

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A KEY TO YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

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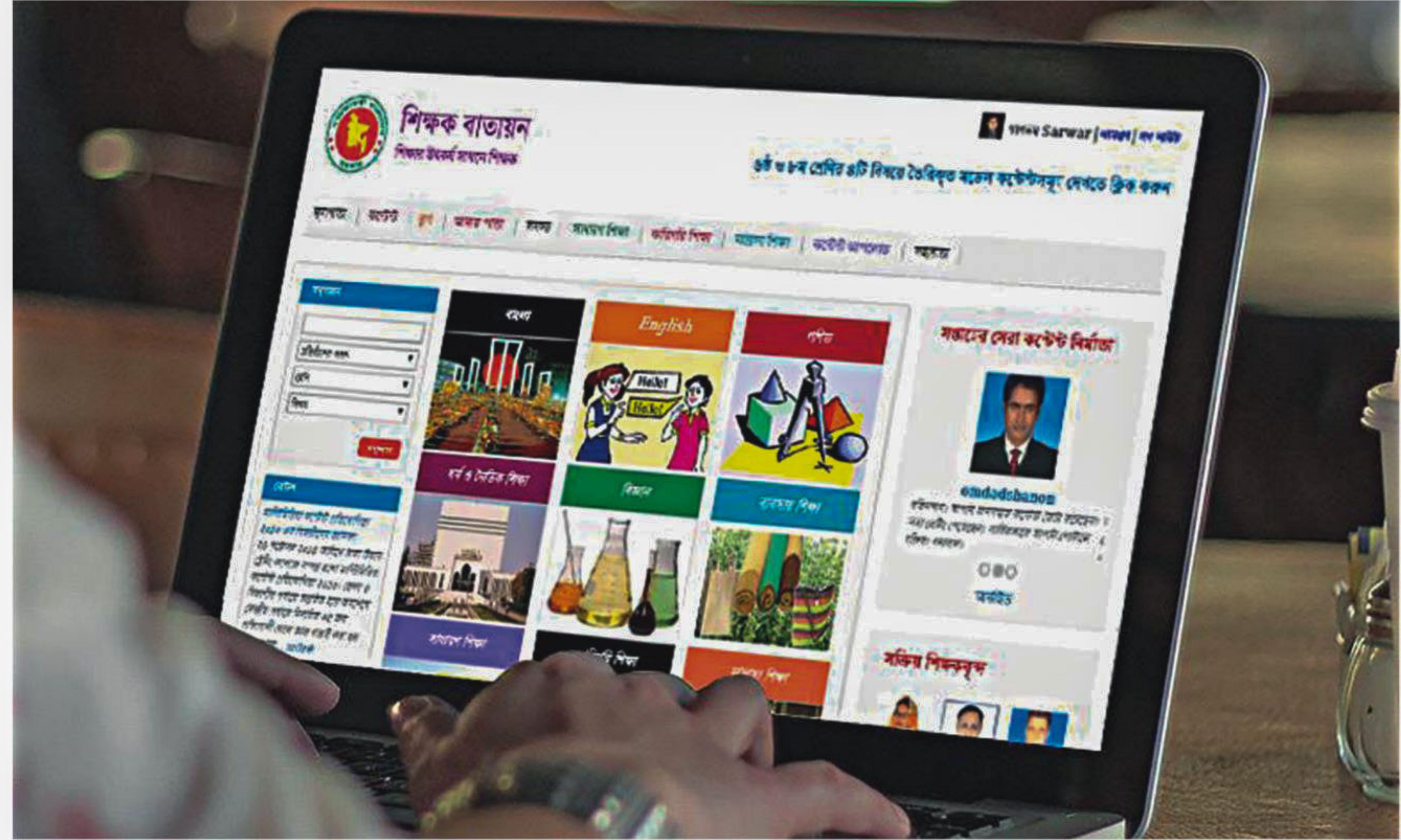
Education in the age of rapid technological advances

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inauguration of "Konnect" (www.konnect.edu.bd) an adolescent's portal. Another milestone inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina which is a dedicated platform for young minds jointly developed by Shahjalal Science and Technology University (SUST) and a2i. Here "Konnect" stands for connecting adolescents to enhance their creativity, nourishing their talents and create healthy environment for cyber entertainment. Adolescents aged 13 to 18 years old are eligible to be the members of Konnect. Right now above 280,000 students are logged in as a user. Konnect is a platform offering wide range of edutainment contents created by different partner organisations as well as crowd sourced by learners. Konnect will enrich young minds with extra-curricular books, films, fun experiments, comics and games that promote healthy usage of internet.

Besides all these interventions, other remarkable initiatives also took place. Such as- Accessible Dictionary: accessing four major dictionaries of Bangla Academy online for free; Hater Muthoy Biggan: a science textbook based audio-visual material; Bigganer Rajjye: A mobile based science popularising game for children and low-cost science instructional materials for grade 6-10 have been developed. A few multimedia teaching learning materials have also been developed by Save the Children at the primary level, BRAC and SESIP project of MoE in secondary education. This is how the quality education of Bangladesh have been leveraged with the help of ICT.

Nevertheless, these initiatives are just a few drops in the ocean. To prepare above 40 million school aged children with market ready knowledge and skills requires much more purposeful and planned state action. Zero tolerance against educational corruption is only possible with technological transforma-



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tion of traditional paperwork. Starting from school to ministry, all the activities need to be handled without paper. When we talk about AI, 3D printing, Internet of Things and other revolutionary technologies, we are basically talking about big data. We have to properly store, manage and use big data across many disciplines like health, environment, socio-economic and transportation to take better educa-

tional plan and action.

We have to use augmented and virtual reality contents to give learners a comprehensive knowledge. Future literacy is about coding literacy. Each of our learners need to know programming or computing language to become more effective creators and consumers of digital media. Thus, we need to not only add a few paragraphs in textbook, but cover a wide range of

practical works, activities, hackathon, network programming, competitions and national and international coding needs to be included in the national campaign. We have to design, develop and incorporate technologies to monitor learners' individual performance trends and give real time and live feedback. A large number of teaching learning and professional development courses need to be developed with

global partners so that our teachers can teach globally and even learn globally. The Fourth Industrial Revolution is not about machines deciding the future, it will be about us deciding how machines will act as a multiplier for our future happiness.

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