

THE YOUTH IN THE ERA OF DIGITALISATION

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Six indomitable women: Success stories in STEM

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disorders. I also trained health workers, parents, and teachers of the children on nutrition," explains Samia, who frequently goes to different educational institutions, NGOs, and television and radio programmes to talk about health and wellness. Besides child nutrition, her areas of expertise include obesity, malnutrition, pregnancy nutrition, and diet management for various diseases. Presently, she consults patients at Prescription Point, Banani, and Lab Aid, Mirpur.

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says. "However, as nutritionists, we get to work for the welfare of others."

Samia feels that there is a shift happening in the public perceptions of nutrition today. "People in our country are more aware of nutrition generally. They are more open to making healthier food choices, but often times, they simply copy what others around them are doing for their health, without getting any expert help, which can have dire consequences," she says. "We must



Ananya Ferdous Hoque

remember that everyone's nutritional requirements are different."

Furthermore, she explains that people who want to study or work in the nutrition and food science field need to have a strong mindset. "Once you have figured out your specific interests, the opportunities in this sector are vast," she says. Currently, Samia is pursuing her MPhil in Nutrition and Food Science from DU. She also aims to lead different research projects on nutrition.

Nazia Tajrian Amin earned her BSc in Avionics from the Department of Aeronautical Engineering at the Military Institute of Science and Technology in 2013.

She joined the private airline company, Novo Air, in 2014, where she currently works as a senior CAMO engineer. Her main job responsibility is keeping aircrafts safe for flights, which involves but is not limited to aircraft maintenance data analysis,

maintenance, repair and overhaul of aircrafts and aircraft components, managing aircrafts and aircraft components, and analysing various proposals to make sure that they are technically and financially feasible.

"I have always wanted a job that is unique and challenging over others. The fact that most of our population do not go for aeronautical engineering motivated me to choose this field," explains Nazia, who also has an MBA from Bangladesh University of Professionals. "My team at Novo Air is like a close-knit family. However, aeronautical engineering still remains a male-dominated area. We have only two female engineers, including myself, working in our company today."

She further spoke about the main reasons why Bangladeshi women shy away from studying or working in the engineering sciences. "The general stereotype is that women are fragile

and cannot flourish in demanding jobs in engineering fields," she asserts. "But I believe that no work environment is too harsh for a woman, as long as she is passionate about her profession."

Based on her own experience and that of her classmates, Nazia explains that jobs in aeronautical engineering are incredibly challenging, as they require specific academic qualifications and training. She further adds that as a young mother, maintaining a balance between her familial and professional life is one of her biggest struggles. Nevertheless, she believes that more young women need to be enabled and encouraged to prosper as aeronautical engineers.

"This career path is immensely rewarding and an excellent choice for women because it gives them an edge in the cutthroat competition across the globe. As long as women come into the job with a resilient mindset,

commitment, and passion, they will thrive," adds Nazia.

Born into a family of medical doctors, Ananya Ferdous Hoque had an inherent interest in the biological sciences from a young age. However, she wanted to branch out by basing her career on a subject more compatible with the world of modern research. The applications of microbiology in our daily life, be it in food, medicine, environment, or industry, inspired her immensely. Two-time recipient of *The Daily Star* O and A Level Award, Ananya earned her MRes in Biology Sciences from the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health at the University of Manchester after completing her BSc in Microbiology and Biochemistry from NSU. As a postgraduate student, she was placed in top-class laboratories

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Nazia Tajrian Amin

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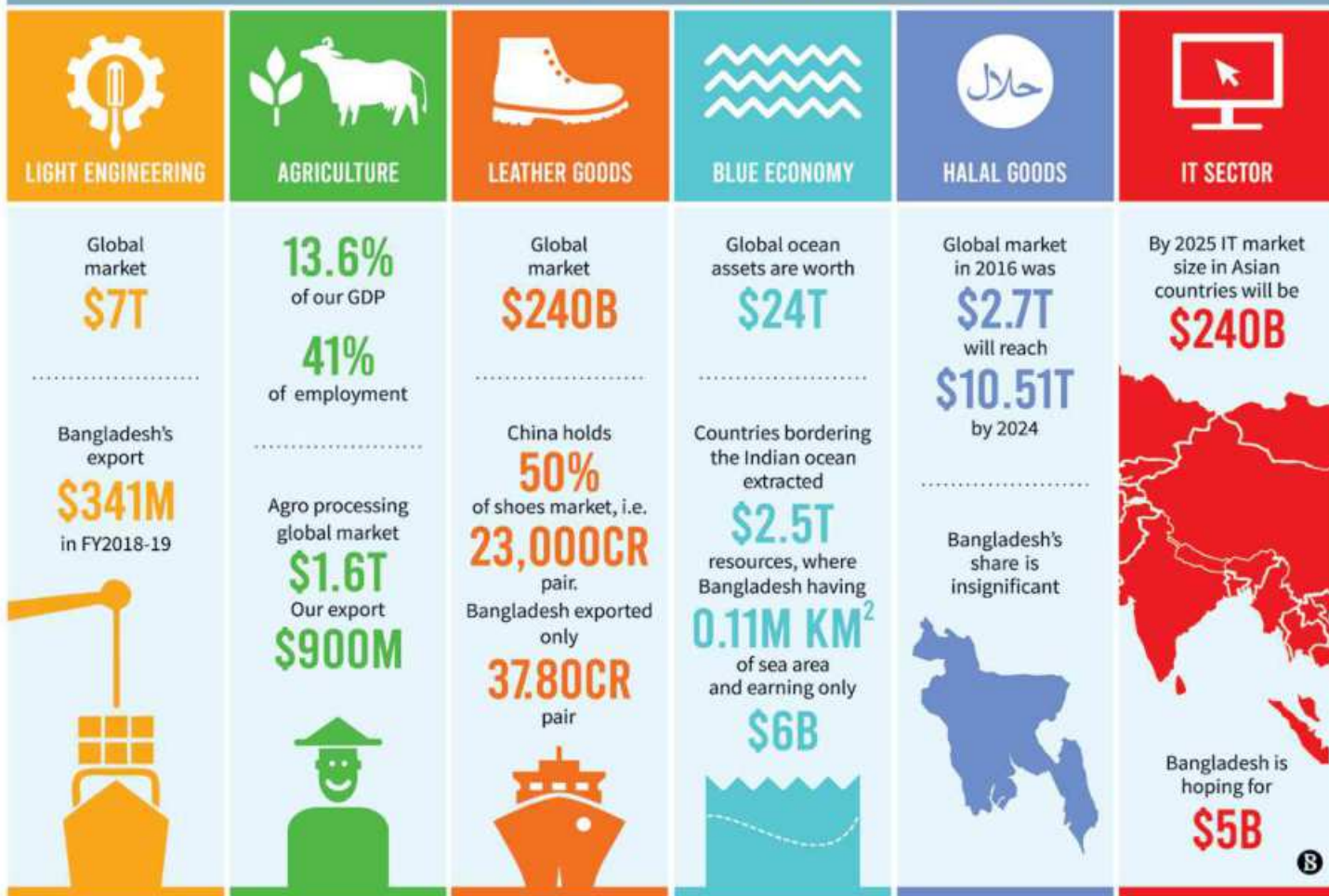
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