Mohammad Iftekharul Islam

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Objective:

As an economics graduate with practical knowledge in research, data analysis, and policy development, I aim to contribute to impactful development initiatives across various sectors. I have worked in research roles at three of Bangladesh's leading think tanks, beginning as an intern at Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), a program associate in the Research Division of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), and later joining as a research assistant at the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM). Through these experiences, I acquired crucial skills in econometric analysis, academic writing, and project coordination using advanced statistical tools, contributing to research that addresses critical socio-economic challenges. Alongside my academic pursuits, I also enjoy both creative and analytical writing, and I am dedicated to lifelong learning and eager to engage in projects that promote inclusive growth, sustainable development, and informed policy decisions.

Education:

- **Master of Social Sciences (M.S.S) in Economics | University of Dhaka**   *November 2023- January 2025*
  - Cumulative GPA: **3.56/4.00** | Class Position: 11th
- **Bachelor of Social Sciences (B.S.S) in Economics | University of Dhaka**   *January 2019- November 2023*
  - Cumulative GPA: **3.60/4.00** | Class Position: 11th
- **Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC) | Birshreshtha Noor Mohammad Public College**   *2016- 2018*
  - GPA: 5.00/5.00 | Group: Science
- **Secondary School Certificate (SSC) | Birshreshtha Noor Mohammad Public College**   *2014- 2016*
  - GPA: 5.00/5.00 | Group: Science

Experience:

- **Research Associate, South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM)**   *March 2025 - Present*

  - Currently working on two projects, the first being a year-long project on exploring a sustainable pathway for energy transformation of Bangladesh towards green and clean energy, commissioned by TARA. The second project is based on assessing pathways to safer factories in South Asia with focus on gender-based violence (GBV) in garment Sector, in collaboration with Institute for Human Development (IHD), India and commissioned by LIRNEasia.

- **Programme Associate, Research Division, Centre for Policy Dialogue**   *November 2024 – February 2025*

  - Worked on two projects based on corporate tax structure of Bangladesh, commissioned by Christian Aid, and supply side challenges in tannery industry, commissioned by the Government of Bangladesh through Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA)
  - Led the survey questionnaire designing, supervised the enumerator training sessions, organized the collected dataset to conduct data interpretations. Reviewed and refined the KII questionnaire and project structure to align with research objectives and methodologies.
  - Conducted Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with various stakeholders of the corporate industry for both quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

- **Former Intern, Department of Off-Site Supervision, Bangladesh Bank**   *April 2024 - June 2024*

  - Conducted briefings with all sections under the department to gain insights into banking policies and regulations in Bangladesh.
  - Applied these insights to produce an internship report titled "Risk Management Strategies in Bangladeshi Banks Post BASEL III Implementation" as part of the internship requirement.

- **Former Research Intern, Research and Policy Integration for Development**   *October 2023 - January 2024*

  - Contributed to the project "Open Market Sales (OMS) Programme for Assessing Urban Social Protection in Bangladesh" by coordinating 5 survey teams of enumerators and taking multiple Key Informant Interviews.

- o Successfully completed the primary survey within a month, organized and cleaned the collected dataset, and delivered an article titled "Open Market Sales (OMS) in Bangladesh: Challenges and the Way to Move Forward" and a Policy Brief on the Socio-Economic Conditions of OMS Beneficiaries.
- **Former Intern Feature Writer, The Financial Express Bangladesh**   *December 2021 - November 2022*
  - o Authored 120+ articles during the internship, averaging over 10 articles per month. Focused on feature writing in the sections of entertainment, sports, jobs and opportunities, and youth and entrepreneurship.

Extracurricular activities:

- **Joint Secretary, Economics Cultural Club (ECC), University of Dhaka**   *August 2022 - October 2023*
- **Associate member, Economics Study Centre (ESC), University of Dhaka**   *November 2020 - April 2022*

Academic Scholarships:

- General Scholarship, Government of Bangladesh | 2024–2025
  Awarded for academic excellence, attendance, and conduct during undergraduate studies in Economics at the University of Dhaka.

Research Monograph:

- **Title:** Exploring the Socioeconomic Determinants of Child Vaccination Status in Bangladesh: An Econometric Analysis using BDHS 2017-18 Data
  - o Using BDHS 2017-18 data, an in-depth analysis was conducted to determine the important socioeconomic determinants impacting childhood vaccination rates in Bangladesh. The study used econometric tools to assess the impact of variables such as parental education, poverty, area of residence, and child gender on vaccination rates. The findings pointed out the significance of resolving disparities in healthcare access, particularly in impoverished areas, as well as overcoming vaccine reluctance in order to improve immunization coverage.

Op-Eds and Commentaries:

- **Islam, M. I.** & Kabir, R. A. (2025, May 9). *Why our industrial future depends on women*. The Daily Star. https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/why-our-industrial-future-depends-women-3890571
- **Islam, M. I.** & Kabir, R. A. (2025, May 9). *Bangladesh walking toward a market-determined exchange rate regime.* Industry Insider. https://industryinsiderbd.com/bangladesh-walking-toward-a-market-determined-exchange-rate-regime/
- **Islam, M. I.** (2025, May 1). *Emerging technologies and equitable work conditions in Bangladesh*. The Financial Express Bangladesh. https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/special-issues/international-labour-day-2025/emerging-technologies-and-equitable-work-conditions-in-bangladesh-1746038548
- **Islam, M. I.** & Kabir, R. A. (2024, December 1). *COP29 and Bangladesh: Do the disappointments outweigh the achievements?* The Business Standard. https://www.tbsnews.net/thoughts/cop29-and-bangladesh-do-disappointments-outweigh-achievements-1007246TBS News
- **Islam, M. I.** (2024, November 17). *Future of jobs and what it means for Bangladesh*. The Financial Express Bangladesh. https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/youth-and-entrepreneurship/future-of-jobs-and-what-it-means-for-bangladesh

Skills:

Software Tools- Microsoft Office Suite, Google Workspace, CSPro	Proficiency level: **Intermediate**
Programming Languages- Stata & R (Data analysis libraries)	Proficiency level: **Intermediate**
Digital Data Collection Platforms- SurveyCTO & KoBoToolbox	Proficiency level: **Beginner**
Geographic Information System (GIS) Software- QGIS	Proficiency level: **Beginner**
Writing- Academic & Research-based	Proficiency level: **Advanced**
Communications (including research-oriented interpersonal skills)	Proficiency level: **Advanced**

Communication:

- English (Professional) & Bengali (Native)

References:

- **Dr. Md Deen Islam** | Associate Professor | Department of Economics | University of Dhaka
  Email: mdeenislam@du.ac.bd
- **Sayed Jubair Bin Hossain** | Lecturer | Department of Economics | University of Dhaka
  Email: sjb.hossain@du.ac.bd
- **Tamim Ahmed** | Senior Research Associate | Research Division | Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)
  Email: tamim@cpd.org.bd