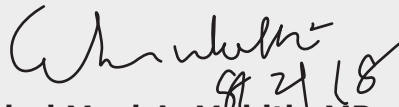
07 February 2018

It is my great pleasure to learn that Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) is organizing the 12th BASIS SoftExpo 2018 on 22-25 February in Dhaka.

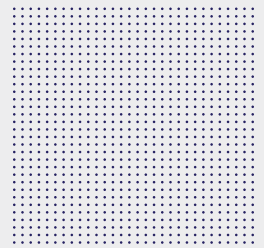
The government is working hard to make Bangladesh a higher middle income country by 2021. The five-year plan has dedicated a full chapter to ICT and has set targets to help achieve Digital Bangladesh. One of the key targets is to achieve \$5 Billion ICT exports by 2021. Exports revenue from ICT sector will cross one billion dollars by 2018. In the near future, ICT sector will be the next largest sector for exports from Bangladesh overtaking perhaps the garments sector. The work force engaged in ICT will also help the country in easing its unemployment problem.

I wish BASIS SoftExpo 2018 event a grand success and thank the people for believing in us.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu.


09/2/18

Abul Maal A. Muhith, MP





Tofail Ahmed, MP
Minister

Ministry of Commerce
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh



MESSAGE

I am pleased to learn that “BASIS SoftExpo 2018” under the theme “Designing the Future” is going to be organized during 22-25 February 2018 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC), Dhaka by Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS).

In Bangladesh, e-commerce is getting to be a stronger trade platform day by day, but the ball has been set rolling for an internet revolution. E-commerce is no longer a luxury but reality. The government has taken the initiative to promote e-commerce in every corner of Bangladesh. It is estimated that more than 600 ISP's have been working in this country and there are near about 80.166 million internet users in the country. Hence, there is a great chance for the expansion of e-Commerce in Bangladesh.

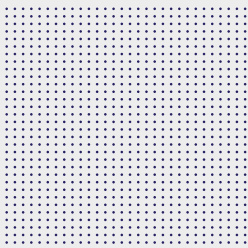
Bangladesh is set to become a middle-income country by the year 2021 under the dynamic leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Which is the fiftieth anniversary of our independence; the Government of Bangladesh has set a target of earning 60 billion USD from export. IT sector can play avital role in export, and it has been forecasted that the sector will earn 5 billion USD through exports within 2021.

I hope, BASIS SoftExpo would be a right platform to promote our IT innovations for the local users as well as for the visiting foreign delegates and also maintain the growth of e-commerce.

I wish BASIS SoftExpo 2018 event a grand success.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu.

Tofail Ahmed, MP





بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, MP
Foreign Minister

Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka



MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that Bangladesh Association of Software & Information Services (BASIS) is going to organize “BASIS SoftExpo 2018” from 22-25 February, 2018 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC), Dhaka. It is really a praiseworthy endeavor and I appreciate the leadership of the organization for their brilliant for their brilliant efforts to hold this event.

ICT plays a very important role in socioeconomic growth and development of a country. Our present Government under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Bangabandhu's daughter Honorable Prime Minister, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, is working relentlessly with a view to transforming the country into a Digital one with the spirit of developing Industrialized Sonar Bangla.

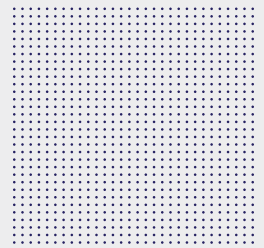
In order to materialize the dream of becoming Digital Bangladesh, the ICT sector has already been identified as one of the thrust sectors by the government.

I am delighted to know that around 200 local and international exhibitors, 400,000 plus visitors and corporate visitors, 600 plus government officials, policymakers and students from more than 60 universities are taking part in this expo. I am confident that the event would be able to highlight the present ICT market potentials of Bangladesh to the local and international ICT players.

I wish the BASIS SoftExpo 2018 a grand success.

Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, MP

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AHM Mustafa Kamal FCA, MP
Minister

Ministry of Planning
(Where you have dream)
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh



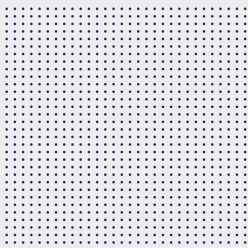
MESSAGE

I am overwhelmed with joy to see that Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) is organizing its annual mega event “BASIS SoftExpo 2018” during 22-25 February, 2018 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC), Agargaon, Dhaka, with a view to showcasing the high-paced development of the IT/ITES industry of Bangladesh.

BASIS, through its able leadership, have been contributing towards a digital nation since the declaration of the government to achieving the goals of Vision 2021: Digital Bangladesh. I am also happy to learn that BASIS has already taken an initiative to create a congenial atmosphere for Bangladeshi IT companies in taking part in the govt. automation process and coming up with workable recommendations for PPR and E-Governance projects;

I do believe that BASIS SoftExpo 2018 will be the right platform to exhibit the strengths and innovations of BASIS member companies. I thank the entire BASIS team for organizing SoftExpo for the 12th time and wish it a long-term success.

AHM Mustafa Kamal FCA, MP





মোস্তাফা জব্বার
মন্ত্রী

ডাক, টেলিযোগাযোগ ও তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার



MESSAGE

গত দুই দশক ধরে আইসিটি খাতে দেশটির শীর্ষ বাণিজ্য সংগঠন বাংলাদেশ অ্যাসোসিয়েশন অব সফটওয়্যার এন্ড ইনফরমেশন সার্ভিসেস (বেসিস) একটি শক্তিশালী আইসিটি শিল্প গড়ে তোলার লক্ষ্যে ই-গভর্নেন্স এবং আইসিটি শিক্ষা এবং সর্বোপরি সবার জন্য ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ 'রূপকল্প-২০২১' বাস্তবায়নের জন্য নিরলসভাবে কাজ করে আসছে। সেই সাথে বেসিস বাংলাদেশের বিভিন্ন মন্ত্রণালয় ও আইসিটি বিভাগের সাথে যৌথভাবে আমাদের স্থানীয় ও বৈদেশিক বাজার সম্প্রসারণে কাজ করছে।

২০০২ সাল থেকে, তথ্য প্রযুক্তি খাতে বাংলাদেশের বেসরকারী সর্ববৃহৎ প্রদর্শনী 'বেসিস সফট এক্সপো' আয়োজন করছে যার মাধ্যমে দেশের আইসিটি খাত ও শিল্পের উন্নয়নে এবং আইটি ও আইটিইএস এর পণ্য ও সেবার মাধ্যমে আইসিটি শিল্পের বিকাশ ঘটছে। ফলশ্রমতিতে আগামী ২২ শে ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০১৮ তারিখে রাজধানীর বিআইসিসি তে ১২তম সফট এক্সপো অনুষ্ঠিত হচ্ছে। এবারের থিম Designing the Future যা তথ্য প্রযুক্তির ভবিষ্যতের দিকেই ইঙ্গিত করে।

বর্তমান সরকার আইসিটি খাতে সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করছে। এই সেক্টরে বাংলাদেশ উল্লেখযোগ্য উন্নয়ন করেছে। বিশ্বব্যাপী অনেক দেশে বাংলাদেশে এখন আইসিটির একটি মডেল। বাংলাদেশ সরকার ২০২১ সালের মধ্যে আইটি/আইটিইএস রপ্তানির মাধ্যমে ৫ বিলিয়ন মার্কিন ডলার আয়ের লক্ষ্যমাত্রা নির্ধারণ করেছে। এটি বাস্তবায়নে বাংলাদেশ সরকার ইতোমধ্যে স্থানীয়ভাবে বিকশিত ও প্রস্তুতকৃত সফটওয়্যার, তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি সেবা এবং হার্ডওয়্যার রপ্তানির ওপর শতকরা ১০ ভাগ নগদ সহায়তা প্রদান করছে। অন্যদিকে দেশের ডিজিটাল ডিভাইস উৎপাদনকে উৎসাহিত করতে ৯৪টি যন্ত্রাংশের ওপর শুল্কহার শতকরা ১ ভাগে নামিয়ে এনেছে। এছাড়াও সরকার এই খাতে মানব সম্পদ উন্নয়ন, অবকাঠামো নির্মাণ ও অন্যান্য প্রণোদনা দিচ্ছে।

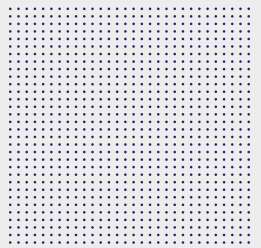
আশা করা হচ্ছে যে, এই বছরের সফট এক্সপোতে আইটি ও আইটিইএস কোম্পানিগুলি তাদের উদ্ভাবনী আইসিটি পণ্য এবং সেবা প্রদর্শন করবে এবং বিশ্বমানের সক্ষমতা তুলে ধরার প্রয়াস পাবে।

আমি বেসিস ও বেসিস সফট এক্সপো ২০১৮ এর সাফল্য কামনা করি।

'জয় বাংলা জয় বঙ্গবন্ধু'
বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক

মোস্তাফা জব্বার

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



Md. Shahriar Alam, MP
State Minister

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh



MESSAGE

It is a matter of great delight to see that Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) is organizing the BASIS SoftExpo for the 12th time with the theme of “Designing the Future”.

Over the years, BASIS SoftExpo has become the biggest private sector event for showcasing Bangladesh software products, IT enables services, and ICT system solution. It is a grand congregation of ICT companies, personalities, key policymakers, industry leaders, professionals and other ICT stakeholders of the country.

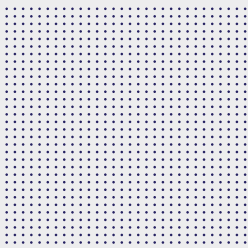
Under the visionary leadership of the Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, our government has been working relentlessly to transform Bangladesh into a modern, progressing, technology and knowledge based country under the “Vision 2021”. The “Digital Bangladesh” goal of the “Vision 2021” implies the broader use of internet and embodies the modern philosophy of effective use of technology in education, health, job placement, and poverty reduction.

The young generation have already started working to realize the dream of Digital Bangladesh through their learning and earning activities. Many youths have become self-dependent through outsourcing with the blessing of Information technology. The government has also been extending all out support towards them so that they could build themselves as ICT-based income-generators.

I welcome everyone associated with this event and wish a grand success of ‘BASIS SoftExpo 2018’.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu

Md. Shahriar Alam, MP





Md. Shafiul Islam (Mohiuddin)
President

The Federation of Bangladesh
Chambers of Commerce & Industry



MESSAGE

I am glad to know that “BASIS SoftExpo” is happening for the 12th time during 22-25 February 2018 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC). I congratulate Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) to organize this valuable event.

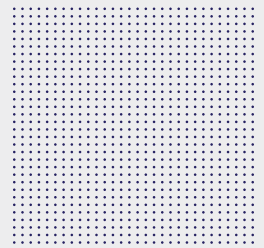
The capacity of local ICT industry plays an important role to empower businesses and citizens. Bangladesh’s first university-based incubator will help to bridge the gap between ICT industries and academia for fostering meaningful research, innovation, entrepreneurship, job creation and industry ready human resource development. For this reason, FBCCI has already identified IT industry as the future of Bangladesh by setting a goal of achieving 5 Billion US dollars within 2021 and transforming Bangladesh into a Middle-Income Country.

I am confident that the combined effort of the Stakeholders, Government, Private sector, Civil Society, Academia and International organizations will help us to build the knowledge economy for Bangladesh in an interconnected world.

On behalf of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), I wish the “BASIS SoftExpo” a Great Success.

Md. Shafiul Islam (Mohiuddin)

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Syed Almas Kabir
President

Bangladesh Association of Software
and Information Services (BASIS)

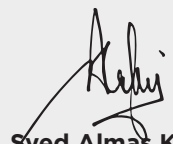
MESSAGE

Bangladesh Association of Software & Information Services (BASIS) has been working tirelessly to build a more vibrant and developed Bangladesh since its inception two decades ago. To build Digital Bangladesh, BASIS had declared a 'One Bangladesh' vision and set a goal to reach USD 1 billion in export of software & ITES. The government adapted this goal and the Honourable Prime Minister instructed to extend the target to USD 5 billion by the 2012. To make this possible, knowledge transfer among the private-public stakeholders should be more frequent, responsive, and synchronized. I feel that BASIS SoftExpo 2018 will be complimentary in achieving this.

Since the first SoftExpo in 2003, this flagship event of BASIS has been recognized as the largest private sector showcase for the ICT Industry, and has aimed in stimulating the growth of the industry through promotion & development, invention and research of IT products & IT enabled services in Bangladesh. In its 12th iteration, the BASIS SoftExpo 2018 will be held in the capital during 22-25 February, 2018 at BICC. This year's theme is "Designing The Future". One of the key objectives of SoftExpo 2018 is to boost the confidence of IT users as well as the government to trust on the locally developed software and solutions by showcasing the strength of Bangladesh's ICT Industry. The visiting foreign businessmen and clients will also witness the technological revolution that the country is going through. Moreover, I believe, the tech sessions and seminars will share current issues and cutting-edge ICT knowledge among the attendees, exhibitors, students, and visitors.

We need to take more initiatives in order to grab the untapped opportunities of the fast-growing local market for IT products and IT Enabled Services. We should encourage renowned multinational companies to create joint venture businesses with local ICT companies with a view to taking supporting software and IT enabled service assistances from them, as well as manufacture and assemble ICT hardware devices in Bangladesh. I believe, this will augment Bangladesh's participation in the global ICT market in a more robust way. As we are poised to become a Developed Economy by 2041, we should set a new target now for the industry and design the roadmap to achieve that. The game-changing decision of the government to give 10% Cash Incentive on ICT exports will inspire entrepreneurs and make them contribute to country's development.

Finally, on behalf of the BASIS Executive Council and the esteemed member companies, I would like to thank all government and private organizations, officials, sponsors, visitors, critics, speakers & partners and all others whose sincere contributions and guidance have helped us successfully organize the BASIS SoftExpo 2018.



Syed Almas Kabir



Mostafizur Rahaman Sohel
Convener

BASIS SoftExpo 2018
Director, BASIS



MESSAGE

Welcome to the magnum opus of our ICT industry, BASIS SoftEpo 2018. It has been the largest B2B and B2G event of the IT and ITES industry of Bangladesh since 2003. It is a congregation of major Software and ITES experts and buyers from all around the country and beyond the borders. BASIS SoftExpo 2018 is the biggest one so far with more than 300 exhibitors, 30+ seminars and technical sessions, and high-profile leaders' meet. The expo has been divided into four major zones showcasing Business Software, Mobile Applications, e-Commerce, and ITES & BPO. I believe, showcase of cutting-edge technologies- internet of things, artificial intelligences, and cloud computing will catch the traction of the visitors for sure.

I do believe, the B2B sessions will end up with efficient business leads and matchmaking that would increase our export growth further. Side by side, as the tech sessions and seminars are taking places in a big way, young creative minds, and fresh graduates would get a lead here to be industry-ready for the Bangladesh ICT Industry. The more inclusive Job Fair will facilitate both the ICT fresh graduates and the IT and ITES firms creating more employment opportunities and to choose the right-fitted person for their firms. Simultaneously, the policy dialogues and round tables will echo the opportunities, challenges, required policy and financial reforms regarding this growing ICT industry, by fetching the policymakers of the country and industry leaders under one roof, in a very certain way that will ease of doing ICT business further, I firmly believe.

Well, for other horizontally integrated industries, the BASIS SoftExpo 2018 will be an eye-opener and surely boost their confidences more to rely on the country-made software and delivered IT enabled services. In line with this, I do welcome all IT users and clients to visit the SoftExpo 2018 and experience themselves, the present-day strength of the Bangladesh ICT Industry and to decide afterwards, from where to procure their IT solutions.

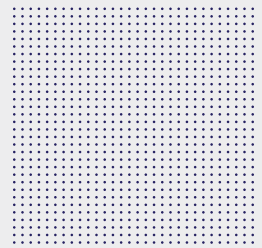
I am truly thankful to the sponsors and event partners for believing on the strength of our local industry and supporting us. The Organizing Committee has been prudent in designing the entire show. The BASIS Secretariat deserves an equal appreciation for their dedicated effort in making this mega-event successful. It has been a great fortune to have such supporting fellow Executive Council Members led by ever dynamic and inspiring President. Finally, I would like to thank our Heroes - Past Presidents and Advisors of BASIS for all the guidance, insightful suggestion and tremendous moral support to pave the way for us to organize such a mammoth event. You are our true inspiration.

But despite having our all-out efforts, there might be quite a few flaws for which as the Convener, I take all the responsibility for not being able to overcome those hurdles. I am sure, we will address those issues in the next installment.

Let us indulge ourselves to learn, enjoy and experience the power of Local IT industry and of course, to 'Design the Future' for generation next.

Best Regards,

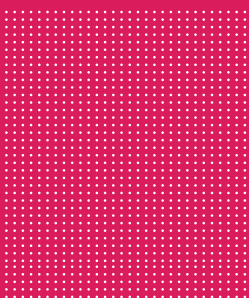
Mostafizur Rahaman Sohel





MEET OUR FORMER PRESIDENTS

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FORMER PRESIDENTS OF BASIS



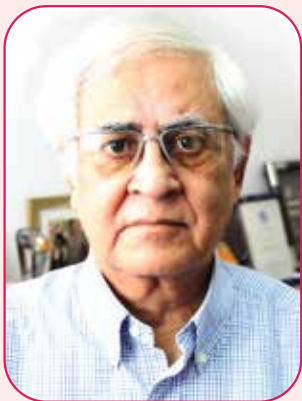
A. Towhid
1997 -1999



S. M. Kamal
1999 -2001



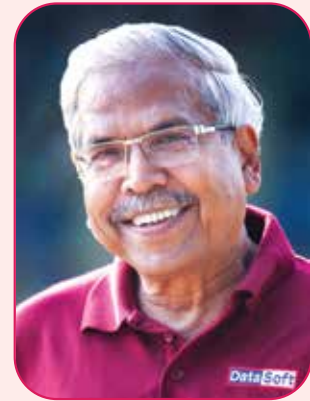
Habibullah N Karim
2002-2003 & 2008-2009



Sarwar Alam
2004-2006



Rafiqul Islam Rowly
2007



Mahboob Zaman
2010-2012



A K M Fahim Mashroor
2012-2013

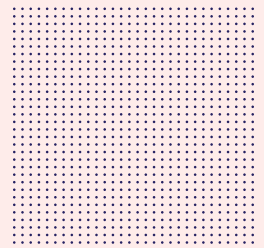


Shameem Ahsan
2013-2014 & 2014-2016



Mustafa Jabbar
2016-2017

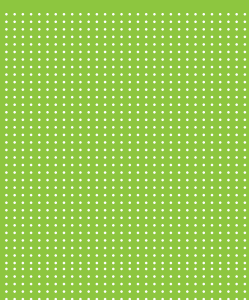
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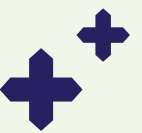




BASIS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2017-2018

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BASIS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2017-2018



Syed Almas Kabir
President



Russell T Ahmed
Senior Vice President



M Rashidul Hasan
Vice President



Farhana A Rahman
Vice President



Uttam Kumar Paul
Director



Mostafizur Rahaman Sohel
Director



Sonia Bashir Kabir
Director

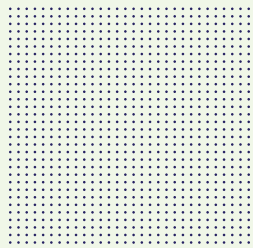


Riyad S A Husain
Director



Delowar Hossain Faruk
Director

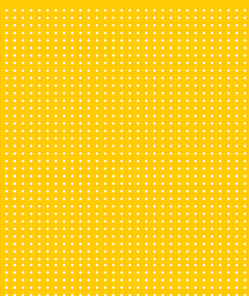
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BASIS SECRETARIAT

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BASIS SECRETARIAT



Hashim Ahmed
Secretary



Reaz U. Ahmed
Program Manager



Sabrina Tanjin
Manager, Member Services



Enamul Hafiz Latfee
Program Manager, Market Development



Muhammad Monirul Hoque
Deputy Manager, Event & Logistics



Rajib Ahmed
Deputy Manager, Event & Logistics



Sumaiya Mahin
Assistant Manager, Accounts



Razonno Mugdha
Assistant Manager, Corporate Affairs



Shohag Chandra Das
Assistant Project Manager



Nabakishor Chandra Barman
Assistant Program Manager, Member Service



Jannatul Ferdous
Admin Officer



Md. Wasek Sazzad
Executive, PR & Media



Effat Hossain
Executive, Accounts



Nadia Tabassum
Executive, International Affairs



Mohammad Ripon Hossain Awlad
Graphic Designer



Fatematuze Johora Asha
Front Desk Executive



Masudur Rahman
Executive, IT

STP-1 MANAGEMENT TEAM



Shakila Ahmed Poly
Assistant Manager, STP-1

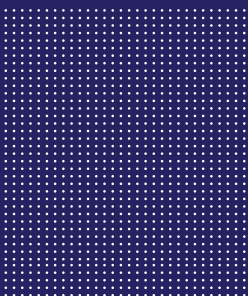


Khaleda Jahan Ema
Trainee Executive, STP-1

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BASIS OVERVIEW





BASIS OVERVIEW



Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) is the national trade body for Software & IT Enabled Service industry of Bangladesh. Established in 1997, the association has been working with a vision of developing vibrant software & IT service industry in the country.

BASIS started its journey with only 18 charter members. Today the membership stands more than eleven hundred. Members of BASIS account for the lion share of the total software & IT services revenue of the country.

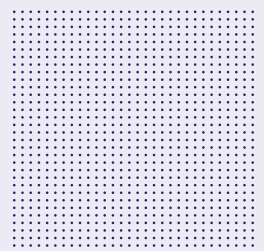
BASIS tries to pursue the following broad goals through its regular programs and activities:

- Domestic market development by creating awareness
- International market development through networking and business linkage
- Capacity building of the member companies
- Member service development and delivery in different operational and business support areas
- Advocacy for business friendly and enabling government policies for the development of software and IT enabled service industry
- Social contribution, as responsible citizen group, towards the long term national vision



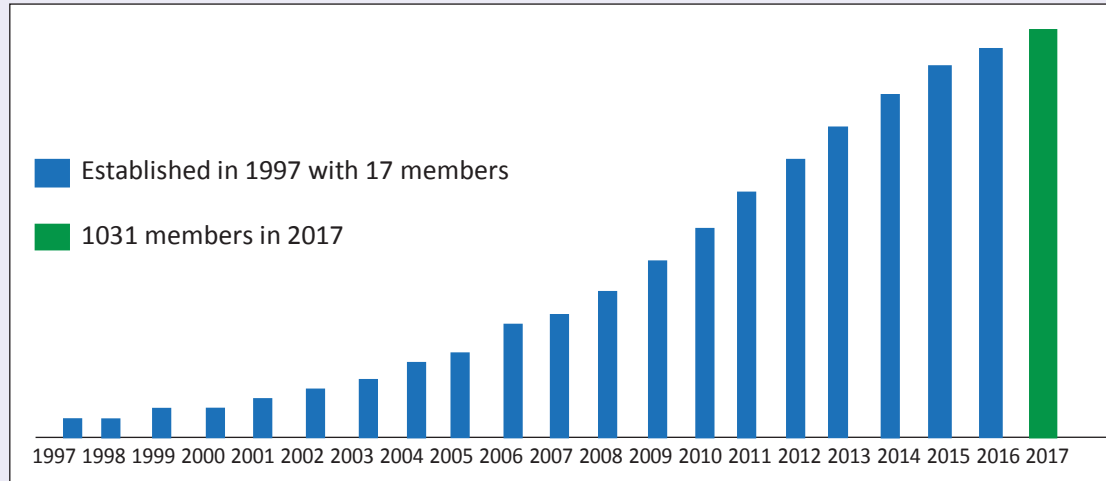
BASIS has already gained modest success in attaining the above mentioned goals. For domestic market creation, BASIS has wide range of programs and activities. Every year BASIS organizes BASIS SoftExpo, the biggest software and ITES exposition in the country. During the recent years, SoftExpo has become the yearly mega market place where software & IT service companies in the country project their products and services to potential IT users, both at corporate/organizational and individual level. For development of market in government sector BASIS has been working closely with different concerned Ministries and agencies of government. With regard to export market development, BASIS regularly takes initiatives for creating exposure for member companies to international markets with the help of different government and development agencies working in the export development area.

BASIS has led numerous industry development initiatives such as workshops, industry seminars and conferences, and industry research studies. These activities are aimed at not only to support the One Bangladesh Vision, but also to catalyze industry growth.





Membership Growth

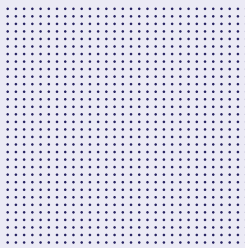


ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

BASIS is run by a nine member Board of Directors (elected by direct voting of the members). The Board of Directors has the overall responsibility for running the affairs of BASIS and setting policy guidelines for its secretariat. Aside from the elected board of directors, there are 24 Standing Committees comprising of members who are experts in relevant areas.



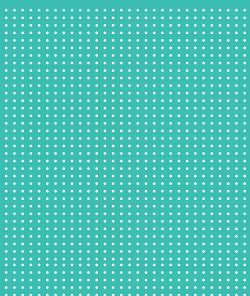
BASIS has a strong secretariat. The secretariat is well staffed to deliver different member services and to carry out programs & activities in different areas as specified within the broad goals of the association. Currently, the employee size of BASIS Secretariat is 20.





SOFTEXPO HISTORY

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A FLASHBACK INTO THE MEMORY LANE OF BASIS SOFTEXPO

Science and technology have made our lives simpler. Works can be done easier through high- tech software and applications. It revolutionized our daily life and one cannot be thought without thinking of the other. With this view in mind, Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), has come forward to enlighten the public about the infinite horizons of technology. BASIS is the national trade association that came into existence in 1997, represents software and IT enabled services industry in Bangladesh. For more than a decade, BASIS has been organizing country’s largest private sector showcase “BASIS SoftExpo” for Software, IT Enabled Services (ITES) and ICT system solutions. The core vision of BASIS SoftExpo is to showcase the eminence and competencies of Bangladeshi Software products and IT Enabled Services, bring potential customer and IT/ITES companies together in a single platform, promote free flow of ideas and share experience with the global audience and help implement Digital Bangladesh vision through branding Bangladesh as a worthy destination for IT investment. A glimpse of the glorious past years of BASIS Softexpo is given below-

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BASIS SoftExpo 2003 was held at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center with 120+ exhibitors participating and 50,000+ visitors in the exposition.

Programs include:

- Opening ceremony
- IT job fairs
- Closing ceremony

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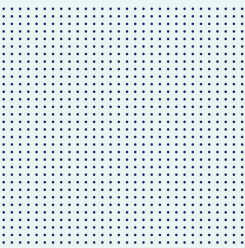
BASIS SoftExpo 2004 was held on November 25-29, 2004 at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center with 120+ exhibitors including a moderate number of foreign companies and 50,000+ visitors.

Convener: Forkan Bin Quasem.

Theme: Towards an IT driven Bangladesh.

Programs include:

- Opening Ceremony
- IT job fairs
- IT entrepreneurship development program
- 20 Seminars
- Best IT use award
- Closing ceremony





A FLASHBACK INTO THE MEMORY LANE OF BASIS SOFTEXPO

2005

BASIS SoftExpo 2005 was held on Nov 27-Dec 1 at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center with 125+ exhibitors, 11 pavilions and 90 stalls and 1,00,000+ visitors including delegates from Europe.

Convener: Mr. Syed Faruque Ahmed

Zones include:

- Software Showcasing
- e-Commerce Zone
- Multimedia and Animation Zone
- IT, communication, infrastructure education and others zone

Programs include:

- Opening Ceremony
- IT job fairs
- IT entrepreneurship development program
- 130 B2B, 35 Institutions
- 8 Seminars & workshops
- Best IT use award
- Closing ceremony

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2006

BASIS SoftExpo 2006 was held on November 21- November 25, 2006 at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center with 200+ exhibitors; including 10 foreign countries and 1,00,000+ visitors.

Convener: Syed Faruque Ahmed

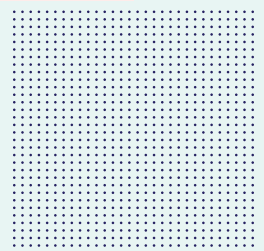
Theme: Turning Our People Into Resource.

Zones include:

- Software Showcasing Zone
- e-Commerce Zone
- Multimedia and Animation Zone
- Other ITS, communication, infrastructure education and others zone

Programs include:

- Opening Ceremony
- IT job fairs
- IT innovation search program
- 20 Seminars & workshops
- BASIS-DBBL Best IT use award
- Closing ceremony
- CEO's dinner program





A FLASHBACK INTO THE MEMORY LANE OF BASIS SOFTEXPO

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BASIS SoftExpo 2007 was held on March 28-April 1 at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center with 130+ exhibitors and 1,00,000+ visitors.

Converner: Mr. A.K.M. Fahim Mashroor

Theme: Turning Our People Into Resources

Zones include:

- Business Software & Application Zone
- Multimedia and Animation Zone
- Internet and Data Communication Service Zone
- High End Data Communication Service Zone, Outsourcing Zone
- IT Education Zone
- SME Software Zone
- ICT for Development Zone

Programs include:

- Opening Ceremony
- IT job fairs
- ICT Innovation Search program
- 8 Seminars & workshops
- Best IT use award
- Closing ceremony

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BASIS SoftExpo 2008 was held on February 14-18 at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center with 130+ exhibitors and 1,00,000+ visitors.

