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# RISING STARS

FOR YOUNG MINDS ON THE RISE

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ILLUSTRATION: RAKEEB RAZZAQ

DID YOU KNOW?

# How STARLINK works

Most satellite internet services rely on a single geostationary satellite orbiting about 35,786 kilometers above Earth. This results in high latency – the time it takes for data to travel between the user and the satellite – often exceeding 600 milliseconds. Such delays make real-time activities like streaming, video calls, and online gaming difficult.

Starlink takes a different approach. It operates a constellation of thousands of satellites in low Earth orbit, around 550 kilometers above the surface. This much shorter distance dramatically reduces latency to around 20 milliseconds, enabling smoother, high-speed internet for demanding applications.

Starlink users connect via a flat, phased array antenna (about the size of a pizza box) that tracks and communicates with the moving satellites overhead. These antennas send and receive data via radio signals, which are relayed through the satellite network and back to Earth, providing global coverage and making Starlink an effective solution for rural and remote areas.

PHOTO: **AFP**

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# The Apothecary Diaries is the anime to put cookie-cutter female protagonists to sleep

**AYAAN SHAMS SIDDIQUEE**

Barring a few exceptions like *Kara no Kyoukai, JoJo's Bizarre Adventure Part 6: Stone Ocean*, and *Kill la Kill*, action-packed anime with strong (or even decent) female leads are few and far between. More often than not, the ones we do get are flattened into tired tropes like the damsel in distress or the femme fatale, with little to no nuance or depth to speak of.

But Studio OLM and Toho's recent sensation, *The Apothecary Diaries*, wastes no time in blowing that trend out of the water with Maomao, the sassy, no-nonsense medicine expert who's just as brilliant as she is endearingly weird.

Set in a fictional imperial court inspired by ancient China, *The Apothecary Diaries* is a case-of-the-week mystery show that follows the life of Maomao, a young and blunt commoner trained in herbal medicine and obsessed with poisons. After being kidnapped and sold off as a maid in the lowest echelons of the grand palace – where much of the anime takes place – Maomao comes face-to-face with profound scheming, petty disputes, and power-plays among the court ladies, concubines, and high-ranking officials. Whether it's uncovering a slow-acting poison, diagnosing illnesses no one else can, or even deciphering political schemes, Maomao's carefully honed flair for deduction and scientific know-how keeps pulling her into a vast web of conundrums.

What makes this setup particularly fun is that Maomao doesn't actually want to be in the spotlight. She'd much rather stay in the background, quietly geeking out over poisons and rare diseases, but her sharp mind constantly gets her noticed despite her best efforts to steer clear of these affairs. In essence, however, that's exactly what makes her so lovable. Despite her complete lack of any semblance of social grace, Maomao competently tackles the challenges in a way that makes every mystery feel engaging rather than contrived.

Through these chance encounters and a string of inopportune incidents, Maomao climbs up the ranks ever-so-slightly, eventually becoming a food taster and aide to the emperor's concubines. Her new set of responsibilities introduce her to Jinshi, her superior who is considered to be beautiful to the point that people question whether he's even real.

But beneath his polished exterior, he has an amusingly mischievous side. His playfully hostile interactions with Maomao are some of the best moments in the series, as he constantly tries to annoy her with his antics, only for her to ignore him completely or misinterpret his intentions. This also feels like a breath of fresh air as most anime heroines seem to end up falling head over heels for people in Jinshi's capacity.

Beyond the character-writing, all of *The Apothecary Diaries'* mysteries and whodunitsabout secret affairs and questions of lineage come back around to Maomao in surprising and exciting ways. There's a clear sense of purpose as each storyline weaves into the lives of the main cast, deepening their character arcs through subtle, often hidden parallels that unfold over the course of the series.

And in terms of production value, the show is gorgeous. The animation is crisp, the intricate palace designs make the setting feel alive, and directorial choices to throw in a mix of chibi characters elevate the comedy aspects substantially. The character designs are also very well done, with Maomao's dishevelled look contrasting perfectly with the refined elegance of the court.

