

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



SANEM ROUNDUP

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SANEM
RESEARCH | KNOWLEDGE | DEVELOPMENT

Outline

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In August,

SANEM launched its Youthonomics Campaign, hosted policy dialogues and expert group meetings, attended international conferences, held expert talk sessions, contributed media insights, organised an AI clinic at the Ministry of Commerce, and signed an MoU with Southeast University to advance research and youth engagement.

SANEM Spotlight



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Thinking Aloud

Volume XII, Issue 4: September 1, 2025

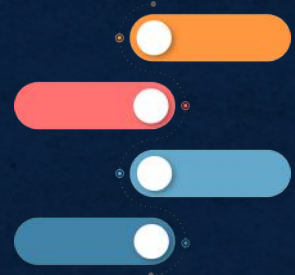
The September issue of Thinking Aloud explores Bangladesh's path to a resilient, green economy, focusing on climate action, sustainability, innovation, energy efficiency, and the reforms needed to tackle global environmental challenges.

SANEM Launched Youthonomics Campaign

The South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) launched Youthonomics Campaign for university students to connect and share ideas on how we can nurture today's young minds to become future leaders.



Monthly Highlights



Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the "Emerging Economy & Trade Policies in Bangladesh"



26 August - SANEM, in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), organised an EGM on the “Emerging Economic and Trade Policy Issues for Bangladesh”. The dialogue brought together policymakers, private sector leaders, and development partners to address critical challenges related to policy coherence, supply-side constraints, export diversification, and Bangladesh’s upcoming graduation from Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Participants emphasised the urgency of reforming outdated trade and industrial policies, improving logistics and port operations, strengthening the business environment, and integrating SMEs into global value chains. Sectoral discussions highlighted opportunities in leather, footwear, and ready-made garments, as well as the need for investment in human capital, technology, and services trade. The meeting concluded with agreement on a set of priority issues to guide SANEM–DFAT’s forthcoming policy papers, aimed at ensuring evidence-based reforms for sustainable economic growth and global competitiveness.

Expert Talk Session: SANEM's Executive Director Dr. Selim Raihan

18 August - SANEM organised its inaugural expert talk session where Dr. Selim Raihan shed light on the political economy of reforms. The discussion offered valuable insights into the complexities of policy change and was followed by a lively Q&A with participants. This marks the beginning of a series of expert-led sessions planned under the initiative.



Youthonomics by SANEM: North South University



14 August - SANEM launched its Youthonomics Campaign in August, beginning with an engagement at North South University. The session introduced students to the campaign's objectives, outlined how they could benefit from it, and invited their ideas on what more Youthonomics could do for young people.

Dr. Selim Raihan attended Research Review Meeting of the FutureWORKS Asia Project

20-22 August - Dr. Selim Raihan attended the Research Review Meeting of the FutureWORKS Asia project, held from 20–22 August 2025 at Sentido Heritage Negombo, Sri Lanka. This initiative aims to address the employment challenges and opportunities arising from ongoing transitions in Asia.



Webinar on the Political Economy of Economic Reforms in Bangladesh

23 August - The Centre for Social Research organised an online seminar titled "The Political Economy of Economic Reforms in Bangladesh: Promises, Constraints, and Realities". The keynote paper was presented by Dr. Selim Raihan. Experts engaged in constructive discussions on the measures taken by the current interim government.



SANEM Held Monthly Town Hall to Discuss Progress, Challenges, and Team Vision



31 August - SANEM hosted its first-ever Monthly Town Hall Meeting at its office premises, bringing together the entire team for a productive discussion on the projects, team expectations, challenges, and opportunities. Respected directors of SANEM had a comprehensive discussion with the team to inspire them with their vision, addressing challenges, and motivating everyone to work towards achieving SANEM's goals with renewed efficiency and commitment.