Converner: Mr. T.I.M. Nurul kabir

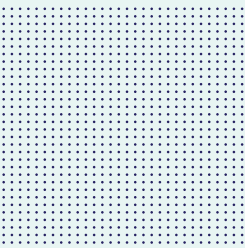
Theme: Get Gain Grow

Zones include:

- Business Software & Application Zone
- Multimedia and Animation Zone
- High End & ICT Solution Zone
- Outsourcing Zone
- IT Education & Training Zone

Programs include:

- Opening Ceremony
- IT job fairs
- 16 Seminars and Roundtable Discussions
- Closing ceremony





A FLASHBACK INTO THE MEMORY LANE OF BASIS SOFTEXPO



2009

BASIS SoftExpo 2009 was co organized by the Ministry of Science and ICT and held on January 27-31, 2009 at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center with 1,00,000+ visitors and 130+ exhibitors.

Converner: Mr. M A Mubin Khan

Zones include:

- Business Software & Application Zone
- Multimedia and Animation Zone,
- Internet and Data Communication Service Zone,
- High End Data Communication Service Zone, Outsourcing Zone,
- IT Education Zone,
- SME Software Zone
- ICT for Development Zone.
- IT Education & Training Zone

Programs include:

- Opening Ceremony
- IT job fairs
- IT entrepreneurship
- Development program
- 10 Seminars
- Award and CEO's night
- Closing ceremony

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2010

BASIS SoftExpo 2010 was co organized by the Ministry of Science and ICT and held on February 10-14, 2010 at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center with 1,00,000+ visitors and 135+ exhibitors.

Converner: Mr. M A Mubin Khan

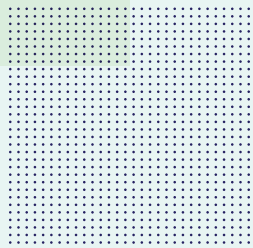
Theme: Digital Bangladesh in Action

Zones include:

- Business Software & Application Zone
- Multimedia and Animation Zone,
- Internet and Data Communication Service Zone,
- High End Data Communication Service Zone, Outsourcing Zone,
- ICT for Development Zone
- IT Education & Training and Others Zone
- SME Software Zone

Programs include:

- Opening Ceremony
- IT job fairs
- 13 Seminars, 1 Roundtable Discussions and 7 Technical Sessions
- Award and CEO's Night
- Closing ceremony





A FLASHBACK INTO THE MEMORY LANE OF BASIS SOFTEXPO

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BASIS SoftExpo 2011 was co organized by the ICT Ministry and A2i. It was held on Feb 1-5 at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center (BICC) with 135+ exhibitors and 1,00,000+ visitors.

Converner: Mr. AKM Fahim Mashroor

Zones include:

- Business Software & Application Zone
- Multimedia and Animation Zone,
- Internet and Data Communication Service Zone,
- High End Data Communication Service Zone, Outsourcing Zone,
- ICT for Development Zone
- IT Education & Training and Others Zone
- SME Software Zone

Programs include:

- Opening Ceremony
- IT job fairs
- IT-Innovation Search program
- 22 Seminars & Roundtable Discussion
- BASIS Award Night
- Code Warriors Challenge
- International Business Matchmaking
- Closing ceremony

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BASIS SoftExpo 2012 was co organized by the ICT Ministry and A2i. It was held on Feb 1-5 from at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center (BICC) with 140+ exhibitors and 11 pavilions, 22 mini pavilions and 82 stalls 20,000+ corporate visitors and 1,00,000 no corporate visitors.

Converner: Mr. Tamzid Siddiq Spondon

Theme: Digital Bangladesh in Action

Zones include:

- Business Software & Application Zone
- Multimedia and Animation Zone,
- Internet and Data Communication Service Zone,
- High End Data Communication Service Zone, Outsourcing Zone,
- ICT for Development Zone
- IT Education & Training and Others Zone
- SME Software Zone
- Communication and Cloud Zone
- ITes and BPO Zone
- e-Commerce Zone

Programs include:

- Opening Ceremony
- IT job fairs
- IT-Innovation Search program
- Idea & Innovation Platform
- 22 Seminars & Roundtable Discussion
- BASIS Award Night
- Code Warriors Challenge
- International Business Matchmaking
- 80+Seminars and Sessions
- Closing ceremony



A FLASHBACK INTO THE MEMORY LANE OF BASIS SOFTEXPO

2017

BASIS SoftExpo 2017 was held from February 1-4, 2017 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC), Dhaka. This mega expo was the biggest compared to all past events with 180+ exhibitors and 11 pavilions, 25 mini pavilions and 84 stalls 20,000+ corporate visitors and 1,00,000 non corporate visitors. More than 30 conferences, seminars, and tech-sessions were organized under the framework of SOFTEXPO 2017.

Converner: Mr. Syed Almas Kabir

Theme: Future in Motion

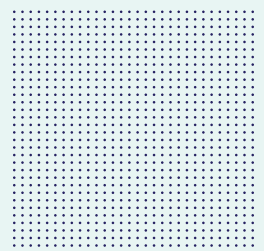
Zones include:

- Business Software Zone
- ITES & BPO Zone
- Mobile Innovation Zone
- E-Commerce Zone

Programs include:

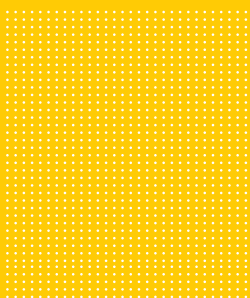
- Inauguration Ceremony
- Inauguration of BASIS Smart Card
- Leadership Meet
- International B2B
- Idea Workshop for Game Development
- Seminar on e-Commerce in Bangladesh
- Developers Conference 2017
- Entrepreneurship and Career in IT
- Tech women Conference 2017
- Kids Coding Orientation
- Information Security Conference

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BASIS SOFTTEXPO 2018: AT A GLANCE





BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 AT A GLANCE



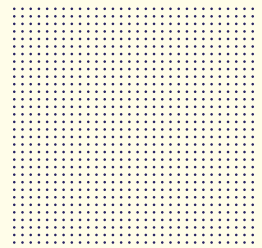
BASIS SOFTEXPO is the annual mega exposition and the largest showcase of IT and ITES products and services in the private sector of Bangladesh. We are pleased to announce that BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 is scheduled to be held from February 22-25, 2018 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC). The 4-day event will be a congregation of ICT companies, personalities, key policy makers, industry leaders and other ICT stakeholders.

It is expected that BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 will be bigger and better than before. Especially inclusion of Software showcasing Zone, Mobile Innovation Zone, Digital Commerce Zone, ITES & BPO Zone and B2B Matchmaking under the same umbrella will add a significant meaning to the entire initiative. In this context, SOFTEXPO would be a unique opportunity for Software and ITES companies to showcase their products and services before the enormous number of local and international visitors and to meet prospective buyers.

List of Exhibitors:

▶ Software Zone

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. 3BL | 26. Daffodil Computers Ltd |
| 2. Airocity | 27. Data Grid Limited |
| 3. Ambala IT | 28. Data Soft |
| 4. Aplectrum Solution Ltd | 29. Dev Skill |
| 5. Arena Phone BD Ltd. | 30. Digi Solution |
| 6. Bangladesh Microtechnology Ltd. | 31. Digital Network Communications |
| 7. Bank Asia | 32. Divine IT Limited |
| 8. BASE Limited | 33. eGeneration Ltd. |
| 9. Bay Information Technologies | 34. ERA InfoTech Ltd. |
| 10. Bengal Mobile QA Solution | 35. Esteem Corporation |
| 11. Beximco | 36. Expana Limited |
| 12. Big web Technologies Ltd. | 37. Express Systems Limited |
| 13. BITM | 38. Ey Soft IT Solution |
| 14. Brain Station 23 Ltd | 39. Field Information Solution Ltd. |
| 15. Cloudly Infotech Limited | 40. Flora Systems Limited |
| 16. Commlink Info Tech Limited | 41. Genuity Systems Ltd |
| 17. Computer network Systems Limited | 42. Grameen Communication |
| 18. Confidence Software Limited | 43. IBCS-PRIMAX Software (BD) Ltd. |
| 19. Connect Seven Solution Sdn Bhd | 44. ICC Teleservices Ltd |
| 20. Constand MD | 45. Info Link |
| 21. Convince Computer Ltd | 46. Infosapex Ltd |
| 22. Core Knowledge Ltd. | 47. Inivent Consulting Services Ltd |
| 23. Creash (pvt) Ltd. | 48. Intercloud Limited |
| 24. CSL Software Resources Ltd. | 49. iPay Systems Ltd |
| 25. Cygnus Innovation Limited | 50. Leads soft Bangladesh Ltd |





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51. M/s Concitus
 52. MediaSoft Data SystemsLtd.
 53. MetroNet Bangladesh Limited
 54. MF Asia Ltd.
 55. Multumode Ltd.
 56. Newgen Technology Ltd
 57. Nice Power & IT Solution Limited
 58. Nogor Soutions Ltd.
 59. Nybbles Systems Ltd
 60. One Simtech Ltd
 61. Pine Solution Limited
 62. Pridesys IT Ltd
 63. Priyo Ltd.
 64. Rawn Technologies Ltd.
 65. Reve Systems Ltd
 66. Ryans Archives Ltd
 67. Satcom IT Limited
 68. SBIT Ltd
 69. Sheba.xyz
 70. Shuktara Soft
 71. Sigma System
 72. Simec System Limited
 73. Singapur Hub (Raise IT Aolutions Ltd)
 74. Soft
 75. Code
 76. Software Shop Limited (SSL Wireless)
 77. Solvers
 78. Southtech Ltd
 79. STM Vision Infotech Ltd
 80. Subra Systems Limited
 81. System Netware
 82. Technoeven Company Ltd.
 83. TechnoVista Limited
 84. Together Initiatives (P) Ltd
 85. Tradevision Ltd.
 86. Triangle Service Ltd
 87. UY Lab

Digital Commerce Zone

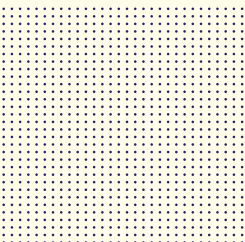
1. Ajkerdeal.com Ited
2. Chaldal Limited
3. Estern Bank Limited
4. Geeky Social Limited
5. Hungrynaki.com Limited
6. Impace Management Services Ltd
7. Innovadeus PVT. LTD.
8. MARS Solutions Limited (nrbazaar.com)
9. Othoba.com
10. Runner Cyberlink Limited
11. Sindabad.com
12. Southeast Bank Limited

Mobile Innovation Zone

1. Asian Information Iechnology Ltd
2. B2M Technologies Ltd
3. Digi Technologies Limited
4. E. B. Solutions Ltd
5. Green & Red Technologies Limited
6. Kona Software Lab Limited
7. M/S Pechas (Cpechas Game Studios)
8. Stellar Digital Limited

ITES and BPO Zone

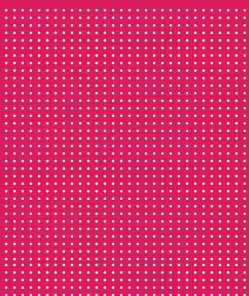
1. A.K. Khan Telecom Limited
2. CPA IT Ltd.
3. Monico Technologies Limited
4. Orogenic Resources (BD) Limited
5. People N Tech Limited





IT AND ITES INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

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IT AND ITES INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

“Digital Bangladesh” is an integral part of the government’s Vision 2021-which promises a prosperous and equitable middle-income Bangladesh by its golden jubilee of independence. Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has outlined the Digital Bangladesh having four key priorities: i) developing human resources ready for the digital age; ii) connecting citizens in the ways most meaningful to them; iii) taking services to citizens’ doorsteps; and, iv) making the private sector and market more productive and competitive through the use of digital technology. ICT is the backbone of any digital initiative and it covers the vast area of information technology, communication technology and the telecommunication technology. The country is successfully leveraging this rising penetration and has earned \$800 million in 2017 by exporting ICT products and services. On top of these, the total number of Internet Subscribers has reached 80.483 million at the end of December, 2017, can be seen as a consequential blessing of the recent progressive steps taken by the present government and the growing ICT sector.

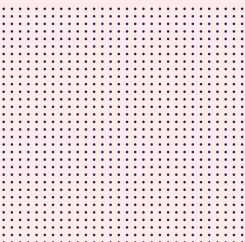
Government Support to IT

- Government has formulated a roadmap for development in ICT in 2016. The activities are clustered in six categories: industry, infrastructure, e-governance, human resources development, laboratories and services.
- The roadmap for the industry has set targets to generate 1,000 innovations, raising software export earnings to USD 5 billion by 2021, developing an eco-system for the gaming industry etc. Moreover, innovation and entrepreneurship academies will be set up.
- The government has identified 100 aspects of the judiciary where ICT can be harnessed and assist in the resolution of 3 million cases currently in backlog.
- The construction of 554 Business Process Outsourcing centers underway and that 2,100 Sheikh Rasel Digital Lab and Language centers out of 2,972 have already been built.
- 7 year tax holiday for registered IT companies
- The BPO has set a goal to connect over 3 corers unbanked people with the banking system this year by the digitized ‘Daak Taka’ which only requires Tk 2 to open an account.
- ICT exporter’s get 10% cash incentive opportunities from July 2017.

Digital Security

Under the law, the government would set up and also has taken some below mentioned initiatives,

- World standard forensic lab
- Constitute a Cyber Security Agency
- Establish cyber incidents responsive team





- A high-level digital security council
- The government in collaboration with cyber security and tech giants has successfully organized an international cyber security conference in the capital on 9th March 2017 aims at taking a coordinated initiative to prevent and check the alarming rise of cyber-attacks.
- BGD e-GOV CIRT launched Mobile app for reporting cyber security incidents to Bangladesh government Computer Emergency Response Team. It is free, easy-to-use, and suitable for users of Android phones. The app will transmit the reports from users via secure Internet connection to the incident handling team who will then contact the users or complainants to assist in resolving the incidents.

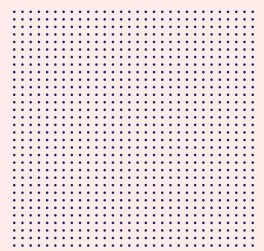
ICT Infrastructure

- To support the development of the ICT industry, Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Act was passed in 2010. Subsequently, Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA) was established in 2010 for creation, management, operation and development of hi-tech parks across the country.
- Most important and top priority projects are-
 - Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park
 - Jessore Software Technology (IT) Park
 - Sylhet Hi-Tech Park
 - Mohakhali IT Village
 - Janata Tower Software Technology Park
 - Barendra Silicon Valley, Rajshahi.
- Bangladesh's first university based incubator is being established at the campus of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET).
- Government has initiated plan to establish "Sheikh Kamal IT Trainings and Incubation Centre" at the divisional level
- ICT incubator of BDBL Bhaban at Kawran Bazar in Dhaka the first software technology park of the country and the under-construction park in Janata Tower, which is also at Karwan Bazar, will be the second.
- The IT service industry, which employs more than 20,000 people, holds great potential. The sector serves both domestic and international clients from Europe, North America and East Asia.
- Sheikh Hasina Software Park, opened in Jessore on Sunday, December 10, 2017



Promote Economic Growth

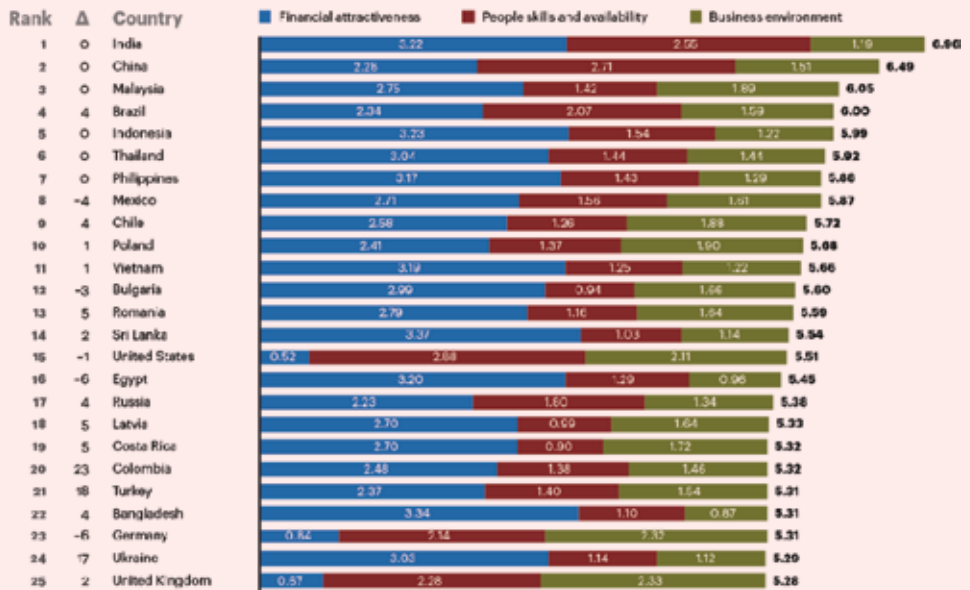
- Bangladesh is now considered to be among the next high prospect destinations in the segment, with accolades from AT Kearney, Gartner, Goldman Sachs and a host of others.



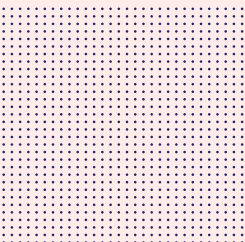


- In budget for FY 2015-16, the tax waiver on income from software and ITES has proposed to be extended to 2024 from June 30, 2019 now-- in line with the government's Digital Bangladesh vision.
- Total earnings of the industry in FY 2015-16 were USD 650 million, out of which exports amounted to USD 151.83 million (source: EPB).
- Export earnings from the ICT sector stood at about \$190.94 million in 2016-17 FY. (source: EPB)
- Over 400 IT companies currently exports to over 60 countries, with North America being the main destination.
- The size of Bangladesh's e-commerce market is estimated to be \$110-115 million (around Tk 900 crore) this year, growing from \$65-70 million in 2016, said the report referring to RedSeer Consulting. And currently, the potential market for online shopping is about Taka 2,000 corers.
- The prospects of the sector have compelled the government of Bangladesh to set a target of USD 1 billion export earnings by 2018. With current trend of export, capacities and available resources, the target notches up USD \$5 billion by 2021.
- In 2016, world's leading management consultancy firm AT Kearney reported that, due to notable growth in IT outsourcing, business processing outsourcing (BPO) and software development, Bangladesh has secured 22nd place in Global Service Location Index (GSLI).

2016 A.T. Kearney Global Services Location Index™



Source: AT Kearney Outsourcing Destination Rankings 2016





- In 2017, world's leading management consultancy firm AT Kearney reported that, due to notable growth in IT outsourcing, business processing outsourcing (BPO) and software development, Bangladesh has secured 21st place in Global Service Location Index (GSLI).



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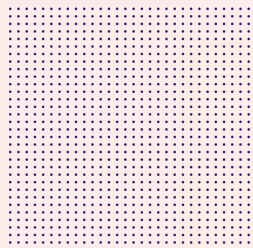
Source: AT Kearney Outsourcing Destination Rankings 2017

▶ Significant Achievements

- Bandwidth capacity of submarine cable has been already raised to 200 GBPS from 44.6. Another 1600 GBPS will be added by February 2017.
- Approximately, 3, 00,000 IT and ITES professionals with majority IT and other graduates are currently employed in the industry.
- Local industry's revenue generation of US\$ 0.9-1.1 billion in 2017 (Source: Everest Group, December 04, 2017). However, BASIS Research (Latifee & Hira, May 2017) shows that the local market size for ICT sector in 2017 was US\$ 1.18 billion.

▶ E-governance Progress

- Bangladesh has climbed up 24 places in United Nations E-Government Development Index. The country has secured an impression leap upward to the 124th position in 2016 from 148th in 2014.
- More than 200 services have been provided to the people through 5, 275 digital centers established all over the country
- Over 25,000 web sites including those of upazilas, districts, divisions, departments and directorates have been added to national web portal
- National Enterprise Architecture (NEA) is being built by the Government to facilitate interoperability and operation of e-governance activities.



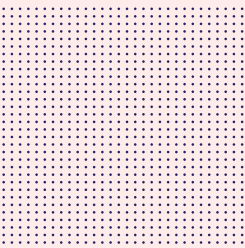
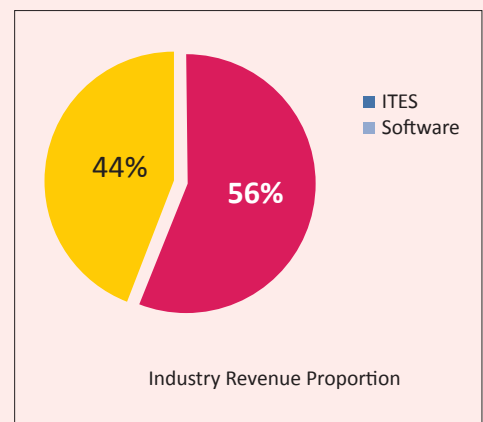
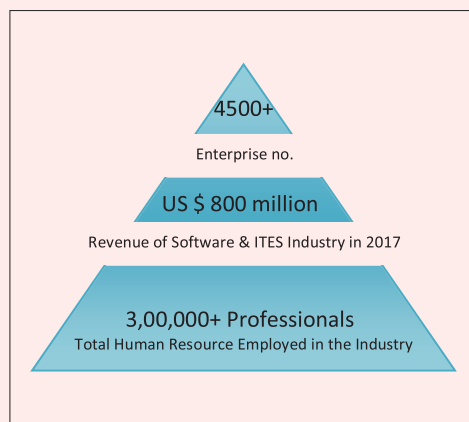


▶ Skill Development

- Leveraging ICT for Growth, Employment & Governance (LICT) Project-
 - Total 75,000+ Youth to be trained over next three years
 - 10,000 Top-up Training
 - 20,000 Foundation Skills Training Program
 - 20,000 Online Outsourcing Training
- Under the Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP), total 1.25 million Youth to be trained by 2021
- Under the Support to Development of Kaliakair Hitech Park project, 4,981 youths have received ICT training.
- To increase self-dependency, Learning and Earning project is working on creating 55,000 freelancers.
- Under the Bari Boshe Borolok (Getting Rich At Home) project, 14,750 youths have been trained as freelancers of whom 70 percent are women.
- Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA) has imparted trainings to around 6,500 youths in different areas of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Around 6,500 youths so far to enable them to get employment capitalizing on their skills in the field of ICT. Of them, around 4,700 trainees have already got jobs under Employment Incentive Program.

▶ Software and IT Industry at a Glance

- No. of registered ICT Companies: 4,500+
- No. of BASIS Member Companies: 1,031
- Demand for software in the local market: US\$ 1.18 Billion
- No. of IT/ITES Professionals: 3,00,000 (appr.)
- Market value of IT/ITES: US \$400+ (Ministry of Finance)
- Professionals: 3,00,000 (appr.)
- Market value of IT/ITES: US \$400+ (Ministry of Finance)

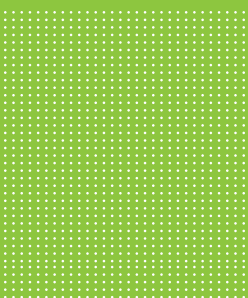




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উৎপাদক ও রপ্তানীকারকের দেশে

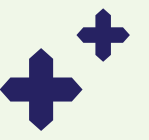
মোস্তাফা জব্বার



দুটি মাইলফলক অর্জনের কথা বলার জন্যই এই অবতারণা। এক কথায় বলতে গেলে বাংলাদেশের তথ্যপ্রযুক্তিকে সত্যিকারের ডিজিটাল যুগে স্থাপন করার জন্য এই দুটি মাইলফলক অর্জনের কোন তুলনা নেই। আমি কেবল ৯৮-৯৯ সালের বাজেটে কম্পিউটারের ওপর থেকে শুরু ও ভ্যাট তুলে নেবার ঘটনাটিকে এই দুটি অর্জনের কাছাকাছি বলে মনে করতে পারি। সালাম জানাই বাংলার স্বর্ণকন্যা শেখ হাসিনাকে, যার হাত ধরেই তিনটি মাইলফলক অর্জন পেলাম আমরা। নিজের কাছেও একটু শান্তি পাচ্ছি এই ভেবে যে তিনটি অর্জনের সাথেই আমি দারুনভাবে সম্পৃক্ত ছিলাম।

বাংলাদেশের তথ্যপ্রযুক্তিতে নিজের অবস্থান তিন দশক বা একত্রিশ বছরের বেশি সময় পার করছি। সেই ৮৭ সালের ২৮ এপ্রিল থেকে এখনও বহমান এই যাত্রার বাঁকে বাঁকে যেমনি আছে সুখ-দুঃখ তেমনি আছে জয় পরাজয়। কখনও হেসেছি, আবার কখনও কেদেছি। পেছনের এই একত্রিশ বছরের দিকে তাকালে যেমনি বলা যাবে অর্জনের কথা, তেমনি বলা যাবে অর্জন করতে না পারার কথাও। আমার বড় সুবিধা হচ্ছে যে, আমি ভালটা, অর্জনটা বা বিজয়টাকে মনে রাখি। পরাজয়টা গায়ে মাখিনা। এসব মিলেইতো জীবন। মানুষ খুব ভাগ্যবান যে, সে তার কষ্টের কথা, বেদনার কথা বা পরাজয়ের কথা তেমনভাবে মনে রাখেনা। যদি খারাপটা মনে রাখতো তবে হয়তো তার সামনে চলা থেমে যেতো। বেশির ভাগ সময়েই মানুষ তার আনন্দ ও বিজয় এর কথাই মনে রাখে। আমিও তাই আনন্দের কথা বা সফলতার কথাগুলোই মনে রাখি। এই খাতে আমার নিজের কি অর্জন সেটি আমি গুছিয়ে বলতে পারবোনা। তবে একত্রিশ বছরে এমন কিছু ঘটনা ঘটেছে যার অন্তত দুয়েকটি প্রধান স্মৃতি এখানে তুলে ধরতে চাই। আমাদের নতুন প্রজন্মের প্রযুক্তিবিদ, রাজনীতিক ও নীতি নির্ধারকগণ এই স্মৃতিচারণ থেকে কিছু না কিছু জানবেন সেই প্রত্যাশা আমার রয়েছে। স্মৃতিচারণ করলে স্মরণে পড়বে কম্পিউটার দিয়ে বাংলা পত্রিকা প্রকাশের কথা, প্রথম ডিজিটাল নিউজ সার্ভিস প্রতিষ্ঠার কথা, ডেস্কটপ প্রকাশনার বিপ্লবের কথা, জাতীয় নির্বাচনে ডিজিটাল প্রযুক্তির ব্যবহার, কম্পিউটারের ওপর থেকে শুরু ও ভ্যাট প্রত্যাহার, দেশব্যাপী কম্পিউটার প্রশিক্ষণ, শিক্ষার ডিজিটাল রূপান্তরের লড়াই, ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ ধারণা, দেশে ডিজিটাল যন্ত্র উৎপাদনের সুযোগ



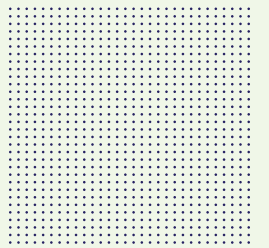


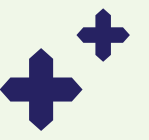
তৈরি, দেশীয় সফটওয়্যার ও সেবা খাতের সুরক্ষা এবং সম্ভবত সর্বশেষটি দেশে ডিজিটাল যন্ত্র উৎপাদন ও ডিজিটাল পণ্য রপ্তানীতে নগদ সহায়তা প্রদানের ব্যবস্থার কথা। স্মৃতিচারণটা পুরো হতো যদি সেই ৯৭ সালের কথাগুলো বলা যেতো যখন বাংলার স্বর্ণকন্যা শেখ হাসিনার হাত ধরে কম্পিউটারের ওপর থেকে সকল শুল্ক ও ভ্যাট প্রত্যাহারের সিদ্ধান্তটি নিতে পারার কথাগুলো বলতে পারতাম। বিশ বছর আগের সেই কাহিনী অনেকের কাছেই অবিশ্বাস্য মনে হতে পারে। সেই কথা তাই অন্য সময়ে বলা যাবে। এবার প্রসঙ্গটি দুটি অর্জনেই সীমিত রাখতে চাই।