Whether you're into historical dramas or just love a good mystery with a healthy splash of comedy, *The Apothecary Diaries* delivers in spades. And even if you're not a fan of either of those, Maomao's disgusted expressions and bombastic side-eyes alone are worth the watch.

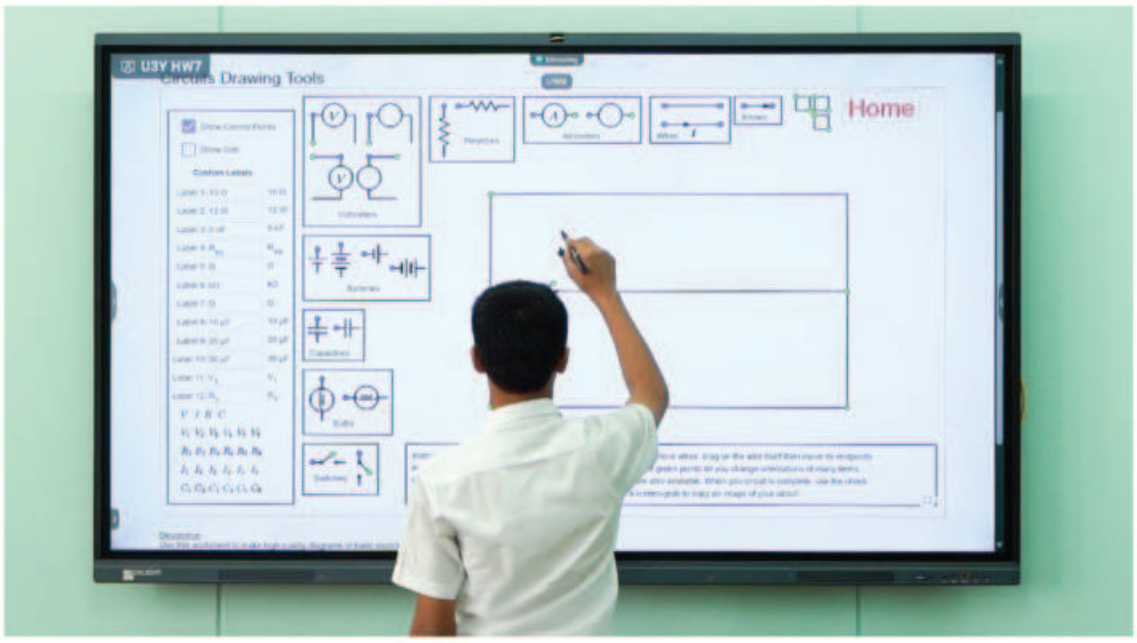
*Ayaan immerses himself in dinosaur comics and poorly-written manga. Recommend your least favourite reads at ayaan.shams@gmail.com*

# Learning Comes Alive at Glenrich International Schools through IFP-Enabled Classrooms

We are living in a world defined by technological advancement. Students are growing up surrounded by everything digital. In a world like this, it's very easy to get distracted in the old-school traditional classrooms, making it difficult for teachers to make learning enjoyable and engaging. Hence, with our technologically evolving world, our educational landscape must evolve as well. To meet these standards of today's digital world, Glenrich International School has been blending learning with technology to create innovative solutions for making classroom lessons enjoyable for both students and teachers.

To hold the attention of tech-savvy learners, mere whiteboards, static textbooks, and one-way teaching are not enough anymore. Schools must recognise this shift and respond with a strategy that will not only help to keep up with the digital world, but also lead the way. Glenrich realised this and acted on it early on. The school believes in using digital tools, not only for the sake of modernity, but for reimagining how students learn and teachers teach. The decision to install Interactive Flat Panels (IFP) across all classrooms was rooted in that larger vision of seamlessly combining technology and learning. The school recognised IFPs as tools for change and realised that IFPs would support their vision of interactive learning, personalised teaching and encourage collaboration among students in a way that traditional classrooms could never.

