

BASIS 










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NEWSLETTER

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NASA SPACE APPS CHALLENGE - 2025

 DHAKA  CHATTOGRAM  SYLHET  RAJSHAHI  RANGPUR
 BARISAL  KHULNA  CUMILLA  MYMENSINGH

PRESS MEET



Standing Committee on Member Services & Welfare Charts the Path for Member's Growth

February 1, 2025



BASIS Standing Committee on Member Services & Welfare held a meeting at BASIS Boardroom to address critical challenges and opportunities shaping Bangladesh's ICT sector.

A major focus of the discussion was ensuring fairness in ICT procurement processes. The committee stressed the need to eliminate discriminatory practices in ICT procurement and debar unethical companies to ensure transparency and equity. To further support local businesses, efforts to revise Public Procurement Rules (PPR) for IT services were emphasized so that local firms can compete more effectively in the market. A roadmap by 2025 to guide Bangladesh's digital transformation was a focal point for discussion that can help the country on adopting cutting-edge technologies with improved ICT infrastructure. Efforts to encourage global Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)

to establish operations in Bangladesh were also emphasized to boost innovation and job creation. The committee plans to conduct audits and introduce a reclassification framework to ensure members are appropriately categorized based on their capabilities. To support SMEs, the committee is advocating for easier access to bank loans, collateral-free financing, and recognizing software as a financial asset. Strategies were discussed to improve workplace conditions, provide skill development programs, and create long-term career pathways to retain ICT talent. Strengthening communication and member benefits was also highlighted as a priority to foster collaboration.



BASIS and JICA Launch B-TopSE Architecture Course

February 5, 2025

BASIS Institute of Technology & Management (BITM) officially launched the first batch of the B-TopSE Architecture Course, supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), at BASIS Auditorium. This initiative aims to address skill gaps, drive innovation, create jobs, and support Bangladesh's digital transformation.

During the inauguration, attendees highlighted the program's potential to strengthen Bangladesh's ICT sector. The collaboration between JICA and BASIS was praised for its role in fostering innovation, bridging resource shortages, and addressing the growing demand for mid and high-level IT professionals. Discussions also emphasized the strong ties

between Japan and Bangladesh, with opportunities for knowledge sharing, technology transfer, and future partnerships. The B-TopSE Architecture Course is designed to equip participants with expertise in critical areas, including: ICT Management, System Development, Cybersecurity, Frontier Technologies, and Customer Service.

Aligned with industry needs, the program ensures participants gain skills relevant to both current and future market demands. BITM also shared its vision of becoming a Center of Excellence by supporting BASIS members, aligning with national growth strategies, and producing IT talent pools.

BASIS Standing Committee on Startups Meeting Highlights

February 11, 2025

The second meeting of the committee was held in BASIS Auditorium and focused on empowering startups and preparing for the National Youth Summit 2025, this year. The meeting brought together committee members to finalize actionable plans aimed at fostering a thriving startup ecosystem. Key discussions and decisions included: securing sponsorships, showcasing success stories, launching awareness campaigns, and active participation.

The committee emphasized addressing misconceptions about startups and educating stakeholders on their unique potential compared to SMEs. Weekly sessions over the next six months were discussed that could feature successful startups that have raised international VC funding, focusing on skills like presentation, documentation, and fundraising. The committee proposed a government-backed accelerator to provide structured support, helping startups mature.



Members also expressed that data needs to be collected from startups to assess their business models and readiness for funding with guidance to support their scalability.

BASIS Digital Security Standing Committee Outlines Strategy & Objectives

February 8, 2025

BASIS Standing Committee on Digital Security held its third meeting at the BASIS Auditorium to strategize on safeguarding Bangladesh's digital infrastructure. With global cybercrime costs projected to reach trillions annually, the committee stressed the urgency of protecting critical systems from ransomware, phishing, and other threats. In this regard, the committee discussed launching campaigns and training programs to

educate SMEs and upskill professionals, as they remain prime targets for cyberattacks. Building partnerships between government, private firms, and academia to create a unified defense strategy was also emphasized. Addressing the global cybersecurity workforce shortage was also discussed as human error accounts for most breaches, underscoring the need for stronger awareness. As Bangladesh's digital economy expands,



securing critical sectors such as banking, healthcare, and e-governance is paramount. The committee also finalized its Terms of Reference (ToR), aligning with BASIS's mission to position Bangladesh as a cybersecurity leader in South Asia.



