

## PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING



"Most people aren't aware of the 'bigger picture' of politics, and growing up, it always bored me. However, studying liberal arts, especially History, has informed me of how everything is interconnected. I wish my school had stressed more on the importance of such subjects. However, the MUN, debate clubs, and other such programmes are doing a good job in getting the youth more engaged.

A great many problems relating to

women's rights, terrorism, and overpopulation are directly linked to misinformation. Bangladesh has been trying to mimic some fast-growing countries by heavily focusing around STEM education. While this is great for economic development, the critical thinking skills achieved from Political Science, History, Philosophy, Economics, English, etc., are being neglected. Intellect, not spoon-fed knowledge and mindless labour, needs

to be encouraged.

We must remember the unfortunate events of 2016 as a learning step to hold onto virtues of kindness and positivity. It's encouraging to see the advocacy and protests over the Rampal project, and I hope they keep their voices loud."

### BASHARA HUSSAIN

2nd Year, Computer Science and History  
University of British Columbia, Canada

## RESPECT ALL COMMUNITIES



"Being an indigenous person myself, I am more affected by the poor condition of the indigenous civilians of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. While I think of the Padma Bridge as a positive highlight of the year, the attacks on Santals in Gopalganj horrify me.

I am most worried about the sufferance of the Rohingyas right now. We must respect and stand up for every human being's equal rights. No one has any right to harm or kill another human being simply because of racial or religious differences.

I hope to see a liberal Bangladesh, free of terrorism and corruption. Above all, I would like to see the prevalent racial and religious clashes removed."

### ANTAR CHAKMA

4th Semester, Pali and Buddhist Studies  
University of Dhaka



## BRING AN END TO VIOLENCE

"I was happy to see the considerable rural development in Bangladesh in 2016.

Harbouring deep concerns over the recent incidents of terrorism and the persecution of the Rohingyas, I would like 2017 to bring us a Bangladesh free from militant threats, with equal opportunities for the people in politics, and for border killings to be stopped completely. Moreover, I hope to see better Bangladesh-India relations, less frequent road accidents and most importantly a fair and free election."

### USAMA AHMAD

Graduate Student  
Dept. of Al-Hadith and Islamic Studies  
Islamic University,  
Kushtia

## CHANGE YOURSELF TO CHANGE YOUR COUNTRY

"The highest point of the year for me was the signing of Bangladesh's treatise with India, a powerful nation that largely influences our country.

An important issue at this moment is Bangladesh's infrastructure – roads, transport, education, waste management, etc. There have been huge advancements since the latest mayoral election, but we need them to continue.

It is most crucial, I believe, for us



to change our mindsets. The government needs to focus more on awareness campaigns to improve the mentality of different classes of people in Bangladesh.

A steady and fixed government has always been detrimental to a developing country. Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand are great examples. I expect the main cities other than Dhaka to advance in 2017 in terms of job opportunities for the lower income demographic, which would relieve the capital of population density. 2016 was a productive year and 2017 can only be better. Since there is no political turmoil at this moment it should be easier now."

### ORNAB OLINDO

4th Year, Computer Science and Engineering  
North South University

## POLISH THE INFRA-STRUCTURE

"We have platforms where the youth can raise awareness about issues, but many of us lack leadership qualities and the ability to do something to bring about change. Working for social causes will give the youth perspective on what is important.

I am especially proud of Bangladesh having reached Lower Middle Income Country status, and the way it has boosted business confidence nationally and internationally. I hope this brings in more foreign direct investment.

However, despite remarkable growth, business and investment are hindered due to bureaucratic mechanisms and the costs associated with corruption. Then there is the lack of freedom of expression and such.

In 2017, I wish to see better city and municipality services available across our major cities. It may seem like a small aspiration, but better transport and housing can uplift the living conditions of millions of people in Bangladesh. I would like to see better roads and efficient maintenance, giving our citizens better travel experiences. I believe this is a tangible goal for the government to achieve."

### TAHREEN ZAHRA

Recent Graduate, Economics  
North South University