IFPs are simply large touchscreen displays that are used in place of traditional whiteboards. What sets them apart is their versatility and capacity for engagement. At Glenrich, teachers use IFPs to engage students in lessons in a way they enjoy. These multimedia-rich lessons spark curiosity in the students and help to develop critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. A chemistry teacher can now introduce elements to students with 3D animation of the orbits with electrons and protons, and whatnot. They can annotate diagrams in real time. Multiple students can simultaneously participate in interactive quizzes and games, all within the same class period.




There was a time when class lessons used to be confined to textbooks and monotonous readings. Now, with these panels, teachers can easily transition between different modes, integrate videos into the lessons, and annotate easily for a more personalised teaching. Students can easily participate in collaborative and interactive activities. Notably, it has a real impact on students' learning outcomes. There have been significant improvements in attention spans and classroom participation. Students are more invested in lessons now as the lessons are catered to their needs and individual learning styles.

Replacing whiteboards with IFPs has also changed classroom dynamics. Teachers can move freely around the classroom while interacting more easily with students. Classrooms become more engaging; students feel more involved and motivated. Real-time collaboration tools on the panels encourage teamwork among students, which is an essential quality in today's workplaces.

Again, for Glenrich, the goal of this initiative goes far beyond reflecting modernity. The school wants to empower educators to become their best version, increase student engagement and prepare the young minds for the digital world. By integrating IFPs into everyday lessons, Glenrich is creating a school where students not only gain academic knowledge, but also learn to think critically, communicate effectively and utilise digital tools; skills that will serve them throughout their whole lives.

Speaking about this vision, Principal at Glenrich Uttara, Mr Amlan K. Saha, shares, "Glenrich's pedagogical approach is dynamic and responsive to contemporary advancements. Our IFP-integrated classrooms exemplify this commitment. We leverage latest technological developments to enhance our educators' capabilities and student engagement, fostering optimal individual development, making them truly a global citizen."

Glenrich's digital transformation is a testament to what is possible when innovation meets purpose. By embracing technology, the school has changed the definition of classroom learning. It has not only made it more interactive but also made it more meaningful for both the teachers and the students. As the world keeps evolving, Glenrich remains firmly ahead in the educational landscape, preparing its students not just for academic success but for a lifetime of learning in the digital world.

# What it takes to get into top US universities

## Insights and advice from Bangladeshi students who got into Harvard, MIT, and Columbia this year

The shower of confetti that covered my laptop screen as I clicked "status update" on my Harvard application portal felt surreal. Was it a glitch? A dream too good to be true? It was only when the delivery man handed me a crimson red package with "veritas" engraved on it did it truly sink in – I had gotten into Harvard!