BASIS Partners for National Youth Summit 2025

February 10, 2025

BASIS, represented by BASIS Associate Committee members, participated in a meeting of Opening and Closing Ceremony Management Sub Committee at ICT Tower, Agargaon, to ensure the success of the National Youth

Summit 2025. Scheduled to take place in coming months, the summit is a collaborative effort by ICT Division, Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority, iDEA Project, and Startup Bangladesh Limited, in collaboration

with BASIS. The summit is envisioned as a milestone event to empower Bangladesh's youth by fostering entrepreneurial mindsets and equipping them to become self-reliant leaders.

This is the first and largest Summit of potential future Youth Entrepreneurs in the sectors of internet service, AI, Robotics, IoT, software, ITes, and ICT solutions.

BASIS Standing Committee on Software Products & SaaS Meeting Highlights

February 8, 2025



BASIS Standing Committee on Software Products & SaaS held a meeting at BASIS Boardroom. During the meeting, key topics discussed included, strategies to enhance the growth and adoption of SaaS products locally and globally, addressing policy guidelines and the rising demand for SaaS solutions in Bangladesh and international markets, creating robust SaaS platforms, integrating international payment gateway platforms to facilitate cross-border transactions, overcoming compliance

and regulatory hurdles for SaaS businesses, encouraging startups and SMEs to adopt SaaS solutions for scalability and efficiency, developing strategies for cross-border SaaS expansion and entering global markets, strengthening data protection, cybersecurity, and legal frameworks for SaaS products, upskilling the workforce to meet the growing demands of the SaaS industry, promoting collaboration to boost the local SaaS sector, and simplifying cloud procurement for enterprises.

BASIS

Ramadan Kareem

May Allah lead us to the right way and grant us forgiveness in this holy month of Ramadan.

Dr. Muhammed Mehedi Hassan
Additional Secretary, ICT Division
& Administrator, BASIS



BASIS and a2i Discuss Collaboration for Digital Transformation

February 19, 2025

BASIS met with a2i at ICT Tower to explore ways to collaborate and support Bangladesh's digital transformation. The meeting was led by the CEO of a2i, who provided an overview of a2i's work, achievements, and current challenges. The CEO explained that a2i will not compete with private IT companies. Instead, it will focus on research, innovation, and improving public services. Private companies will be responsible for developing,

maintaining, and delivering these digital solutions to consumers. BASIS representatives welcomed this approach and suggested creating a clear plan to digitize all government services. They recommended that a2i lead the planning and monitoring process, while the private sector handles the development and operation of these solutions. The current government procurement rules are not suitable for buying software and

digital services. This creates challenges for both the government and private IT companies. To address this issue, BASIS and a2i agreed to organize workshops with the Bangladesh Public Procurement Agency (BPPA) and other stakeholders. These workshops will aim to reform procurement policies so they better support the purchase of software and digital services. BASIS and a2i also discussed the need to improve digital skills among government

officials. They agreed to explore specialized training programs through BITM. These programs will focus on enhancing the digital capabilities of government employees, enabling them to contribute more effectively to governance and public service delivery. Both organizations emphasized regular communication to ensure effective collaboration.

BASIS Standing Committee on Women in IT Meets to Promote Tech Inclusivity

February 15, 2025

BASIS Standing Committee on Women in IT recently held a meeting to encourage more women to join and grow in the tech industry. The group focused on helping women take on leadership roles in tech companies. They talked about starting mentorship programs, skill-building workshops, and networking events designed to support women professionals. A key part of the meeting was about making sure women are well-represented

at national summits and international tech events. The committee also shared plans to highlight the work of female innovators and entrepreneurs. To address the gender gap in tech, the committee agreed to focus on education. They proposed ideas to inspire young girls to explore careers in STEM. They discussed working with academic institutions and tech companies to offer scholarships, internships, and training programs.



The committee also highlighted the need for campaigns to challenge stereotypes and promote equality in workplaces. They stressed the importance of teaming up with governments, businesses, and global organizations to create lasting change and open more doors for women in tech, in building a more inclusive and supportive environment for women.

BASIS Congratulates TRNB on 17th Anniversary

February 12, 2025



BASIS extends its warm congratulations to Telecom and Technology Reporter's Network, Bangladesh (TRNB) on its 17th anniversary. A delegation from BASIS, consisting Associate Committee Chairman and other members, attended the celebratory event at Holiday Inn, Dhaka City Center, to convey their wishes to the elected council.

July 36 Formation Meeting Focuses on Support and Empowerment

February 19, 2025



The July 36 Formation Meeting was held to support people affected by the July movement. Plans were discussed to provide remote IT training programs, helping injured individuals build long-term careers. Efforts will focus on IT training for injured persons and their families, along with job placement in different sectors through partnerships. Long-term goals include university training, workshops, and networking opportunities to empower participants. Special events like the July 36 IT Fest and Career Fest may also be organized to engage students.