Dr. Selim Raihan Spoke at Bengal Delta Conference 2025

29 August - Dr. Selim Raihan spoke as a panelist in the session on "Economic Strategies and Political Settlement: Our Current Economic Challenges and Way Forward" at the two-day international conference "Bengal Delta Conference 2025: Bangladesh at the Crossroads", organised by Dacca Institute of Research and Analytics (DAIRA).



Youthonomics by SANEM: Southeast University

28 August - As part of the Youthonomics Campaign, the team organised a session at the Southeast University in collaboration with the Department of Economics and in association with Young Economists of SEU. The session introduced students to the campaign's objectives, highlighted how they could benefit from it, and invited their ideas on how Youthonomics could further serve young people.



SANEM Conducted AI Clinic at Ministry of Commerce

31 August - SANEM's Programme Director Zubayer Hossen, Communication Associates Fahmida Farzana and Faiaze Ibne Kabir facilitated an interactive clinic session at the Secretariat with the Ministry of Commerce. The session covered AI tools such as ChatGPT, Notebook LM, Gamma, Canva, and Napkin AI, and explored their workplace applications and ethical implications for government institutions.

SANEM's Directors Attended Trade Negotiators Workshop

26 August - SANEM's Programme Director Zubayer Hossen and Director Israt Hossain attended the Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Trade in Services, organised by the Ministry of Commerce and UNDP. The workshop gathered the Trade Negotiators Pool to deepen expertise and strengthen Bangladesh's negotiation capacity in digital trade.



SANEM Insights



OPINION

জুলাই অভ্যুত্থানের পর বাংলাদেশের তরুণদের কী চাওয়া

ড. সেলিম রায়হান

০৫ আগস্ট - জুলাই গণঅভ্যুত্থানের প্রেক্ষাপটে বাংলাদেশের তরুণদের প্রত্যাশা ও বাস্তবতা নিয়ে প্রথম আলোতে প্রকাশিত একটি প্রবন্ধে আলোকপাত করেছেন ড. সেলিম রায়হান। “জুলাই অভ্যুত্থানের পর বাংলাদেশের তরুণদের কী চাওয়া” শিরোনামের প্রবন্ধে তিনি সানেম ও অ্যাকশনএইড বাংলাদেশের পরিচালিত ‘ইয়ুথ সার্ভে ২০২৫’-এর ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে দেখিয়েছেন বর্তমানে তরুণেরা বাস্তব ও কার্যকর সংস্কার চাইছেন। তাঁরা গুরুত্ব দিচ্ছেন প্রতিনিধিত্ব ও জবাবদিহিতায়।

[বিস্তারিত পড়ুন।](#)

“ভবিষ্যতের সংস্কারগুলো হতে হবে দৃশ্যমান, অন্তর্ভুক্তিমূলক ও ফলাফলভিত্তিক। এর জন্য প্রয়োজন বাস্তবায়নে স্বচ্ছতা, অংশগ্রহণমূলক পরিকল্পনা এবং প্রান্তিক জনগোষ্ঠীর প্রতি লক্ষ্যযুক্ত যোগাযোগ।”

OPINION

Who pays for a ‘greener’ t-shirt?

Zubayer Hossen

19 August - The article "Who pays for a 'greener' t-shirt?" by Zubayer Hossen discusses the evolving expectations of global consumers who increasingly demand transparency and sustainability in the fashion industry. As environmental and ethical concerns gain prominence, Bangladesh's garment sector faces pressure to adopt greener practices or risk losing access to key markets.

[Read details.](#)

“Bangladesh, a country built on affordable exports, can also become a global model of ethical, sustainable production.”

OPINION

Independence On Paper vs Practice

Dr. Selim Raihan

15 August - Dr. Selim Raihan said independence of the BB has long been demanded, but rules alone cannot guarantee it. He argued that there must be political commitment to ensure the BB's autonomy, and the ordinance must be endorsed by future parliaments.