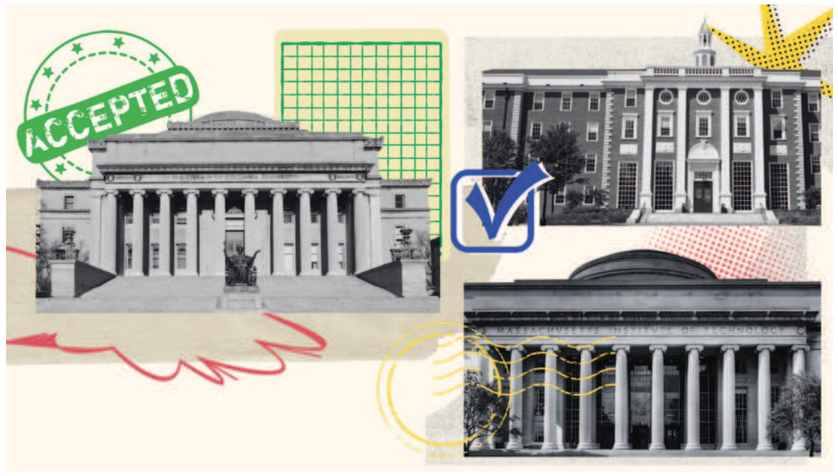



ILLUSTRATION: **ABIR HOSSAIN**

**MAHPARA FAATIN**

Similar showers of confetti had overtaken the screens of multiple other Bangladeshi students this year, signifying their acceptance into the world's most prestigious universities. These are some of the world's most selective universities, where even perfect scores and top grades do not guarantee admission. So, what does it really take to get in? We sat down with students who made it this year, sharing their journeys and well-earned wisdom.

A prerequisite to gain admission into any university is good grades – not just in your board exams but consistently throughout high school from ninth grade. This should be accompanied by your SAT score, preferably above 1500. But while academics open the door, what really makes applicants stand out from a pool that keeps getting more competitive over time are extracurricular activities and compelling essays.

**What activities do top universities look for?**

Some of the most impactful activities you can pursue are academic Olympiads –especially by representing Bangladesh on an international stage. Compared to local interschool competitions, Western admission officers are more familiar with international platforms as they act as a more legitimate proof of excellence and passion.

"I think what made me stand out as an applicant for MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) is my Informatics Olympiad journey, which resulted in the first gold for Bangladesh at the IOI (International Olympiad in Informatics)," says Debojoti Das Soumya (HSC 2025) from Jalalabad Cantonment Public School and College.

Similarly, another MIT admit, S M A Nahian (HSC 24) of Dhaka College, had previously earned Bangladesh two bronze medals at the International Math Olympiad (IMO). Elsewhere, Adnan Bin Alamgir, a Harvard admit from Dhaka Residential Model College, obtained a silver and a bronze at the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA).

Even national-level recognition boosts your profile. For instance, I ranked third nationally in the Bangladesh Biology Olympiad (BdBO) and made it to the national debate team right before the application deadline.

Another powerful way to stand out is through passion projects – it may be research work or a project related to your intended career.

"I believe my activities were the most crucial part of my application," says Ryem Nabi Anwar, an incoming freshman at Columbia University and a fellow classmate of mine from Mastermind School.

"From volunteering at the Hope Field Hospital for Rohingya women, starting my own non-profit which helped more than 300 families, and crafting a research paper on dengue vaccination, I showed my commitment to healthcare through action while also ensuring I was genuinely interested in the work I did," he adds.

Nahian also conducted research on Graph Theory under Professor Wayne Hayes, an associate professor of Computer Science at the University of California, Irvine. Apart from formal research, students can read books on advanced topics and discuss their findings in their essays and supplements.

Universities in the US value diversity and thus, prefer people who are deeply involved with their culture. Referencing Bangladeshi tradition, food, or customs in your essays helps create a unique identity. Additionally, involvement in performing arts can amplify this effect. By the time I applied, I had studied classical music for 11 years and trained in Bharatnatyam and Manipuri dance for four years.

You can even upload performances in your art portfolio. After the decisions were released, my Harvard admission officer personally reached out to me and told me how much she enjoyed watching my performances.

"Apart from having national and international accolades in Biology olympiads, I was able to highlight my passion for singing, particularly Indian classical and Rabindra Sangeet, which led me to perform live on national television," Ryem echoes.

One of the other things my Harvard admission officer mentioned about my profile was how hard I worked to organise my school's first intraschool debate tournament as well as the first-ever robotics workshop.

**What strategy works best?**

Admission officers sift through millions of applications. They can tell when students are pursuing activities just for the sake of it, which is why Nahian believes it is important to love what you do.

"It may not be easy to succeed at something right away but if you genuinely don't enjoy it, even small failures can be demotivating. But passion keeps you going," he says.

