

DIGITISATION AND INCLUSIVITY: TAKING EVERYONE ALONG

DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2020, FALGUN 5, 1426 BS

36

Reporting live from the future, Circa 2021, 2031 and 2041

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34

More often than not, we are captivated by the illusion and even applaud the fact that we have been fooled. But the people of Bangladesh have realised since 2021 that advanced technology is no fool's errand but the stuff of real magic. As a result, they have enthusiastically embraced Clarke's above truism (also known as his 3rd Law) along with his two other eponymous "laws" about our technological future in Bangladesh and beyond:

Clarke's First Law: "When a distinguished but elderly scientist claims that something is possible, he is almost certainly right. When he states that something is impossible, he is very probably wrong."

Clarke's Second Law: "The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little way past them into the impossible."

Another counterintuitive idea that has gone viral in Bangladesh in the 2020s is attributed to futurist Ray Kurzweil: Thanks to the exponential growth trajectory of many disruptive technologies, we won't experience merely 100 years of progress in the 21st century; it will be more like 20,000 years of progress at AD 2000 rate. Imagine that! Of course, agriculture was invented only about 10,000 years ago and the internet-based worldwide web is only about three decades old now.

The accelerating pace to technological progress is counter to most people's linear way of thinking about the world since for some two hundred thousand years spanning the evolution of *Homo sapiens* on this planet, it was safe to assume that the world in which humans have lived and died would look pretty much the same as the one in which they were born. But that is no longer the case in 2021 as most of the people in Bangladesh have just witnessed how much things



have changed in the first two decades of the 21st century. The shortlist includes hassle-free mobile money transfer through wireless internet, apps-based on-demand services accessible via smartphones, and multiple worldwide connectivity and collaboration platforms to choose from, e.g., Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. As a result, people have already started to imagine how vastly different things will be in 2031 and 2041.

People have begun to realise that problems that might have seemed intractable in the past, could become eminently solvable in the near future. Not only does this new mindset inform their investing and planning practices for the future, it also changes what they think of as possible for humanity.

Things that they could barely have imagined a few decades ago have now come within reach. For example, chemistry is treated as the world's toolbox. It has become increasingly clear that it is the creative, constructive act of seeing the periodic table of 90+ chemical elements as a palette of new-to-the-world chemical compounds and advanced materials created by combining and recombining the elements—be that carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, silicon or zirconium—to paint a better and brighter future for everyone.

Indeed, combinatorial explosion is one of the few mathematical phenomena that outgrows even the exponential growth trajectory. Throughout the 2020s this has meant

that combinatorial innovation is the best way for human ingenuity to outpace even the Moore's Law (named after Intel founder Gordon Moore who observed in 1965 that the number of transistors in a dense integrated circuit doubled about every two years while the cost of computers dropped by 50 percent).

However, in the early stages of combinatorial development, growth is constrained by the number of potentially new and useful ideas, but later on it is constrained only by the ability to go through all the potential permutations and combinations to find the truly valuable ones. The deployment of AI turns out to be critical during this time since when combined with human experience,

people are able to make connections between things that at first glance seemed to have nothing to do with each other. Thus, AI-powered curation of combinatorial innovation is poised to become the mantra for the continuation of economic progress in Bangladesh in the 2020s and beyond.

On the diamond jubilee of the country in 2031, Bangladesh is duly recognised as an upper middle-income country with per capita income of USD 5,500 although the odds of achieving this status by most accounts were less than 40 percent back in 2021. What's more, economists are more confident than ever that Bangladesh is on track to achieve the coveted high-income status with per capita income of USD 16,000 by 2041. What follows is a shortlisted selection of developments on the technology fronts that have made it all not just possible, but almost inevitable. Each bold initiative has been a strategic bet placed by the decision-makers toward having AI-powered Digital Bangladesh finally take off and achieving by 2041 the status of a high-income country that is also an equitable, inclusive and just society by design.