▶ ৬ আগস্ট ১৫

খুব পেছনের কথা নাই বলি। ২০১৫ সালের ৬ই আগস্ট ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ টাস্কফোর্স-এর স্মৃতিটা ছোট করে স্মরণ করি। সেদিন প্রধানমন্ত্রীর দপ্তরে ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ টাস্কফোর্স এর সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। কোন পদবী ছাড়াই কেবলমাত্র আনন্দ কমপিউটার্সের মালিক হিসেবে সেই সভায় আমি আমন্ত্রণ পাই। আমি না ছিলাম বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার সমিতির সভাপতি না ছিলাম বেসিস এর সভাপতি। তবুও ব্যক্তি হিসেবেই আমি ঐ শীর্ষ তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি কমিটির সদস্যও হই। ধন্যবাদ তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি বিভাগকে। সঙ্গত কারণেই আমি সেই কমিটির সভায় উপস্থিত ছিলাম। কোন সন্দেহ নাই সেটি আমার জন্য ছিলো একটি বিরাট সম্মান। যদি পেছনের কথা মনে রাখি তবে এটিও স্মরণ করতে হবে যে, তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি বিভাগ থেকে যখন এর আলোচ্যসূচি ও কার্যপত্র প্রস্তুত করা হয় তখনও আমি সাবেক অতিরিক্ত সচিব হারুনুর রশিদ সাহেবের সাথে কাজ করেছি। আলোচ্যসূচী অনুযায়ী সভা পরিচালিত হবার শেষ প্রান্তে আমি প্রধানমন্ত্রীর অনুমতি নিয়ে প্রসঙ্গ উত্থাপন করি যে, বাংলাদেশের প্রায় চার কোটি শিক্ষার্থী আছে। ওদের প্রত্যেকের হাতে ল্যাপটপ দেয়া হবে এমন ঘোষণা আপনি দিয়েছেন। আমরা এখন সকল ডিজিটাল যন্ত্র আমদানী করি। এর ফলে যে বিপুল পরিমাণ বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা আমাদেরকে ব্যয় করতে হয় নিজের দেশে যদি সংযোজনও করি তবে তাতে অন্তত শতকরা ২৫ ভাগ শাস্রয় হবে। সভায় এই প্রসঙ্গে অনেক আলোচনা হয়। টেলিফোন শিল্প সংস্থার বিষয় নিয়েও কথা হয়। দোয়েলের ব্যর্থতাও আলোচনায় আসে। সভায় উপস্থিত প্রধানমন্ত্রীর তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিষয়ক উপদেষ্টা জনাব সজীব ওয়াজেদ জয়ও আলোচনায় অংশ নেন। আলোচনার ফাঁকে অন্যদের বক্তব্যের আলোকে আমি বলি যে, টেলিফোন শিল্প সংস্থাকে মাপকাঠি হিসেবে বিবেচনা করা ঠিক হবেনা। কারণ সেটির রোগ হচ্ছে ব্যবস্থাপনার ত্রুটি। আমরা যদি আমদানীর শেকল ছিড়তে না পারি তবে আমাদের সংকট আরও বাড়বে। প্রধানমন্ত্রী আমাকে টেলিফোন শিল্প সংস্থার দায়িত্ব দেবার কথা বলে ঘোষণা করেন যে, বাংলাদেশ ডিজিটাল যন্ত্র কেবল উৎপাদন করবেনা, রপ্তানীও করবে। সভাশেষে অনানুষ্ঠানিকভাবেও তিনি বিষয়টি নিয়ে আমার এবং অর্থমন্ত্রী মহোদয়সহ অন্যদের সাথে আলোচনা করেন। প্রধানমন্ত্রীর ঘোষণা অনুসারে টেলিফোন শিল্প সংস্থার দায়িত্ব আমার নেয়া হয়নি। কারণ সংস্থাটি চায়নি যে আমি সেটি সার্বিকভাবে পরিচালনা করি-তারা চেয়েছে আমি বরং নামকা ওয়াস্তে কর্মহীন উপদেষ্টা হয়ে থাকি। উপদেষ্টার সেই পদটি আমি গ্রহণ করিনি। কারণ কাজ ছাড়া পদবী নিয়ে থাকার কোন কারণ আমি খুজে পাইনি।

প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সভাপতিত্বে অনুষ্ঠিত ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ টাস্কফোর্সের সভার পর আমরা এর পরের বছর ২০১৬-১৭ অর্থ বছরের বাজেটে এর প্রতিফলন হবে তেমন আশা করলেও বিষয়টি নিয়ে কোন মহল থেকেই সেইভাবে সরকারকে বুঝানো হয়নি। বাংলাদেশের তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি খাতের কোন বাণিজ্য সংগঠন, যেমন বিসিএস, বেসিস বা তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি বিভাগ কিংবা এফবিসিসিআই এই বিষয়ে কোন উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করেনি। তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি বিভাগকে কেউ প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সিদ্ধান্তটি আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে স্মরণও করিয়ে দেয়নি। আমি আগেই বলেছি, নিজের কোন প্লাটফর্ম না থাকায় পত্র লিখে বিষয়টি স্মরণও করাতে পারিনি। কিন্তু ১৬ সালের ১৬ জুলাই যখন আমি বেসিস এর সভাপতির দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ করি তখন আমার মাথায়





প্রচ-ভাবে এটি কাজ করে যে শুরুতেই নিজের দেশকে বাচাতে হবে। তাই সেই নির্বাচনেই আমরা দেশীয় সফটওয়্যারের সুরক্ষার পাশাপাশি দেশে ডিজিটাল ডিভাইস উৎপাদনের জন্য সরকারকে সক্রিয় করার অঙ্গীকার ঘোষণা করি। বেসিস এর সভাপতিত্বের দেড় বছরে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল মহলেই এটি ব্যাপকভাবে আলোচিত হয়। বিশেষ করে সরকারের তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিভাগ বিষয়টিকে সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার দেয়। দেশে হার্ডওয়্যার উৎপাদন, দেশীয় সফটওয়্যারের সুরক্ষা এবং তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি রপ্তানীতে প্রণোদনার বিষয়গুলো এই বিভাগের বাজেট অগ্রাধিকার তালিকায় গুরুত্ব পায়। এই বিভাগের প্রতিমন্ত্রী জনাব জুনাইদ আহমদ পলক নিজে এই বিষয়ে দারুণভাবে আগ্রহী হয়ে ওঠেন এবং তার বিভাগকে এজন্য সকল ধরনের কাজ করতে নির্দেশ দেন। তিনি নিজেও জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডসহ, সরকারের সকল স্তরে এই বিষয়ক সভায় যোগ দেন এবং এই খাতের বক্তব্যগুলো তুলে ধরেন।

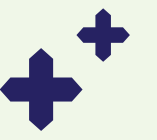
১৭-১৮ সালের বাজেট দেখে আমরা অনুভব করলাম যে, অসম সাহসিনী নেত্রীর বিচক্ষণতা, দূরদৃষ্টি ও দেশপ্রেম এবারের বাজেটে প্রতিফলিত হয়েছে এবং এবার দেশীয় সফটওয়্যারের সুরক্ষা ও দেশটি ডিজিটাল ডিভাইস উৎপাদনে মাইলফলক সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছে। আমরা এখন দুনিয়াকে এই অর্জন দেখাতে পারবো। একদিকে সরকার এবার ডিজিটাল যন্ত্রপাতি উৎপাদনের সকল কাচামাল ও যন্ত্রাংশকে মাত্র শতকরা এক ভাগ করের আওতায় রেখে খুচরা স্তরের ভ্যাটও প্রত্যাহার করে নিয়েছে। বাংলাদেশের তথ্যপ্রযুক্তির ইতিহাসে ৯৮-৯৯ সালে কর ও শুল্ক প্রত্যাহারের ঘটনাটি যেমন মাইলফলক ছিলো এবার সেটিও তেমনি একটি কাজ হলো। আমি আশা করি একটি অর্থ বছরেই এর প্রভাব আমাদের ডিজিটাল ডিভাইস উৎপাদন ও রপ্তানীতে দেখতে পাব। অন্যদিকে সরকার বিদেশী সফটওয়্যারের ওপর করারোপ করার ফলে দেশীয় সফটওয়্যারের প্রতিযোগিতার শক্তি বাড়লো।

তবে বাজেট পেশ করার পর আমাদের একটি দাবীই অনুপস্থিত দেখতে পেয়েছিলাম। সেটি হলো আমরা তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি রপ্তানীতে যে নগদ প্রণোদনার দাবি তুলেছিলাম সেটি বাজেটে ছিলোনা। বাজেট আলোচনায় আমি প্রায়ই বলছিলাম যে, আমাদের এই দাবিটি হয়তো এই বিষয়ক কমিটির সভায় আলোচিত হয়ে ইতিবাচক হবে। এই নিবন্ধে সেই গল্পটিই তুলে ধরতে চাই। এজন্য কিছুটা পেছনে ফিরে তাকাতে হবে। উল্লেখ করা দরকার যে, এই দাবি তোলারও একটি সুন্দর ও চমকপ্রদ ইতিহাস রয়েছে। আসুন এবার একটু পেছনে ফিরে তাকাই।

► উনিশ অক্টোবর ২০১৭

সকাল সাড়ে দশটায় বসুন্ধরা সম্মেলন কেন্দ্রে ডিজিটাল ওয়ার্ল্ড ১৬ এর উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠান। বেসিস ডিজিটাল ওয়ার্ল্ড এর সহ আয়োজক বিধায় অনুষ্ঠানের মধ্যে আমারও থাকার কথা। উদ্বোধন করবেন মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনা। আগে থেকেই আমাদের প্রস্তুতি ছিলো যে, প্রধানমন্ত্রী আসার এক ঘণ্টা আগেই উদ্বোধনী স্থলে পৌঁছে যাব। ঘুমকাতুরে মানুষ হলেও প্রয়োজনে আমি আগেই জেগে ওঠতে পারি। সকাল সাড়ে আটটায় লালমাটিয়ার বাসা থেকে বের হলাম। কিন্তু বিধি বাম। ঘরের দোর সাতাশ নাম্বার থেকে জ্যাম শুরু হলো। বনানী সিগন্যালে গিয়ে একদম স্থির হয়ে গেলাম। সাড়ে নটায় গাড়ি চলা বন্ধ করা হলো এবং ছাড়লো সাড়ে দশটায়। সামনের ফাকা রাস্তা ধরে আমি যখন বসুন্ধরায় পৌঁছাই তখন সাড়ে দশটা পার হয়ে গেছে। মূল গেট বন্ধ। সচরাচর সেটিই হয়ে থাকে। প্রধানমন্ত্রী অনুষ্ঠানস্থলে প্রবেশ করার পর আর কাউকে সেখানে প্রবেশ করতে দেয়া হয়না-বেরও হতে দেয়া হয়না।

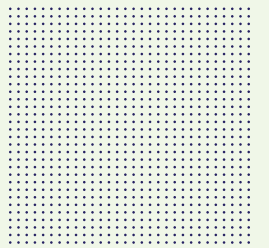
সেদিন আমার কপাল ভাল ছিলো যে এসএসএফ এর একজন আমাকে চিনতে পেরে মূল গেটে ঢুকতে দিয়েছিলেন। এরপরও কপাল ভাল যে, এসএসএফ এর অন্য একজন চিনতে পেরে আমাকে মূল

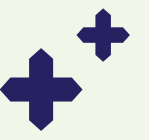


অনুষ্ঠানস্থলেও ঢুকতে দিলেন। তিনি একদম মঞ্চের পাশে একটি চেয়ার স্থির করে আমাকে যখন বসাতে যাবেন তখন অভাবনীয় ঘটনাটি ঘটলো। মঞ্চ ওঠে এল একটি সোফা এবং মঞ্চ থেকে একজন এসএসএফ কর্মী নেমে এসে আমাকে মঞ্চ ওঠিয়ে দিলেন। তখন প্রধানমন্ত্রী, তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রতিমন্ত্রী, তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি সচিব, কম্পিউটার কাউন্সিলের নির্বাহী পরিচালক মঞ্চে রয়েছেন। অনুষ্ঠানের স্বাগত ভাষণও শেষ হয়ে গেছে। এটুআই-এর কবির বিন আনোয়ার বক্তৃতা দিয়ে ফেলেছেন। বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার কাউন্সিল এর নির্বাহী পরিচালক (সাবেক) সৈয়দ আশরাফুল ইসলাম বক্তব্য পেশ করে ফেলেছিলেন। আমি প্রবেশ করার সময় বক্তব্য রাখছিলেন তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি সচিব শ্যাম সুন্দর সিকদার। আমি অতিথিদের পেছন দিয়ে যাবার সময় মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী আমার দিকে তাকিয়ে হেসে বললেন, দেরি কেন? আমি মাথাটা নিচু করে তার কানের কাছে মুখটা নিয়ে বললাম, আপনি আসবেন তাই বনানী ক্রসিং-এ এক ঘণ্টা গাড়ি আটকে দিয়েছিলো। খুবই দুর্গমত এই ত্রুটির জন্য। তিনি মিষ্টি করে হাসলেন। আমি মনে করি সেদিন মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী যে অসাধারণ সম্মানটুকু আমাকে প্রদান করেন তার সাথে জীবনের আর কোন ঘটনাকে তুলনা করতে পারবনা। একজন অতি সাধারণ মানুষকে তিনি যে মর্যাদার আসনে বসিয়েছেন সেটি তার বিশালত্বকেই প্রকাশ করে। সারা জীবন তার এই স্নেহটা পেয়ে আমি ধন্য হয়ে যাই। ৭০ সালে ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বাংলা বিভাগে পড়ার সময় ছাত্র সংসদের নির্বাচনের সময় এমন একটি মিষ্টি হাসির কথা মনে পড়লো। সেবার আমার ভিপি পদে নির্বাচন করার কথা। সব ঠিক ঠাক। মনোনয়ন পেপারে সই করতে গিয়ে তিনি জানলেন যে আমি কয়েক মাসের বেতন দিইনি। সেজন্য তার কাছ থেকে বকা খেয়েছিলাম। তাকে তখন বাধ্য হয়ে আমার বদলে অন্য একজনকে ভিপি পদে মনোনয়ন দিতে হয়েছিলো। শেখ হাসিনার এই হাসিতে একটু বকা এবং পুরোটা আদর মিশে থাকে। সেই থেকে জীবনে বহুবার তার এই হাসি আমি দেখেছি। তিনি বরাবরই হাসিতে পুরো অনুষ্ঠান শেষ করেন। কখনও আবার একটু গম্ভীরও দেখায় তাকে। কখনও কখনও সেই হাসি প্রাণ খোলা হয়ে ওঠে। সেই হাসি মুখ দেখতে দেখতে সংকোচের সাথেই সোফাসেটে বসে অবিশ্বাস্য ঘটনাটির কথা ভাবছিলাম। আমার জানা নেই কোন প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কোন অনুষ্ঠানে এমন কোন ঘটনা এর আগে ঘটেছে কিনা। আমি নিজে ভেবেছিলাম কোন মতে যদি আমাকে অনুষ্ঠানস্থলে ঢুকতে দেয়া হয় এবং পেছনের সারির কোথাও যদি আমাকে বসতে দেয়া হয় তবেই জীবন ধন্য হবে। সেই ভাবনার বিপরীতে এমনটা সম্মান পাব সেটি কল্পনারও বাইরের ছিলো। আমার নিজের ধারণা অনুষ্ঠানের উপস্থিত সকলের জন্য এটি তাদের জীবনের ব্যতিক্রমী ঘটনা ছিলো।

আমি সত্যি সত্যি ঠিক জানিনা, প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কোন অনুষ্ঠানে এভাবে কেউ দেরিতে প্রবেশ করেছে কিনা, দেরিতে প্রবেশকারীকে এভাবে মঞ্চ তোলা হয়েছে কিনা এবং তাকে বিশেষ অতিথির বক্তব্য দিতে বলা হয়েছে কিনা। ঘটনাচক্রে সোফায় বসার সাথে সাথেই ডাক পড়লো আমার বক্তব্য দেবার। তখন বেলা ১১-০৯ মিনিট। পড়িয়ামে দাড়িয়ে দেখলাম দেশের গণ্যমান্য প্রায় সকল মানুষ সামনে বসা। অর্থমন্ত্রী আবুল মাল মুহিত থেকে শুরু করে পদস্থ আমলা ও সাংসদরাও উপস্থিত। আমার বক্তব্য শুরু হতেই মুহিত ভাই-এর মুখে হাসি দেখলাম। একটু পরে প্রধানমন্ত্রী কাগজের নোট বই ও কলম হাতে নিলেন। মুখের হাসিটা আরও উজ্জ্বল হলো। বক্তব্য দেবার ফাকে ফাকে আমি বস্তুত অর্থমন্ত্রী ও প্রধানমন্ত্রীর দিকেই তাকাছিলাম। আমার উদ্দেশ্যও ছিলো এই দুজনই। কথা ছিলো প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সামনে লিখিত বক্তব্য পাঠ করতে হবে। বেসিস থেকে আমার লিখিত বক্তব্যের একটি খসড়া এসএসএফকে দেয়াও হয়েছিলো। কিন্তু আমি আগেও যেমন লিখিত বক্তব্য পাঠ করিনি সেদিনও তা করিনি। পুরোই আপন মনের মাধুরি মেশানো বক্তব্য দিলাম। যদি পুরো বক্তব্যের একটি শিরোনাম তৈরি করতে হয় তবে তা হচ্ছে দেশ দেশ এবং দেশভিত্তিক।

আমি ডিজিটাল যন্ত্রপাতি আমদানীর বিপরীতে দেশে উৎপাদন ও রপ্তানীর প্রসঙ্গটি তুললাম। আমি ইন্টারনেটের কথা বললাম। আমি বললাম আমাদের ছেলে মেয়েদের দিয়ে ডিজিটাল রূপান্তরের কাজ





করানোর কথা। তবে আমার সেদিনের প্রধান উপজীব্য বিষয় ছিলো তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি রপ্তানী খাতে সরকারের পক্ষ থেকে নগদ প্রণোদনা দেবার দাবি তোলা। আমি স্মরণ করতে পারি সেটি আমার জীবনের অন্যতম সেরা বক্তব্য। ১১-১৯ মিনিটে আমি বক্তব্য শেষ করলাম। ইউটিউবে পুরো অনুষ্ঠানটির রেকর্ড আছে। সেই রেকর্ডটির লিঙ্ক হচ্ছে এরকম: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSt2RHZDUKc>। ইউটিউবের ভিডিওটির ৩৯-২৩ মিনিটে আমার বক্তব্য শুরু করে ৪৯-২৩ মিনিটে সেটি শেষ হয়।

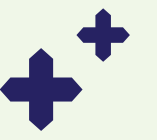
আমার বক্তব্যের পর প্রধানমন্ত্রী বক্তব্য পেশ করার সময় আমার প্রত্যাশা অনুযায়ী আমার দাবিগুলো নিয়ে কোন কথা বললেন না। অনুষ্ঠানের শেষে তিনি যখন মঞ্চ থেকে নেমে আসেন তখন আমিও তার সাথে নামি এবং অর্থমন্ত্রীর সাথে মঞ্চের সিঁড়িতেই দেখা হয়। আমি তখন প্রসঙ্গগুলো তুলি। মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীকে উদ্দেশ্য করে বলি, এই যে আমাদের মুহিত ভাই আছে। মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী আপনি মুহিত ভাইকে আমাদের দাবির কথা এখনই বলে দিন, তাহলে সামনের বাজেটে তিনি আমাদের সব দাবি মেনে নেবেন। প্রধানমন্ত্রী তার সেই চিরায়ত হাসিটি দিয়ে মুহিত ভাইকে আমাকে দেখিয়ে বললেন, শুনের উনার কথা। মুহিত ভাইও হাসলেন। আমি ঠিক বলতে পারবনা সেদিনের সেই মুহূর্তের আলোচনায় কে কি বললেন আর কে কি বুঝলেন। এরপর ডিজিটাল ওয়ার্ল্ড এর এক সেমিনারে তোফায়েল ভাইকে পেয়ে যাই। তার সামনেও আমি দাবিগুলো তুলি। তিনি সেই সেমিনারে প্রকাশ্যে ঘোষণা করলেন যে, তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি খাতের রপ্তানীতে সরকার শতকরা ১০ ভাগ নগদ প্রণোদনা দেবে। ২১ অক্টোবর ডিজিটাল ওয়ার্ল্ড এর সমাপনী অনুষ্ঠানে অর্থ মন্ত্রীর কাছেও আমার সেই কথাগুলো তুলে ধরি। এরপর যখনই আমার সুযোগ হয়েছে তখনই আমি দেশীয় সফটওয়্যারের সুরক্ষা, দেশে ডিজিটাল যন্ত্র উৎপাদনের ব্যবস্থা এবং রপ্তানীতে নগদ প্রণোদনার দাবি তুলেছি। জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের সাথে সভা হোক, টিভি চ্যানেলের লাইভ শো বা টক শো হোক কিংবা পত্রিকার কলাম হোক আমি প্রধানত এই তিনটি বিষয়ের মাঝেই আমার বক্তব্য সীমিত রেখেছি।

▶ ১৫ জুন ১৭

আমি আগেই জানতাম ১৫ জুন সকাল দশটায় অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়ে রপ্তানী প্রণোদনা বিষয়ে আনন্ত মন্ত্রণালয়ের সভা হবে। তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রতিমন্ত্রী জুনাইদ আহমদ পলক তারিখটা আমাকে অনেক আগেই জানিয়েছিলেন। শুধু সেদিনের তারিখ স্মরণ করানো কেন, তিনি তার মন্ত্রণালয়ের পক্ষ থেকে রপ্তানীতে নগদ প্রণোদনা দেবার জন্য আনুষ্ঠানিক প্রস্তাবও দিয়েছিলেন বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ে।

আমাকেই জোর দিয়ে বলেছিলেন যে, সভা অনুষ্ঠানের আগেই অর্থমন্ত্রীর সাথে আমি যেন কথা বলে নিই। তিনি নিজেও প্রস্তুতি নিয়েছিলেন সভায় যোগদানের। কদিনের প্রস্তুতির ফলাফল হিসেবে ১৪ জুন সকালে আমাকে আর সামি আহমদকে অর্থ সচিবের কাছে তিনি তার ডিও লেটার দিয়ে পাঠান। ডিও লেটারটি তিনি ১৩ জুন সই করেন যার নাম্বার হচ্ছে আধা-সরকারি পত্র সংখ্যা ৫৬০০০০০০০৬৯৯০০৩১৭-৫৭৪ তারিখ ১৩ জুন ২০১৭। পরে তিনি নগদ সহায়তা প্রদানের যৌক্তিকতা তুলে ধরে শতকরা ২০ ভাগ প্রণোদনা প্রদানের অনুরোধ করেন। তিনি পরে ২১ সাল নাগাদ ৫ বিলিয়ন ডলার রপ্তানীর লক্ষ্যমাত্রার কথাও উল্লেখ করেন।

আমি এবং সামি আহমদ ১৪ জুন ১৭ সকালে সেই পত্রটি নিয়ে অর্থ সচিব হেদায়েত আল মামুন এর সাথে দেখা করে কথা বলি এবং তিনি আমাদের জন্য শুভ কামনা প্রকাশ করেন। একই সাথে তিনি আমাদের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করেন যে, প্রকৃতপক্ষে মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রীই এই বিষয়ে সিদ্ধান্ত নেবেন। কয়েক মিনিটের আলোচনায় আমরা সচিব মহোদয়কে কিছুটা ইতিবাচক দেখে আশান্বিত হলাম। চাইছিলাম এই সুযোগে অর্থমন্ত্রীর সাথেও দেখাটা করে যাই। তবে খোজ নিয়ে জানা গেল যে, অর্থ মন্ত্রী তখনও

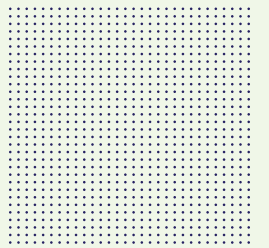


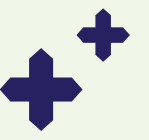
অফিসে আসেননি। ফলে সেদিনই সিদ্ধান্ত নেয়া হলো যে, পরের দিন দশটায় সভা শুরু হলেও অন্তত এক ঘণ্টা আগে এসে আমরা অর্থমন্ত্রীর সাথে এই বিষয়ে আমাদের প্রস্তাবনা পেশ করব।

সেদিন সকাল পর্যন্ত আমি জানতাম যে সভায় জুনাইদ আহমদ পলক থাকবেন। আমার সাথে আমি আহমদও থাকার কথা। কিন্তু সেদিন সকালে আমি আহমদ জানালেন যে, প্রতিমন্ত্রী মহোদয় থাকতে পারবেন না। আমিও আসতে পারবেন না। বিষয়টি পরে টের পেয়েছিলাম যখন সভা চলাকালে তাতে আমাকেও থাকতে দেয়া হয়নি। সকাল সাড়ে নটায় আমি অর্থমন্ত্রীর সাবেক একান্ত সচিব জাকারিয়া সাহেবের রুমে বসে অনুভব করলাম যে আজকের লড়াইটা আমার একারই। জাকারিয়া সাহেব জানতেন, আমি মাননীয় অর্থ মন্ত্রীর সাথে সভার আগে এক মিনিট কথা বলতে চাই। তিনি বারবার খোজ নিচ্ছিলেন মুহিত ভাই কখন আসবেন। কিন্তু হঠাৎ জানলাম সকাল ঠিক দশটায় মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী সরাসরি সভাকক্ষে ঢুকে পড়লেন। নিজের রুমে গেলেনইনা। আমিও তাই সরাসরি সভাকক্ষে ঢুকে গেলাম। সালাম দিলাম মুহিত ভাইকে। মুহিত ভাই মিস্ট্রি করে হাসলেন। বললেন “আজকেতো তোমার এজেন্ডা আছে”। “জ্বী, আপনার বিবেচনার অপেক্ষায় আজকের মাইলফলক প্রস্তাবনা আমাদের রণশুনীতে নগদ সহায়তা দেবার জন্য।” কথাগুলো বলে আমি সভাকক্ষের শেষের দিকে একটি চেয়ার টেনে বসলাম। দেখে নিলাম নিজের সামনে মাইক্রোফোন রয়েছে কিনা। তাকিয়ে দেখলাম পাশের সবাই অচেনা। মিনিট দুয়েক পরে কেউ একজন আমার কাছে এসে বললেন, আপনি কি এই সভায় এসেছেন? আমি হ্যাঁ বলার পর তিনি জানালেন, আমি আমন্ত্রিত নই-তাই এই সভাতে উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবনা। আমি তাকে জানালাম, আমার বিষয়ে এজেন্ডা আছেতো। তবুও তিনি জানালেন যে আমার থাকা সম্ভব না। বাধ্য হয়েই বললাম, বেশ থাকবনা, এখনই বের হয়ে যাচ্ছি। বেরোনোর সময় সভাপতির আসনে বসা মুহিত ভাই এর কাছে গিয়ে হেসে বললাম, আজ কিন্তু আমাকে নগদ প্রণোদনা দেবার কথা। তিনি হাসতে হাসতে বললেন, আর কতো দেব তোমাকে। সেই যে ২০০৯ সাল থেকে নিচ্ছ-নিয়েই যাচ্ছ। তোমাদের ২০২৪ সাল পর্যন্ত আয়কর নাই। আমার সরকারতো বটেই পরের সরকারের জন্যও তোমাদের আয়কর মাফ করে দিচ্ছি। সকল ভ্যাট তুলে দিলাম। তোমার সব দাবিতো মেনে নিচ্ছি। তোমার যন্ত্রাংশ আর কাচামালকে শুল্কমুক্ত ও ভ্যাটমুক্ত করে দিলাম। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাঙ্ক তোমার সব সমস্যার সমাধান করে পাচটা এসআরও জারি করেছে। জুলাইতে তোমার ইইএফ ফান্ড পেয়ে যাবা। আর কি? আমি নিজে নিজে স্মরণ করলাম-তিনি সত্য কথাই বলেছেন। ২০০৯ সালেই ১০০ কোটি টাকার খোক বরাদ্দ দিয়ে তিনি তার ইতিবাচক কাজের সূচনা করেছিলেন। এখনও সেটি অব্যাহত রয়েছে। তার প্রতিটি বাজেট আমাদের জন্য সহায়ক ছিলো।

অর্থমন্ত্রী মুহিত সাহেবের বক্তব্যের সূত্র ধরে আমি বললাম, সবই পেয়েছি মুহিত ভাই, সব দিয়েছেন-দিচ্ছেন, তবুও রণশুনী প্রণোদনাও দিতে হবে। এটি আমাদের অধিকার। তিনি অর্থ সচিব ও অন্যান্য কর্মকর্তাদেরকে দেখিয়ে বললেন, দেখি ওরা কি বলে? আমিতো সব সময়েই তোমার পক্ষের কথাই বলি। মুহিত ভাই এর একথা শোনার পর সালাম দিয়ে মিটিং রুম থেকে বের হয়ে গেলাম। একবার ভাবলাম, মুহিত ভাই এর পিএস (তখনকার) জাকারিয়া সাহেবের রুমে গিয়ে বসি। কিন্তু পরক্ষণেই মনে হলো, বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রী তোফায়েল ভাইতো আসেননি। তিনিতো এই বারান্দা দিয়েই মিটিং রুমে ঢুকবেন। তাকেও একটা সালাম দিতে হবে। তাকে তার প্রতিশ্রুতির কথা মনে করিয়ে দিতে হবে। প্রায় ২০ মিনিট পর লিফট দিয়ে তোফায়েল ভাই ওঠে এলেন। আমাকে দেখেই হাসলেন। বললেন, কি ভাই জবক্ষার, আজকে আপনার এজে-। আমি জ্বী বলে পাশাপাশি হাটতে থাকলাম। কিছু না বলে তিনি কেবল আস্থাসূচক একটা হাসি দিয়ে সভায় ঢুকে গেলেন। আমার তখন প্রচ-টেনসন। বরাবর মুহিত ভাই আমার প্রস্তাবে সরাসরি হ্যাঁ বলেন। যেটি পারবেন না সেটিতে না বলেন। কোন প্রস্তাব দিলে সেটি নিয়ে মাঝামাঝি কোন কথা বলেন না। যেটি বাদ পড়ার সেটিকে বাদ দেন। রণশুনী প্রণোদনা নিয়ে আমি আগে যতবারই কথা বলেছি মুহিত ভাই প্রকাশ্যে সেই কথাই বলে