Dedicating five or more years to an activity is a great way to prove commitment. Focus on doing a few meaningful activities – quality always trumps quantity. In fact, most top universities tend to look for a "spiked" profile which is a concentrated area of excellence rather than a jack-of-all-trades. Without specialising, it is unlikely that you will have the time to excel in any of your activities. More importantly, your endeavours should all intertwine to tell a cohesive story about you. Your accomplishments probably won't help in your applications if you cannot present them properly.

It is also worth noting that the Common App limits how much you can write about each activity, so every character matters. Use globally recognised short forms like 'intl,' 'yrs', and the ampersand.

Try to use numbers as well; they may just be your holy grail. For instance, you can quantify how many people you've directly managed to help through a volunteering project or use terms like "ranked 3rd/10,000+" to show how competitive an event was.

It helps to write your descriptions in a document first so you can actively track the character count and use shorter synonyms where possible.

"Many colleges, including Columbia, now ask for a supplementary academic paper, so having an independent research paper will allow you to further highlight your academic interest," adds Ryem.

"This doesn't have to be laboratory research work and can be a review research paper based on existing findings that can later be reviewed by a professional. I believe my research paper on dengue vaccines was extremely crucial, allowing me to further highlight my interest in molecular biology."

Even if you accomplish something after the deadline, do not be afraid of updating the university on your success through their portals.

Universities care about yield – whether a person would choose to commit if given an offer. This makes it very important to show genuine interest in what the university uniquely offers its students. Researching your top choices thoroughly is, therefore, a must.

"Optional materials and supplemental essays often portray what qualities a university is looking for. So, use it to demonstrate your interest," Adnan explains.

You can talk about the research of a certain professor that you'd like to know more about or even university traditions and clubs that pique your interest. I, for one, talked a lot about how much I'd love to perform for the Harvard Ghungroo.

All this truly encapsulates how much you wish to study at a university.

**If you could go back in time, what would you have done better?**

All five of us share one major regret – not starting sooner. The final years of high school are extremely busy and exhausting, so it's important that you give yourself time to write your essays, take multiple SATs if needed, and research universities and scholarships.

"More than anything, I would have dealt with my procrastination," Adnan comments on his Harvard application. "It may sound a bit cliché, but giving yourself as much time as possible to craft your application is absolutely vital. In the end, the entire process may not take up as much time as one would expect but giving yourself proper space to gather your thoughts and ideas can be the make-or-break factor."

Starting early makes the process a lot more stress-free and allows you to enjoy your final school days with no regrets.

*Mahpara can't wait to make Elle Woods her entire personality, minus the chihuahua. Share your favourite Legally Blonde quotes to mahparafaatin@gmail.com*

**Mahpara Faatin**

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# A case for SPAYING AND NEUTERING PETS

**TINATH ZAEBA**

PHOTO: **ORCHID CHAKMA**

The word 'spaying' was familiar to me when I first adopted my pet, but not entirely known. I knew it was a procedure, a scary one, but the importance of it was lost on me. So, just like many others, I was also unaware of the fact that the number of stray animals we see in our everyday lives was directly a result of not spaying/neutering one's own pets.

Spaying/neutering is a surgical procedure to prevent an animal from reproducing, where spaying is the surgery on a female animal and neutering is done on males. The process itself carries low risk and is done routinely in most veterinary clinics but it has a big impact on our world. To put things into perspective: one unspayed female cat can have up to two litters a year, with an average of four kittens per litter. That's eight kittens in just one year. If even half of those are female and reproduce the next year, the numbers multiply fast. In five years a single unspayed cat and her offspring can produce over 6,000 kittens. And this is just a minimum estimate: many cats have more than two litters per year, and dogs reproduce even more rapidly.

So when one pet is spayed/neutered, we prevent the birth of hundreds or thousands in the years to come. And with fewer births, there is less competition for the limited number of homes that are willing to adopt and care for the little ones. This means fewer animals on the streets, fewer being abandoned, and fewer facing neglect or abuse.