BanglaDISH has emerged in the 2020s as the most inclusive digital ecosystem in Bangladesh representing the leading players in the telecom, media and technology sectors at large. The goal has been to drive the adoption and adaptation of AI, especially in improving the delivery of personalised self-education for marketable skills-building and advanced diagnostics-based preventive self-care as the cornerstone of healthcare to everyone in Bangladesh. This multi-industry consortium has also managed to help with closing the GDP growth gap between the actual (around 7 percent) and potential (higher than

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

যতবেশি রেমিট্যান্স, ততবেশি ক্যাশ!!

২%

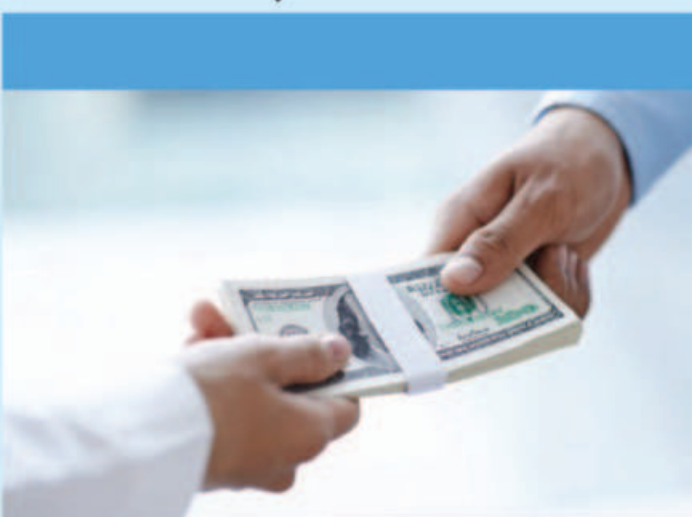
বেশি বেশি টাকা পাঠান
সাথে সাথে গ্রহণ করুন
২% নগদ টাকা

রেমিট্যান্স প্রণোদনা
নগদ অর্থ প্রদান

বিদেশে কর্মরত বাংলাদেশী শ্রমজীবী মানুষের কষ্টার্জিত বৈদেশিক আয় বৈধ উপায়ে দেশে প্রত্যাভাসনে উৎসাহিত করার জন্য সরকার ২% হারে নগদ অর্থ সহায়তা প্রদান করবেন। যতবার টাকা পাঠাবেন, ততবার ২% হারে অতিরিক্ত নগদ অর্থ পাবেন।

জনতা ব্যাংকের মাধ্যমে
টাকা পাঠান

বেশি রোট, তাৎক্ষণিক জমা



ফরেন রেমিট্যান্স ডিপার্টমেন্ট
জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

প্রধান কার্যালয়ঃ ৯৯০ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০

www.jb.com.bd

যোগাযোগ ০০৮৮-০২-৯৯৯০০৬, ০০৮৮-০২৭৫৬৫৭০৬৪, ০০৮৮-০২৮২৭৯০২৭০৩

UNION BANK LTD
SHARIAH BASED BANK

আমানত হিসাবসমূহ



আল-ওয়াদিয়াহ্ চলতি
হিসাব (AWCD)



মুদারাবা টার্ম ডিপোজিট
হিসাব (MTDR)



মুদারাবা সঞ্চয়ী হিসাব
(MSD)



মুদারাবা বিশেষ নোটিশ
হিসাব (MSND)

বিশেষ আমানত প্রকল্পসমূহ



মুদারাবা পেনশন
সঞ্চয়ী প্রকল্প (অবলম্বন)



মুদারাবা মিলেনিয়ার
সঞ্চয় প্রকল্প (লাম্পপতি)



মুদারাবা স্টেডপার্ট ইউনিট
সঞ্চয় প্রকল্প (কোটিপতি)



মুদারাবা মাসিক মুদালা
সঞ্চয় প্রকল্প (প্রবণা)



মুদারাবা ছিগুণ বৃদ্ধি
সঞ্চয় প্রকল্প (সমৃদ্ধি)



মুদারাবা বিবাহ
সঞ্চয়ী প্রকল্প (সহযোগী)



মুদারাবা মূল ব্যাংকিং
সঞ্চয়ী হিসাব



মুদারাবা মোহর
সঞ্চয়ী প্রকল্প



মুদারাবা হুকু
সঞ্চয়ী প্রকল্প (হুকু)



মুদারাবা বারাকাহ
ডিপোজিট ফীস

72, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan -1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.