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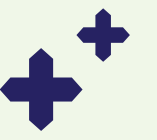
আসছিলেন যে, আইসিটি অনেক কিছু পায়-আর কতো? তাদেরকে আর কতো দেয়া হবে? আমি শিক্ষিত হয়ে পড়েছিলাম। আমি স্মরণ করতে পারছিলাম যে তিনি টিভিতে লাইভ অনুষ্ঠানেও সরাসরি নাকচ করেছেন।

নগদ সহায়তা বিষয়ক আন্ত মন্ত্রণালয় সভায় যখন থাকতে পারিনি তখন একবার ভেবেছিলাম বারান্দায় পায়চারি করে লাভটা কি? ভেতরে যে সিদ্ধান্ত হবার তাতো হবেই। উপরন্তু কেউতো আমাকে থাকতেও বলেনি। আমার নিজের থাকার কোন প্রয়োজন আছে কিনা সেটিও জানিনা। যদি আমার প্রয়োজনই থাকতো তবে অর্থ মন্ত্রী বা বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রী আমাকে সভায় থাকতে দিতেন বা বলতেন তুমি অপেক্ষা কর। তারা কেউ কিছুই বলেননি।

এতোটা নেতিবাচক ভাবনার পরও সভাস্থল ছেড়ে চলে আসার কোন ইচ্ছাই জাগ্রত করতে পারলাম না। নিজের কাছে মনে হলো অন্তত জেনে যেতে হবে যে, আমার পক্ষে সিদ্ধান্ত হলো না বিপক্ষে সিদ্ধান্ত হলো। অক্টোবর থেকে লাগাতার পরিশ্রম করে যে কাজটি গুছিয়ে আনলাম সেটি তীরে এসে তরী ডুবে যাক তা হতে দেয়া যায়না। আবার এটিও ভাবলাম-যদি কথাও বলতে না পারি তবে আমার পক্ষের যুক্তিটা সভায় উপস্থাপিত হবে কেমন করে।

সভাকক্ষের সামনের বারান্দার কয়েক গজ জায়গা তখন আমার পায়চারির জায়গা হয়ে ওঠলো। মনে মনে কষ্ট পাচ্ছিলাম এজন্য যে, আমি এমন চূড়ান্ত একটি সভায় যৌক্তিক বিষয়গুলো তুলে ধরতে না পারলে আজ হেরে যাব। স্মরণ করছিলাম ৯৭ সালের কথা যখন তোফায়েল ভাই জেআরসি কমিটি গঠন করেছিলেন। তার কাছে সেই কমিটির সুপারিশ পেশ করার সময় বিগ্না প্রব্লে হাসিমুখে তিনি সেটি গ্রহণ করেন। সেই বছরের ডিসেম্বরের সেমিনারটির কথাও মনে করতে পারছিলাম। মনে পড়ছিলো শাহ এএমএস কিবরিয়ার কথা। স্মরণ করছিলাম তোফায়েল ভাই কি আন্তরিকতার সাথে আমাদের ৪৫টি সুপারিশকে গ্রহণ করেছিলেন এবং ২০০১ এর মাঝে ২৮টি সুপারিশ বাস্তবায়ন করেছিলেন। কম্পিউটারকে শুদ্ধ ও ভ্যাটমুক্ত করার পাশাপাশি মানবসম্পদ তৈরির দিকে মনযোগী হবার কথাটাও ভুলতে পারিনা। অন্যদিকে অর্থমন্ত্রী আবুল মাল আব্দুল মুহিত ২০০৯ সাল থেকে তথ্যপ্রযুক্তিকে যেভাবে পৃষ্ঠপোষকতা করেছেন তার কোন তুলনা আমি কোনভাবেই পাবনা। আমি মনে করিনা বাংলাদেশ তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি বান্ধব এমন আর একজন অর্থমন্ত্রী পাবে। এর আগের বছর বাজেট পাসের আগের দিন তিনি ই-কমার্স এর ভ্যাট তুলে নিয়েছিলেন।

তোফায়েল ভাই বরাবরই আমাদের বিষয়গুলোকে ইতিবাচকভাবে দেখেন সেটি আমার একটি ভরসাস্থল বলে মনে হলো। এগারোটা বাজার একটু আগে একজন সরকারি কর্মকর্তা আমাকে ডাকলেন-আপনাকে ভেতরে ডাকছে। প্রথমেই মুহিত ভাই-এর দিকে তাকালাম। তিনি তখন বেশ বড় করেই হাসলেন। সাহস পেলাম অনেক। তোফায়েল ভাইও হাসলেন। সবাইকে সালাম দিয়ে বসার পর তোফায়েল ভাই বললেন, বলুন আপনার রণ্ডানী প্রণোদনার যুক্তি কি? আমি প্রথমেই দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করলাম এই বলে যে এটি আমার অধিকার। সরকার সকল রণ্ডানী খাতে প্রণোদনা দেবে আর আমাকে কেন দেবেনা। আমি যে কোন রণ্ডানী খাতের চাইতে বেশি মূল্য সংযোজন করি। অন্যরা বস্ত্রগত পণ্য রণ্ডানী করে আর আমি মেধা রণ্ডানী করি। আমার মূল্য সংযোজন শতভাগ। সরকার পোশাকরণ্ডানী থেকে যদি ৫০ বিলিয়ন ডলার পায় তবে সম পরিমাণ সুবিধা আমার ৫ বিলিয়ন ডলারেই পায়। আমি কোন বস্ত্রগত সম্পদ আমদানী করিনা। উপরন্তু আমি শিক্ষিত বেকারদের কর্মসংস্থান করি। আমার কাছে এটি অর্থনৈতিক বিষয় নয়, মানসিক শক্তি অর্জনের বিষয়। এর মানে হবে সরকার যে আমাদের সাথে আরও জোর দিয়ে আছে সেটি নিজেকে ও বিশ্ববাসীকে জানানো সম্ভব হবে। সরকার এই খাতকে ব্যাপকভাবে সহায়তা করে আসছে বলেই আমরা এতোটা পথ এলাম। অন্যরা ভাববে এই সরকার প্রযুক্তিবান্ধব। আমি এর মধ্য দিয়ে প্রতিযোগিতার বাজারেও শক্ত অবস্থান তৈরি করতে পারব।

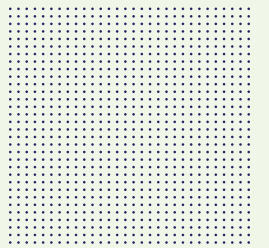


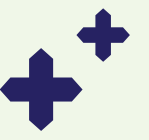
সেই ৯৭ সালের তোফায়েল ভাই এর গঠন করা জে আরসি কমিটি, ৯৮-৯৯ সালের শুষ্ক ও ভ্যাট মুক্ত করণ, ২০০৮ সালের ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ ঘোষণা এবং ২০০৯ সাল থেকে অব্যাহত সমর্থন আমাদেরকে অনেকটা পথ সামনে এনেছে। আমরা ২০০৮ সালের ২৬ মিলিয়ন ডলার রপ্তানী থেকে ১৬ সালে ৭০০ মিলিয়নে পৌঁছেছি। এই প্রণোদনা আমাদেরকে মানসিকভাবে আরও শক্ত করবে।” আমার বক্তব্যের পরও কোন কোন কর্মকর্তা এই প্রণোদনার বিষয়ে কিছুটা শঙ্কা প্রকাশ করলেন। কিন্তু সভার প্রায় সবাই এই বিষয়ে একমত হলেন যে, তথ্যপ্রযুক্তির জন্য এই প্রণোদনা দেয়া উচিত। আমি আনন্দিত হলাম সভার সুর ইতিবাচক দেখে। অর্থ মন্ত্রী, অর্থ সচিব, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের চেয়ারম্যান, বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রী সবাই বললেন, হ্যাঁ, নগদ প্রণোদনা দিতে হবে। তবে তারা প্রশ্ন তুললেন, এর যেন অপব্যবহার না হয়। আমি দায়িত্ব নিয়ে বললাম, সেটি আমার ওপর ছাড়বেন। ব্যর্থ হলে আমাকে ফাসিতে লটকাবেন। খুশি হলাম এটি দেখে যে সবাই আমার কথার ওপর আস্থা রাখলেন। এই আলোচনার ফলে বেসিস তার নিজের প্রাধান্য গড়ে তুলতে সক্ষম হলো। প্রণোদনা দেবার ব্যাপারে বেসিস এর ভূমিকা নিশ্চিত হলো।

কতো ভাগ প্রণোদনা দেয়া হবে সেটিতে প্রথম শতকরা ৫ ভাগ প্রস্তাব এলো। বলা হলো, শতকরা ৫ ভাগ দিয়ে শুরু করা হোক। কিন্তু আমি বললাম যে, প্রণোদনা ৫ ভাগ দিলে সেটি কারও মনেই কোন আচড়ই কাটবে না। আমি অন্তত ১০ ভাগের দাবিতে অনড় থাকলাম। তখন সর্বসম্মতিক্রমে ১০ ভাগই অনুমোদিত হলো। এরপর প্রশ্ন এলো কিসের ওপর এই প্রণোদনা দেয়া হবে। আমি খুব স্পষ্ট করে বললাম, এটি কম্পিউটারের সফটওয়্যার, তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি সেবা এবং ডিজিটাল যন্ত্রসহ সকল রপ্তানীর ক্ষেত্রেই দিতে হবে। ডিজিটাল যন্ত্র প্রসঙ্গে একটু গলাটান শুনে আমি জানালাম-এটির রপ্তানীতে সহায়তা করা বরং সহজ হবে, কারণ তাতে আমরা সহজে সনাক্ত করার সুযোগ পাব। অন্যদিকে আমরা দেখবো যে, বিশ্বের বড় বড় ডিজিটাল যন্ত্র উৎপাদক প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলো বাংলাদেশে কারখানা স্থাপন করবে এবং এখান থেকে পণ্য রপ্তানী করবে। তোফায়েল ভাই নগদ প্রণোদনার অপব্যবহার সম্পর্কে আমাকে মনে করিয়ে দিলেন যে, এর আগে জামদানীতে নগদ প্রণোদনা দেয়া হয়েছিলো-কিন্তু অপব্যবহার হওয়ায় সেটি বাতিল করা হয়েছে। আমি সভাকক্ষের সকলের চোখে মুখে আনন্দ দেখে অভিভূত হলাম। এরপর অর্থ মন্ত্রী আমার দিকে তাকিয়ে বললেন, তুমিতো খুশি। সব পেয়ে গেছ। তবে প্রধানমন্ত্রীর বক্তৃতার আগে একথা প্রকাশ করতে পারবেনা। তোফায়েল ভাই জানালেন, ২৮ জুন ১৭ প্রধানমন্ত্রী সংসদে ভাষণ দেবেন এবং তার ঘোষণার পরই সেটি যেন সবাই জানে। আমি সম্মতি দিয়ে অনুরোধ করলাম, ঘোষণা না হয় পরে হবে। কিন্তু এই সভাটি ইতিহাসের একটি অংশ। অনুমতি পেলে আমি এর একটা ছবি তুলে রাখি। অর্থমন্ত্রী সম্মতি দিলেন। আমিও ছবি তোলালাম।

২৮ জুন প্রধানমন্ত্রী ও অর্থ মন্ত্রী বাজেট ভাষণ প্রদান করেন এবং ২৯ জুন সেই বাজেট পাসও হয়। প্রণোদনার বিষয়টি বাজেট আলোচনায় না আসায় আমি অর্থমন্ত্রী ও অর্থ সচিব এর সাথে কথা বলে জানতে পারি যে, এটি বাজেটে প্রকাশ করতে হবেনা। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাঙ্ক এই বিষয়ে প্রজ্ঞাপন জারি করবে। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাঙ্ক সেই প্রজ্ঞাপন জারীও করেছে।

১লা জুলাই ১৭ থেকে বহাল হওয়া এই সিদ্ধান্ত বাংলাদেশের তথ্যপ্রযুক্তির ইতিহাসে এমন একটি ঘটনা যাকে আমি ৯৮-৯৯ সালে কম্পিউটারের ওপর থেকে শুষ্ক ও ভ্যাট প্রত্যাহার করার চাইতেও অনেক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিবেচনা করি। এটি বাংলাদেশ থেকে মেধাসম্পদ ও ডিজিটাল যন্ত্র রপ্তানীর এমন এক দিগন্ত উন্মোচন করবে যা এর আগে আমরা কখনোই ভাবতেও পারিনি। একই সাথে এই কথাটিও বলা দরকার যে টাস্কফোর্স ও ডিজিটাল ওয়ার্ল্ড এর আবেদন অনুসারে এবারের বাজেটে ডিজিটাল যন্ত্রের স্থানীয় উৎপাদনকে উৎসাহিত করার জন্য শুষ্ক কাঠামোতে যুগান্তকারী সিদ্ধান্ত নেয়া হয়েছে।





এবারের বাজেটটাই বস্তুত তথ্যপ্রযুক্তির। এবার একদিকে দেশীয় সফটওয়্যার ও সেবাখাতকে সুরক্ষা দেয়া হয়েছে। এই বাজেট ডিজিটাল যন্ত্র উৎপাদনকে সুরক্ষা দিয়েছে এবং দিয়েছে রপ্তানীতে প্রণোদনা। বিজয় হচ্ছে ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ এর।

বাংলাদেশের তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি খাতের বিকাশের কথা যারা জানেন তারা এই মাইলফলক সিদ্ধান্তে আরও নিশ্চিত হবেন যে এই সরকার কেবল তথ্যপ্রযুক্তিবান্ধব নয় তারা সামনের দিকেও তাকাতে পারেন। এখানে উল্লেখ করা দরকার যে এরই মাঝে সরকার আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি রপ্তানী সহায়তা বিষয়ক প্রজ্ঞাপন জারী করেছে এবং দেশের অনেকগুলো শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠান দেশে ডিজিটাল যন্ত্র উৎপাদনে উদ্যোগ নিয়েছে। আমি মনে করি আমরা প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সেই স্বপ্নটা-“আমরা কম্পিউটার বানাবো এবং রপ্তানী ও করবো।” নিবন্ধ লেখার সময় অক্টোবর ১৭ এর অবস্থা হচ্ছে যে গোলটন, সিসফনি এবং উই দেশে মোবাইল ফোন উৎপাদনের কাজ শুরু করেছে। ওয়ালটন ডিসেম্বর থেকে কম্পিউটারও বানাবে। কোন কোন প্রতিষ্ঠান স্মার্ট টিভি, আইওটি ফ্রিজ বানানো শুরু করেছে। আমাদের প্রত্যাশা সহসাই এগুলো রপ্তানীও হবে। এর ফলে ৬ আগস্ট ১৫ এ প্রধানমন্ত্রী যে স্বপ্নটা দেখিয়েছিলেন সেটি বাস্তবায়িত হতে শুরু করেছে।

২০১৭-১৮ সালের বাজেটে সরকার ডিজিটাল যন্ত্র উৎপাদনের এবং দেশীয় সফটওয়্যার সুরক্ষায় গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করবে। যেসব যুগান্তকারী সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছে তার সাথে রপ্তানী প্রণোদনার বিষয়টি যুক্ত হবার ফলে একদম ছোট ছোট আউটসোর্সিং প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে বড় বড় রপ্তানী প্রতিষ্ঠান পর্যন্ত ব্যাপকভাবে সক্ষমতা গড়ে তুলতে পারবে। এর ফলে বাংলাদেশ প্রথমবারের মতো মেধাস্বত্বে রপ্তানী প্রণোদনা প্রদানের নতুন মহাসড়কের উদ্বোধন করলো। আমি নিজে আত্মবিশ্বাসী যে এটি আমাদের ভবিষ্যৎ গড়বে, গড়বে আমাদের ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ। রপ্তানীতে যে নেতিবাচক অবস্থাটি বিরাজ করছে তাকে ইতিবাচক করার ক্ষেত্রেও এই সিদ্ধান্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করবে।

রপ্তানী সহায়তার বিষয়টি এখন চূড়ান্ত রূপ নিচ্ছে। সরকার এটি ঘোষণা করার পর কিভাবে এই সহায়তা দেয়া হবে তার চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত নিচ্ছে। বেসিসকে সফটওয়্যারের জন্য এবং বেসিস ও বাকো কে আইটিইএস এর জন্য মনিটরিং এর দায়িত্ব দেয়া হয়েছে। এছাড়াও কম্পিউটার সমিতিতে কম্পিউটার ও ডিজিটাল যন্ত্রপাতির জন্য দায়িত্ব দেয়া হচ্ছে। এখন কেবল সামনে যাবার পালা। সর্বশেষ তথ্য অনুসারে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাঙ্ক এরই মাঝে এই বিষয়ক এসআরও জারি করেছে। কিছু প্রতিষ্ঠান রপ্তানী সহায়তা পাবার জন্য আবেদন করার প্রস্তুতিও নিচ্ছে। অন্যদিকে ওয়ালটন এরই মাঝে বাংলাদেশের প্রথম কম্পিউটার উৎপাদন কারখানার উদ্বোধন করেছে। আরও কিছু প্রতিষ্ঠান দেশে ডিজিটাল যন্ত্র উৎপাদনের প্রস্তুতি গ্রহণ করেছে।

ঢাকা, ১৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি ১৮

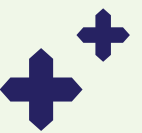
মন্ত্রী, ডাক, টেলিযোগাযোগ ও তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR AN EMERGING ECONOMY

Habibullah N Karim

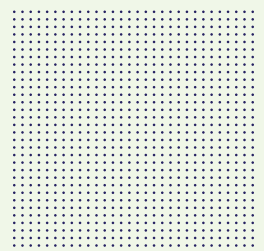


Bangladesh has been riding the growth waves in the last two-and-a-half decades with spectacular results: our exports grew six folds, our GDP quadrupled and our extreme poverty levels got slashed by more than half, not to mention our 30% increase in longevity and other human development achievements. Many global institutions from Gartner and McKinsey to Wall Street investment banks and the World Bank have been projecting continued healthy growth of our economy and our sure-shot place among the top economic powerhouses of this century.

Sustaining such a growth trajectory for a country with little natural resources, small geographical footprint and the sixth highest population in the world can only be possible through adoption of a diverse array of the latest technologies that will help us eke out an ever-greater output per capita and per square meter. Technology has always been a driver of change and societal development at many levels. We may argue all we want on the merits and demerits of technology but ignoring technological developments is not an option.

Below is a sampler of the emerging technologies that lie at the front and centre of our innovation-driven future. These are the tech that can carve out a future for us where we remain the pioneers and not followers, where we lead by example and not forced to make knee-jerk reactions. The range of technologies and knowledge paradigms will touch everything from our green pastures in the villages to the tall glass edifices in the cities – everyone from the bottom of the social pyramid to those the top of the heap.

In agriculture, agro-processing and food industries, bio-technology and bio-informatics can unleash the bounty of nature like never before. Whether through genomics, genetic engineering, DNA sequencing, or high-throughput image analysis, bio-technology and its interdisciplinary cohort – bio-informatics, are bringing about a revolutionary change in the way we hybridize seeds for resilience to drought, increasing sea-levels leading to salty crop-fields and extreme weather symptoms. Bio-informatics has a special significance as it helps unravel the



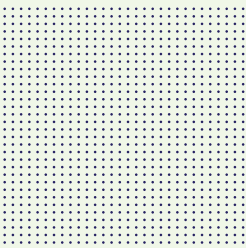


mysteries of cellular biology and gives us the tools to get a leg up on the cutting edge developments in bio-technology.

In manufacturing industries increasing levels of process automation and use of robotics is enhancing productivity on the one hand and lowering the use of physical labour on the other hand. While double-digit growth of goods exports and accompanying manufacturing jobs growth have been the one of the pillars of economic success of the nation but going forward the future success of this sector will no longer depend on our large labour pool but how we turn that labour-force into a cyborg-force by leveraging robotic technologies and machine learning algorithms. The challenge is to retool our work-force into skilled machine-assisted industrial super-human workers or skilled robotic operators. This may sound like science fiction but its already happening in our largest industrial segment, i.e., in ready-made-garments manufacturing as reported recently in the Wall Street Journal. This transformation is less than obvious in a country where labour is perceived to be plentiful and cheap. However, uptick in labour costs is already felt by the middle class as costs of domestic helps have crept up beyond their purchasing power. With increasing use of machine-assisted process automation and robotic tools there is a huge potential for IT services around machine learning, artificial intelligence, internet-of-things (IOT) and robotic programming.

Machine and deep learning tools is the new frontier where we must create our own footprint if we are to remain relevant in the new industrial paradigm. It is truly heartening that some of our IT industry colleagues are taking bold steps to gain a foothold at the forefront of these developments. However, the entrepreneurial efforts alone will not be enough - there has to be a concerted effort from the trio of government-academia-and-industry for this emerging technology to become mainstream here. During the upcoming BASIS SoftExpo there will be several sessions on these issues - including a session where the machine learning guru from MIT will speak - where it would become apparent how the stakeholders respond to these needs.

The biggest disruptor and enabler in the field of artificial intelligence and machine learning is the new paradigm of quantum computing. The classical computing model is based on binary computing where there are only two states - on or off - 1 or 0 - but in quantum computing there is third 'quantum' state or 'Qubit' that makes a whole slew of new algorithms and computing models that can solve compute-intensive problems in cryptography, big data, 3-D simulations, etc. much faster than conventional computer systems. Microsoft has already launched a programming language for quantum computing and many others are coming. Our universities need to focus on these emerging trends and equip our students with the tools and inquisitiveness to take deep dives into this new computing paradigm and collaborate with the industry to





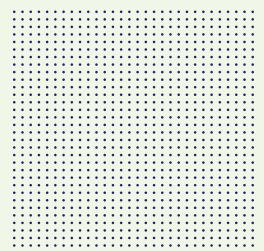
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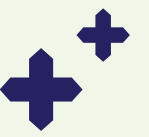
make quantum computing applications to solve our climate adaptation, extreme weather and public health quandaries. The government needs to support such initiatives with appropriate funding, international research linkages and national recognitions.

The biggest enabler of these emerging technologies and trends is the internet and cloud-based infrastructure sitting on the internet. While the government is fast deploying its own data centres and disaster recovery sites that constitute its cloud strategy, the government also needs to encourage private clouds whether they are locally set up or provided by global majors such as Amazon or Microsoft. We simply do not have the resources or the time to wait for computing infrastructures to be built over many years and then leverage such systems for our use. The abundance of cloud infrastructure globally makes it quite easy for us take on any large problems and try it out on the cloud without having to get weighed down with big capital expenditures before we have figured out what works and what does not. In this area the availability of cloud infrastructures is a great boon for the IT entrepreneurs and start-ups as well as tinkerers. Who can tell: today's tinkerer can be tomorrow's Steve Jobs or Elon Musk.



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কর্মক্ষেত্রে প্রযুক্তির প্রভাব-আশির্বাদ না অভিশাপ?

সৈয়দ আলমাস কবীর

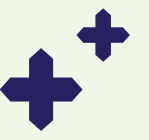


আগামী দশকের মধ্যেই রোবোটিক্স এবং আর্টিফিশিয়াল ইন্টেলিজেন্স আমাদের দৈনন্দিন জীবনের এক অপরিহার্য অংশ হয়ে উঠবে। স্বাস্থ্যসেবা, গ্রাহকসেবা, পরিবহন, গৃহস্থালী কার্যকলাপ ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ, ব্যাঙ্কিং ইত্যাদিতে এই নতুন প্রযুক্তির উপস্থিতি হয়ে উঠবে সুস্পষ্ট ও সর্বব্যাপী। ফলে অর্থনীতিতে এর এক বিশাল প্রভাব পড়বে। কৃত্তিম বুদ্ধিমত্তা বা আর্টিফিশিয়াল ইন্টেলিজেন্স বিশিষ্ট স্বচালিত গাড়ী, মানুষের বদলে কাজ করতে পারে এমন বুদ্ধিমান ডিজিটাল এজেন্ট, এবং রোবট নিয়ে এখন প্রচুর গবেষণা চলছে এবং আমাদের প্রাত্যহিক জীবনে এগুলো খুব দ্রুত ঢুকে পড়ছে। স্বাভাবিকভাবেই এখন প্রশ্ন উঠছে যে, এই নেটওয়ার্ক করা, স্বয়ংক্রিয়, কৃত্তিম বুদ্ধিমত্তা (এআই) সম্পন্ন অ্যাপ্লিকেশন এবং রোবোটিক্স ডিভাইসগুলি কি কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগ কমিয়ে দেবে?