After all, the overpopulation of stray animals in Bangladesh is not at all invisible. We see it in starved kittens darting through a garage gate. We see it in Facebook groups flooded with adoption requests, and desperate posts to rescue injured animals. We see it in the exhausted eyes of animal rescuers and volunteers stretched far too thin. These individuals have a daily struggle, too many animals and too few resources, so when pet owners choose not to sterilise their animals, that burden shifts to someone else.

Another common argument against thinking of spaying/neutering as a disruption to the natural order of things is that we have already altered the natural balance by domesticating animals. Dogs and cats in Bangladesh no longer live wild lives; they depend on humans for food, shelter, and safety. Allowing them to reproduce without limits in a human-controlled environment doesn't lead to balance, it leads to suffering.

However, spaying and neutering isn't only about reducing numbers. It actually positively affects the health and well-being of the pets themselves. Animals that have been spayed or neutered often live longer, healthier lives. For females, it reduces the risk of infections and certain cancers. For males, it lowers the chance of testicular cancer and can prevent some behavioural issues, such as roaming, aggression, and marking territory, giving these pets a better chance at a peaceful, healthy life.

Despite the overwhelming benefits, many pet owners refuse to sterilise their pets. These pet owners believe that spaying or neutering an animal is cruel as it robs them of the chance to become parents and interferes with nature's cycle of life. Many assume spaying isn't necessary because they're willing to raise the babies themselves.

However, taking care of one litter is not the end of the story. If we were to consider female cats, they can become pregnant as early as five months old and have multiple litters a year. Before long, even the most caring household can become overwhelmed. And what usually happens next? The kittens are given away — sometimes to homes that aren't ready for the responsibility and are later abandoned. The cycle continues.

Some pet owners believe in allowing their pets to give birth and rehoming the babies as soon as possible later on, but we often fail to realise how it would impact the mother. Letting your pet give birth only to take her babies away can be incredibly stressful. They grieve and feel deeply and they search for their young. The babies, too, lose the comfort and nutrition they need. The sheer number of times this happens is not just sad, but traumatic.

Another common argument against thinking of spaying/neutering as a disruption to the natural order of things is that we have already altered the natural balance by domesticating animals. Dogs and cats in Bangladesh no longer live wild lives; they depend on humans for food, shelter, and safety. Allowing them to reproduce without limits in a human-controlled environment doesn't lead to balance, it leads to suffering. We can't simply "let nature take its course" when nature now includes speeding traffic, gutters filled with plastic and sharp objects, and overcrowded urban spaces.

Even more, spaying/neutering actually benefits the pet owner as well. Spayed/neutered pets tend to be calmer, more affectionate, and easier to manage. In male cats and dogs, neutering helps reduce aggressive behaviour and spraying. For female pets, spaying eliminates the risk of messy heat cycles which makes them less irritable and cuddlier. Not only does this make having pets at home more peaceful, but it also means your pets are calmer and happier.

In the end, choosing to spay or neuter a pet is more than a medical decision, it is a moral one. It's a direct reflection of how we view our responsibility as humans sharing space with other lives. It's a statement that we care: not only for our own pets but for the countless animals who may never know what a home feels like. In many ways, it's one of the smartest and most responsible decisions a pet owner can make for their animal's health and their own peace of mind.

We don't need more animals born into struggle. We need fewer born, and more cared for. With a change in our mindset and greater awareness, that change begins with something as simple and as powerful as a trip to the vet.

*Tinath Zaeba is an optimistic daydreamer, a cat mom of five and a student of Economics at North South University. Get in touch via tinathzaeba25@gmail.com.*

ILLUSTRATION: **ABIR HOSSAIN**

# Once, spring stayed longer

**OHONA ANJUM**

In early days of April, he heard the cuckoo's song as sweet as if it was the first day of spring. However the weather said otherwise, it was more humid than he thought Kolkata would be.

His vacation plan was to arrive in Kolkata during mid-February when his internet friends suggested that it was the best time to visit. When the air still grieves for the bygone winter and trembles at the sight of a soft sun turned ruthless.

