

KAZI ABDUS SAMAD

Innovative, Resilient, Visionary

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PROFILE

Multidisciplinary researcher and multimedia professional with international relations, environmental resilience, and mental health expertise. Skilled in qualitative and quantitative research, digital storytelling, and policy development. Passionate about creating culturally sensitive interventions to address trauma and mental health issues in vulnerable communities.

EDUCATION

Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

M.S.S. in International Relations (*Expected: February 2025*)

- **Thesis:** “*The Potential of Artificial Intelligence as a Weapon of Mass Destruction: Implication in US-China Balance of Power*” (*Ongoing*) under the supervision of Professor Shahab Enam Khan.

Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

B.S.S. in International Relations (*2023*)

- **CGPA:** 3.55/4.00
 - **Merit-Based Scholarship:** Awarded throughout undergraduate studies by the Government of Bangladesh.
 - **Major Courses:** International Relations Theory, International Political Economy, Research Methodology, Foreign Policy Analysis, International Negotiations and Diplomacy, Problems and Theories of Ethnicity and Nationalism, Strategic Studies, Foreign Policy of Bangladesh, International Affairs of South Asia, International Affairs of East Asia and the Pacific, International Affairs of the Middle East and Central Asia.
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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant (Team Lead)

Department of International Relations, Jahangirnagar University (*June 2022–June 2024*)

- Led the project “*Dissemination of Knowledge and Capacity Building on the Adverse Effects of Climate Change among Secondary School Students: The Case of Targeted Coastal Areas of Bangladesh*” under the guidance of **Project Director** Fazlul Halim Rana.
- The project, funded by the **Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT)** under the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change with the collaboration of the Ministry of Education, aimed to raise climate change awareness and build resilience among secondary school students in coastal regions.
- Developed and piloted qualitative and quantitative data collection tools, including surveys, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions (FGDs).
- Managed research and dissemination efforts across 20+ coastal communities, ensuring alignment with community needs and stakeholder goals.
- Produced two educational videos and co-authored the booklet “*Amader Prithibi, Amader Jolobayu*,” translating complex climate data into accessible content for secondary school students.
- Organized and facilitated workshops and community sensitization sessions, empowering students to understand the local impact of climate change and take actionable steps.
- Oversaw field operations, including logistics management, property handling for project sites, and maintaining safety standards during events.
- Collected and analyzed data to evaluate program success, ensuring findings were effectively communicated to stakeholders and integrated into policy recommendations.

Research Project: "The Quest for Prosperity" (April 2022–June 2023)

- Conducted research under the supervision of **Fatema-Tuz-Zohura** for the paper titled "*The Quest for Prosperity: Do Educated Africans Express Dissatisfaction with Their Native Lands Regarding Opportunities and Security?*".
- Analyzed qualitative and quantitative data on educated Africans' migration and socioeconomic challenges.
- Contributed to the drafting and editing the paper, which was published in the *Journal of International Affairs*, Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA).
- Coordinated with academic peers and supervisors to refine research methodology and ensure publication readiness.

Research Projects:

- **"Way to Dhaka: A Photo Storytelling Series"** (Ongoing)
 - Documenting the psychological impacts of environmental degradation through photography and interviews.
 - Presented visual narratives to highlight the intersection of mental well-being and public health issues in urban areas.
- **"Seasonal Migration and River Erosion in Bangladesh"** (Ongoing)
 - Created a comprehensive video documentary exploring the lives of individuals displaced by riverbank erosion.
 - Conducted interviews to capture the resilience strategies of affected families, emphasizing psychological adaptation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Coordinator (Digital and Multi-Media)

Bangladesh Center for Indo-Pacific Affairs (BCIPA) (August 2022–Present)

- **Developed and Managed Digital Platforms:** Enhanced BCIPA's online presence by creating and maintaining digital platforms, facilitating broader access to academic and policy resources.
- **Organized and Led High-Profile Academic Events:** Coordinated and led the team in executing significant events, including:
 - *Building Bridges of Harmony: A Holistic Strategy for Social Cohesion*
 - *Commemorating 26 Years of Peace: Reflections on the Chittagong Hill Tracts*
 - *Book Launch Ceremony: "Bangladesh-Myanmar Relations Amidst Rohingya Crisis"*
 - *Strategic Studies Network Seminar: Security Trends & Challenges in South Asia*
 - *Senior-Level Dialogue: "Bangladesh and the Indo-Pacific Collaboration: Priorities and Prospects"*
 - *Inaugural Roundtable Conference: "The Security and Stability in Rakhine, Myanmar"*
- **Authored Reports and Policy Briefs:** Contributed to publications on Indo-Pacific regional cooperation and sustainable development.
- **Facilitated Collaborative Projects:** Engaged with government officials, diplomats, and academic scholars to promote joint initiatives.
- **Enhanced Visual Content and Social Media Engagement:** Designed compelling visual materials and managed social media outreach, increasing audience engagement and expanding BCIPA's reach.
- **Photography Contributions:** Worked as a photographer during events, capturing key moments to document and enhance visual storytelling for BCIPA's platforms.