বিশেষজ্ঞদের এ নিয়ে পরস্পর-বিরোধী মত রয়েছে। একদল মনে করেন যে, এই রোবট ও ডিজিটাল এজেন্টগুলির প্রভাবে শ্রমিক ও কর্মচারীর সংখ্যা উল্লেখযোগ্য হারে হ্রাস পাবে, এবং আয়-বৈষম্য বৃদ্ধি পাবে। এর ফলে বেকারত্ব তো বাড়বেই, কাজে অনুপযুক্ত লোকের সংখ্যাও বেড়ে যাবে। পরিণতিতে সামাজিক ভাঙনও দেখা দেতে পারে।

অপর দল মনে করেন যে, এ আশঙ্কা একেবারেই অমূলক। তাঁরা বলেন প্রযুক্তি কখনই নেট কর্মসংস্থান কমায় না। অর্থাৎ, প্রযুক্তি ব্যবহারে যতটা না চাকরীর সুযোগ কমে, তার চেয়ে অনেক বেশী চাকরীর সুযোগ সৃষ্টি হয়। শিল্প বিপ্লবের সময় থেকেই তা হয়ে আসছে, এবং মানুষ ঠিকই তার উদ্ভাবনী দক্ষতা ব্যবহার করে নতুন নতুন কাজ ও জীবিকা তৈরী করে নেবে।

রোবোটিক্স ও এআই কর্মসংস্থানের উপর একটি ইতিবাচক বা অন্ততঃ নিরপেক্ষ প্রভাব ফেলবে বলে যারা মনে করেন, তাঁরা বলেন শিক্ষা এবং প্রযুক্তিতে আমূল পরিবর্তন এনে কাজের প্রকৃতিই পরিবর্তন করে ফেলা হবে। কিছু শ্রেণীর কাজ এআই এবং রোবোটিক্স দ্বারা পরিচালিত হবে ঠিকই, তবে সেসব কাজের পরিষেবার মান বাড়ানোর জন্য সৃজনশীল জনশক্তির প্রয়োজন হবে। কাউকে না কাউকে তো এসব এআই সম্পন্ন উন্নত যন্ত্রগুলিকে তৈরী করতে হবে এবং পরবর্তিতে তা কাজ না করলে সারাতে হবে! প্রযুক্তির ব্যবহার কাজের



ধরণ পাল্টে দেবে, এতে সন্দেহ নেই, কিন্তু কাজের সংখ্যা কমাবে না। স্বচালিত ট্যাক্সিতে হয়তো ট্যাক্সি-ড্রাইভারের প্রয়োজন থাকবে না, কিন্তু সেই ট্যাক্সিগুলোকে পরিচালনা করা ও সার্ভিস করার জন্য অনেক কর্মচারীর প্রয়োজন হবে। একটি স্বয়ংক্রিয় যন্ত্র শুধুমাত্র সেটাই করতে পারে, যার জন্য যন্ত্রটিকে বানানো হয়েছে। গতানুগতিক কাজের বাইরে অন্য কিছু করতে গেলেই মানুষের দরকার হবে। সংযোজন, প্যাকেজিং, বিপনন, ইত্যাদি কাজের জন্য মানুষের বিকল্প তৈরী এখনও অনেক দূরের কথা। এআই সম্পন্ন যন্ত্রাদি এবং রোবটের জন্য প্রচুর দক্ষ প্রোগ্রামারের প্রয়োজন হবে।

এছাড়া এমন কিছু কাজ আছে যা কেবল মানুষই করতে পারে। অনেক কাজ আছে, যেখানে সহানুভূতি, সৃজনশীলতা, বিচার-ক্ষমতা, বা সমালোচনামূলক চিন্তা ইত্যাদি মানবিক বৈশিষ্ট্যগুলি প্রয়োজন। এই ধরণের কাজে যত বুদ্ধিমান রোবটই ব্যবহার করা হোক না কেন, মানুষকে প্রতিস্থাপন করা সম্ভব হবে না। পুনরাবৃত্তিমূলক কাজে প্রযুক্তি ব্যবহার করা যেতে পারে, কিন্তু যেখানে চিন্তাশক্তি, সৃজনশীলতা, সমন্বয়, সমস্যা সমাধান কিংবা উদ্ভাবনের প্রয়োজন, সেখানে মানুষের হস্তক্ষেপ লাগবেই।

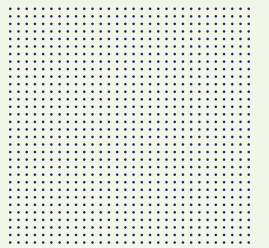
আগামী এক দশকে এআই বা রোবটিক্স-এর খুব বেশী উন্নত হওয়ার সম্ভাবনা পরিলক্ষিত হচ্ছে না। সেবাভিত্তিক কাজে-কর্মে এআই আরও বেশী করে ব্যবহৃত হতে থাকবে, এতে কোন সন্দেহ নেই। এবং এর ফলে স্বল্প-দক্ষতা সম্পন্ন কর্মীদের কাজের সুযোগ কমে আসবে ঠিকই, তবে নতুন দক্ষতার চাহিদা বারবে। কারণ ‘স্বয়ংক্রিয়’ যন্ত্রগুলি সত্যিকার অর্থেই স্বয়ংক্রিয় হতে আরও অনেকদিন সময় লাগবে, এবং ততদিন পর্যন্ত এ যন্ত্রগুলি চালানোর জন্য মানব-কর্মীর প্রয়োজন থেকেই যাবে।

সংশ্লিষ্ট অনেকেই মনে করেন যে, বিভিন্ন অর্থনৈতিক, রাজনৈতিক এবং সামাজিক কারণেও খুব তাড়াতাড়ি কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগ কমানার সম্ভাবনা নেই। বেকারের সংখ্যা বেড়ে গেলে একটি দেশের অর্থনীতিতে বিরূপ প্রভাব পড়ে, যা কোন রাষ্ট্রেরই কাম্য নয়। ক্রয়ক্ষমতাই যদি না থাকে, তা’হলে বাড়তি উৎপাদনের প্রয়োজনীয়তাও তো থাকবে না।

তবে এটা ঠিক যে আমাদের বিদ্যমান শিক্ষা-ব্যবস্থা প্রযুক্তির সাথে তাল মিলিয়ে দক্ষ জনশক্তি তৈরীর জন্য প্রস্তুত নয়। অদূর ভবিষ্যতে রোবটিক্স-কেন্দ্রিক কর্মক্ষেত্রে যোগ্যতার আবশ্যিক শর্ত হবে কর্মদক্ষতা। এর জন্য এখন থেকেই যদি আমরা শিক্ষা-ব্যবস্থায় প্রয়োজনীয় পরিবর্তন না নিয়ে আসতে পারি, তা’হলে বেকারের সংখ্যা বারবেই। আর তা’ মোকাবেলা করার জন্য দরকার বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলির সাথে বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলির সমন্বয়। দ্রুত পরিবর্তনশীল এই শিল্পে নতুন নতুন প্রযুক্তির অবতারণা হওয়ার সাথে সাথে যাতে শিক্ষাক্রমে তার অন্তর্ভুক্তি হয়, সেদিকে নজর রাখতে হবে। তথ্য-প্রযুক্তি বিষয়ক শিক্ষা প্রাথমিক পর্যায় থেকেই যদি শুরু করা যায়, তা’হলে প্রযুক্তি-সচেতন এক জাতি তৈরী হবে, এবং ভবিষ্যতের আর্টিফিশিয়াল ইন্টেলিজেন্স ও রোবটিক্স নির্ভর কর্মক্ষেত্রে যুক্ত হতে কোন সমস্যা হবে না।

সভাপতি, বেসিস

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e-AGRICULTURE THE NEXT REVOLUTION FOR DIGITAL BANGLADESH

Md Shahid Uddin Akbar

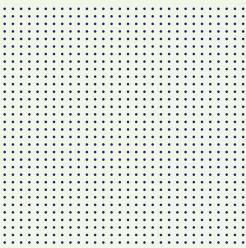


ICT in Agriculture as a national and global development agenda

International Telecommunications Union (ITU) identified eAgriculture as one of the Action item (C7, 21) under the Plan of Action of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in December 2003 at Geneva and specified the action points for e-Agriculture as 1) Ensure the systematic dissemination of information using ICTs on agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry and food, in order to provide ready access to comprehensive, up-to-date and detailed knowledge and information, particularly in rural areas. 2) Public-private partnerships should seek to maximize the use of ICTs as an instrument to improve production (quantity and quality). The Food and Agriculture Organizations of United Nations (FAO-UN) jointly with ITU published the e-Agriculture Strategy Guide where ICT has been identified as the most effective tool and “Agriculture is increasingly becoming more knowledge-intensive. Having access to timely, accurate information that is tailored to specific locations and conditions is critical in helping farmers make the most of their resources in often changing circumstances. Over the past 15 years the information and communication technology (ICT) revolution has driven global development in an unprecedented way. Today ICTs are a transformative force for



Farmers use mobile phone for basic extension service (Photo: BIID)





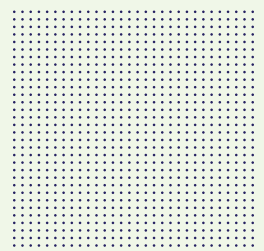
good in socio-economic development. FAO and ITU strongly believe that, with their enormous growth and reach, ICTs can empower people through improving their access to the latest and most useful agricultural techniques. E-agriculture, or ICTs in agriculture, is about designing, developing and applying innovative ways to use ICTs in the rural domain, with a primary focus on agriculture. E-agriculture offers a wide range of solutions to some agricultural challenges". (<http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/resources/e-agriculture>).

The eAgriculture agenda also emphasized in the UN's new mission of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it categorically mentioned that "To feed a growing population ... ICTs help farmers improve crop yields and business productivity through better access to market information, weather forecasts, training programmes, and other online content tailored to their needs." The mandate of Digital Bangladesh also aligned with global vision set under SDG and we can only achieve the targets if we can ensure empowering communities in agricultural sectors, primarily the agro-entrepreneurs (including farmers) in terms of improved livelihood and economic progress.



Why ICT in Agriculture?

The recent trend of ICT usage in general has been increased significantly with diverse usage in both personal and professional domain including public & private sector. Agricultural sector also embraced ICT in different





areas ranging from extension to planning, research to monitoring. Globally total no. of SIM Card (8.228 Billion) already exceeded the total global population (7.569 Billion). A major ICT user segment belongs to agricultural communities, from farmers to corporate businesses (agro-industry).

Integration of ICT in agriculture has multi-faced benefits at different levels of the national economy, directly at beneficiary level, they will be more efficient and competitive, and industry level, ICT service providers (businesses) will have a huge market opportunities to market (existing and future) their products and services. Finally and most importantly the government will benefit from both the outcomes in addition to additional revenue earning.

As a supportive tool, ICT is being used in agricultural sector which started from extension service delivery (basic eAgriculture) to critical Big Data analysis (Precision Agriculture). Research organizations at local and international level including CGIAR institutes use ICT extensively.

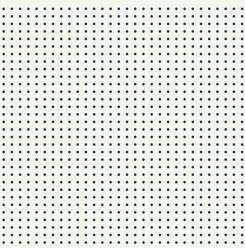
Primarily, ICT helps in 3 different stages, analyzing, improving and helping to support agricultural sectors. The use of ICT services in agricultural sectors are widely used in developed countries. And it has been an established process since last few decades and agricultural extension services have adopted a wide range of ICT propositions (Tools like Radio, TV, Video, Cell Phone, Mobile Apps, Data, Internet etc.) for different types of extension functions (Like Advisory services, Linking farmers to market, M&E, Survey, Awareness building etc.).

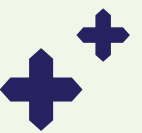
If we look into the developed countries and study the background, most of the countries adopted ICT as an integrated part of their research, farm management and marketing system in agricultural sector. FAO and Identified the following for developing countries for ICT enabled services -

National Development Agenda

Agricultural sector in Bangladesh also adopted ICT as an emerging tool at institutional level and the Digital Bangladesh mandate of the government enforced the mission to digitize service delivery as well as management system. Though the integration is still low and need more efforts from policymakers and respective organizations, there are initiatives which foster eAgriculture to become an integral component of the future growth of the agricultural sectors.

Both private sector and public are adding new ICT solutions and services in Bangladesh to make the agricultural sector more efficient, the opportunity for the local IT and ITeS industry also emerging as potential business opportunity. The linkage between the IT industry and





B-Lab: Smart Solutions for Youth Entrepreneurs in Agricultural Domain

Youth comprises around 57% of total population which is around 94.8 million within the age range of 15-39 in Bangladesh and agricultural sector contributes 19% in GDP along with 45% employment opportunities. The potentials of youth in Bangladesh can be fostered further in economic activities at local level, specially, in rural economy through a systematic and market driven approach. The trend of urbanization and economic growth in rural areas has been transformed in a big way in Bangladesh since last 2 - 3 decades. Farming is no more an attractive profession for rural communities, even not to the farmers. Though it's a global trend but Bangladesh needs to address this issue from a holistic approach i.e. consider the social and economic environments of the country. It reflects the need for making agricultural sector more attractive (in terms of financial return), socially respected and 'smart' (managing business professionally) to cater the interest of the youth. Agricultural sector in Bangladesh needs to be more innovative in terms of entrepreneurial perspectives and has to be 'attractive' as profession for the youth population. ICT can play a vital role to make agricultural sector more efficient, competitive and smart to the youth communities to cope up as a future profession. Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID) introduced B-Lab initiative to facilitate ICT enabled services on agricultural entrepreneurship domain for the youth communities including incubation & ICT & data driven decision making facilities. Integration of smart solutions (ICT Driven) and approach (Proper Business Model) will be supportive thematic focus of the B-Lab initiative as a comprehensive (Institutional approach) and integrated (bundling of services) approach to address social challenges.

agricultural sector is yet to be established, through intensive collaboration and better understanding of the benefit at various levels.

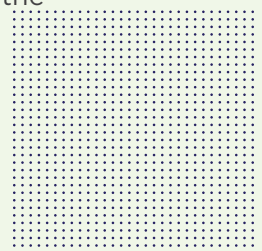
The Missing Link and Challenges

There are various initiatives by government, private sector, academia and development partners, but it's very difficult to link them all in connection with national development agenda. So these isolated initiatives and uncoordinated efforts are investing huge resources of public money. The challenges of eAgriculture is also multifold, the most important is the gap of national eAgriculture strategy & plan (Vision and Policy), the second most important component is the capacity (HR, Resources and Mindset) of the relevant stakeholders (Planning to implementation), third is readiness of the market (low awareness among both users, investors and policy makers on benefits of ICT usage) and finally leadership to take the eAgriculture forward in Bangladesh.

The Path Ahead

Having all these perspectives and potentials, this is high time to initiate long term national development plan for eAgriculture. To move forward, the following recommendations can be considered by the relevant stakeholders where BASIS can extend leadership role -

1. Framing National eAgriculture Strategy and Plan of Action with specific timeline and targets can be launched and all relevant stakeholders will follow the





leadership of Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) with technical support from BASIS.

2. All relevant ministries (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Food, Ministry of Livestock and Ministry of Food) may initiate stock taking and mapping out the existing status, scopes and required resources focusing on next 10 years onward to achieve SDG to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. Research based coordinated effort can be introduced at BASIS to assess the potential market opportunities within agricultural domain and develop a knowledge repository to integrate ICT component in all agricultural development projects. A taskforce on eAgriculture can be formed by BASIS to take this discussion in to action.

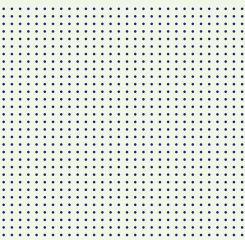
Closing Remarks

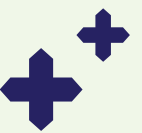
ICT can play crucial role to transform our agricultural sectors by making it SMART in terms of management, not only technology adoption rather using the tools properly and considering the local perspectives and potentials where BASIS can play an important role along with the relevant stakeholders.



(The image shows a women famer taking picture for irrigation advisory services under a research project)

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EMBRACING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR ACCELERATING GROWTH

Mostafizur Rahaman Sohel

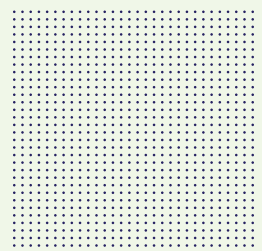


Digital technology creates opportunities to accelerate growth, but these are often missed because firms in sectors where technology's impact is the greatest are frequently protected from innovative competitors. Firms that face more competition use digital technology more intensively and effectively—it enables them to reduce their costs to outperform their competitors.

Firms across the world are becoming more connected. For instance, the share of firms with at least five employees using broadband internet in lower-middle-income countries rose from 39 percent to 68 percent from 2006-09 to 2010-14. And the growth rates and valuations of internet firms across the world are surging. Less visibly, but more importantly, digital technologies have transformed traditional production structures, facilitating new, more cost-effective processes. Indeed, most of efficiency gains emerge outside the information and communication technology (ICT) sector, where firms use the internet to sell and market their products online or share real-time information with suppliers to minimize their inventory and with customers to optimize their services.

The impact of digital technology on economic growth is mediated through three mechanisms — inclusion, efficiency, and innovation. It promotes the inclusion of firms in the world economy by enabling more firms to trade new products to new destinations. For instance, firms selling their goods online through Alibaba, China's leading e-commerce company, are smaller and younger and export more products to different destinations than firms selling offline. It raises efficiency by allowing firms to make better use of their capital and labour. For instance, real-time data help equipment manufacturers in China turn-over their inventory stocks five times faster than suppliers not connected to the internet. It enhances innovation by enabling firms to exploit scale effects through online platforms and services that compete with conventional business models in retail, transport, lodging, and banking, to name a few. These three mechanisms thus boost growth by expanding trade, increasing capital and labour utilization, and intensifying competition.

But the benefits are neither automatic nor assured. Despite great opportunities, firms' use of digital technologies differs substantially across countries due to variations in skills and infrastructure and barriers to competition and market entry. Harnessing the full growth potential of digital technology is thus predicated not just on investments in skills and infrastructure but also on reforming regulatory barriers by overcoming vested interests to encourage all





firms to compete by investing in these modern technologies. This also involves overhauling regulatory regimes in the digital economy, especially in sectors where online and offline firms increasingly compete, such as retail, transportation, printing and publishing, lodging, and finance. The initial entry of internet firms into these sectors promotes competition and can disrupt traditional monopolies. But internet firms can be prone to anticompetitive behaviours by exploiting scale and network effects. The greater digital adoption therefore needs to be accompanied by unified standards, full interoperability, and competition across platforms and contracts.

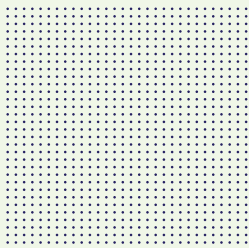
The goal is to have firms' use of the internet promote competition, which encourages more firms to use the internet. But that will not happen if vested interest groups are strong enough to capture regulators and create new barriers to competition and technology adoption. A level playing field for business was always important—digital technologies have made it an imperative.

The accumulation of ICT capital accounted for almost 24 percent of global growth between 1995 and 2017, growth accounting approaches suggest. However, the results need to be regarded with some caution, as the approach involves some severe measurement problems. Firms in developing countries have considerable room to adopt digital solutions that have led to growth in high-income countries, such as using the internet for e-commerce or inventory management. The true contribution to growth can be larger if ICT complements other production factors, but also smaller if it substitutes for them.

Assessing the growth opportunities of the internet warrants more detailed analysis of the mechanisms for it to affect growth. Against this background, it is instructive to draw insights from the economics of the internet as well as from the past industrial revolutions. The internet reduces transaction costs, allowing firms to enter new markets, enhance their efficiency, and exploit economies of scale, leading to innovation. It does this by reducing information frictions, search costs, and the costs to communicate. The decline can be dramatic if firms adapt their business models to automate data-intensive transactions, generating economies of scale.

To purchase any product, the buyer must find a seller, make a payment before receiving the goods, and trust that the seller will deliver the correct amount and quality on time. Because of these information asymmetries, only the most productive firms export—typically the larger and older firms. Online marketplaces help solve all three problems. They provide an organized marketplace for firms to advertise their products and find buyers in overseas markets. They thus reduce the costs of trade by enabling firms to avoid intermediaries to establish trade connections or participate in costly trade fairs to market their products. Online marketplaces also include rating systems, allowing the buyer and seller to assess each other's performance. The ratings and individual comments, visible to anyone, build trust for future transactions and encourage more responsible behaviour. Many online marketplaces also provide payment and delivery services to reduce the cost of e-commerce. Digital technologies also lower communication costs facilitating the unbundling of tasks, allowing firms to offshore production processes and services to developing countries at lower costs.

The internet makes it easier to reach new markets and thereby increases the extensive margin of trade— more firms start to export, and more products get





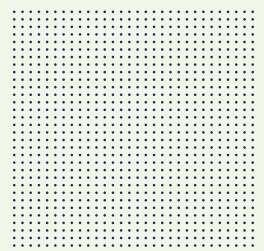
exported. The impact of the internet is largest if both countries have high internet use. Online platforms allow smaller firms to become exporters. The firms selling on eBay in are younger and have smaller market shares than firms in the offline markets. The Alibaba platform has a larger fraction of small firms than the offline market. Firms exporting through Alibaba also sell more products per firm. Online platforms enable firms to reach new export destinations, changing trade patterns. Marketing goods globally on the internet is cheaper and customizing the marketing information to suit the local context and language is easier. So, firms trading through online platforms can reach more destinations than their offline peers.

Digital technologies help firms save costs by automating data-intensive production processes and reorganizing their business models, increasing their productive use of capital and labour. Computers and software allow firms to routinize processes, increasing management efficiency and replacing personnel with, for instance, human resource or supply chain management software. The internet further increases the opportunities for cost saving by connecting machines, suppliers, and clients, so that firms can manage their supply chains and inventory more effectively in real time. The extent to which digital technologies raise labour productivity depends on firms' activities, but examples abound across countries and economic sectors. Most of efficiency gains emerge outside the ICT sector, where firms use the internet to sell and market their products online or share real-time information with suppliers to minimize their inventory and with customers to optimize their services. Less visible but more important for growth, incumbent firms in traditional sectors invest in digital technologies to save costs by optimizing their production and management processes. Retail companies such as Walmart, for instance, have integrated (global) supply chains to minimize their inventory holdings by linking electronic cash registers at retail outlets and business-to-business ordering systems with order dispatch and transportation scheduling at remote factories. So far, the largest efficiency gains from firms using digital technologies have been found in wholesale and retail trade, business services, insurance, finance, and selected manufacturing sectors. The following section highlights selected illustrations of how digital applications boost firms' efficiency.



To conclude precisely, developing countries with an institutional environment that safeguards competition and easy market entry will more likely to harness the full growth opportunities of digital technologies and catch up faster with high-income countries. But countries will more likely to remain poor if the institutional environment allows firms to obtain profits by lobbying for protection rather than investing in new digital technologies. Looking around the world, we can see Uber, the world's largest taxi company, owns no vehicles. Facebook, the world's most popular media owner, creates no content. Alibaba, the most valuable retailer, has no inventory. And Airbnb, the world's largest accommodation provider, owns no real estate. Something interesting is happening. It's high time for us for embracing the technology as much as we can.

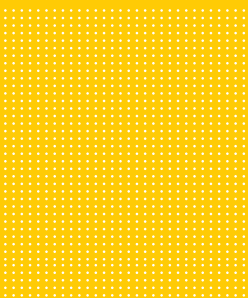
Mostafizur Rahaman Sohel
Managing Director, Advanced ERP (BD) Ltd
Director, BASIS





SEMINAR AND TECH SESSIONS MATRIX

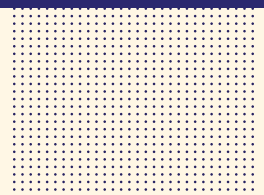
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SoftExpo 2018

DATE & TIME	TIME	CELEBRITY HALL
DAY 1 (FEBRUARY 22) THURSDAY	10:00AM-12:30PM	Inauguration Ceremony
	3:00PM-5:00PM	
	5:30PM-7:30PM	
DAY 2 (FEBRUARY 23) FRIDAY	10:00AM-12:30PM	Facebook: Marketing in the Digital Era- Bangladesh Perspective
	3:00PM-5:00pm	Outsourcing Conference Sponsored by BANK ASIA
	5:30PM-7:30PM	
DAY 3 (FEBRUARY 24) SATURDAY	10:30AM-12:30PM	AI & Machine Learning (ALAN EDELMAN, MIT) by BASIS assisted by Mr. Habibullah N Karim
	3:00PM-5:00PM	BASIS Developers Conference 2018
	5:30PM-7:30PM	
DAY 4 (FEBRUARY 25) SUNDAY	11:00AM-1:00PM	BASIS ICT Career Camp
	3:00PM-5:00PM	
	5:30PM-7:30PM	CXO & Award Night





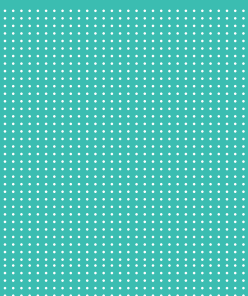
Session Matrix

MEDIA BAZAAR (SEMINAR)	WINDY TOWN (ROUND TABLES)	GREEN VIEW
Start-up: Zero & One	PPR Template	Future of Mobile Apps and Games Industry in Bangladesh
Robotics & Artificial Intelligence- Bangladesh: Applications in Business and Industry Automation	Net Neutrality- A Basic for Netizens in a Free Society	Is Blockchain is the Future?
HackExpo: Playing With Malware	IoT- Changing Lifestyle: Applications in Energy and other Utility Services	securITy – Information Security Conference SoftExpo 2018 Sponsored by Beetles
Sustainable eGovernance Model: Prospects & Challenges	Bangladesh-Japan: ICT Opportunities & Prospects	Grow Your Export Revenue: Marketing through LinkedIn
Industry 4.0: are we ready with our Human capacity for the 4th Industrial Revolution?	How to grow your business using Digital Technology	
Challenges and Opportunities for Women in ICT	Going with Collaboration	Problem Solving through IoT
Seminar on Evolution of Mobile Technology_Powered by Banglalink (2:30PM-5:00PM)	Adapting emerging technologies for exponential economic growth	Cloud Developers Session
Work Flow Automation- by Technohaven	Future Innovation in eCommerce Payment	UX – A Guide to Success
	ICT Entrepreneurial Journey A to Z: Owing Your Future	Security & Interoperability in Digital Financial Inclusion Powered by KonaSoft
Tax Compliance & Automation- by Technohaven	Evaluating The Future of E-commerce & Last Mile Delivery	Accounting BPO: Opportunities & Challenges



SPEAKERS

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» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Zunaid Ahmed Palak, MP
Honorable State Minister
ICT Division

Position Held:

Minister of State for Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh since January 2014;

Member of Parliament (National Assembly of Bangladesh) since January 2009;

Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on ICT Ministry and Private Members' Bill from 2009 to 2013;

President of Bangladesh Carom Federation since 2009 and Vice-President of International Carom Federation since 2011;

Co-Chair of Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change from 2009 to 2013.

Achievement:

Nominated Young Global Leader in 2016 by the World Economic Forum.

Became Minister of State at the age of 33 years making him the youngest minister in the history of Bangladesh. During his tenure, more than 18,000 government offices across the country were brought under a dedicated high speed intranet, one of the world's largest web portal consisting of 25,000 government websites established, Bangladesh won ICT's Sustainable Development Award and WSIS plus 10 Award from ITU and Public Service Excellence Award from WITSA.

Elected Member of Parliament (MP) at the age of 28 years and became the youngest MP in the Ninth Parliament and re-elected in 2014. Minister Palak is very active in the Parliament to have an accountable government.

Secured National Award on Environment in 2010 handed over by the Prime Minister in recognition to his role in the large scale tree plantation movement.

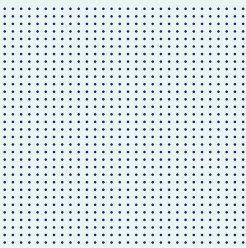
Education

Obtained Master of Science in Political Science and LLB (Bachelor of Law) from the National University of Bangladesh.

Completed a Capstone Course from National Defense College, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Profession:

Minister Palak is a Lawyer by profession and enrolled as an Advocate in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Kazi M. Aminul Islam
Executive Chairman
Bangladesh Investment
Development Authority (BIDA)

Kazi M. Aminul Islam did his Master of Arts in Economics from University of Dhaka and Master's in Economics from Boston University, USA. He also attended Mason School at Harvard University. He had a Graduate Certificate in Environment Management from the University of Adelaide, Australia.

Mr. Islam has joined Bangladesh Civil Service in 1981 and progressed to higher responsibilities in diverse areas of the Government. He was a Secretary Prime Minister's Office. He was also Secretary Chief Advisor's office during the period (2007-08) of caretaker Government of Bangladesh. While working as the Secretary, Prime Minister's Office in 2009, he was appointed Alternative Executive Director of the World Bank Board in Washington D.C. for the constituency comprising of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Sri Lanka. He worked for three and a half years on the Board of the Executive Directors of The World Bank.

In course of work for transition to democracy and private sector development, Mr. Islam steered bodies like "Better Business Forum" and "Regulatory Reform Commission" and developed a very strong relationship between the business and Government in Bangladesh.

As the Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) he is focusing on improving investment climate and investors' experiences in order to attain for Bangladesh, the high middle income status by 2021 and make it a high income country by 2041, as targets set by the Honorable Prime Minister. He is also emphasizing on the qualitative aspects of investment regime so that Bangladesh can achieve 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. With these in view, he initiated a massive reforms program for enhancing the 'ease of doing business' and establishing a fully functional 'One Stop Service Centre' and undertaking various activities to make Bangladesh one of the best investment destinations and to make BIDA one of the best 'Investment Promoting Agencies' (IPA) in the world.

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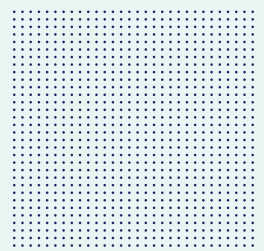
Nojibur Rahman
Principal Secretary
Prime Minister's Office

Md Nojibur Rahman, former NBR Chairman and Senior Secretary at the Internal Resources Division, is Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.

A 1982 BCS recruit, Rahman had helmed the forest and environment ministry and the planning ministry's statistics and informatics division prior to his job as the revenue chief.

He also headed the department of environment as the director general.

Born in 1960 in northeastern district of Sunamganj, Rahman is set to go on post retirement leave from Dec 30, 2019.





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Subir Kishore Choudhury

Secretary

ICT Division, Ministry of Post,
Telecommunication and
Information Technology

Subir Kishore Chowdhury, an officer of Bangladesh Civil Service '84 batch, joined as Secretary of Information and Communication Technology Division on August 13, 2017. He had been working as Secretary in charge prior to his promotion. Before that he had been working as additional Secretary (APD) in the Ministry of Public Administration. He is well known for his skill and performance in the field of Human Resource Planning and Management.

As a member of Bangladesh Civil Service (administration) cadre Mr. Subir Kishore Chowdhury started his career in the civil service as an Assistant Commissioner in the month of January, 1986. He served as Assistant Commissioner (Land), Nejarot Deputy Collector, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Municipal Chief Executive Officer in the field administration. Then he moved to the secretariat and served as Senior Assistant Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Joint secretary and additional Secretary in the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Food and Disaster Management, and Ministry of Public Administration. He also served as Director of NGO affairs Bureau under the Prime Minister's Office. He gathered higher experience working as the chief of CPT and APD wing of the Ministry of Public Administration.

Mr. Chowdhury earned his Bachelor Degree with honours in Botany and Master's Degree in Government and Politics. He completed all essential training course necessary for service including Foundation Training Course, Law and Administration Course, Survey and settlement Course, Land Administration Training Course, BMA training, Advanced Course on Administration and Development, and Managing at the Top Course. Moreover, he participated several short training programme both at home and abroad, particularly in Cambodia, China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam. He attended several seminars and workshops on various issues in Belgium, China, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United States of America, Uganda, and Vietnam. He also travelled to Germany, Nepal, Qatar, Turkey, and, United Arab Emirates.

He took initiatives for the capacity development of public officials through training in foreign reputed training institutes. His successful initiatives resulted in signing of Memorandum of Understanding with the reputed training institutes of India, Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam. The current flow of training of public officials in foreign training institutes is the result of his tireless efforts. He also worked at the back end on collaborative activities with some foreign reputed universities to create opportunities for higher education of public officials at a cheaper cost. He successfully negotiated with the High Commission of India for the inclusion of District Magistrates and Divisional Commissioners in the Mid-career Training Programme at Mussorie. He contributed to set the wheels of Public Administration Award in motion for the first time in the country. He pioneered the re-engineering of business process at a limited array in the CPT and APD wing of the Ministry of Public Administration.

Mr. Choudhury was born in a respectable family of Charpara village of Ishwargonj Upazila under Mymensing district in 1962. He is the second son of late Ramendra Kishore Choudhury and Sadhana Choudhury. He is married to Manashi Chakraborty, and is blessed with one son and a daughter.



» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, NDC

Senior Secretary, IRD & Chairman, NBR
National Board of Revenue,
Bangladesh

Md. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan,ndc has joined as Senior Secretary, Internal Resources Division (IRD) and Chairman, National Board Of Revenue (NBR) on January 04, 2018. Prior to this appointment he worked as Senior Secretary, Ministry Of Industries.