[Read details.](#)

“For developing countries like Bangladesh—where every cyclone, flood, and lost crop is a human catastrophe—COP30 is not a photo opportunity; it is a test.”

OPINION

সিডিকেট-নির্ভর মুমূর্ষু অ্যাম্বুলেন্স ব্যবস্থা, করণীয় কী

ড. শাফিউন নাহিন শিমুল

২০ আগস্ট - বাংলাদেশে স্বাস্থ্যসেবার একটি অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ খাত 'অ্যাম্বুলেন্স সেবা' কে ঘিরেই দেশের সরকারি হাসপাতালগুলোর সামনে প্রকাশ্যে গড়ে উঠেছে 'অ্যাম্বুলেন্স সিডিকেট'। এই সেবাকে দ্রুত সিডিকেটের নিয়ন্ত্রণ থেকে বের করে আনতে কী কী করণীয় হতে পারে - সে বিষয়ে ঢাকা পোস্টে প্রকাশিত এক নিবন্ধে আলোকপাত করেছেন সানেম-এর অনারারী ডিরেক্টর এবং ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের স্বাস্থ্য অর্থনীতি ইনস্টিটিউটের অধ্যাপক ড. শাফিউন নাহিন শিমুল।

[বিস্তারিত পড়ুন।](#)

“নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও সমন্বয়হীনতা এবং সুস্পষ্ট নীতিমালার অভাবে গড়ে ওঠা এই 'অ্যাম্বুলেন্স মাফিয়া' চক্র একটি জীবনরক্ষাকারী সেবাকে এক শোষণমূলক ব্যবসায় পরিণত করেছে।”

OPINION

From setbacks to solutions: Addressing ADP implementation challenges in Bangladesh

Dr. Selim Raihan

19 August - In July 2025, only a mere 0.69% of Annual Development Programme (ADP) allocation were utilised. Dr. Selim Raihan warns that persistent setbacks in planning, project management, and accountability continue to undermine Bangladesh's development outcomes, and calls for reforms to unlock the full potential of the ADP.

[Read details.](#)

“Behind the administrative delays lies a more fundamental problem: poor design and weak planning.”

OPINION

Will US tariffs push India closer to China?

Dr. Selim Raihan

08 August - The latest move by the US to slap a cumulative 50% reciprocal tariff on Indian products has unlocked one potential fault line in the otherwise growing Indo-US relationship. While India has been aligning more closely with the US in recent years, these new barriers to trade can put economic ties, which were thought to be the key to counterbalance China's influence, under strain.

[Read details.](#)

“If US's economic pressure becomes larger, one possible scenario would be India starting to look for more trade, investment, and even strategic engagement with China in spite of the underlying tensions that have characterised their relationship.”

OPINION

Graduation or deferral: Is Bangladesh ready for the post-LDC era?

Dr. Selim Raihan

15 August - Bangladesh is set to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status in November 2026. This will be considered as a milestone once celebrated as a triumph of development. However, the national conversation has shifted; the feeling that was once a cause for celebration now evokes worry.

[Read details.](#)

“The choice we have is whether to make it a symbol of sustained capability or an exposed vulnerability. If reforms are deferred under the guise of a graduation delay, we risk turning a historic milestone into a prolonged stumble.”

OPINION

ভারত-বাংলাদেশ অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্কের উদ্বেগজনক ধারা চলছে

ড. সেলিম রায়হান

১২ আগস্ট - ভারত ও বাংলাদেশের মধ্যে বাণিজ্যে অশুঙ্ক বাধার ব্যবহার ক্রমশ বাড়ছে। দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার সবচেয়ে ঘনিষ্ঠ অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্কের দুই দেশের জন্য একটি উদ্বেগজনক ধারা চলছে। সম্প্রতি ভারত সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছে, বাংলাদেশ থেকে রপ্তানি হওয়া চার ধরনের পাটজাত পণ্যের ক্ষেত্রে স্থলবন্দর দিয়ে আমদানির পরিবর্তে শুধু মুম্বাইয়ের নাভোসেভা বন্দরে প্রবেশের অনুমতি দিয়েছে। এতে দুই দেশের মধ্যে বাণিজ্যের প্রবাহে বড় ধরনের প্রভাব পড়বে।

