AVERROES UTTARA

INSIGHTS

www.averroes-uttara.edu.bd

Issue 2 · 2026

FIRST HIFZ CONVOCATION & QIRAAT COMPETITION HELD AT AVERROES UTTARA

Four students complete Hifzul Quran as S M Jahangir Hossain, Honorable MP of the Dhaka-18 Constituency, graces a landmark day for the school — full story on page 2



















COVER STORY

A CELEBRATION OF THE QUR'AN AND EXCELLENCE

1st Hifz Convocation & Qiraat Competition 2026 · 28 April 2026

The first Hifz Convocation and Qiraat Competition of Averroes International School Uttara was held on 28 April 2026 — a remarkable gathering celebrating the journey of the Qur'an and excellence.

The ceremony was honoured by Chief Guest **S M Jahangir Hossain**, Honorable Member of Parliament for the Dhaka-18 Constituency, and Guest of Honour **Sheikh Syed Ali Al Ghamdi**, Chief Adviser of Averroes Uttara.

They were joined by distinguished guests **Ustaz Qari Hafez Shaykh Abdul Hoque Saheb**, Chairman of the Huffazul Quran Foundation; **Ustaz Principal Maulana Zainul Abedin**, former Principal of Tamirul Millat Kamil Madrasah; **Ustaz Sheikh Dr Rafiqul Islam Madani**, Khatib of Uttara Central Jame Masjid; **Qari Ataullah Al Mamun**, judge of the Quraner Alo and Channel i Quran competitions; and **Md Afzalul Islam**.

Special recognition was given to the four students who completed the memorization of the entire Qur'an. Alongside the new Huffaz, many students received awards in the 5, 10, 15 and 20 Juz categories of the Qiraat Competition.

The convocation was presided over by **Mohammad Anisur Rahaman Shohagh**, Head of School, and organised and hosted by **Chairman Gulam Mustufa**.

THE FIRST HUFFAZ OF AVERROES UTTARA

Hafezah Akifah Afsa
Completed Hifzul Quran

Hafez Mohammad Shafaqat Ifran
Completed Hifzul Quran

Hafez Farjad Tajwar Zaman
Completed Hifzul Quran

Hafez Zayan Ahmed Talukdar Shams
Completed Hifzul Quran



> *"A remarkable gathering celebrating the journey of Qur'an and excellence."*

OUR HIFZUL QUR'AN PROGRAMME

Averroes nurtures each child to memorise the Holy Qur'an alongside their studies, guided by experienced huffaz. Every completion is a milestone for the whole school family.

And the honour is not the child's alone: as the noble tradition promises, the parents of a hafez or hafeza are crowned with a crown of light on the Day of Judgement.

At a glance

Date	**28 April 2026**
Huffaz honoured	**4 students**
Qiraat categories	**5 · 10 · 15 · 20 Juz**
Presided by	**M. A. R. Shohagh**
Hosted by	**Chairman Gulam Mustufa**

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



GULAM MUSTUFA
Chairman, Averroes
Averroes International School
Uttara & Baridhara

A Message from the Chairman

Gulam Mustufa · Chairman, Averroes International School Uttara & Baridhara

Assalamu Alaikum. It brings me great joy to see the pages of this Spotlight filled with the words, stories and achievements of our students. To every student who contributed — who wrote, drew, recited, competed and took part — congratulations. Your effort is the true reward of this school.

I am equally grateful to our teachers, whose patience, care and hard work reach far beyond the classroom. The growth you see in these children is the fruit of their quiet, daily dedication, and it does not go unnoticed.

My thanks also go to the parents and well-wishers whose trust and support make this journey possible. A school grows only when families and educators walk together.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains unchanged: to offer an education that joins academic excellence with strong character and faith — two successes, here and hereafter. Insha Allah, the year ahead will bring even greater things for our children and our school.



FROM THE CHIEF CONSULTANT

How Our Teachers Should Be

Saeed Ali Al Ghamdi · Chief Consultant of Averroes International School Uttara & Baridhara

In an address to the teachers and families of Averroes Uttara, the Chief Adviser reflects on what truly makes a teacher — not the lessons alone, but the character they shape — and on the mothers who raise each generation of believers.

Many people deal with students only through normal manners, but your manners can change people. This is also part of your mission as a teacher.

A teacher does not only teach lessons; he also nurtures and develops character. There is a difference between education and upbringing. Education is teaching subjects, but upbringing means teaching morals, manners, respect, patience, and how to deal with others.