Co-founder and President

International Relations Film Circle (2023–Present)

- **Background of the Platform:** Established as the first and only platform in Bangladesh to explore movies and cinema through the lens of international relations. The initiative bridges academic theory with visual storytelling by showcasing and analyzing films that resonate with the themes of international relations, global politics, and societal dynamics.

- **Facilitated Academic Collaboration:** Collaborated with professors from the Department of International Relations to align cinema discussions with course materials and theories, fostering a deeper understanding of conflict resolution, geopolitics, and global governance.
- **Workshops and Discussions:** Organized workshops and interactive sessions where students and faculty analyze films based on course-based theories and thoughts, encouraging critical thinking and academic discourse.
- **Innovative Learning through Visual Media:** Utilized visual media to connect students with international relations concepts, creatively enhancing their engagement and understanding of global and local issues.

Co-founder

Think Like a Theorist (2024–Present)

- **Background of the Platform:** Inspired by a personal journey of curiosity and critical thinking from childhood, this platform was established to address fundamental questions that bridge theory and real-life understanding. Questions like *Why and how did this matter emerge? What will happen in the future? What is the reasoning behind this?* Shaped the foundation of *Think Like a Theorist*. The belief that "the easiest way to understand anything is to think like the question maker" drove the creation of a space where students and researchers could transform from mere observers to theorists.
- **Purpose and Philosophy:** The platform operates on the idea that we are all thinkers, but many remain distanced from the path to becoming theorists. It provides the tools and environment for individuals to refine their thoughts, empowering them to answer key questions such as:
 1. *What is the difference between a theorist and a general observer?*
 2. *How can first-year students begin to think like theorists?*
- **Integration of Academic Platforms:** *Think Like a Theorist* brings together other departmental platforms, including the **Debating Forum of International Relations** and the **International Relations Film Circle**, fostering collaboration and team-based initiatives.
- **Simplifying Theoretical Concepts:** Developed a framework to make complex theoretical ideas accessible to students and researchers, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical applications.
- **Interactive Materials and Events:** Published user-friendly materials, hosted seminars, and organized webinars featuring experts in international relations, political science, and other disciplines.
- **Encouraging Collaborative Learning:** The platform serves as a hub where students from various platforms collaborate, engage in academic discourse, and refine their theoretical thinking.

Think Like a Theorist is more than an academic initiative; it is a movement to guide students and researchers toward a deeper understanding of how theoretical frameworks shape our world.

Co-founder and Director of Photography

Cinemancha-সিনেমঞ্চ (April 2020 – Present)

- **Creative Direction:** Led the visual conceptualization and execution of diverse projects, ensuring cinematography aligned with each production's narrative and emotional tone.
- **Project Management:** Oversaw all stages of film production, from pre-production planning to post-production editing, ensuring timely delivery and adherence to creative goals.
- **Team Leadership:** Managed a team of creatives, including camera operators, lighting technicians, and editors, fostering collaboration and innovation to achieve high-quality productions.
- **Social Impact Storytelling:** Directed and produced films addressing critical social issues, including child abuse, mental health during the pandemic, and environmental concerns, driving awareness through impactful storytelling.
- **Technical Expertise:** Utilized advanced photography and videography equipment and software to produce visually compelling content with high technical standards.
- **Content Promotion:** Actively distributed work through social media platforms like Facebook, engaging audiences and building a community around Cinemancha's productions.

Managing Director and Core Photographer

Chitroshala (2019–2023)

- **Creative Leadership:** Directed and managed creative projects, emphasizing environmental and social themes to inspire awareness and action through visual storytelling.
- **Exhibition Curation:** Organized and curated impactful exhibitions, showcasing resilience stories of vulnerable communities and bringing attention to critical social and environmental issues.
- **Innovative Storytelling:** Expanded operational capacity and pioneered new storytelling approaches, earning recognition for creativity and impact in photojournalism.
- **Mentorship and Training:** Mentored junior photographers, offering hands-on guidance in technical skills, storytelling techniques, and project management. Organized training sessions to foster professional growth and creativity within the team.
- **Community Engagement:** Photography engages with communities, authentically capturing their stories and presenting them to diverse audiences through exhibitions and online platforms.

Intern, Branding, and Promotion

DiplomaticAct Bangladesh (2022)

- Completed a three-month internship, contributing to branding strategies and enhancing public engagement initiatives.
- Supported the planning and execution of events, including logistical coordination and audience outreach.
- Assisted in creating impactful promotional materials to increase the visibility and reach of organizational programs.