[বিস্তারিত পড়ুন।](#)

“এত দিন ঘনিষ্ঠ অংশীদার হিসেবে পরিচিত ভারত ও বাংলাদেশ এখন বাণিজ্য সমস্যা সমাধানে স্বচ্ছ সংলাপের পরিবর্তে একতরফা নিষেধাজ্ঞা ও অশুঙ্ক বাধার দিকে ঝুঁকছে। এটি দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার বৃহত্তর আঞ্চলিক অর্থনৈতিক সংহতির সম্ভাবনাও ধ্বংস করছে।”

OPINION

One year of interim govt: limitations of success and imperfections of progress

Dr. Selim Raihan

21 August - Dr. Selim Raihan reflects on the first year of Bangladesh's interim government. According to him, while there has been progress with reduced inflation and stronger exports, challenges remain - high commodity prices, unfinished infrastructure projects, and a lack of investor confidence due to political uncertainty.

[Read details.](#)

Inflation has eased slightly, but the prices of essential commodities, including rice, remain high. The greatest relief is that large-scale looting and corruption, as seen in the past, have not been reported.

OPINION

আত্মতৃপ্তির সুযোগ নেই

ড. সেলিম রায়হান

২২ আগস্ট ২০২৫ - ড. সেলিম রায়হান তাঁর প্রবন্ধে বাংলাদেশের বর্তমান অর্থনৈতিক পরিস্থিতি বিশ্লেষণ করেছেন। তিনি উল্লেখ করেন যে, মূল্যস্ফীতি কমলেও তা এখনও ৮.৫% এর কাছাকাছি, যা সাধারণ মানুষের জন্য সহনীয় নয়। শুধু ঋণের সুদের হার বাড়িয়ে এবং বাজারে টাকার সরবরাহ কমিয়ে মূল্যস্ফীতি নিয়ন্ত্রণ সম্ভব নয়। অন্তর্বর্তী সরকারের এক বছর পরও বাজারব্যবস্থায় শৃঙ্খলা আনা এবং প্রতিযোগিতা বৃদ্ধি ইত্যাদি ক্ষেত্রে সংস্কার কতটা হয়েছে, তা নিয়ে প্রশ্ন তুলেছেন।

[বিস্তারিত পড়ুন।](#)

বাংলাদেশে মূল্যস্ফীতি কমেছে। তবে আত্মতৃপ্তির চেকুর তোলার সুযোগ নেই। এই মূল্যস্ফীতিও সীমিত আয়ের মানুষের জন্য সহনীয় নয়। কারণ, এখন অর্থনৈতিক পরিস্থিতি ভালো নেই। মানুষের কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগ কম।

REPORT

স্থিতিশীলতা এসেছে সামষ্টিক অর্থনীতিতে, কিন্তু মানুষ ভালো আছে কী

ড. সেলিম রায়হান

৩১ আগস্ট - বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতিতে সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে ডলারের বিনিময় হার ও রিজার্ভ স্থিতিশীল হলেও বিনিয়োগ, কর্মসংস্থান ও আয় হ্রাস পাচ্ছে। শিল্পে নতুন যন্ত্রপাতি আমদানি কমে যাওয়ায় উৎপাদনশীলতা বাধাগ্রস্ত, মজুরি প্রবৃদ্ধি দীর্ঘদিন ধরে মূল্যস্ফীতির পিছনে রয়েছে, ফলে ক্রয়ক্ষমতা দুর্বল। সামগ্রিকভাবে ৪ শতাংশের নিচে নেমে যাওয়া জিডিপি প্রবৃদ্ধি ইঙ্গিত দিচ্ছে যে স্থিতিশীলতা মূলত উপরিভাগে সীমাবদ্ধ, কাঠামোগত সংস্কার ছাড়া টেকসই উন্নয়ন সম্ভব নয়।