Diagnostic Mission on Islamic Banking in Bangladesh by Islamic Development Bank

February 12, 2025

BASIS hosted a discussion session titled "Diagnostic Mission on Islamic Banking in Bangladesh by Islamic Development Bank" at BASIS Auditorium to explore the achievements, potential, and challenges of Bangladesh's Islamic banking sector. The session focused on its role in shaping the future of digital finance and fostering innovation. Bangladesh's Islamic banking sector includes 10

full-fledged Islamic banks with 1,686 branches, 33 Islamic banking branches by conventional banks, and 750 Islamic banking windows, holding 25.08% of total banking deposits. During the session, BASIS members' contributions were presented, currently standing at 15.63% to financial solutions and expanding ICT exports to key markets like the USA, UK, and Malaysia. BASIS members have been

serving over 500 organizations locally and 120+ internationally, spanning regions such as the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia. The session also highlighted major obstacles, including: lack of clear Shariah policies, insufficient investment and regulatory hurdles, limited product variety and innovation, and need for R&D centers and accredited software testing facilities. Key recommendations

included, establishing accredited software testing and forensic laboratories under IsDB to ensure quality and security in Islamic banking software. Participants engaged in a Q&A session to discuss solutions, with a call for BASIS members to submit formal proposals to Bangladesh Bank and IsDB. The session concluded with gratitude to all for their active participation.

BASIS and The Daily Star Explored Deepen Collaboration for ICT Awards

February 17, 2025

Representatives from BASIS recently held a meeting with The Daily Star at its headquarters to explore collaborative opportunities for the upcoming Daily Star ICT Awards, Enlightened by BASIS. The discussion centered on celebrating Bangladesh's thriving tech industry while fostering stronger partnerships between the two organizations. Attendees included members of the BASIS Associate Committee, alongside senior officials from The Daily Star, including its Editor & Publisher and Chief Business Officer. During the session, BASIS stressed the importance of formalizing collaboration through a structured framework, including signing a MoU.

The Daily Star welcomed and reaffirmed its commitment to making the awards more inclusive, impactful, and sustainable in driving growth within Bangladesh's ICT sector. The Daily Star ICT Awards, Enlightened by BASIS, aim to recognize exceptional achievements in the ICT sector, fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and the immense potential of Bangladesh's young ICT talent. Award categories include ICT Solution Provider, Digital Commerce, ICT Startup, ICT Business Person, and ICT Woman of the Year. Nominations are submitted through a dedicated online platform, with winners selected by an independent jury and honored at a gala event typically held in December.



Through this partnership, BASIS and The Daily Star aim to promote innovation, inclusivity, and excellence, contributing to the development of a thriving and sustainable ICT ecosystem in Bangladesh.

BASIS Congratulates Newly Elected BIJF Executive Council

February 18, 2025



BASIS extended its congratulations to the newly elected Executive Council of the Bangladesh ICT Journalists Forum (BIJF) during a meeting held at BASIS Boardroom. Representatives from BASIS and BIJF attended the meeting, with discussions centered on key areas to strengthen the ICT sector. Participants explored potential reforms to enhance BASIS's governance and operational efficiency. They also emphasized the importance of transparency by conducting forensic and membership audits to ensure accountability in financial and membership processes.

Strategies to increase voter participation and inclusivity in the upcoming BASIS election were discussed, highlighting the need for broader engagement within the ICT community. In addition, the meeting addressed the publication of a white paper on the ICT industry. This document will outline challenges, opportunities, and actionable recommendations. Both organizations expressed their dedication to working together to drive digital transformation of Bangladesh.

B-TopSE Program on Cloud ToT Program to Boost Cloud Expertise

February 11, 2025

B-TopSE Program Cloud Training of Trainers (ToT) kicked off with a face-to-face session at Nascent Gardenia in Dhaka. Supported by JICA, BCC, and BASIS, the program aims to address the global demand for cloud computing skills—a market expected to hit trillion of U.S. dollars in the next decade. Cloud computing is now essential for digital transformation, with many organizations adopting it globally. However, a persistent skills gap remains a major hurdle. This program trains trainers to bridge that gap, empowering Bangladesh’s workforce with

expertise in cloud architecture, cybersecurity, AI, and DevOps. Key goals, included to equip participants with skills needed for global competitiveness and ensure SMEs and startups can access advanced cloud technologies. The program aligns with cutting-edge trends such as multi-cloud strategies, edge computing, and AI-driven automation, which are reshaping industries globally. For Bangladesh, adopting these technologies is vital to driving growth in key sectors like FinTech, e-commerce, and smart governance. Participants underwent hands-on training led by JICA



experts, equipping them with the skills needed to bridge the cloud computing skills gap. On February 13, 2025, the program concluded with a closing ceremony, where participants were encouraged to share their knowledge and drive cloud adoption across industries to meet local demands and strengthen Bangladesh’s digital economy.