He boarded the bus with David Bowie in his ears and the city's sweat clung to his neck. He had come alone, chasing the kind of solitude that only makes sense when you're twenty-three and far from home. He was not heart-broken or in desperate need for adventure. So, when his friends asked him what his purpose was, he struggled to answer them. He told them they will find out when he comes back. Suddenly his backpack felt heavier – the thought of having to take an answer back home with him made him anxious. He thought they might have forgotten about it anyway, but his mother called him every day. In a worried tone, she'd ask if he had eaten and whether he was okay. He calmed her as he calmed himself as well.

It was more than thrilling, not knowing the streets – just knowing the histories that unravelled here. He thought of Kolkata as a literary temple and all his books, the scripture.

The bus groaned along Hooghly's edge, its rusted joints screeching like a tea kettle left too long on the flame. Through open windows, the air poured in thick with diesel fumes, the burnt-caramel stink of exhaust, and underneath it all, the river's wet, mossy breath. He loved the view, nonetheless. It was this city's discreet charm: it pulses its beauty and the next moment it is all dust and noise.

When the bus stopped at a point, a boy sat beside him – all elbows and sharp knees – with a basket of tuberoses wedged between them. Their scent hit like a slap of alpine wind: icy, green, deliriously sweet. It sliced through the bus's stew of sweat and stale betel nut through his own salt-damp shirt clinging to his back. He inhaled, startled. The flowers' stems wept milky sap where they'd been torn from the earth, their petals cool as cellar walls against his thigh.

The boy glanced at his headphones.

"What are you listening to?"

The voice was lighter than expected, a clear bell ringing through the bus's diesel growl. He tugged one foam-padded earbud free. Music leaked out, a thin, tinny strand of Starman dissolving into Kolkata's afternoon symphony.

"A man who fell to Earth," he answered.

The boy threw his head back and laughed. A sound so bright it seemed to startle even the crows perched on the power lines outside. The corners of his eyes crinkled into perfect crescent moons, and in that moment, he recognised something unexpected: kinship. This boy, like him, was not from here.

"Where are you from?" the question slipped out before he could stop it.

The boy stiffened for a fraction of a second, then his whole face softened as if he'd been waiting years for someone to ask.

"My grandfather said things are very bad back home," he murmured, fingers tugging the frayed edge of his shirt.

"Where is home?"

"Far away. In the mountains, where spring never ends."

"Tell me about this place where spring never ends."

The boy's voice dropped to a whisper. "My grandfather was a Kabuliwala."

And suddenly, the mystery of his eyes, their unusual tilt, the gold flecks in the brown, all made sense. He was Hazara, the descendant of those rugged peaks, even if he'd never seen them.

"I've never seen home," the boy admitted, plucking a jasmine blossom from his basket. "But I live beside the garden where the moon collects flowers."

Pressing the flower into him palm. "And these, these smell better than your music."

Poetic nonsense. The kind of lie only children and exiles tell with such wide, unblinking certainty. And yet he brought the jasmine to his nose, inhaled its narcotic sweetness, and wondered if maybe, just maybe, it was true.

Before he could ask, he knew the boy would show the path to this garden, where "moon collects flowers". They get out of the bus and start walking in between walls, thick with the scent of people and noise of conversations. The rust between the walls alone were a testament of old times and their aging bodies that carry the new times. The boy glanced back, his eyes catching the last molten gold of the setting sun. "Come," that look said, "the moon won't wait."

And so they walked, past doorways where shadows pooled like spilled ink, past windows that watched them with the knowing gaze of a hundred unseen eyes. Above them, the first star pricked the sky. And somewhere ahead, beyond the labyrinth of walls, the garden appeared.

The boy plucked a gardenia and tucked it behind his ear.

"See?" the boy whispered. "This is where spring hides."

He understood: the flowers weren't growing despite the city. They were growing because of it. The way beauty sharpens itself against the weight of the world.