[বিস্তারিত পড়ুন।](#)

সামষ্টিক অর্থনীতিতে একধরনের স্থিতিশীলতা এসেছে। যে ধস হওয়ার আশঙ্কা ছিল আগের সরকারের আমলে, তা ঠেকানো গেছে। কিন্তু এটি নিম্নমুখী স্থিতিশীলতা। এই স্থিতিশীলতার কারণ হচ্ছে, চাহিদা সৃষ্টি হচ্ছে না বা চাপ কমে গেছে। এই পরিস্থিতিতে তেমন একটা উৎসাহিত বা আশাবাদী হওয়ার কারণ নেই।

Knowledge Products

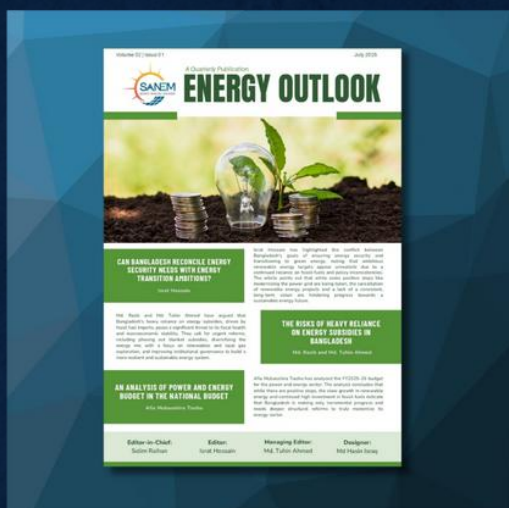


Assessing the Socioeconomic Impacts of Digital Public Infrastructure

July 2025 - SANEM, in collaboration with Global Development Network (GDN) carried out a pilot study to examine the socioeconomic effects of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). Using a mixed-method approach, the study combined quantitative and qualitative tools. Results show that individuals with access to DPI score significantly higher on a socioeconomic status index, suggesting a meaningful positive impact on welfare.



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SANEM Energy Outlook Volume 2, Issue 1 | July 2025

July 2025 - The July 2025 issue focuses on Bangladesh's power and energy sector in the FY2025-26 budget, highlighting unrealistic renewable targets due to fossil fuel dependence, the fiscal risks of heavy subsidies, and budget allocations that show only incremental progress. While grid upgrades and some reforms are underway, continued fossil investment and weak long-term vision hinder meaningful transition, with eight figures illustrating the sector's current state.

Beyond Fossil Fuels: Charting a Sustainable Transport Pathway for Bangladesh at COP30

Selim Raihan, Fariha Khan and Barun Deb Pal

July 2025 - The transport sector of Bangladesh, while on one hand is an important driver of economic growth, is also one of the major contributors to GHG emissions. This policy brief outlines the current challenges, reviews government actions, proposes alternative solutions, and assesses their potential economic impacts in the context of Bangladesh's preparation for the COP 30.



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The Renewable Rise: Shaping Bangladesh's Energy Future in the Context of COP30

Selim Raihan, Afia Mubasshira Tiasha and Barun Deb Pal

July 2025 - This policy brief covers climate change's impact on Bangladesh's energy systems, examines current government measures, proposes alternative strategies for resilience, and assesses their potential economic implications, aiming to guide sustainable energy development in preparation for COP30 and the third NDC.

Adapting to Survive: Climate Change and Bangladesh's Agricultural Imperative in the Context of COP30

Selim Raihan, Shafa Tasneem and Barun Deb Pal

July 2025 - Bangladesh's agriculture, a climate-sensitive sector vital for income and employment, faces productivity and nutritional losses due to climate change. This brief reviews challenges, government actions, alternative solutions, and economic impacts ahead of COP30.