Innovation Coaching Centre · Self-employed (Sep 2018 – Mar 2021)

Dhaka, Bangladesh

- **Background of the Institution:** Innovation Coaching Centre was established to provide personalized and innovative academic guidance to students in Dhaka. The institution aimed to bridge gaps in traditional learning methods by focusing on critical thinking, problem-solving, and subject mastery tailored to individual needs.
- **Operational Leadership:** Managed the overall operations of the coaching center, including curriculum development, staff recruitment, and financial oversight, ensuring a smooth learning environment for students.
- **Student-Centric Approach:** Designed and delivered customized teaching strategies to cater to diverse learning styles, promoting student engagement and academic excellence.
- **Subject Expertise:** Provided specialized coaching in core subjects, integrating creative and analytical methods to enhance understanding and performance.
- **Community Impact:** Fostered a learning culture that encouraged curiosity and growth, benefiting over 200 students during its operational tenure.
- **Team Management:** Supervised a team of educators and administrative staff, ensuring a collaborative and productive work environment.

Event Organizer

OASIS Event Management · Seasonal (Mar 2018 – Aug 2020)

- **Background of the Role:** Collaborated with **OASIS Event Management** to organize and execute a variety of events, including weddings, corporate functions, academic seminars, and cultural programs.
- **Wedding Planning:** Directed all aspects of wedding events, from venue selection and décor arrangements to managing guest lists and coordinating with vendors, ensuring flawless and memorable celebrations.
- **Event Logistics:** Oversaw on-site logistics for diverse events, including scheduling, setup, and technical support, ensuring smooth execution.
- **Team Collaboration:** Partnered with vendors, performers, and staff to deliver personalized, high-quality event experiences tailored to client needs.
- **Budgeting and Cost Management:** Assisted in creating and managing event budgets, ensuring cost-effectiveness without compromising quality.

- **Creative Event Design:** Provided innovative ideas for event themes, decoration styles, and engagement activities, enhancing client satisfaction and audience experiences.
- **Crisis Management:** Effectively resolved unexpected challenges, ensuring events proceeded seamlessly despite last-minute changes or logistical issues.

Co-Founder

Pachmishali · Self-employed (March 2020 – May 2021)

- **Background of the Initiative:** Co-founded *Pachmishali* during the COVID-19 pandemic as an online business model focused on trading essential seasonal products like fruits, milk, and lemons, addressing the supply chain disruptions caused by the pandemic.
- **Business Operations:** Managed procurement and sales operations, ensuring the timely delivery of fresh produce and essential items to customers.
- **Online Platform Development:** Designed and maintained an online platform for order placement, enhancing accessibility and convenience for customers during lockdown periods.
- **Customer Engagement:** Built strong customer relationships through excellent service and regular communication, fostering trust and loyalty.
- **Logistics Management:** Organized the transportation and delivery process, ensuring that all products reached customers in a fresh and timely manner.
- **Crisis-Driven Adaptation:** Responded to the unique challenges of the pandemic by creating a business model that bridged gaps in traditional supply chains.

Tutor

Self-employed (January 2018 – November 2019)

- **Subject Expertise:** Provided personalized tutoring services in core academic subjects, focusing on developing students' understanding and problem-solving skills.
- **Customized Learning Plans:** Designed tailored lesson plans to meet individual students' unique needs and learning styles, enhancing their academic performance.
- **Student Development:** Encouraged critical thinking and analytical skills, helping students build confidence in their abilities and achieve their academic goals.
- **Exam Preparation:** Assisted students in preparing for school exams and standardized tests, offering effective studying and time management strategies.
- **Parental Communication:** Maintained regular communication with parents, providing updates on student progress and suggestions for continued improvement.

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAININGS

- **2023 Aspire Leaders Program** (*Aspire Institute*)
 - Skills: Leadership, Team Management, Teamwork.
- **Youth Social Leadership Training Program** (*USAID, 2020*)
- **Introduction to Human Rights** (*2022*)
- **Climate Change and Development Workshop** (*2023*)
- **Basics of Clinical Psychology** (*Alison, 2024*)
- **An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence** (*Coursera, 2023*)
- **Introduction to Cyber Security** (*Cisco Networking Academy, 2023*)
- **Data Science Methodology** (*IBM, 2023*)
- **Foundations of Project Management** (*Google, 2023*)
- **The Fundamentals of Digital Marketing** (*Google, Credential ID: LVL 3BR KYY, 2023*)
- **Digital Marketing MasterClass** (*August 2021*)