BASIS Student Forum Hosts Preparatory Meeting

February 19, 2025



BASIS Student Forum held a planning meeting to prepare for the Youth Summit 2025, which welcomed over 20 university student groups. Members of the committee thanked them for their contributions and encouraged their active participation in the summit to drive meaningful change. Organized by the BASIS Standing Committee on Women in IT, the meeting introduced a competition called

"AI for Green Living," inviting ideas on using AI for sustainability. Students discussed their expectations from BASIS and the government, focusing on opportunities for young professionals in the tech industry. The session highlighted and focused on youth engagement, technological advancements, and strategies to empower young innovators in Bangladesh’s ICT sector.

Meeting with Bangladeshi American Tech Coalition (BATC)

February 20, 2025



BASIS hosted a strategic meeting with Bangladeshi American Tech Coalition (BATC) at BASIS Boardroom. The session aimed to establish a collaborative framework to address challenges faced by Bangladeshi tech companies in the US market. The discussion focused on key areas of collaboration, including: promoting Bangladeshi tech talent on global platforms, facilitating the exchange of expertise and industry best practices, strengthening support systems for Bangladeshi businesses operating internationally, and creating pathways

for both remote and on-site employment for professionals in the tech sector. Representatives from BATC, including the President, joined the meeting virtually from the US, while stakeholders from Associate Committee members, including members of the America Desk and the BASIS Standing Committee on International Market, actively participated. The session fostered valuable discussions on overcoming market entry barriers, enhancing international visibility, and unlocking growth opportunities for Bangladeshi software, IT/ITEs businesses.

BASIS Meets Newly Appointed DNCC Administrator to Strengthen Digital Growth

February 19, 2025

On February 20, 2025, representatives from BASIS met with the newly appointed Administrator of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) in a courtesy visit. BASIS leaders congratulated the Administrator and discussed ways to collaborate for mutual benefit. The DNCC Administrator highlighted his commitment to addressing key issues in Dhaka North City and

emphasized the importance of the ICT sector in driving digital growth. BASIS expressed its readiness to work closely with DNCC to support initiatives that foster innovation and improve urban services through technology. BASIS looks forward to potential partnerships that will contribute to the development of Dhaka North City and promote digital transformation.



shurjoPay

Ramadan kareem

Let us unite in prayer, fasting, and acts of kindness, as we strengthen our connections of faith and community

NASA International Space Apps Challenge 2025 Local Event Kicks Off

February 20, 2025

For the 12th time, Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), in collaboration with BASIS Students Forum, is set to host the NASA International Space Apps Challenge 2025 Bangladesh Local Event. In celebration of the event, a press conference was held at BASIS Auditorium, attended by key organizers and advisors. This largest annual global hackathon, led by NASA, brings together innovators from 185 countries to solve real-world challenges. This year, students from nine Bangladeshi regions—Dhaka, Chattogram, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Rangpur, Mymensingh, and Cumilla—will compete. Bangladesh has won the global title four times, including three consecutive wins, in this challenge. Preparations will include workshops, seminars, and an online data boot camp to boost skills. Teams will receive mentorship from the CXO's of BASIS member companies and necessary advisory support to refine their projects. Interested participants can register at nsac.basis.org.bd and stay updated by following the official Facebook page at facebook.com/spaceappschallenge. During the press conference, Rafel Kabir, BASIS Associate Committee Chairman, said, "This platform highlights Bangladesh's space technology innovation. Our students have excelled globally, and I'm confident they'll do it again." Mohammad Mahdee Uz Zaman,



Co-convenor, BASIS Students' Forum, and Lead Adviser for the event, added, "We aim to engage 200,000 students this year through direct participation and social media outreach."

BASIS Pays Tribute at Central Shaheed Minar on International Mother Language Day

February 21, 2025



On International Mother Language Day, BASIS paid tribute by offering flowers at the Central Shaheed Minar. Members of the BASIS associate committee and respected representatives from its community were present to honor the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the cause of language and identity. The event promoted preservation of Bangladesh's cultural heritage and linguistic diversity. The organization also emphasized the role of technology in safeguarding mother languages and creating digital tools to support education and communication in native languages, honoring the spirit of the day by fostering unity and remembrance.