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Bangladesh's Climate Policy: Challenges, Actions, and the Road to COP30

Selim Raihan and Hridita Raihan

July 2025 - Climate change threatens Bangladesh's development through floods, cyclones, sea-level rise, and heat stress, affecting key sectors. This brief reviews challenges, government actions, solutions, and economic impacts ahead of COP30 and NDC3.

SANEM Explains

Meet the Researcher

WITH



Shafa Tasneem
Research Associate
SANEM



[Watch the Video](#)

Announcement



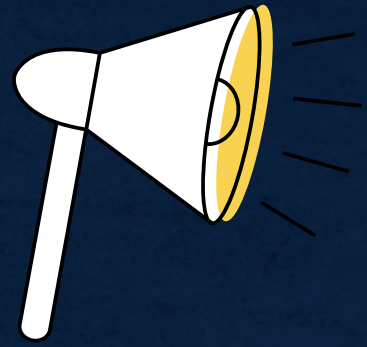
SANEM and Department of Economics, Southeast University Signed an MoU



28 August 2025 - We are pleased to announce the signing of an Memorandum of understanding (MoU) between South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and the Department of Economics, Southeast University, marking the beginning of an exciting collaboration to advance research, foster knowledge sharing, and nurture the next generation of economists.

The event was graced by the Vice Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Chairman of the Department of Economics- Southeast University, Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, Zubayer Hossen, Programme Director of SANEM, and other esteemed faculty members.

Announcement



Meet the Youthonomics Team

Neeladri Naviya Noveli
Research Associate



Fahmida Farzana
Communication Associate



Afsana Ahmed
Programme Associate



SANEM is pleased to introduce the Youthonomics team - Neeladri Naviya Noveli, Fahmida Farzana and Afsana Ahmed. Through Youthonomics, young minds will explore how economics shapes their world, share insights, and translate their ideas into relatable, impactful discussions on campus.

Call for Papers | 9th SANEM Annual Economists' Conference (9SAEC) 2026

The South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) invites submissions for the 9th SANEM Annual Economists' Conference (9SAEC) 2026, on "Development Challenges and Policy Responses in a Changing World", to be held 9–11 January 2026 in Dhaka. Papers may cover themes such as labour markets, social inclusion, climate and just transition, geopolitics, trade, innovation, and the future of work. Extended abstracts (max 2000 words) are due 30 September 2025. [Submit now.](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS

9TH SANEM ANNUAL ECONOMISTS' CONFERENCE (9SAEC) 2026

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AND POLICY RESPONSES IN A CHANGING WORLD

SANEM WILL PROVIDE LOCAL ACCOMMODATION AND/OR AIRFARE TO DESERVING INTERNATIONAL PAPER PRESENTERS WHO DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO ALTERNATIVE FUNDING.

DEADLINE FOR EXTENDED ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
30 SEPTEMBER 2025

For more information, check the details!

SANEM Named 10 Outstanding Bangladeshi Economics Students for SAESM 2025

SANEM announced the names of 10 top undergraduate economics students representing Bangladesh at the 20th South Asian Economics Students Meet (SAESM 2025) in Kathmandu. They will present research on themes including environmental risks, macroeconomic stability, poverty, trade disruption, energy transition, resource governance, urban resilience, health, education, financing for resilience, and green fiscal policies.

[Learn More.](#)





SANEM, launched in January 2007 in Dhaka, is a non-profit research organization. It is also a network of economists and policy makers in South Asia with a special emphasis on economic modeling. SANEM aims to promote the production, exchange and dissemination of basic research knowledge in the areas of international trade, macro economy, poverty, labour market, environment, political economy, sustainability, renewable energy, and economic modeling. It seeks to produce objective, high quality, country- and South Asian region-specific policy and thematic research. SANEM contributes in governments' policy-making by providing research supports both at individual and organizational capacities.



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