He Started his career as a Civil Servant Of Bangladesh under BCS. Audit and Accounts Cadre, Where he jOihEd on 30 January, 1981. During the eany Stages Of his service life, Mr Bhuyian worked in different offices under the Comptroller and Auditor General (CGA) Of Bangladesh. After that in 1999 Mr. Bhuiyan was appointed as the Additional Director General (Member, Finance) Of Bangladesh Water Development Board. He held the position or Deputy Secretary, Joint Secretary and Additional Secretary Of different ministries including the Ministry Of commerce, Education and Finance.

He was incumbent tO the position Of Secretary in-charge Of Bridges Division under the Ministry Of Communications on February 2010 and promoted as a Secretary in the same Division on July 2010. In November 2011, he was appointed as the Executive Chairman Of Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority under Prime Minister's Office.

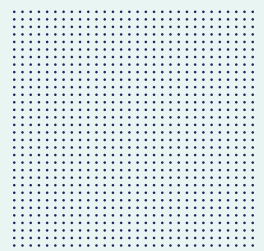
He also served as a member Of Privatization Commission under PMO from January 2014 tO October 2014. Mr. Bhuiyan Obtained his Honours and Master's degrees in Economics With achievements from the University Of Dhaka.

He also obtained an MA degree in Development Economics from Williams College, USA in 1992. In addition, he took part in several Significant training courses, including 'Asia-Pacific Course on security Studies' in Hawaii, USA,'Managing at the top (MATT)' in Dhaka and Singapore and NBC course in National Defence College, Dhaka. Alongside his professional responsibilities, Mr. Bhuiyan is Closely involved With social development activities.

He is the President Of Narsingdi Thana Jonokollyan Somity, President of Benuka Institute of Fine Arts, Life Member of Bangladesh Economic Association and Bangla Academy.

He is also the Secretary General or BCS'81 Forum.

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BASIS SOFTTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



হোসনে আরা বেগম এনডিসি

হোসনে আরা বেগম এনডিসি বর্তমানে বাংলাদেশ হাই-টেক পার্ক কর্তৃপক্ষ-এর ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালন করছেন। সম্প্রতি তিনি বাংলাদেশ সরকারের সচিব পদে পদোন্নতি পেয়েছেন। ১৯৮৩ সালে বাংলাদেশে প্রথমবারের মতো যে ৪০ জন নারী ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট নিয়োগ পান, হোসনে আরা তাদের একজন।

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের উদ্ভিদবিজ্ঞান বিভাগ থেকে মাস্টার্স অব সায়েন্স ডিগ্রি অর্জন করেন হোসনে আরা বেগম। উদ্ভিদবিজ্ঞানে ভালো কিছু করার স্বপ্ন নিয়ে টিস্যু কালচার নিয়ে গবেষণা করেছেন। জাপানে একটি যৌথ গবেষণাপত্র প্রকাশও হয়েছিলো এই টিস্যু কালচারের ওপর। বিজ্ঞানী হওয়ার ইচ্ছে থাকলেও তিনি এখন প্রশাসনের কর্মকর্তা। প্রবল ইচ্ছা থাকা সত্ত্বেও পিএইচডি করতে পারেননি তিনি, কিন্তু দায়িত্ব পালনের পাশাপাশি ২০১০ সালে ন্যাশনাল ডিফেন্স কলেজ থেকে এনডিসি ডিগ্রি ঠিকই অর্জন করেছেন।

বর্গাচয় কর্মজীবনের প্রথমদিকে ১৯৮৩ থেকে ১৯৮৯ সাল পর্যন্ত ফরিদপুর, টাঙ্গাইল, জামালপুর ও মুন্সিগঞ্জ মেজিস্ট্রেট হিসেবে মাঠ পর্যায়ে দায়িত্ব পালন করেছেন হোসনে আরা। এরপর উচ্চ শিক্ষার উদ্দেশ্যে পাড়ি জমান নেদারল্যান্ডসে। ফিরে এসে ময়মনসিংহের ত্রিশালে উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের দায়িত্ব পালন করেন। এরপর পর্যায়ক্রমে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প, খাদ্য ও দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা মন্ত্রণালয়, সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের উপ-সচিব হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালন করেন। পদোন্নতি পেয়ে ২০০৯ সালের ৩ আগস্ট থেকে ২০১০ সালের ১৩ জানুয়ারি পর্যন্ত বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প কর্পোরেশনে যুগ্ম-সচিব হিসেবে এবং এনডিসি কোর্স শেষে ২০১১ সালের ১০ অক্টোবর থেকে ২০১৩ সালের ২৫ এপ্রিল পর্যন্ত বাংলাদেশ লোকপ্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রে যুগ্ম-সচিব ও অতিরিক্ত সচিব হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালন করেন। এরপর ৩০ এপ্রিল, ২০১৩ তে বাংলাদেশ হাই-টেক পার্ক কর্তৃপক্ষে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক এর দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ করেন। ১১ জানুয়ারি, ২০১৭ তে ভারপ্রাপ্ত সচিব হিসেবে পদোন্নতি পান হোসনে আরা। এরপর ১ জুন, ২০১৭ তে তিনি পূর্ণ সচিব মর্যাদায় বাংলাদেশ হাই-টেক পার্ক কর্তৃপক্ষেই পুনরায় দায়িত্বপ্রাপ্ত হন।

হোসনে আরা বেগম ১৯৫৮ সালের ২৬ মার্চ পটুয়াখালি জেলার কলাপাড়ায় নানা বাড়িতে জন্মগ্রহণ করেন। দাদাবাড়ি পিরোজপুর জেলার ভান্ডারিয়া উপজেলার দক্ষিণ বোথলা গ্রামে। তার বাবা মরহুম মোহাম্মদ আব্দুল জব্বার ছিলেন সুগার মিলের সাবেক ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক। গত ২০১৬ সালের ১৬ ডিসেম্বর তিনি ইন্তেকাল করেন। মা মাহমুদা বেগম গৃহিনী। আবদুল জব্বার ও মাহামুদা বেগমের সাত সন্তানের মধ্যে হোসনে আরা বেগম দ্বিতীয়।

স্বামী ও দুই সন্তান নিয়ে হোসনে আরা বেগমের সুখের সংসার। স্বামী জাহিদুল ইসলাম রিয়েল এস্টেট ও শেয়ার ব্যবসা করেন। বড় মেয়ে হোমায়রা ইসলাম অমি একটি আইটি প্রতিষ্ঠানে এক্সিকিউটিভ অফিসার হিসেবে কর্মরত আছেন। ছেলে তানভীর তাবাসুম অভি জার্মানীর রাডেঞ্জবুর্গে ইলেক্ট্রিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি নিয়ে পড়াশোনা শেষ করে এয়ারবাস নামক প্রতিষ্ঠানে কাজ করছেন। ইতোমধ্যে তিনি এডুকেশন গসিপ নামের একটি ডিজিটাল স্কুল প্রজেক্ট নিয়ে কাজ করেছেন।



» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Ms. Nasima Begum, NDC

Secretary

Ministry of Women and
Children Affairs

Nasima Begum, was born in a renowned Muslim family in Nurpur Village of Mirkadim pourosova of Munshigong district in January, 1960. She gained degrees from Dhaka University in B.A. (Honours) in the subject of Islamic History & Culture with 5th position, M.A. with 1st position in A group and M.FEL. from National Defence College under the Bangladesh University of Professional.

She retained the sign of her qualification by outstanding performance from the long 19 years working experience at different post in field administration. Further she maintained important charged on different Ministry and Organization. She posted Director General of Department of Social Services after ending of National Defence Course (NDC) with dignity in the year of 2011. She promoted additional secretary of the government in the 8th February, 2012. Nasima Begum (NDC) appointed a Secretary in charge of ministry of social welfare in the 8th January, 2014 and promoted a full Secretary of the government in the 7th August, 2014 and appointed a secretary of the ministry of social welfare.

At present, Nasima Begum NDC is appointed a secretary of the Ministry of Women & Children Affairs in the 10th May, 2015. She participated international seminar and workshop with different occupational and special trainings in Philipine, Srilanka, Singapur, Thailand, India, Belgium, France, U.K., Nepal, Japan, U.S.A., & Australia.

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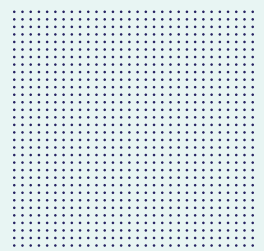
Dr. Lafifa Jamal

Associate Professor and Chairperson

Dept. of Robotics and Mechatronics
Engineering University of Dhaka

Dr. Lafifa Jamal is the Associate Professor and Chairperson of Department of Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering, University of Dhaka. She completed her PhD in Computer Science and Engineering from University of Dhaka. After obtaining her PHD degree, she joined as a lecturer at Department of Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering, University of Dhaka. In 2016 she joined as the chairperson of Department of Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering, University of Dhaka.

In 2017, she won the Begum Rokeya Award for For the contribution in Higher Education Sector of Bangladesh.





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS

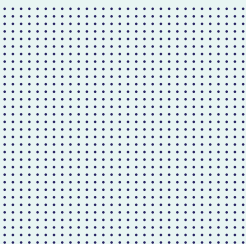


SM Moniruzzaman
Deputy Governor
Bangladesh Bank

S. M. Moniruzzaman joined Bangladesh Bank as a Deputy Governor on December 4, 2016 (afternoon) for three years tenure. As the Deputy Governor he is entrusted with the responsibilities of overseeing the activities of Department of Off-site Supervision, Department of Banking Inspection-1, Department of Banking Inspection-2, Department of Banking Inspection-3, Department of Banking Inspection-4, Foreign Exchange Inspection Department, Financial Institutions Inspection Department, Department of Financial Institutions & Market, Agricultural Credit Department, Financial Sector Support and Strategic Planning Department, Payment Systems Department, Department of Currency Management, Security Management Department and Special Studies Cell. Before this position, he was the Executive Director of Bangladesh Bank and looked over the works of Agricultural Credit and Financial Inclusion Department, Banking Regulation and Policy Department, Equity Entrepreneurship Fund, Financial Integrity and Customer Services Department, Financial institutions Inspection Department, Foreign Exchange Inspection Department and Governor's Secretariat. He was a director of the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund and Investment Corporation of Bangladesh. Furthermore, he was an observer of the Boards of three commercial banks.

Joining at Bangladesh Bank in 1984 as Officer Class-1, Mr. S. M. Moniruzzaman served in various Departments. He had been the General Manager of Agricultural Credit & Special Programme Department, Foreign Exchange Investment Department, Currency Management and Payment Systems Department in Head Office. Besides Head Office, he also served in Chittagong Office, Khulna Office and Sylhet Office of Bangladesh Bank.

Mr. Moniruzzaman had completed his BA (Hons.) and MA in Economics from Rajshahi University. He also achieved another Masters degree in Economics from Eastern Michigan University, USA. He is a Diplomaed Associate of Institute of Bankers, Bangladesh. During his more than 32 years of central banking career, he visited Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and USA to attend various courses, seminars and conferences.





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS

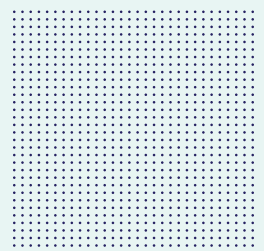


Prof. Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury
Vice Chancellor
University of Asia Pacific

Jamilur Reza Choudhury (born 15 November 1943) is a Bangladeshi civil engineer, professor, researcher, and education advocate. He is a former Adviser (Minister) to Caretaker Government of Bangladesh (April–June 1996). He is the vice chancellor of University of Asia Pacific. He is also the president of Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad Committee from 2003. He was awarded Ekushey Padak by the Government of Bangladesh in the category of science and technology in 2017.

Immediately after publication of results of BSC Engineering, he joined as a faculty of the former East Pakistan University of Engineering and Technology (EPUET) pending formal appointment (perhaps due to marginalization of Bengalis by the Pakis). In November 1963, he formally joined as a lecturer in the Department of Civil Engineering & began his long teaching career. In September 1964 he was awarded a scholarship by Burmashell to pursue MS in structural engineering. His thesis was on "Cracks in Concrete Beam using Computer Aided Design". In 1968, he was conferred a PhD degree on the topic of "Shear Wall & Structural Analysis of High rise Building". After completing PhD he returned to the former East Pakistan in 1968 & joined the former East Pakistan University of Engineering & Technology as an assistant professor until the demise of E. Pakistan and the birth of a new nation, Bangladesh. In 1973 he was promoted to associate professor of Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET) and in 1976 a full professor. In 1975, he was offered Nuffield scholarship to pursue post doctoral Fellowship at Surrey University in UK. Until 2001 he was working as a Professor at BUET. He was also entrusted with developing a "Computer Center" at BUET and was appointed director for about 10 years. He served as vice-chancellor of BRAC University between 2001 and 2010. Choudhury was appointed chairman of task force for developing Software Export & IT Infrastructure in Bangladesh from 1997 to 2000 under Ministry of Commerce. He was a ranking member of the Prime Minister's Task Force on developing Digital Bangladesh. Besides he is involved with several local and international organizations. Currently he is working as vice-chancellor of the University of Asia Pacific (UAP) . He was the Technical Adviser of Padma bridge. He is the president of Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad Committee.

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» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Habibullah N Karim
Former President
BASIS

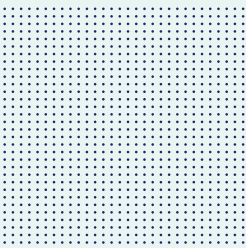
Mr. Habibullah N. Karim is the founder and CEO of Technohaven Company Limited, an independent software company and IT solutions provider since 1986. He represented the software industry as a full member of the Bangladesh Prime Minister’s ICT Task Force during 2002-2003 and 2008-2009.

Earlier in 1997 he helped found the Bangladesh Association of Software & Information Services (BASIS) and was its founding Secretary General. He was also elected president of BASIS twice for the terms 2002-2003 and 2008-2009. He currently sits on the executive committees (Boards) of the Bangladesh Employers Federation (BEF) and Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI). He is also a member of the Governing Board of the Bangladesh Institute of Management (BIM) on behalf of BEF. He has a BSEE degree from Yale University, USA.



Syed Almas Kabir
President
BASIS

Syed Almas Kabir, Chief Executive Officer of MetroNet Bangladesh Limited, is serving as a Director of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), the largest national trade body for IT and ITES of this country. He has been associated with the ICT industry for the last 27 years. He studied Electrical Engineering at Jadavpur University, India and did his Masters from New York University. He was attached to academia as an Associate Professor at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) for 12 years. He also was involved in various administrative roles in IUB, North South University & City University. Mr. Kabir was an adjunct faculty with National University and Northern University. Almas Kabir took MetroNet to new heights since 2006, establishing it as the most trusted data-communication company in the country offering Intranet, Internet, IP Telephony, and other IT Enabled Services nationwide. Syed Almas Kabir was elected as the Senior Vice President, Vice President and Treasurer of BASIS in the past. Almas has been elected as the President of American Alumni Association for the second time. Currently, he is also the Vice President of Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce & Industry. He is Convener of the Standing Committee on Telecom, ICT & Intellectual Property Rights of Dhaka Chamber. Mr. Kabir is the Co-Chairman of two FBCCI Standing Committees on e-Commerce and Telecom & IT. He was elected as the President of Junior Chamber International Bangladesh (JCI) and St. Joseph Old Boys’ Foundation. He also served as the International Councilor of JCI Asia-Pacific Development Council. Almas is the Member-Secretary of Traffic Management & Community Policing Committee of Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara-Niketan under the purview of Dhaka North City Corporation. He is also the Founder & Advisor of IUB Alumni Association (AiA). The US State Department awarded Mr. Kabir as an International Visitor in their Leadership Program (IVLP). He was the Team Leader of the Bangladesh Delegation to CeBIT 2013, 2014, & 2015 in Hannover, Germany and presented keynote-paper on Outsourcing Opportunities in Bangladesh at IT Investment Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark.





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Taqsem A Khan
Managing Director
WASA

Taqsem A. Khan is the Managing Director and CEO of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA).

Taqsem is a Visionary Leader who made dramatic reform (“Dhaka WASA Turn Around Program”) for last 7 years and converted a losing organization into a profitable, environment friendly sustainable, pro-people and good governance public sector water utility in Southeast Asia by increasing production, increasing revenue income 3 times, reducing NRW from 40% to 20% (DMA areas even 7%), reducing operating ratio to 0.66, introducing paperless e-billing system, ensuring water for all including low income community with 97% revenue collection.

From 1988 to 1998 Taqsem worked in ICDDR, B, as Chief Engineer. Prior to joining WASA in 2009, Taqsem involved with different NGOs in USA and Bangladesh from 1999 to 2008 and also worked as Senior Management Consultant in a Management Training Company

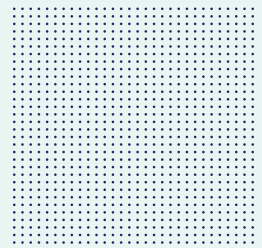
Besides professional engagement, Mr. Khan is an environment activist and expert who is also one of the founder members of BAPA, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bangladesh Environment Movement) in 2000.

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Farhana A. Rahman
Vice President
BASIS

Farhana A. Rahman is currently serving as the Vice President of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), the largest national trade body for IT and ITES of this country. She is the Chairperson and CEO of UY Systems Ltd, one of the pioneer organizations in outsourcing business and has been outstanding in the European market for more than a decade. With its web based software development skill, UY Systems slaking a considerable contribution in earning foreign currencies. She is also the Managing Director of HealthPrior21 and Secretary at Society for the welfare of Autistic Children. Ms. Rahman has been an example in ICT industry and encouraged a lot of female entrepreneurs over the years. She received the prestigious Women Exporter of the Year’ award by International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development at Trade Development Symposium in Nairobi, Kenya. She was also awarded with the ‘Best Women Entrepreneur’ in ICT Award at Digital World 2015. Ms. Rahman has made substantial contribution in BASIS with different roles. She was the first elected Woman Director at BASIS and served the board as Treasurer and Vice President during the term, 2008-2010 and 2010-2012. Currently, she is the Chairman of International Market Development Committee. Her commitments and engagements are quite praiseworthy too with roles such as Secretary General of Autism Foundation & Advisory Committee Member of Shuchona Foundation. Ms. Rahman is a Master Degree holder from the University of Dhaka.





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Takatoshi NISHIKATA
Country Representative
JICA Bangladesh

Takatoshi NISHIKATA is Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Bangladesh Office.

Nishikata joined the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), the implementing agency of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan, in 1997. Starting his career by dealing with infrastructure projects in ASEAN countries such as Indonesia, he dispatched to Manila office in 2000 of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) established in 1999 by integrating OECF and the Export-Import Bank of Japan.

Nishikata served from 2003 to 2006 as Director in charge of Philippines. He led formulation of country assistance strategy, project formation, appraisal and loan agreement for all the sectors in the country.

After the reorganization of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in 2008, by merging all the modalities of Japan's ODA, namely technical cooperation, ODA loan, grant aid and volunteers, he performed the duties of Deputy Director General of Procurement Department, Executive Advisor to the Director General and con. Director of Office for Project Design and Cost Examination under Financial Cooperation Implementation Department, etc. before joining in JICA Bangladesh office. He is conversant with infrastructures under ODA, especially in Asian countries.

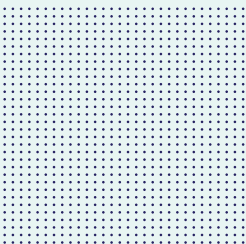
He holds a bachelor's degree in English Studies from Kobe City University of Foreign Studies. In his family life, Mr. Nishikata is married with 2 children.



Hiroyasu Izumi
The Ambassador of
Japan to Bangladesh

Hiroyasu Izumi born in Hiroshima. He was the Director of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division, Foreign Policy Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2006 he joined as a Minister of Embassy of Japan in China. He was also the Director of China Division, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Overseas Establishments Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In present, he is the Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh.





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Ms. Tina F. Jabeen
Consultant, IDEA Project
ICT Division

Tina Jabeen is the Investment Advisor, Startup Bangladesh, ICT Division. She is an accomplished finance and tax executive primarily based in Silicon Valley, and currently dividing her time between Silicon Valley and Dhaka. Tina has 22+ years of experience in private equity industry focused on venture capital. During her career in the venture capital industry in Silicon Valley/San Francisco, Tina developed an extensive professional and personal network in areas - fund groups, finance, tax and legal. Tina is familiar with and in certain areas has strong technical expertise in investment due diligence, equity sharing and return models, valuations, VC governance, legal and tax treaties.

As the Director of Finance in Horsley Bridge Partners, Tina led accounting and finance operations which included valuation analysis of 400+ VC/BU funds holding 3000+ portfolios across the globe.

In PwC, Tina successfully managed a number of the largest VC/BU clients in Silicon Valley with tiered structure, reviewed partnership agreements and effectively partnered with clients, audit and PwC cross-line of services teams and full range of staff. Tina received her CPA license from the State of California upon graduation from Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley. Tina grew up in Dhaka and immigrated to U.S.A in 1988.

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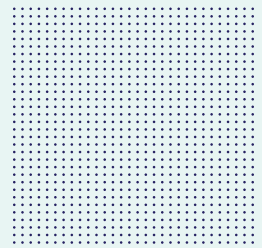


Wahidur Rahman Sharif
President
BACCO

Wahidur Rahman Sharif is the founder and Managing Director of Digicon Technologies Ltd. since its inception (2010). He started Digicon Technologies Ltd. as one of the first BPO Companies in Bangladesh with a vision to provide unparalleled expertise and cost effectiveness to existing business processes with a mission to deliver solutions through right sets of people and technologies to ensure maximum value for business.

Educated on MIS at University of Texas (Arlington), Wahidur launched his career as Manager, MIS, and Administration in Placemark Investments, an Envestnet's portfolio consulting group, located at Addison, Texas. He later joined as Managing Partner Impetus Consulting, where his fields of experience span from hard core technology disciplines to sophisticated financial management. Under his leadership, Digicon Technologies was awarded the 'ICT Achievement Award' at the Digital World 2015 in Dhaka.

Wahidur is also one of the co-founder and Managing Director of Digicon Global Services Limited and Tahoe Communications Ltd. At the same time he is serving as the President of Bangladesh Association of Call Center & Outsourcing (BACCO), as well as member of FBCCI, BASIS & AmCham (American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh).





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BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Mahboob Zaman
Managing Director
DataSoft Ltd

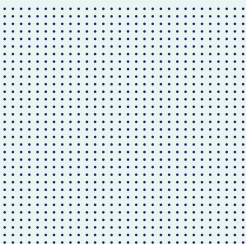
Mr Zaman graduated from Dhaka University in 1974. He served as the secretary general of the Statistical Society of Dhaka University in 1972-1974. He was first elected to DUCSU (Dhaka University Central Students Union) after independence, and fulfilled his duties as secretary general until 1976. In addition, he has served as President of BASIS (Bangladesh Software & Information Services Association) from 2010 and had a vision to raise BASIS to the next level. Mr. Zaman founded and since acting as the Managing Director of DataSoft Systems Bangladesh Limited from 1998. He has been making various efforts to establish Bangladesh as the next IT outsourcing destination. He has more than 25 years of experience and expertise in the technical field and leads a promising team to the forefront of the global market. Under his leadership, DataSoft have acquired a business partnership agreement with Data Electric Corporation, Primrose Group of Companies in the USA, CSB GmbH, TUV in Germany, NEO Global Business Solutions in UK, Switzerland TEMENOS and a joint venture with DataSoft, It plays an important role in exploring.



Dr. Md. Abdul Mannan
Director (Enabling Environment)
(Team Head, e-Service)
Access to Information (a2i) Programme

Mannan is a Director (Enabling Environment) at a2i. He coordinated implementation of National Portal having 42000 Government Offices with office- wise credentials which achieved WSIS Award 2015 and facilitated development of new e-file (NOTHI) to be implemented in government offices. He provides advisory support and guidance Management Information System to be used in Cabinet Division, Divisional Commissioners' Office and District administration to monitor executive courts' performance. Some of his notable contributions include supporting Cabinet Division for development of Grievance Redress System and MoPA for development of ToE system, providing guidance for development and implementation of Progress Monitoring System (ProMoS) to be used by the members of parliament, ministries and field administration. He also supported draft formulation of E_services Act, 2015 and Mobile Court (Amendment) Act, 2015, coordinated the pilot of the Mobile Court Management System in four districts and initiated implementation of e-court in 12 districts as well as supported hosting, maintenance of national portal and establishment of national helpdesk to facilitate the quick support and problem solution.

Mannan has more than more than 20 years of experience in public administration and development related fields as well as more than 15 years of experience in institutionalized policy and strategy development. He has expertise in designing and facilitating consultations with senior government policy makers, private sectors and development partners as well as knowledge and working experience in business process re-engineering. Mannan earned his M.Sc. degree in Botany from Rajshahi University and Ph.D. on Biodiversity and Botany from the same institution.





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Prof. ALAN EDELMAN
Professor
MIT

Alan Edelman is Professor of Applied Mathematics, and in 2004 founded Interactive Supercomputing (recently acquired by Microsoft). He received the B.S. & M.S. degrees in mathematics from Yale in 1984, and the Ph.D. in applied mathematics from MIT in 1989 under the direction of Lloyd N. Trefethen. Following a year at Thinking Machines Corp and at CERFACS in France, Edelman went to U.C. Berkeley as a Morrey Assistant Professor and Lewy Fellow, 1990-93. He joined the MIT faculty in applied mathematics in 1993. Edelman's research interests include high performance computing, numerical computation, linear algebra and stochastic eigenanalysis (random matrix theory). He has consulted for Akamai, IBM, Pixar, and NKK Japan among other corporations. A Sloan fellow, Edelman received an NSF Faculty Career award in 1995. He has received numerous awards, among them the Gordon Bell Prize and Householder Prize (1990), the Chauvenet Prize (1998), the Edgerly Science Partnership Award (1999), the SIAM Activity Group on Linear Algebra Prize (2000), and the Lester R. Ford Award, (2005). In 2011, Edelman was selected a Fellow of SIAM, for his contributions in bringing together mathematics and industry in the areas of numerical linear algebra, random matrix theory, and parallel computing.

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Rashedul Mazid
Managing Director
Raise IT Solutions

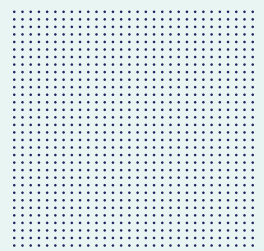
K. A. M.Rashedul Mazid is the Founder & CEO of Raise IT Solutions. He works with business owners in U.S.A, Canada, Australia and United Kingdom. His company is a "results" driven company focused on helping businesses leverage their online presence through website design, development, Customized software development, social media marketing, online advertising, communications and branding.

His company can provide you the right solutions to increase ROI of your online business .

Sitting on the top of Google and getting traffic is one thing but if you don't know how to monetize that traffic you are dead on the water. You are using google ad-sense or any other 3rd party advertisement on your site but you are not happy with the earning and not sure how to optimize your site to maximize the earning then His company can help you to increase your revenue from digital RTB Marketplace.

This is where K. A. M.Rashedul Mazid expertise come into place. He can help you to continue to bring in profits month after month with your existing and new online customers.

K. A. M.Rashedul Mazid has worked with many companies around the world to help them achieve and exceed their business goals. He is a proven leader in his industry and continues to push the limitations of what can be achieved online.





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Ms. Shomi Kaiser
Chairman
e-cab

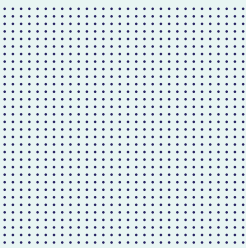
Ms. Shomi Kaiser is the Managing Director of Dhansiri Communications Ltd, which is an advertising and event management company and she is also the new President of e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB). She obtained her MA from Dhaka University majoring in marketing focusing on consumer behavior. As a key person of an advertising agency, she has performed some major activities with regard to brand building in the advertising industry. She also worked with organizations to understand the client's consumer behavior patterns, and crafted strategic planning for brand communication in the main stream advertising for the client's product. Other than that, she has an extensive experience in the social communication. She has a publication called "Shopner Shohor", a fiction published by Shomoy Prokashoni. She is an active member of "Projonmo '71", Prothom Alo Anti-drug Movement, Acid Survival Foundation and Human rights in South Asia (SAHAAR) and many more social and corporate platforms. Beside many other workshops, she has participated in a 4 day workshop on Communication for Development (C4D) model design and another workshop on action plan design for primary education campaign organized by UNICEF.

She is a renowned face in Bangladesh in Media as she has performed in many dramas for different television channels in central roles for last 18 years. She has given direction on many TV commercials, dramas, telefilms. She is an active member of Group Theater Federation. She has successfully performed on stage in Dhaka Theater as one of the central characters for 15 years. She has also been active on different social causes as an activist. Recently she has been appointed by the " Women and Child Affairs Ministry" as the brand consultant to develop the capacity of the grass root women entrepreneurs under the platform name "Joyeeta" where the Bangladeshi hand loom industry will be promoted through a large shop in a commercial mall.