- **Workshop on Countering Dangerous Speech** (July 14–15, 2022)
 - Organized in partnership with Resiliency Initiative, Asia Foundation, and Meta (Facebook).
- **Introduction to Statistics and SPSS** (Alison, 2023)
 - Covered fundamental statistical concepts and practical training in SPSS for data analysis.
- **Basic Photography** (Ghoori Learning)
- **Wedding Photography** (10 Minute School, Credential ID: 611eb4085183d)
- **Climate Change and Sovereign Risk** (Asian Development Bank Institute, Credential ID: 51511-162-949-7443)
- **Introduction to Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific** (Asian Development Bank Institute)
- **Private Financing for Infrastructure and Sustainable Growth** (Asian Development Bank Institute)
- **The Role of Central Banks and Financial Supervisory Authorities in Governing Sustainable Finance** (Asian Development Bank Institute, Credential ID: 51511-163-049-2350)
- **Advance Photography** (Bangladesh Photographic Institute, January 1 – June 30, 2018)
 - Completed an advanced course in photography offered by the Bangladesh Photographic Society, focusing on creative and technical aspects of professional photography.

PUBLICATIONS

1. “*The Quest for Prosperity: Do Educated Africans Express Dissatisfaction with Their Native Lands Regarding Opportunities and Security?*” (Published in the Journal of International Affairs, Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs, 2023).
2. “*Amader Prithibi, Amader Jolo Bayu*” – A booklet on climate change education for resilience-building in youth (2023).
3. “*Behind the Curtain: Exploring the Truman Show's Insights into International Relations*” (2024).
4. “*Future Consequences for Children of Rohingya Refugees: The Psychological Impact of Generational Trauma*” (2024).
5. “*Exploring the Role of Education in Promoting Peace and Reconciliation between Israel and Palestine*” (2024).
6. “*The AI Integration into Warfare: The Diverging Doctrines of US and China Towards a Path to Sustainable Global Governance*” (Under Review).

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SKILLS

Research Tools:

- Proficient in SPSS, NVivo, Tableau, and Microsoft Office Suite for data analysis and visualization.

Technical Skills:

- Advanced knowledge of Adobe Photoshop, Premiere Pro, and WordPress for content creation.
- Proficient in video editing, photography, and cinematography, specializing in storytelling through visual media.
- Skilled in multimedia content production, including planning, shooting, and post-production for diverse projects.

Languages:

- Bengali (Native), English (Fluent).

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Class Representative

Department of International Relations, Jahangirnagar University (2019–Present)

- Elected to represent 72 students throughout the undergraduate and master's programs.
- Acted as the liaison between students and faculty for scheduling classes and resolving academic concerns.
- Organized academic events and facilitated communication between the department and students.

Others:

- Successfully led multiple teams and projects across professional, academic, and volunteer settings.

- Co-founded and directed platforms like **International Relations Film Circle** and **Think Like a Theorist**, driving innovation and collaboration.
- Managed large-scale initiatives, including a **Climate Change Awareness Project**, leading workshops and developing educational resources for coastal communities.
- Mentored junior team members in organizations like **Chitroshala**, fostering their growth in photography and storytelling.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

- **Merit-Based Scholarship:** Awarded throughout undergraduate and master's studies by the Government of Bangladesh.
- **Youth Leadership Recognition:** Awarded for initiating and managing impactful community outreach projects.
- **Talent Pool Scholarship:** Awarded a government scholarship for academic excellence from fifth to eighth grade.

Volunteer Experience

Partnership & Development Executive

International Youth Alliance for Peace - Bangladesh *(June 2022 – December 2022)*

- Promoted youth development and peacebuilding initiatives across South Asia through strategic partnerships.

Secretary

International Relations Club, Jahangirnagar University *(October 2022 – September 2023)*

- Organized events, lectures, and debates, growing membership and fostering engagement on global issues.

Executive Member

Ex-CAP: Ex-Students Association of SCPSC

- Contributed to alumni network initiatives, focusing on mentorship and community engagement.

Secretary

Savar Cantonment Public School and College Photography Club

- Coordinated club activities, including exhibitions and workshops, to promote photography among students.

Official Campus Ambassador

International Model United Nations (IMUN) *(August 2021 – December 2021)*

- Promoted IMUN Online Conferences to increase participation and awareness among students.
- Facilitated skill-building in negotiation, diplomacy, and leadership through Model UN events.

Volunteer Photographer, Community Events and Social Causes *(Ongoing)*

Documented events for community organizations, capturing visuals highlighting social development efforts, environmental challenges, and resilience stories.

Volunteer Educator, Local Community Projects *(Ongoing)*

Conducted workshops for underprivileged children, focusing on literacy, climate change awareness, and leadership skill development to empower the next generation.

REFERENCES

Shahab Enam Khan

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