It teaches students how to deal with their classmates and how to deal with their parents. Sometimes, when students go home and behave well with their parents, their parents come to the school and thank the teacher, saying: "This teacher has influenced our children and taught them how to respect their parents, how to treat their father and mother, and how to deal with their classmates."

This is part of your noble message as a teacher.

O women, you are the makers of men, the nurturers of generations, and the ones who raise scholars and great people.

Behind Imam Ahmad was a mother who raised him. Behind Imam Al-Shafi'i was a mother who raised him. All great scholars were raised by mothers. Their mothers nurtured them and built their character.

And still today, and before our time and after our time, we continue to see mothers who raise worshippers, who prepare generations, and who strive to bring out righteous Muslim boys and girls—pure, wise, modest, memorisers of the Qur'an, guardians of their faith, fasting, praying, and devoted servants of Allah.

It is mothers who raise such generations.

Regarding the girls, in my opinion, in the future we should make sure that we repeatedly teach them their responsibilities from the Sunnah and the Qur'an: hijab, righteousness, and how a girl should deal with her parents, her sisters, her brothers, her classmates, her religion, and her hijab.

We should advise them to observe hijab properly and remain steadfast upon the religion of Allah Almighty. Their reward with Allah is great; their reward is beyond measure with Allah Almighty.

I ask Allah to bless these faces and to make us and you among those who are guided and steadfast.

A CLOSING SUPPLICATION

O Allah, I ask You by Your beautiful names and lofty attributes to make this gathering a blessed and merciful gathering. Do not leave among us anyone deprived of Your mercy. I ask You by Your majesty and knowledge to forbid these blessed faces from the Hellfire. Beautify it in our hearts, and make disbelief, wickedness, and disobedience hateful to us, and make us among the rightly guided. Our final prayer is: all praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, and upon all his family and companions.

O Allah, forbid these faces from the Hellfire. · O Allah, forbid these faces from the Hellfire. · O Allah, forbid these faces from the Hellfire.
O Allah, make faith beloved to us. · O Allah, make faith beloved to us. · O Allah, make faith beloved to us.

SCHOOL NEWS · NEW CAMPUS

AVERROES UTTARA OPENS ITS DOORS IN BARIDHARA

A new campus brings the Averroes Uttara vision of academic excellence and Islamic character to the heart of Dhaka — and admissions are now open.



The reception at the new Averroes Baridhara campus

Averroes International School Uttara is proud to announce the opening of its newest campus in Baridhara. The new home carries forward everything that defines Averroes Uttara — a values-centred education that joins strong academics with Qur'anic learning and good character.

Purpose-built and welcoming, the Baridhara campus offers bright, modern facilities and the same dedicated teaching that families have come to trust across the Averroes Uttara community. From its warm reception to its classrooms, the campus has been designed with students at its centre.

Admissions are now open for the coming session. Families are warmly invited to visit the campus, meet our team, and learn how an Averroes Uttara education can shape their child's future — here and hereafter.

ADMISSIONS OPEN

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SCHOOL NEWS · CAMBRIDGE PATHWAY

THE CAMBRIDGE PATHWAY COMES TO AVERROES UTTARA

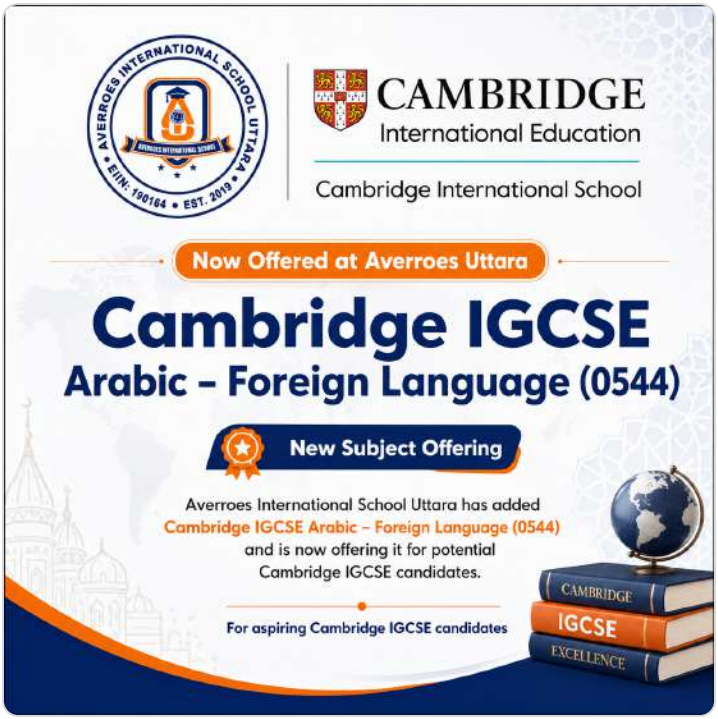
Averroes International School Uttara launches its O and A Level section — a complete Cambridge pathway built on a decade of Islamic schooling.