Dr. Suraiya Pervin
Professor
Department of Computer Science
and Engineering, University of Dhaka

Dr. Suraiya Pervin is the Professor of department of computer science and engineering, University of Dhaka. She did her PhD in 2001 in Electronics & Communication Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India. Her Specialization is in Digital Signal Processing. She was the Chairperson of Department of CSE, University of Dhaka from Feb 2009 - Feb 2012. She was the Former Chairperson Special Allocation Committee (ICT), Ministry of Science & Technology, Bangladesh. Dr. Suraiya Pervin was also the former member of Editorial Board the Dhaka University Journal of Engineering and technology. She also worked as Academic Advisor of National University, Gazipur. She has several numbers of journal publications on different topics of the subject.





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Ms. Maliha M Quadir
Managing Director
shohoz

Maliha Malek Quadir is the founder of Shohoz.com, the largest ticketing and reservation platform in Bangladesh. Shohoz.com sells bus (long distance), ferry and movies/concert and cricket match tickets through online and mobile platforms. Founded in 2014, Shohoz.com has become a very well-known consumer brand in the short span of 2.5 years. Besides selling tickets online, Shohoz.com takes pride in digitizing bus/ferry counter operations of operators by deploying its proprietary ticketing solution. Shohoz.com has already digitized 40+ of the topmost bus operators and 20+ ferries within a short span of its operation in Bangladesh.

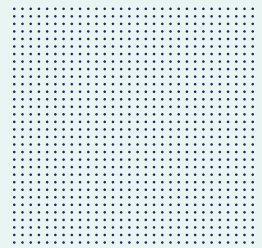
Shohoz.com is a strong team of 80+ young and dynamic professionals now. Maliha Malek Quadir, a Business graduate from the Harvard Business School, before founding Shohoz.com, worked in Singapore for 5 years where she was the Director for Digital Products at Vistaprint, a \$2BN ecommerce company. Before Vistaprint, she worked for Nokia as Senior Business Development Manager responsible for setting up the Nokia Life Tools service in different emerging markets like India, Indonesia etc. Nokia Life Tools was a digital content business providing useful daily tips in agriculture, education to Nokia users. Maliha worked for Standard Chartered bank briefly in Singapore. She began her career as an analyst in the Utilities Mergers and Acquisition and Financial sponsor's coverage department of Morgan Stanley in New York and San Francisco. She did her undergraduate from Smith College (USA) in economics and computer science.

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Ms. Achia Khaleda Nila
Founder
Women in Digital Bangladesh

Achia Khaleda Nila, Founder of Women In Digital Bangladesh“(WIDBD), an initiative of a social enterprise that has created programs to help women advance by providing access to a Digital Platform. Coming from a Tech background Nila started this initiative in 2013 and is ever since committed to empowering women. The WIDBD-team provides a wealth of knowledge, training and resources to women in Bangladesh who demonstrate interest in developing digital products such as mobile apps, software, web apps, e-commerce sites and any type of graphic, animation etc. Currently, Nila works with an in-house development team which employs over 25 talented women.





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Faruq Ahmed Jewel
Innovation Expert
Access to Information

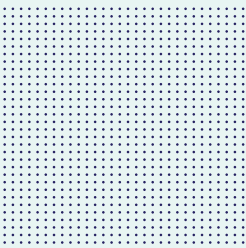
Jewel is working as the Innovation Expert at a2i. His primary responsibilities lies in developing the innovation lab as a physical and virtual colocation space for the innovators. He coordinates the youth innovation initiatives, provides technical support, mentors and coaches the innovators. He is also focusing on the 'innovator's network' and 'low-cost devices'. Jewel has an MSc degree in ICT from Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology. Having more than 10 years' experience in device designing, interfacing and system integration, Jewel has developed range of products like GPRS Tracker to dynamic motion platform based Tank simulator.



Raihan Shamsi
Chairman & CEO
Devo-Tech Technology Park

Raihan Shamsi possesses extensive business, financial and leadership experience in telecommunications, consultancy and business process outsourcing. Among his notable achievements, he has been instrumental in positioning Bangladesh as a promising destination for business process outsourcing, led the largest IPO in Bangladesh from Grameenphone as its CFO, and founded the Institute of Internal Auditors in Bangladesh (IIAB) which has 150,000 professional members worldwide engaged in the professional development and improvement of corporate governance in 160 countries. Mr. Shamsi has also worked for Unilever, Shell and KPMG in his 20 year career.

Mr. Shamsi is a Chartered Accountant from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB). He has a Diploma in Management from the National University of Singapore and completed a leadership course organized by the Telenor Group and the Norwegian School of Economics. Mr. Shamsi believes that the next big transformation in Bangladesh will come from leveraging IT Enabled services and foresees immense potential for equity-led investments in this sectors.





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Prof. Akhtar Hossain
Department Head
Daffodil University

Prof. Dr. Syed Akhter Hossain is the Department head of Computer Science & engineering Department of Daffodil University. He completed his MSc in Applied Physics and Electronics and obtained First Class (First)BSc (Hons) in Applied Physics and Electronics.

He was the Associate Professor of Department of Computer Science and Engineering East West University, Dhaka, from September 2000 to August 2008. He has More than 18 years of experience in the field of teaching, research and development with the core competence in computer science and engineering and Informatics.

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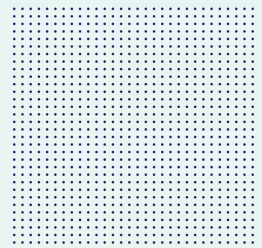


Muhammad Risalat
Chairman
Analyze Bangladesh Limited

Muhammad Risalat Siddique completed his Masters degree from Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka. He is the Chairman of Analyzen Bangladesh Limited.

He Became an entrepreneur since July 2014 to work on Brand and Strategy Consultancy, Digital Marketing and Agricultural Market Linkage Development projects with Donors. Ha has extensive experience in developing and building multiple FMCG categories and brands in Skin Care (Fair & Lovely & Vaseline), Hair Care (CLEAR, SUNsilk & Dove), Oral Care (Pepsodent & CloseUp) & Foods (Wall's Ice cream, Knorr & Lipton). He has developed and executed high-impact innovations, renovations and marketing campaigns that consistently generated revenue and achieved performance (double digit growth & market share gain). He directed and managed more than 15 professional, technical, and support agencies, as well as operating budgets of up to Euro 3Mln.

His goal is to build to an organization, where brand building, consumer & market research plays a prominent role to retain market leadership or challenge competition's leadership; with minimal environmental impact and positive social contribution.





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Dr. Xane Alam Raabid

Consultant

Skill dev for Mobile Apps

Dr. M. Xane Alam Raabid has conducted more than 380 professional training programs till date on various subjects successfully with utmost reputation both in home and abroad.

He has conducted professional training programs for ROBI, BAT, HSBC, Chevron, Lafarge, BSRM, Cairn Energy, Brac Bank, UCBL, Nokia-Siemens, Beacon, Beximco, Oxfam, ICDDR, Banglalink, Mashreq Bank, Berger, Save the Children and many more.

He is a reputed trainer in the area of MS Excel, Project Management, Business Continuity Management, Business Process Re-engineering, Team-Building, Stress Management, Negotiation Skills, Strategic Selling, Presentation Techniques, Psychometric Testing, Emotional Intelligence, NLP, etc.

He has got his PhD in finance. He has got an MBA as well as Postgraduate Diploma in HRM and Cognitive Psychology. He is also an MCS.D.NET, MCAD, MCDBA. He is the First Microsoft certified Professional in .NET track in Bangladesh from Microsoft (Ref: The Bangladesh Observer, October 01, 2002).

He is a creative writer and has some publications on various subjects also.



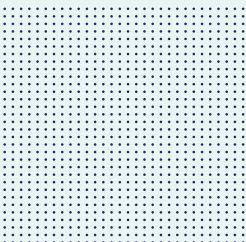
Forhad Zahid Shaikh

IT Manager

Access to Information (a2i)

Forhad is working as the IT Manager (Innovation Specialist) of a2i. He designs and conducts 'e-Service design' trainings for the senior level government officials and tracks the e-service development initiatives of 40 ministries. He also provides technical support to the innovation teams at field administration. Currently, he is providing support to some key ministries e.g. Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's Office etc in designing e-services. He is overseeing the development of payment processors and m-services for the students.

He has more than 17 years in IT sector. He has completed his Bachelor's in Computer Science from Pune University, Maharashtra, India, MBA majoring in MIS and Mphil in Public Administration, Jahangirnagar University. Currently, he is pursuing his PhD.





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Zia Ashraf
CEO
Chaldal.com

Zia Ashraf founded ChalDal, Inc. in 2013 and serves as its Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Ashraf has experience in the field of management and marketing. Prior to Chaldal, he served as the Head of Operations at a ready-made garments factory in Bangladesh. He managed over 1000 employees and oversaw all facets of the business including merchandising, production, commercial design and marketing. Mr. Ashraf holds a BBA in Marketing from North South University.



Hussain M Elius
CEO
PATHAO

Hussain M Elius is the Co-founder of Pathao. He was adept at coding when he was in class 6 and got into freelancing when he was in high school. While in university he started a UI/UX firm began doing UI outsourcing and consultancy. He is both an engineer and a business graduate. He started Pathao along with his friend Adnan and 3 delivery agents in mid-2015. Today it has many branches all over the country and handles over 500 deliveries a day

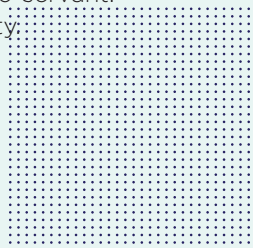


Mustafizur Rahman
Director of Innovation
Access to Information (a2i)

Mustafiz is a Director (Innovation) at a2i. He leads the Service Innovation Fund, Challenge Fund, Youth Innovation and Innovation Labs; connects government and private sector in upscaling innovation; supports incubation.

Mustafiz is a joint secretary to the government. In 2011, he was posted as a Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Jessore district. Under his leadership, Jessore was declared as the first 'Digital District' of Bangladesh. As a public servant, Mr Rahman received 'e-Asia award 2011' and 'Best DC Award in 2012 (field administration), 2013 (primary education) and 2014'. Recently, he has received the 'Public Administration Award 2016' as a recognition of his outstanding contributions as a public servant. Mustafiz completed his MSc in Physics from Rajshahi University;

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» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



A K M Fahim Masroor
CEO
AjkerDeal.com

Fahim Mashroor has over one decade of experience in the IT industry of Bangladesh. During this time, apart from successfully running his own business (as founder and CEO of Bdjobs.com), he has been extensively involved in different industry development activities.

One of the most successful young entrepreneurs in the country, Fahim Mashroor founded Bdjobs.com (the online employment exchange in Bangladesh) in 2000 right after completing his education from University of Dhaka. Bdjobs.com is currently one of the most successful internet ventures in the country. It is also one of the top five job sites in South Asia. In 2008, Fahim Mashroor was awarded “Best Innovative Entrepreneur” by DCCI.

In 2012 he has been elected at President of BASIS (Bangladesh Association of Software & Information Services), the national trade body representing software and IT service industry of Bangladesh. He also served BASIS as the Senior Vice President (for 2010-12). He also served BASIS as EC member for 4 consecutive years (2004-2008). Fahim Mashroor was the convener for BASIS SoftExpo 2011 and SoftExpo 2007. He represented IT industry as a member of working committee that drafted ICT Policy 2009.

Fahim Mashroor has also been involved in a number of social development activities in voluntary capacity. He is one of the trustee and Governing Body Member of D.Net (www.dnet-bangladesh.org), a non-profit development organization working in the fields of ICT literacy and promotion of ICT for social development.

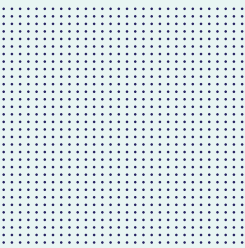


Kamrul Hasan Emon
Co-Founder & Director
EzzyR

After completing his graduation in Business Administration from United International University (UIU), he is working hard to become a successful entrepreneur and business professional. He started his business career with an online store Civvy Street along with two outlets which made him one of the first initiators of F-commerce (Facebook Commerce) in Bangladesh.

Later, he joined board of directors of a growing Information Technology Enabled Service Company Innovadeus Pvt. Ltd. and working on various Projects under their hood. One of their largest project is “Ezzyr” which is a mobile based ride sharing application serving all over Bangladesh.

He also received “Best Young Entrepreneur” award by the DIU CDC, National ICT Award 2017 by BASIS.





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS

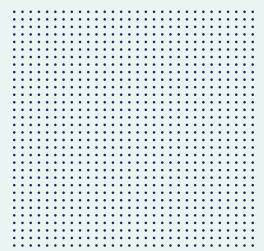


Dr. Zakir Hossain Raju
Head of Dept. of Media
and Communication
Independent University Bangladesh

Dr Zakir Hossain Raju is Professor of Media and Communication and Director of the Centre for Social Science Research (CSSR) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). Here he has introduced a semester-long course on Korean cinema and society, the only such course in South Asia and one of the twenty or so courses offered on Korean cinema in leading universities around the world.

He is currently also the President of Bangladesh Short Film Forum. Raju served as Dean of Social Science at IUB during 2013-15. In 2014, he served as Korea Foundation Fellow at Korean National University of Arts in Seoul. During 2008-10, Raju also served as Postgraduate Coordinator and Senior Lecturer of Communication and Cultural Studies at Monash University, Malaysia. He obtained PhD in Cinema Studies from La Trobe University, Melbourne in 2005. Before that, he taught at La Trobe and Monash University in Australia as well as at University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Raju served as a Visiting Scholar at Australian National University, Canberra in 1999 and at University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur in 2007. A renowned scholar of Asian cinema and politics that ranges from Bangladesh to South Korea, Dr Raju is also the author of *Bangladesh Cinema and National Identity: In Search of the Modern?* (Routledge, London: 2015). He has published research papers on Bangladeshi, South Korean and Malaysian media and culture in journals including *Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa and the Middle East (CSSAAME)*, *Screening the Past*, *Journal of Chinese Cinemas*, *Cinemaya*, and *South Asian Journal*.

Raju also published his research on Asian cinema in anthologies including *Art and Sovereignty in Global Politics* (Palgrave, USA: 2016) *Islam and Popular Culture in Indonesia and Malaysia* (Routledge, 2011), *Communalism and Globalization in South Asia and its Diaspora* (Routledge, 2010), *Media Consumption and Everyday Life in Asia* (Routledge, 2009), *Madrasas in South Asia: Teaching Terror?* (Routledge, 2008), *Contemporary Asian Cinema* (Berg, 2006) and *Being and Becoming: The Cinemas of Asia* (Macmillan, 2002). He is a reviewer for *Asian Journal of Communication* and on the editorial board of the journals *Bioscope: South Asian Screen Studies* (Sage) and *Journal of South Asian Film and Media* (Intellect). Raju has been invited to be on the Jury of international film festivals in Australia, South Korea, USA, the Netherlands, France, and Bangladesh. While he presented more than seventy papers and invited lectures in many universities and film festivals around the world, he has presented his recent research on various aspects of Korean cinema and society in international conferences in USA, Bangladesh and Poland (forthcoming).





» Speaker

BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 SPEAKERS



Ayman Sadiq
Founder & CEO
10 Minute School

Ayman Sadiq is a Bangladeshi public speaker and internet personality who is best known around the country for his 10 Minute School. He is a rising star of the country already has got the huge attention of media and government for his non-profit task. Ayman won the heart of the millions of students providing lesson through online. He is one of the recipients of 2018 Queen's Young Leader Award.

Ayman Sadiq was born on September 2, 1992, in Comilla, Bangladesh to Abu Taiyeb and Sharmeen Akter. His mother is a housewife and father is Brigadier General of Army. He studied at Adamjee Cantonment College in science background and wanted to be a doctor or engineer. However, he enrolled at the University of Dhaka in BBA. Sadiq completed BBA and MBA from IBA, University of Dhaka. He cherished a dream to be a teacher since student life eventually turned his dream into reality establishing 10 Minute School.

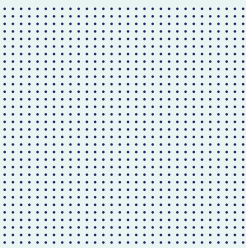
Ayman Sadiq began teaching profession providing tuition to the students in different coaching at Framerate, Dhaka. But he was able to provide tuition to little or fixed number of student. Then he tried to extend his tuition to a large number of students who are situated in the remote corner of the country. He inspired by a poor student who comes to the Dhaka from the village with a little money to take coaching. The student was unable to afford the cost of Dhaka city.

Then Ayman Sadiq decided to launch a platform from where anyone can get lesson without any cost from the remote corner of the country. In 2014, he launched the 10 Minute School and never looked back in the career. The platform is designed to provide training in English, science, mathematics and skill development. Now he is a star in the country and achieved several international recognition.



Asif Ahnaf
President
e-CAB Youth Forum

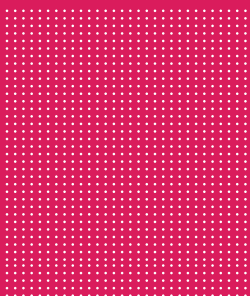
Founder & CEO, Aponzone.com, student of his graduation program in University of Dhaka thought of being entrepreneur at the age of 9 when he wrote "AIM IN LIFE " essay. After completed his S.S.C in 2010, he set his target and planned to do business with "e-commerce" which is fully unknown at that time. But he has taken the challenge and doing research on international e-commerce sites like amazon.com, ebay, and so on. After research for 2 years, he launched his dream project "aponzone.com", a fully online based e-commerce website, which concept is "Grace & quality in online shopping with home delivery". Later part it takes part in different events and won several awards. One of them was Best Innovative Organization by ICT ministry in "Digital innovative fair". And now my organization Aponzone.com is one of the leading e-commerce sites in Bangladesh where more than 15 people are working under him.





PANELISTS

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BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 PANELISTS



Fazle Kabir

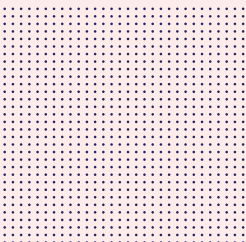
Governor

Bangladesh Bank

Fazle Kabir (born July 4, 1955) is a Bangladeshi economist and banker. He is the 11th Governor of Bangladesh Bank, the central bank of Bangladesh. Prior to this position, he served as the chairman of state-owned Sonali Bank. He also served as a director of another state-owned Janata Bank.

Fazle Kabir started his professional career in 1980 in the Railway Transportation and Commercial cadre of Bangladesh Civil Service. In 1983, he joined the BCS Administration cadre. During his 34 years of civil service, Kabir held various key positions in different ministries and also in the field administration. He served as the Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate of Kishoreganj district, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Director General of the National Academy for Planning and Development, Director General of the BCS Administration Academy, Secretary Ministry of Railways and Secretary Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance. He served as a Director in the Board of Directors of Janata Bank Limited between 2008 and 2010 and Bangladesh Bank from 2012 to 2014. Prior to joining Bangladesh Bank, Fazle Kabir was holding the position of Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sonali Bank Limited.

Born in 1955, Fazle Kabir studied at Faujdarhat Cadet College for his secondary and higher secondary education, followed by his undergraduate and graduate studies at the Department of Economics of the University of Chittagong where he obtained his B.A.(Honours) and M.A. degree. In his professional career, he was a resource person in the subjects of Public Finance Management, Public Expenditure Management, Debt Management and other issues at many training institutions including National Defence College, BPATC, National Academy for Planning and Development, BCS Administration Academy, Police Staff College and National Institute of Mass Communication. Fazle Kabir is married to Mahmuda Sharmin Benu who is at present working as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.



BASIS SOFTEXPO 2018 PANELISTS



Shyam Sunder Sikder

Secretary

Posts and Telecommunications Division

তথাও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিভাগে নতুন সচিব জনাব শ্যামসুন্দর সিকদার ১৯৮৪ ব্যাচের প্রশাসন ক্যাডারের কর্মকর্তা। এর আগে তিনি বাংলাদেশ ক্ষুদ্র ও কুটির শিল্প সংস্থার চেয়ারম্যান হিসেবে দায়িত্বপালন করেছেন। তাঁরসংক্ষিপ্তজীবন ও কর্ম দেওয়া হলো। শ্যামসুন্দর সিকদার ১৯৬০ সালে তৎকালীন বৃহত্তর ফরিদপুর জেলার পূর্ব-মাদারীপুরের নড়িয়া থানার লোনসিং গ্রামে জন্ম গ্রহণ করেন। বর্তমানে এটি শরিয়তপুর জেলার অন্তর্গত। তার পিতার নাম-গিরেন্দ্র মোহন সিকদার, মাতার নাম-কৃষ্ণদাসী সিকদার। ৭ ভাই বোনদের মধ্যে তিনি তৃতীয়। মাটি-জল, খাল-নদী এবং শস্য-শ্যামল প্রকৃতি দেখে দেখে গ্রামীণ পরিবেশে তাঁর কৈশোর কেটেছে।

শিক্ষাজীবন : নিজ গ্রাম দক্ষিণ লোন সিং প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়ে তাঁর প্রথম পাঠ শুরু। পঞ্চম শ্রেণী পর্যন্ত এই স্কুলে অধ্যয়ন। অতঃপর নড়িয়া বিহারী লাল হাই স্কুলে মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা গ্রহণ করে পরবর্তী সময়ে ফেণী মডেল হাই স্কুলে ভর্তি হন। ১৯৭৫ সালে ঐ স্কুল থেকে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এসএসসি পাশ করে ফেণী কলেজে ভর্তি হন এবং ১৯৭৭ সালে একই কলেজ থেকে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এইচএসসি এবং ১৯৭৯ সালে বিএসসি ডিগ্রি লাভ করেন। এরপর চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে পরিসংখ্যান বিভাগে ভর্তি হন এবং ১৯৮১ সালে এমএসসি ডিগ্রি অর্জন করেন। তিনি ২০০৮ সালে নর্দান বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে প্রথম শ্রেণীতে এমবিএ ডিগ্রি প্রাপ্ত হন।

কর্মজীবন : মূলত তার কর্মজীবন শুরু হয় শিক্ষাকর্তা দিয়ে। এরপর ১৯৮৪ সালে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকে কর্মকর্তা হিসেবে যোগদান। তিনি ১৯৮৪ সালে বিসিএস পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়ে ১৯৮৬ সালে প্রশাসন ক্যাডারে যোগদান করে মাঠ পর্যায়ে এবং সরকারের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিভিন্ন মন্ত্রণালয়ে বিভিন্ন পদে দায়িত্ব পালন করেছেন। ২০০৫ সালে উপ-সচিব পদে পদোন্নতি পেয়ে বাংলাদেশ স্থল বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষের সচিব হন। এরপর সাভারস্থ বিপিএটিসিতে পরিচালক হিসেবে যোগদান করেন। ২০০৯ সালে যুগ্ম-সচিব পদে পদোন্নতি পেয়ে সংস্থাপন মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীনে এবং ২০১০ সালে সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ে যোগদান করেন। সেখানে দায়িত্ব পালন অবস্থায় ২০১২ সালে অতিরিক্ত সচিব হিসেবে পদোন্নতি লাভ করেন এবং কিছুদিন পর গৃহায়ণ ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয়ে দায়িত্ব পালন করেন। ২০১৩ সালে তিনি বিসিকের চেয়ারম্যান হিসেবে যোগদান করেন।

সাহিত্যকর্ম : তার সাহিত্য-জীবন শুরু হয় ছাত্র জীবনে নাটক কবিতা লিখে এবং অভিনয়ের মাধ্যমে। তিনি নিজ গ্রাম শরিয়তপুরের লোন সিং-এ ‘মাতৃ স্মৃতি সংঘ’ নামে একটি সাংস্কৃতিক সংগঠন প্রতিষ্ঠায় অগ্রণী ভূমিকা পালন করেন। তিনি ফেণীর ‘সংলাপ নাট্য গোষ্ঠীর’ প্রতিষ্ঠাতা সদস্য হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালন করেন। ঐ সময় তিনি ফেণীর ‘বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমীর’ সদস্য ছিলেন। ১৯৮৪-৮৫ সালে তিনি যখন বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকে কর্মরত ছিলেন তখন এই ব্যাংকে ‘অধিকোষ সাহিত্য অঙ্গন’ নামক একটি সাহিত্য বিষয়ক প্রতিষ্ঠান গড়ে তোলেন।

১৯৭৬-৭৭ সালে ‘ফলাফল শূন্য’ ও ‘মাটির মন্দির’ নামক দুটি নাটক রচনা করেন এবং তিনি এই নাটক দুটিতে অভিনয় এবং নির্দেশকের ভূমিকাও পালন করেন। ফেণী থেকে প্রকাশিত ‘সাপ্তাহিক পথ’ পত্রিকায় তার জীবনের প্রথম কবিতা প্রকাশিত হলেও মূলত ১৯৮৪ সাল থেকে তার নিয়মিত লেখা দেশের প্রখ্যাত পত্র-পত্রিকায় ছাপা হতে থাকে। দৈনিক সংবাদ এর ‘খেলাঘর’, বাংলার বাণী, ইত্তেফাক এবং সাপ্তাহিক প্রতিরোধ সহ বেশ কিছু পত্র-পত্রিকায় তিনি ধারাবাহিক ভাবে লিখেন। বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র ও তথ্য অধিদপ্তর থেকে প্রকাশিত ‘নবাবুল’ ও ‘সচিত্র বাংলাদেশ’ পত্রিকায় তার বেশ কিছু লেখা ছাপা হয়। তিনি একসময় দৈনিক ‘মাথা ভাঙ্গা’(চুয়াডাঙ্গা) এবং দৈনিক গিরি দর্পণ (রাংগামাটি) পত্রিকায় নিয়মিত লিখতেন। তিনি দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক, যুগান্তর এবং বাংলাদেশ প্রতিদিন পত্রিকায় মাঝে মাঝে লিখছেন। ‘দৈনিক আমার কাগজ’ পত্রিকায় তার ধারাবাহিক কবিতা দীর্ঘদিন প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

তার প্রথম কাব্যগ্রন্থ *জলে জলে সমুদ্র* ২০১২ সালে প্রকাশিত হয়। একই বছর প্রকাশিত হয় *অন্যায়ী অতিথি কাক* (২০১২), অতঃপর তৃতীয় কাব্যগ্রন্থ *অন্তরে অন্তরে টানে নিরন্তর* (২০১৩) এবং প্রবন্ধের বই *মাটি মানুষ ও সমকালীন প্রসঙ্গ* (২০১৩) প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। ২০১৪ সালের বই মেলা উপলক্ষে তার প্রকাশিত গ্রন্থ হচ্ছে : ভ্রমণ কাহিনী-*জাপান, ভূমিকম্পের সঙ্গে সহাবস্থান*, মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক গল্প-ইতিহাস - *একাত্তরের জীবন ও যুদ্ধ*, গল্পগ্রন্থ *ভালোবাসার নির্বাসন* কবিতা গ্রন্থ *হৃদয়ে হৃদয়ে যুদ্ধ* এবং ছোটদের ছড়ার বই *ইচ্ছে ডান্যা* এ ছাড়া তিনি পার্বত্য জেলার উপর ২০০৪ সালে *রাংগামাটি*, *বেচিএর একতান* বইয়ের সহযোগী সম্পাদক ও লেখক ছিলেন। সম্প্রতি প্রকাশিত হয়েছে বিসিকের অতীত, বর্তমান ও ভবিষ্যৎ (একটি সমীক্ষা)।

মূলত শ্যাম সুন্দর সিকদার একজন বহুমাত্রিক লেখক ও গবেষক। তার লেখায় সমকালীন জীবন, সমাজ ব্যবস্থা, স্থানীয় ইতিহাস-ঐতিহ্য এবং আমাদের মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধের আকর অসাধারণ ভাবে ফুটে ওঠেছে। কবিতা, গল্প, উপন্যাস, ভ্রমণ কাহিনী এবং প্রবন্ধ ইত্যাদি সকল মাধ্যমে তার অবাধ বিচরণ অব্যাহত এবং সাহিত্য বিচারেতা সমৃদ্ধ ও বটে।

ভ্রমণ : ভারত, থাইল্যান্ড, চীন, জাপান, মালয়েশিয়া, শ্রীলংকা, সুইজারল্যান্ড, রাশিয়া, জার্মানি, সিঙ্গাপুর, মালদ্বীপ, ভিয়েতনাম।

পারিবারিক অবস্থা : তিনি এক পুত্র ও এক কন্যা সন্তানের জনক। পুত্র অরুজিক সিকদার, কন্যা অনোয়া সিকদার। স্ত্রী সুপ্রমা সিকদার।

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» Panelists

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Dr. Md. Nasir Uddin

Additional Secretary

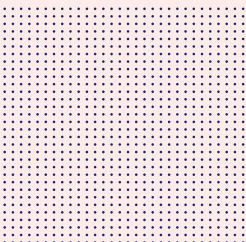
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Dr. Md. Nasir Uddin, Additional Secretary to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has joined as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bangladesh Tourism Board (BTB) on 16 March, 2017. Dr. Nasir started his professional career in Civil Service (Administration) Cadre in 1988. He worked in different Divisions and Ministries including Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, MO Health and Family welfare, Dhaka North City Corporation, Zilla Parishad, Manikgonj and Sumangonj, Ministry of Environment and Forests, etc. Prior to joining BTB he served as the Director General of Public Private Partnership Authority under the Prime Minister's Office.