BASIS Standing Committee on the Local Market Meets to Boost Entrepreneurship

February 25, 2025



BASIS Standing Committee on the Local Market held a meeting to discuss strategies to promote local market products at upcoming events. The goal is to increase visibility and create new business opportunities for local entrepreneurs. Attendees also stressed the importance of organizing more seminars and workshops on topics that can drive industry growth and improve competitiveness. Special attention was given to addressing challenges faced by businesses. Dedicated sessions on Taxation (TAX), Value Added Tax (VAT), and ISO Certification were proposed to help businesses comply with regulations and improve operational standards.



৬৪ জেলার মধ্যে

যেখানেই হোক আপনার গন্তব্য,

এক্সপ্রেস ইন টাউন

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BASIS and ICT Division Host Dialogue to Boost IT Exports & Strengthen Policy Support

February 24, 2025

BASIS, in collaboration with ICT Division, organized an exclusive dialogue at the ICT Tower’s conference room. The event aimed to explore actionable strategies for accelerating IT exports and strengthening policy frameworks to support Bangladesh’s growing IT industry. The session was moderated by Mr. Rafel Kabir, Chairman, BASIS Associate Committee, and chaired by Mr. Shish Haider Chowdhury ndc, Secretary, ICT Division. Over 100 BASIS member companies actively involved in the ICT export market participated. During the keynote presentation, Mr. Raisul Kabir, Member, BASIS Associate Committee and Co-Founder & CEO, Brain Station 23, outlined few key strategic initiatives to spark innovation and growth in Bangladesh’s ICT sector:

Scaling Small IT Firms:

Providing support to small IT firms to grow into mid-sized businesses and enabling mid-sized companies to expand their operations further through gov support is key for ICT.

Promoting High-Potential Products:

Encouraging the creation of innovative products that serve local needs and have strong export potential to boost our economy and gain recognition in global markets.

AI-Driven Solutions Across Sectors:

AI can enhance efficiency, cut costs, and improve decision-making. Without adopting, Bangladesh risks missing a huge global market and falling behind in competitiveness.

Improving Distribution Networks:

Following successful global models to streamline distribution channels and introduce proven international payment gateways.

Bridging Industry-Academia Gap:

Specialized ICT education programs can bridge mismatch between academic output and industry needs, as generalized IT degrees fail to meet demands.

Hands-on Exposure to Empower Youth:

Offering students practical experience through internships, mentorship, and real-world IT-based industry projects and teaching foreign languages at the school level for global market adaptability.

Targeted Branding for Global Recognition:

Launching targeted branding and communication campaigns to establish Bangladesh as a trusted and competitive IT hub on the global stage and attract investors.

Young Talent Development:

Advancing leadership development programs to prepare young IT professionals for managerial roles to ensure a steady pipeline and strengthening soft skills among IT graduates.

Tax Breaks and Cash Incentives:

Extending tax breaks and reinstating the 10% cash incentive for the ICT sector to support local IT companies in competing globally & sustaining their growth amidst challenges.

Industry-Specific Grants and Support:

Providing industry-specific grants to nurture startups and SMEs working on cutting-edge technologies, enabling them to scale and contribute to the economy effectively.

Simplifying Regulatory Processes:

Streamlining bureaucratic procedures for IT businesses, such as easing tax compliance and export documentation, to reduce operational delays and value IPR assets.

Strengthening Cybersecurity and Policy Frameworks:

Building robust cybersecurity measures to protect IT products and services to ensure trust among global clients & customising labor laws, IPR, PPR to align with the needs of the ICT industry.

Focusing on Niche Markets:

Identifying and targeting niche markets like fintech, edtech, and healthtech, where we are strong and can leverage our strengths to carve out a competitive edge in global IT exports.

Promoting Remote Work Opportunities:

Encouraging partnerships with global companies to outsource remote work projects to local IT professionals to create new revenue streams and boost export earnings.

Building Global Partnerships:

Establishing collaborations with international tech hubs and ICT trade organizations to facilitate knowledge exchange, joint ventures, and access to larger export networks.

Monitoring Export Performance:

Creating a centralized system at BASIS to track IT export data, identify bottlenecks, and measure progress toward export goals to ensure improvement and accountability.

Diaspora-Led Innovation Hubs:

Establishing innovation hubs or incubators specifically targeting NRBs and expatriates to channel their skills and resources into our ICT sector to act as bridges and linkages.

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