

Which roles will emerge and disappear by 2030?

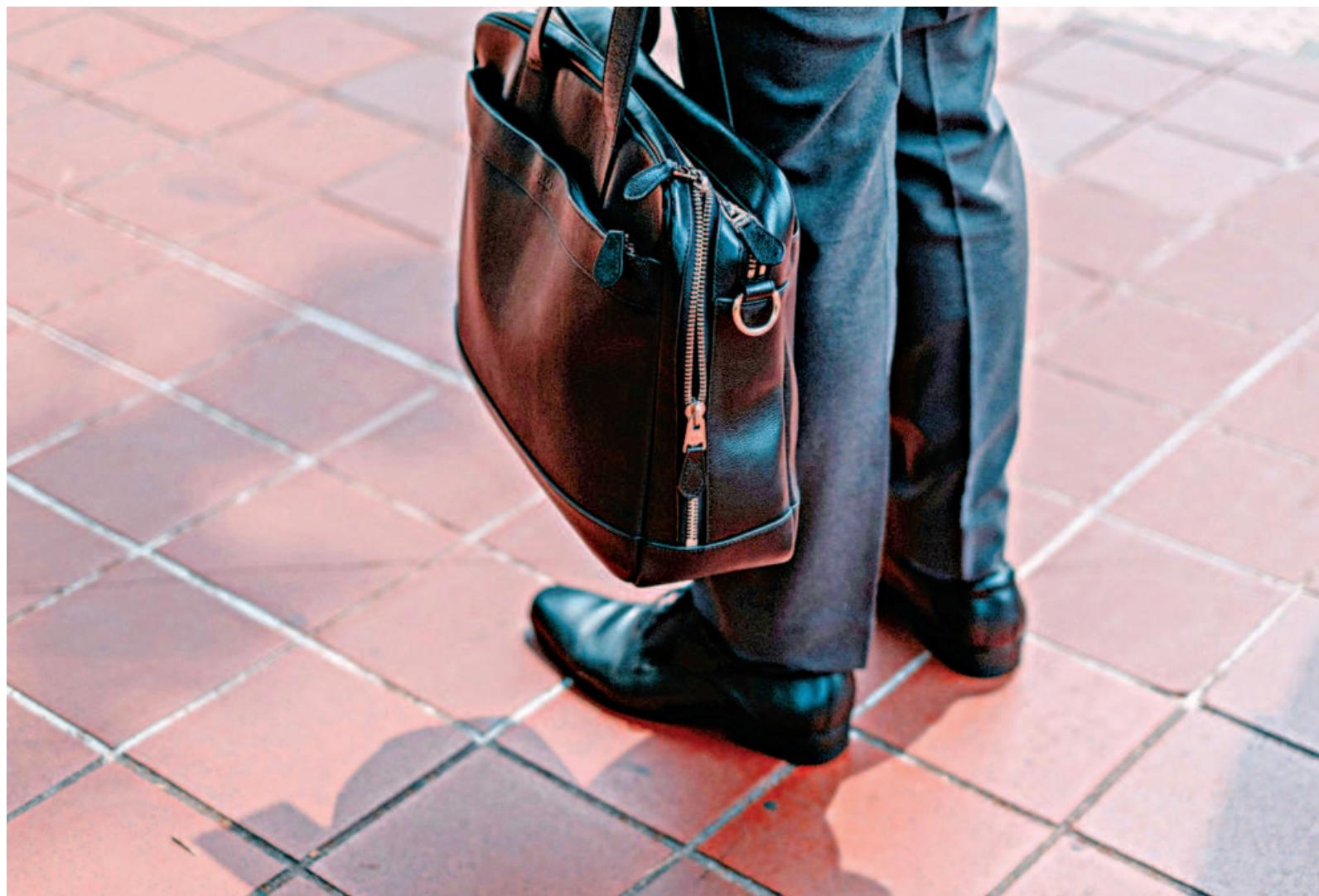


IMAGE: BABY ABBAS/ UNSPLASH

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RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNICIANS AND SUSTAINABILITY EXPERTS

The world's pivot toward net-zero emissions and climate resilience casts green jobs in the spotlight. Roles connected with solar, wind, and grid integration, as well as consultants who guide firms on environmental compliance (ESG) and sustainability, are becoming part of modern labour landscapes.

This trend is focused on societal

priorities as nations confront climate change with both urgency and investment. Bangladesh, being extremely vulnerable to climate change, needs these professionals more than any other country. Together, using data and AI, our renewable energy, climate, and sustainability experts must develop models and blueprints that offer effective solutions to our climate challenges.

Several roles are also expected to decline within the next four or five years.

DATA ENTRY CLERKS

The era of manual record keeping and repetitive data chores is ending. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) powered by AI now processes volumes of structured information faster, cheaper, and more accurately than human operators could ever hope to.

What was once a common office starting point for new graduates is now being replaced by automated pipelines. Many in Bangladesh also work as data entry specialists on platforms like Fiverr and Upwork. These freelancers

are also struggling to secure data entry work. Soon, those who once entered data will instead be training systems to automate such tasks.

RETAIL CASHIERS AND BANK TELLERS

Self-checkout kiosks, mobile payments, automated credential verifications, and digital banking apps have chipped away at the economics of human-operated counters. Roles that dominated retail and financial services will see a decline as consumers adopt contactless systems, not out of disdain for people, but for convenience and efficiency.

This does not mean banks will be paperless or devoid of human interaction. However, as the WEF notes, the traditional role of the teller, rooted in routine transactions, will shrink.

or create entirely new ones.

At present, reskilling is not optional; it has become foundational. And the better a labour market anticipates change, the better it weathers it. Countries with strong vocational training, digital inclusion, and flexible education systems will thrive. Those who cling to outdated models may see their brightest leave for greener pastures.

Put bluntly, traditional four-year degrees—once a guaranteed passport to lifelong employment—are becoming only one part of a much larger ecosystem. What matters increasingly are skills that machines cannot replace, like creativity, critical thinking, emotional intelligence, complex problem solving, and intercultural

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS AND SECRETARIAL ROLES

AI-powered assistants, scheduling bots, and document automation tools are redefining office support functions. Similar to how spreadsheets restructured accounting tasks decades ago, AI is now embedding itself into what used to be considered indispensable human support work.

This trend points to a future where organisation and communication tasks are augmented, not erased. Professionals will need new organisational skills that complement context and creativity.

WHY THESE TRANSITIONS MATTER

For many Bangladeshi youth entering the job market, this global tectonic shift will feel personal. However, jobs are not vanishing as much as they are mutating. The future professional will likely hold several careers, pivot fields,

communication.

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And how we shape our skills, policies, and education today will determine who thrives in the decades ahead.

In Bangladesh and beyond, governments, universities, and industry must change in concert. Curricula should emphasise digital fluency and lifelong learning. Employers should invest in upskilling rather than downsizing. And individuals should approach careers with flexibility and courage, because the future of work is not a fixed destination, but a journey of continuous reinvention.

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