He breathed in. The boy grinned, his teeth catching the moon.

That night, spring stayed longer.

*Ohona Anjum writes, rhymes, and studies English literature.*

PHOTO: **UNSPLASH**

# Tariffs and trade wars EXPLAINED

In the months following the rise to power of the current president of the United States, the word 'tariff' has been floating around the internet. A word that seems to attract a lot of attention from economists and create a shuffle in global politics, tariffs became the new way for countries to attack each other. In the world of politics and economics, tariffs are a systematic and calculated measure taken against imported goods from foreign countries, with massive consequences for populations in both the country imposing the tariffs and the country on which the tariffs are being enforced.

**RAIAN ABEDIN**

Let's consider a situation. Suppose you're a local businessman working within your community. You do your job and sell your product at a given rate. Now imagine a competitor entering the scene; only this person works from outside your community and sells the exact same product at a reduced rate. The result? Your business takes a nosedive as customers start flocking to this new producer. This isn't the end for you, though, as the local government overseeing your community decides to step in and place a special tax on any product being imported from outside your community. This tax, which we call a tariff, harms your competitor's business plan, as their prices have now been hiked dramatically thanks to the additional taxation.

Tariffs, of course, do not function in as simple of ways as discussed in this scenario; they are also not something imposed between local communities. The imposition of tariffs occurs between countries. Countries place these special taxes to hike up the prices of imported goods. And the absence of strategically placed tariffs may result in the death of industries.

In today's hyper-globalised economy, countries like the US have a tendency to outsource the manufacture of different kinds of products to different countries. This is done to ensure a high production rate for goods while keeping costs at a minimum. The tradeoff here, of course, is that these products are usually made in countries across Asia, where the mission to ensure high quality with minimal costs often results in immensely unethical labour practices.

Here, the problem branches out in two directions. One, the overreliance that countries like the US have on imported goods often results in the loss of jobs within their own country. One example of this may be seen in the fall of Detroit's automotive industry, as outsourcing the manufacture of automotive parts coupled with an ever-increasing interest in imported vehicles (partly due to their more affordable prices), led to the eventual layoffs of employees as factories chose to either close or relocate. Now, one way this problem could have been addressed was by imposing tariffs, thus reducing the demand for imported vehicles.

The second problem comes in when we consider the other side of this globalised economic scenario. On April 3, 2025, the Trump administration announced a 37 percent tariff on all imported Bangladeshi goods. While this has been postponed for a few months, the impact it can have on Bangladesh's export business, and the workers who make it possible, will no doubt be massive. For countries like Bangladesh that have a major export market in the US, tariffs might lead to a loss of their business. Addressing this on a global platform is also not an easy task, and the high tariff rates will more than likely lead to workers suffering under increasingly unethical practices.

In addition to everything mentioned thus far, there is also the reality that countries often enforce tariffs as a way to leverage power over other countries. The US, in our previously discussed scenario, is clearly attempting to display its power over Bangladesh. But that's not the end of the story.

It's apparent that the US has targeted many countries worldwide, with one being in focus – China. To impose strong tariffs against a country like China is a strategic move aimed at hurting their economy. China, in response, announced tariffs against the US themselves, leading to what we understand to be a "trade war" – a war fought with tariffs and sanctions with the intention of damaging another country's economy. Presently, the United States and China are in conversation, with the hopes that this might result in a quelling of this current trade war. However, trade wars take place regularly between countries, and even if this dies down another may start very soon.

But now the question is, who do the tariffs actually impact? To put it simply, when the prices of commodities go up, it will have to be the people paying for it. It's not always possible for local companies to provide the same quality as imported goods. Additionally, the absence of any international competition may lead to an oligopoly or even a monopoly where the market is dominated by a few or even one corporation.

Ultimately, understanding the impact of tariffs requires an understanding of how they are used on a global scale. The use of tariffs to establish power is perhaps an action that will continually occur under our current capitalist systems.