Dr. Nasir was graduated from Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) in 1983. He has completed his M.Sc in Environment from Asian Institute of Technology Thailand. He achieved his Ph.D in Environment from the University of Rajshahi in 2004. He successfully completed different type of training courses like Advance Course on Administration and Development (ACAD) from Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, Course on the Role of Administration in Human Resources Development and Poverty Reduction from Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management, Course on Air Pollution Management Policy II 2004 from Japan, Course on Environment Impact Assessment from Thailand, and Youth Friendship Program from Japan. He also completed MATT

courses from Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center and the University of Manchester, UK.

Dr. Nasir numerously participated in different meetings, seminars, workshops on Environment and Climate Change organized by UNFCCC, World Bank, BCAS, AIT around the world. He has travelled many countries like Japan, Thailand, Colombia, Kenya, Germany, Poland, India, UK, USA, and Canada for official purposes. Beside his professional life Dr. Nasir is actively engaged in different types of Social Works and Sports & Cultural Activities. He is the member of Bangladesh Administrative Service Association, AIT Alumni Association, IBS Alumni Association, JICA Alumni Association.





» Panelists

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Tarique Barkatullah
Director (National Data Center)
Bangladesh Computer Council

Tarique Barkatullah is the Director (National Data Center) at Bangladesh Computer Council from March 2011 till now. Also he was the Senior System Analyst at Bangladesh Computer Council. He completed his Master of Business Administration from Institute of Business Administration, Dhaka University. He completed Bachelor of Science (BSc) from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.



Swapan Kumar Sarker
Executive Director
BCC

Swapan Kumar Sarker is Executive Director of Bangladesh Computer Council.

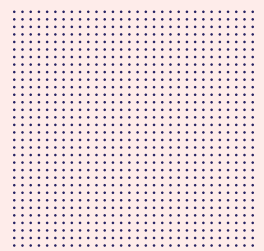


Sami Ahmed
Component Team Leader
Leveraging ICT for Growth, Employment and Governance Project

Sami Ahmed is the Component Team Leader at Leveraging ICT for Growth, Employment and Governance Project January 2016- present. He was the Executive Director at Bangladesh Association for Software and Information Services. Moreover, he was the Technology Expert at Access to Information (a2i). Also, he worked as Head of Operations at Universal IT Ltd. As an IT consultant he worked at REZ Systems. He was the Manager at NAS Enterprise.

He completed his Masters in Development Studies at BRAC University. He went to Baker Collage of Flint to study on Computer Information Systems. He studied at The University of Texas at Austin on Computer Science.

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» Panelists

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Rashed Kamal

CEO

The Databiz Software Limited

Bangladeshi young technology entrepreneur Rashed Kamal has enlightened societies in some African lands Kenya and Uganda which are in the process of enlightens in Software and ITES sector in recent days.

He Started Professional career in late 1998 as a Business and System Analyst in Software Development companies in Bangladesh and later started his own company Databiz Inc (currently known as The Databiz Software Ltd) and founded The Monthly C News (a leading ICT Magazine from Bangladesh) in 2002. He attached with BCS, BASIS, DCCI, IBA Alumni Association, DU Alumni Association, MBA Club, IBA Alumni Club, Rotary, AOTS (Japan), Internet Society, Old Ideals Student Association etc and always trying to integrate and sketch business domain knowledge with IT.

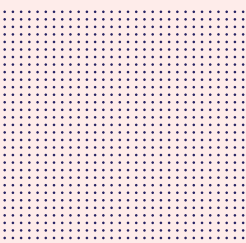


Lamia Iftekhar

Assistant Professor

North South University

Lamia Iftekhar is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, North South University (NSU) , Dhaka. She completed her Ph.D. in Engineering from Dartmouth College New Hampshire, USA in June 2012 under the supervision of Dr. Reza Olfati-Saber. Her work was on designing driving algorithms for network of autonomous vehicles. Prior to this, Lamia completed her undergraduate studies and Masters in Electrical Engineering simultaneously in 2009 under a four-year Honors BS/MS program from Polytechnic Institute of New York University, NY, USA. Her undergrad major was in Electrical Engineering and she had minors in Mathematics and Psychology. She also believes that there's a huge potential in using robotics to promote sincere interest in STEM amongst the school students of her country, specially the female students.





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Ms. Lila Rashid
Deputy General Manager
Bangladesh Bank

Ms Lila Rashid is the Deputy General Manager at Bangladesh Bank [The Central Bank of Bangladesh]. She studied in University of New Orleans Bangladesh.



Tareq Rafi Bhuiyan
Managing Director/Co-Founder
NewVision Solutions Ltd.

Tareq Rafi Bhuiya is the Managing Director/Co-Founder at NewVision Solutions Ltd. He Co-Founded a successful software development company in 2002 in the USA that has successfully implemented more than 250 projects. He Worked in Fortune 100 company for seven years as programmer, analyst, software specialist and project manager and worked on several multimillion dollar projects such as PeopleSoft upgradation, Web based self-service application implementation.



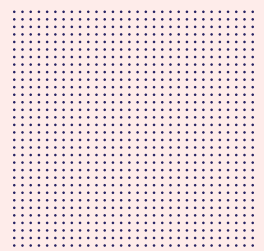
Salahuddin Kasem Khan
Managing Director/Co-Founder
NewVision Solutions Ltd.

Salahuddin Kasem Khan is third son of pioneer industrialist of Bangladesh, Late A. K. Khan (Abul Kasem Khan), who was the Member of Parliament from 1947-1962, former Federal Minister of Government of Pakistan (1958 - 1962).

Mr. S. K. Khan did his schooling from Aitchison College, Lahore, 1964; Graduated from the University of Punjab in 1968 and did Post Graduate in Legal Studies in London (1969-1972).

Mr.Khan was appointed as Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Turkey, Chittagong by the President of Turkey in 1984.

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» Panelists

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Kamal S. Quadir
Deputy General Manager
Bangladesh Bank

Kamal S. Quadir is a Bangladeshi American entrepreneur and artist best known for introducing e-commerce in Bangladesh by founding CellBazaar an electronic marketplace which, after reaching 4 million users, was acquired by Norwegian telecommunications operator Telenor in 2010. CellBazaar later was rebranded as ekhanei.com.

Quadir is currently heading the company bKash, which provides financial services through a network of community-based agents and existing technology, including mobile phones. bKash is world's second largest and fastest growing mobile financial services company.

Quadir is a founding member of Open World Initiatives, a Lausanne, Switzerland-based organization of young thinkers. He is involved with Anwarul Quadir Foundation which recognises innovations in developing countries. He is a First Mover Fellow of The Aspen Institute. In 2009, TED selected Quadir a TED Fellow and the World Economic Forum recognised him as a Young Global Leader.

He studied at MIT Sloan School of Management Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Kushagra Sagar
SMB Business Development Lead

Kushagra Sagar, a human calculator among this colleagues has more than seven year of experience across various APAC markets such as India, Philippines, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Singapore. Currently managing business development for SMB's across South Asia with a key focus on India and growing the Bangladesh market for Facebook.



Mukit Ahmed
Head of e-Marketing
Banglalink

Mukit Ahmed previously working for Robi Axiata Limited as General Manager - Social Media, Brand Marketing Communications completed his IBA from University of Dhaka. 12 years' experience in the field of telecommunications, Mr. Mukit Currently working as the Head of e-Marketing, Banglalink since July 2017.



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Tanveer Ahmed

Business Director

Ogilvy & Mather Advertising

After graduating with a degree in Management, Mr. Tanveer Ahmed started his career in advertising and design by joining Adcomm Ltd., a leading agency in Bangladesh as Graphic Designer. He has been with Ogilvy since its inception in Bangladesh in 2007.



Azim Hossain

Managing Director/Co-Founder

NewVision Solutions Ltd.

Azim Hossain's currently managing the organization's online strategy team, named OnZsolutions, a digital marketing agency owned by PRAN RFL Group. Within two years of tenure, OnZsolutions has achieved Google and Facebook partnership. He is a Sports Enthusiastic person as well as a Brand Marketer, Digital Marketer, Head of Digital, Head of E-com.



Osama Bin Noor

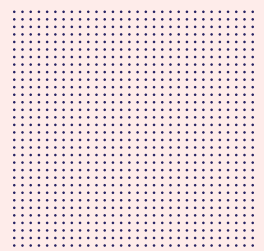
Co- Founder

Youth Opportunities

Osama Bin Noor is one of the Queen's Young Leaders Award winners of 2016. Osama is the co-founder of Youth Opportunities, an online platform which advertises scholarships, internships and conferences. Osama is also the resource co-ordinator of Volunteer for Bangladesh Dhaka District, which offers young people the chance to take part in community service programmes.

He hosts Teen Tekka, a popular radio show dedicated to teenagers in Bangladesh. Here Osama speaks about the impact of the radio show he hosts for teenagers in Bangladesh called Teen Tekka.

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» Panelists

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Didarul Alam
Managing Director
Shooting Star Limited

Didarul Alam, working in retail, e-commerce, startups, supply chain and digital marketing since 10 years. In this tenure, I worked in core team of Shwapno Strategic Planning, which is now a business worth 1,000 Cr/Per year, I also worked in key role of developing Banglalink ICON Management. In his business career he has developed one of the top listed E-com brands from Bangladesh, Esho.com which is now also listed in a2i e-shop project among other top 5 brands As a startup entrepreneur he has featured in almost all daily newspapers and also get involved with the ecosystem from back in 2013 with all his skill, expertise and experience. Startup Grind, Connecting Startup, Startup Dhaka, and Banglalink Innovator all the forum which are nurturing the innovation culture are closely associated with him.



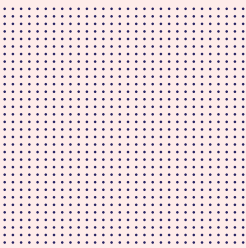
Syed Mohammad Kamal
Country Manager
Mastercard

More than 25 years of solid experience in FMCG, Financial Institution & VAS. Worked renowned brands like ACI, Berger Paints, Western Union & company like SSL Wireless. Was the Country Manager at Western Union, CEO at SSL Wireless, Regional Sales Manager at Berger Paints & Zonal Sales Manager at ACI. Currently work at MasterCard as Country Manager, Bangladesh.



Abu Daud Khan
Managing Director and CEO
Enroute International

Abu Daud Khan completed his MBA in 2001 from Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Bangladesh currently the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Enroute International, a group of professionals with an enriching career in renowned multinational and local organizations, envisages to be the pioneer in providing world class services to a select segment of distinguished clients in the arena of business process outsourcing and consulting, organizational capacity building and market research.





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Ershadul Haque

CEO
Riseup Labs

Current, Founder & CEO at Rise Up Labs. Past, Co-Founder & CEO at Enveluv Sdn Bhd, Software Engineer at RL Dynamic Sdn Bhd. Graduated from Multimedia University. The life of a young and energetic entrepreneur out to build the biggest dotcom in Asia through Rise Up Labs.



Dr. Mohammad Kaykobad

Prof. of CSE Department
BUET

Dr. Mohammad Kaykobad is a Prof. of CSE department, BUET, since 1997 and served as the head of CSE department during 1996-1999. He received M.S. (Hons.) degree in Engineering from OMEI renamed as Odessa State Maritime University, M.Eng. from AIT and Ph.D from the Flinders University of South Australia. Dr. Kaykobad is a fellow of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences. He has written over 40 research papers in International Journals. Dr. Kaykobad was a visiting Professor at various universities in India, South Korea, Hong Kong and Australia. In year 2005 the President of Bangladesh presented him with Gold Medal awarded by Bangladesh Computer Society for his contribution to computer programming culture in the country. In year 2006 Dr. Kaykobad won BAS Gold Medal for Physical sciences in the senior group. He has been a pioneer in introducing Olympiads in Bangladesh. Dr. Kaykobad received outstanding coach award of ACM ICPC in 2002 at Honolulu, Hawaii and the Senior Coach Award at St. Petersburg, Russia in 2013.

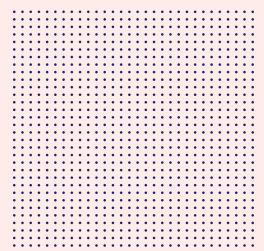


Tanveer Ahmed

CEO
ITIW

Tanveer Adnan founded ITIW in 2005 after graduating from IBA, University of Dhaka. From 2005 to 2008 ITIW was engaged in developing web solutions. In 2008, ITIW entered into developing mobile games. At present, ITIW has cross platform games across iOS, Android, Facebook and Amazon platforms. With an academic background in Business administration, he has keen interest in branding, analytics and solution designing. Tanveer's dream is to build a World-class technology company in Bangladesh.

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» Panelists

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Sam (Gulam) Samdani

Senior Consultant

McKinsey

In his current role as a senior expert (aka "consultant's consultant" or "knowledge entrepreneur"), Dr. Sam Samdani aspire to inspire my McKinsey clients and colleagues to be not just hired hands but to aim higher. He also bring granular insights into the various segments of advanced materials and downstream/specialty chemicals markets, including active pharmaceutical ingredients, advanced ceramic/polymer/metal-matrix composite materials, antioxidants, biocides, biotech seeds, catalysts, cosmetic/personal care chemicals, electronic chemicals, food/feed additives/ingredients, lubricating oil additives, metalworking fluids, oilfield chemicals, plastics additives, specialty surfactants, water management chemicals, and water-soluble polymers . His passions include developing distinctive knowledge and tools, and helping clients reset their all-too-human intuitions about value curation opportunities by leveraging selected disruptive technologies at the intersections of the worlds of atoms and bits, e.g., 3D printing, internet of things, nanostructured materials, next-gen genomics, and data-driven advanced analytics and machine learning.



Tanveer Faruq

Head of Media

Unilever Bangladesh

As the head of media function at Unilever Bangladesh, Mr. Tanveer Faruq is the lead project and campaigns related to digital media as well as traditional media. He's worked on concept, production and execution of campaigns on mobile, social, video and other platforms. Also worked as events manager for a number of reality shows in the market.

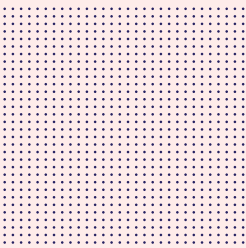


Adnan Imtiaz Halim

Managing Director

Sheba XYZ

Adnan Imtiaz Halim previously worked for Qubee and LM Ericsson completed his MBA and EEE from American International University and currently working as Chief Executive Officer at Sheba XYZ.





» Panelists

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Yoriko Ueda
Founder and CEO
Venturas Ltd.

DMs. Yoriko Ueda is the Founder and CEO of Venturas Ltd. VENTURAS is an EduTech (Education × Technology) company based in Bangladesh. By maximizing the power of technology, we contribute to the learning sector of the emerging Bangladeshi market. Having more than 13 yrs. of Project management and Biz development experience in IT, Marketing and Start up sectors, led a lot of renowned Japanese IT companies project successfully. 2013, moved in Bangladesh, founded the tourism organization and directed the biggest international cycling event ever collaborating with Bangladesh Tourism Ministry and Japan government. In 2015, established VENTURAS LTD in Dhaka as the 1st EdTech company in Bangladesh.



Sadequa Hassan Sejuti
The Pioneer Woman Entrepreneur

The pioneer award winning woman entrepreneur to move Bangladesh forward with ICT. With an academic background in architecture Ms. Sadequa Hassan Sejuti left her professional career when she found her contribution to an e-commerce project can change the livelihood of people of Bangladesh and help bring them get out of poverty. Bearing heavy responsibilities manage both the team in urban headquarters and the mass in rural areas. Managed thousands of rural beneficiaries by giving lectures and making them aware of the world of technology and how to use e-commerce to trade.

Got an opportunity to attend the Mosaic Young Leadership Training, Founded by Prince of Whales at Qatar, Doha 2011.

With our project (My Country MY village) we take computers and web access to the lowest income group and empower them with a possibility that was not ever previously available to them before. This project is the real possibility of a Digital Bangladesh, where digital technology reaches out to the furthest corners of our country bringing change to countless lives.

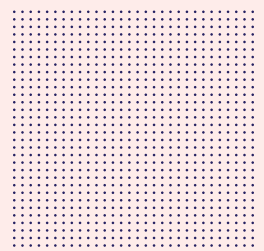
Gave women entrepreneurs free training from our e-centers which empowered. This project got the Award from Power to women categories in United Nation WSYA 2011. She was part of the 5 years strategic plan for Government in Bangladesh for e-services to enhance the citizens quality of life.

Her contribution for rural people led to the digital mela held in 2010 in Mongla upazilla. Was present in National media to encourage women entrepreneurs to be in IT.

Awards and achievements:

- Amar Desh Amar Gram and FSB (Future Solution for Business) ltd Awards and Achievements
- Date: 11th September 2012
- ICT Summit Eurasia 2012
- FSB won the jury's special award 2011
- United Nation MDGs Goal
- World Summit Youth Award 2011

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» Panelists

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Mashrur Arefin

Director

City Bank Capital

MBA, Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia. Started career in 1995 with ANZ Grindlays Bank, Bangladesh as a Management Trainee. Last position held was Head of Consumer Finance, Bangladesh.

Worked for Standard Chartered Bank, Qatar as Head of Credit & Collections, Consumer Banking. Also worked for ANZ Banking Group in Melbourne, Australia. Later held the position of Director & Head of Retail Banking for American Express Bank, Bangladesh. Worked for Citibank N. A. for a brief period as its Head of Retail/Priority Banking, Bangladesh. Last position held was Head of Consumer Banking at Eastern Bank Limited before joining City Bank.



Md. Abdul Wahed Tomal

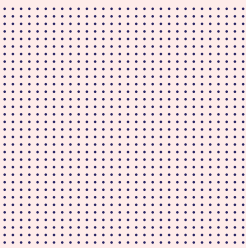
CEO

Comjagat Technologies

Md. Abdul Wahed Tomal is the CEO of Comjagat Technologies, a partisan of Computer Jagat, the first and highest circulated ICT magazine in Bangladesh. He has been working in the area of Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D), since 2001. He is skilled in business development in the area of software, web applications and content development. He has more than a decade of experience in ICT journalism with Computer Jagat Magazine as a Technical Editor. Additionally, he has experience to work as an IT Knowledge Management Infrastructure Specialist at Asian Development Bank (ADB), IT Consultant at Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and as a Research Assistant at UNDP.

Tomal has been an enthusiast of e-Commerce in Bangladesh since the beginning of his career as he realizes the growing potentiality of this sector in the country. He is playing a pioneering role in organizing e-Commerce Fair as a convener at different districts in Bangladesh and overseas in the UK associating with the Ministries, District Administration and e-Commerce based companies. Due to their diligent efforts, e-Commerce Business is becoming popular day by day in Bangladesh.

He founded Comjagat Technologies in 2007 to provide web based services to his huge client base. His web portal www.comjagat.com won National Digital Innovation Award in 2010. He introduced Live Webcasting service in Bangladesh. Apart from software development related projects, organizing events and fairs, Comjagat Technologies is involved in several e-Learning projects with the Government and educational institutions.





» Panelists

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Syeda Kamrun Ahmed

Entrepreneur

ICT Industry

Syeda Kamrun Ahmed is an award winning highly accomplished entrepreneur in the ICT industry, engineer, business analyst and academician. She has over 10 years of experience in the ICT industry and as an academician. She has received a number of awards over the years including JCI TOYP 2016, Best eCommerce website from BBJF (Bangladesh Business Journalists Forum), BEST IT USE Award for her work with Benchmark e-Generation Ltd. For her stellar academic results in MBA, she was awarded the Chancellor's Gold Medal from North South University. She has also won numerous accolades in the world of debating, including the Best Debater Award at the S.O.S. International Championship.

Syeda is currently the CEO of BAGDOOM.com, a very popular lifestyle Ecommerce website in Bangladesh redefining the digital retail landscape. She is leading a team of highly talented and hardworking professional dedicated towards meeting all the challenges through innovation in a constantly evolving industry. During the initial days, she served as the Director of Strategy and Planning at BAGDOOM.com.

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AKM Saiful Majid

Director

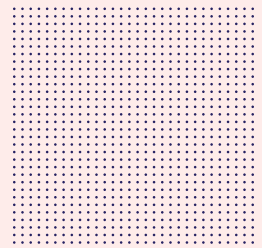
Institute of Business Administration of Dhaka University

AKM Saiful Majid has joined the Institute of Business Administration of Dhaka University as director.

He has served IBA as professor, associate professor and assistant professor along with several administrative positions in the last 25 years, the institute said in a statement yesterday.

He has also served Eastern University as the vice chancellor and chairman of the trustee board and worked as a visiting teacher of the University of Kassel in Germany.

He is a recipient of the Senior Fulbright Fellowship awarded by the US Department of State in 2010.





» Panelists

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Asikul Alam Khan

Entrepreneur

ICT Industry

Asikul Alam Khan is an ICT entrepreneur. He is the founder & CEO of PriyoShop.com, a trusted and reliable store-based lifestyle eCommerce venture in the country.

He is currently the Co-Chairman of Digital Commerce Standing Committee of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), the largest national trade body for IT and ITES of this country.



Zeeshan Kingshuk Huq

Entrepreneur

ICT Industry

Zeeshan Kingshuk Huq was born in the hilly city of Chittagong, at my wide open 'nana-bari' (maternal grandfather's house). He spend his childhood in Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus, the lush green campus, as his father was a teacher there and left JU to attend Faujderhat Cadet College which was again a huge campus. The fact that he passed most of my childhood and teenage years in vast, open areas may have inspired me to think big in my later life. He has completed my SSC and HSC from Faujderhat Cadet College and then got into IBA, the University of Dhaka in 1994 and Completed his BBA from there in 1998.



Mahmudul Hasan Shohag

Chairman

OnnoRokom Group

Mahmudul Hasan Shohag is the chairman of OnnoRokom Group. Under this group there are Pi Labs, Rokomari.com, Techshopbd.com, OnnoRokom Electronics Company Ltd., OnnoRokom Software Ltd., OnnoRokom Publishers etc. organizations. Along with that, Udvash is also an organization run by him. All these organizations are working in different fields. They are connected in this way - our tagline, our dreams, our theme "OnnoRokom Bangladesh"- said by Mr. Mahmudul Hasan Shohag.



» Panelists



Fida Haq

Founding Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director

ShurjoMukhi Limited

Fida Haq founding Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of shurjoMukhi Limited is a trained Electrical and Electronics Engineer with a long experience in the fields of information and communications technology and renewable energy. With his visionary leadership in the employment of technology in a strategic and mission-critical way, he has transformed companies here and abroad including News Interactive and Optus Information Engineering in Australia and Mango Teleservices and Cashlink in Bangladesh.



Munir Hasan

Coordinator, Youth Programme

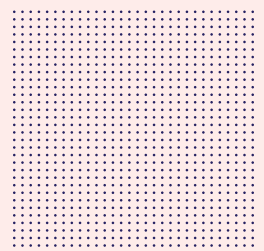
Prothom Alo

Munir Hasan is the Coordinator, Youth Programme at Prothom Alo. He studied at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

HR Development - Conducted 100's of training sessions, seminars, workshops on technology, entrepreneurship, social media marketing, technology for the betterment of business etc. Those workshops and training sessions were organized by International organizations like UNDP, World bank; National entity like Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of ICT as well as different NGOs/CSOs. Technology related policy - advocacy, drafting, facilitating consultation, finalization and implementation monitoring. - National Broadband Policy-2009, Utility bill payment through mobile, ICT Rules 2010 etc.

He represented Bangladesh in different International Technology Related Forum like WSIS Forum, International Mathematical Olympiad, COMSTEC, Forum Asia etc. He worked closely with the education policy team and the member of the editorial board responsible for the ICT Text books for Class VI-VIII under national curriculum. Also worked in the new curriculum in Mathematics for the school. Also, he worked in the Ministry of Science and ICT (presently MoICT) as the consultant and worked closely with the Minister on policy and regulatory issues.

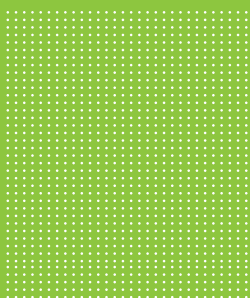
He has excellent organizational capabilities recognize by the international team of researchers as one of the successful organizers of the world in a text book published by Cambridge University Press (2011). He wrote country report in the Global Information Society Watch Report 2009, 2010 and 2013. Moreover, he wrote and edit text books for Grade VI, VII and VII on "Information and Communication Technology".

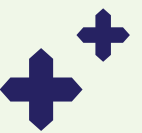




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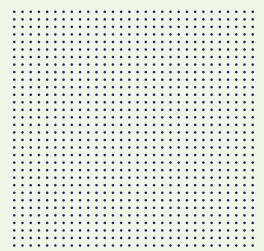


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5. Mr. S. M. Kamal, Former President, BASIS	Member
6. Mr. Sarwar Alam, Former President, BASIS	Member
7. Mr. Habibullah N Karim, Former President, BASIS	Member
8. Mr. Mahboob Zaman, Former President, BASIS	Member
9. Mr. Shameem Ahsan, Former President, BASIS	Member
10. Mr. Shafquat Haider, Managing Director, Ciproco Computers Limited	Member
11. Mr. Zillur Rahim, Former Director, BASIS	Member
12. Mr. Aftab UI Islam FCA, Chairman, IOE (Bangladesh) Ltd	Member
13. Mr. Swadesh Ranjan Saha, Managing Director, Satcom Computers Limited	Member
14. Mr. Md. Sabur Khan, Managing Director, Daffodil Computers Limited	Member
15. Mr. Mustafa Shamsul Islam, Managing Director, Flora Limited	Member
16. Mr. K. Atique-e-Rabbani FCA, Managing Director, The Computers Limited	Member
17. Mr. Ali Ashfak , President, Bangladesh Computer Samity	Member
18. Mr. Ahmed Hasan, Chief Executive Officer, Ryans IT Limited	Member
19. Mr. Momluk Sabir Ahmed, Managing Director, Computer Services Limited	Member
20. Mr. Sheikh Kabir Ahmed, Managing Director & CEO, ORATECH Consulting Limited	Member
21. Mr. Shaikh Abdul Wahid, Managing Director and CEO, Leads Corporation Limited	Member

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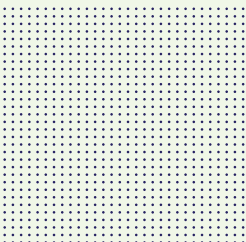
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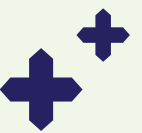
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1.	Mr. Mostafizur Rahman Sohel, Director, BASIS	Convener
2.	Mr. Syed Almas Kabir, President, BASIS; Convener, BASIS SoftExpo 2017	Member
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4.	Mr. M Rashidul Hasan, Vice President, BASIS	Member
5.	Ms. Farhana A Rahman, Vice President, BASIS	Member
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7.	Ms. Sonia Bashir Kabir, Director, BASIS	Member
8.	Mr. Riyad S A Husain, Director, BASIS	Member
9.	Mr. Delowar Hossain Faruk, Director, BASIS	Member
10.	Mr. Forkan Bin Quasem, Convener, BASIS SoftExpo 2004	Member
11.	Mr. Syed Faruque Ahmed, Convener, BASIS SoftExpo 2005, & 2006	Member
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13.	Mr. T.I.M. Nurul Kabir, Convener, BASIS SoftExpo 2008	Member
14.	Mr. M A Mubin Khan, Convener, BASIS SoftExpo 2009, & 2010	Member
15.	Mr. Tamzid Siddiq Spondon, Convener, BASIS SoftExpo 2012	Member
16.	Mr. A K Sabbir Mahbub, Chairman, DEVNET Limited	Member

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1.	Ms. Sonia Bashir Kabir, Director BASIS	Convener
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3.	Ms. Farhana A Rahman, Vice President, BASIS	Member
4.	Mr. Syed Mohammad Kamal, Country Manager, MasterCard Bangladesh. Ltd	Member
5.	Mr. Didarul Alam Sunny, CEO, Esho.com	Member





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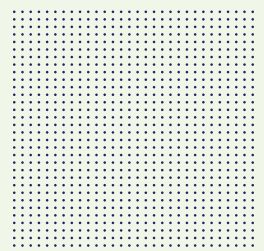
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3.	Mr. Kaymun Amin, Managing Director, VU Mobile Limited	Member
4.	Mr. Zia Ashraf, Founder & COO, Chaldal Ltd.	Member
5.	Mr. Imran Hossen, CEO, Eysoft IT Limited	Member

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2.	Mr. Delaware Hossain Faruk, Director BASIS	Member
3.	Mr. Gopal Debanath, Managing Director, Mediasoft Data Systems Ltd.	Member
4.	Mr. Biplob Ghosh Rahul, CEO, eCourier Limited	Member
5.	Mr. Mohammed Samiul Islam, Managing Director, Ubique Corporation Limited	Member
6.	Mr. M Nasiruddin Sardar, CEO, Funtastic Labs	Member
7.	Mr. Arman Ahmed Khan, Director, Magnus Corporation Ltd.	Member
8.	Mr. Kamrul Hasan Emon Director, Innovadeus Pvt Ltd.	Member
9.	Mr. Mohammad Shajalal, Managing Director, 8 Pears Solutions Ltd.	Member
10.	Mr. Mahabubur Rahman, Managing Director, Rymden Technology Ltd	Member
11.	Mr. Md. Shofiul Alam, CEO, Blancer	Member
12.	Mr. Rashad Kabir, Founder & Managing Director, Dream 71 Ltd	Member

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