Averroes International School Uttara has launched its O and A Level section, offering a full Cambridge pathway from IGCSE through to A Level. It brings globally recognised qualifications together with the school's established foundation in Qur'anic learning and Islamic character.

As a registered Cambridge International School, Averroes Uttara now prepares students for Cambridge IGCSE and beyond — joining academic rigour with strong values in the school's promise of two successes, here and hereafter.

The launch adds new subjects, experienced faculty and modern facilities for senior students, with more introductions to follow through the year, Insha Allah.



NEW THIS YEAR

Cambridge IGCSE Arabic — Foreign Language (0544), now offered for aspiring IGCSE candidates.

A complete O and A Level programme under Cambridge International Education.

Experienced Cambridge faculty joining the senior school — profiles on the following pages.

JUNIOR VOICES

Words from our youngest students · Class 2

He is Cristiano Ronaldo. His jersey number is 7. He is the GOAT, from Portugal. His short name is CR7. Ronaldo plays as captain. He did 4 bicycle kicks and scored, and played for Real Madrid.

— Faraz Ahammed · Class 2 Aqua

My favourite player is Lamine Yamal, because he is the best player. I like Spain's goalkeeper, Simon. Yamal plays for Barcelona; his jersey number is 19. I like football because of Lamine Yamal.

— Ahnaf Haque Tamzid · Class 2 Coral

I like Lamine Yamal and support the team because they have good players. They show that young people can play football too. I saw the last World Cup and Spain won. Football makes me excited and happy.

— Jana Arha Jafar · Class 2 Cherry

We should clean our Earth. We should not throw dust on the roadside, and we should keep our rivers, lakes and ponds clean. We should plant trees and water them every day. We should not waste electricity or honk unnecessarily, and we should always help animals with food and water.

— Nazahah Safiyah · Class 2 Cherry

DID YOU KNOW?

The oldest still-running university in the world, Al-Qarawiyyin in Fez, Morocco, was founded in the year 859 by a woman — Fatima al-Fihri.

RIDDLE ME THIS

I have hands but cannot clap, and a face but never smile. I tell you something all day long. What am I?

FROM THE QUR'AN

"And He found you lost and guided you."

— Surah Ad-Duha (93:7)

FROM THE MARGINS

DID YOU KNOW? · SCIENCE

Space is completely silent — sound cannot travel where there is no air.

MUSLIM WORLD

Al-Azhar in Cairo has welcomed students for more than a thousand years.

RIDDLE ME THIS

What comes down but never goes up?

WORD OF THE DAY

Curiosity (noun): a strong wish to learn or know more.

THE INSIGHTS BY AVERROES UTTARA

One School. Two Successes. Here & Hereafter.

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SCHOOL NEWS · NEW AT AVERROES UTTARA

New faces, new achievements and new activities as the school grows — more O/A Level faculty introductions to follow.



O/A LEVEL · FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Tahsan Sir

CHEMISTRY FACULTY

- 17+ years of teaching experience
- Former IGCSE Chemistry Coordinator
- Extensive experience teaching IGCSE & IAL Chemistry
- Taught at several reputed English-medium schools
- Guides students through O & A Level Chemistry



O/A LEVEL · FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Rakibul Wazed Sir

SENIOR PHYSICS TEACHER

- 11+ years teaching O & A Level Physics
- Experienced in Cambridge & Edexcel curricula
- Former Coordinator of the Science Department
- Served in renowned English-medium schools of Bangladesh
- B.Sc. in Electrical & Electronics Engineering (EEE)
- Expert in concept-building & exam preparation



CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH SUCCESS

Anisa Tabassum Tani

GRADE 8 · CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT ENGLISH

Alhamdulillah! Anisa attended the B1 exam but achieved **B2 Level** — equivalent to an **IELTS score of 6.5**.



NEW ACTIVITY · KARATE

Khaleduzzaman

KARATE INSTRUCTOR

"Equal emphasis on physical growth and mental development."

Black Belt (Bangladesh Karate Federation), with multiple national and international gold medals in Kata and Kumite. Strong body, strong mind, strong character.

REFLECTION

Water: A Sign of Creation and Surrender

Sharmin Akther · Section Head, Primary and Lower Secondary



> ***"And We created from water every living thing. Will they not then believe?"***
>
> — SURAH AL-ANBIYA (21:30)

Just read this verse and look at the photograph. What do you see? And more importantly, what do you feel is the connection between the two—or perhaps, the connection between this image and the Qur'an?
In Islam, water is far more than a biological necessity. It is a sign of Allah's mercy, a symbol of life, purification, and renewal. The Qur'an reminds us repeatedly of the significance of water and its role in creation. Perhaps one of the most beautiful
examples of this significance is found in something we perform every single day: wudu.

I came across this extraordinary work of photography during a visit to the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London, in August 2023. It was one of those wonderful, unplanned days when you simply decide to visit a place and end up discovering something unforgettable.

I was there with my three children, which, as any parent can imagine, made it rather difficult to stop and concentrate on every artwork. An exhibition was taking place that day, and if I remember correctly, the artist was Aya Mohamed. The central focus of the exhibition was water, and her work immediately caught my attention.

The photograph I am sharing here was captured on my mobile phone. For a long time, I have wanted to write about it. Perhaps I was waiting for the right words.
And now I think I understand why.

When I first looked at the photograph, I saw water and some movements of hands. But when I looked at it again through the lens of my faith, I saw something much deeper.

And Yes, I saw **Wudu.**

The steps showed in the photograph reminded me of the beautiful sequence of purification we perform before standing in prayer. We wash ourselves with water before we stand before our Creator. Five times a day, our most sacred moments begin with this simple yet profound act of purification.

How beautiful is that!

Water touches our hands, our mouths, our faces, our arms, our heads and our feet—and in doing so, it becomes part of our preparation to surrender ourselves before Allah in salah. Wudu is not merely about becoming physically clean. It is a transition. A pause between the world outside and the moment we stand before Allah. We leave behind, even if only for a few moments, the noise, worries and distractions of everyday life and prepare ourselves to pray.
That is why this photograph became so special to me.

What fascinated me most was not simply the beauty of the artwork, but the possibility that an artist could transform something as ordinary and essential as water into a visual meditation on purification and devotion.

And perhaps that is what great art does—it makes us look at something familiar and suddenly see it differently. For me, this photograph is no longer simply a beautiful piece of photography displayed in a museum in Greenwich. It has become a reminder of the Qur'anic verse: **"And We created from water every living thing."** It reminds me of Allah's mercy, of the gift of water, and of the beautiful way in which Islam teaches us to approach prayer—with cleanliness, humility and surrender.The more I look at it, the more I feel that the connection between water, wudu and the Qur'an is not something that needs a lengthy explanation.
Perhaps we only need to pause, look—and reflect.

This photograph remains one of my favourite photographs I have ever seen. And perhaps now you can understand why.
-Sharmin Akther: Section Head, Primary and Lower Secondary

CEREMONIES

Every great journey begins with a confident first step

KG Graduation & Achievement Awards Ceremony · 26 July 2026

The KG Graduation & Achievement Awards Ceremony 2026 celebrated the enthusiasm, growth and accomplishments of our youngest learners. From joyful smiles to proud achievements, the day reflected the dedication of our students, the encouragement of their families and the commitment of our educators.

Congratulations to every graduate and award recipient — may this milestone inspire a lifelong love for learning and excellence.













SESSION ENDING CELEBRATION 2025–26

A year of learning, growth, friendships and achievements came to a close on 11 July 2026 as the school community gathered to mark the end of the 2025–26 session with performances, reflections and dua.

MEET THE MANAGEMENT

On 19 April 2026, parents sat down with the school's management for a meaningful exchange on their children's progress, the curriculum, and the school's vision of success here and hereafter.

KG GRADUATION · MOMENTS









The ceremony opened with the recitation of the Noble Qur'an and closed with heartfelt dua — a reminder that every achievement at Averroes Uttara begins and ends with the remembrance of Allah ﷻ.

GLIMPSES INTO THE CLASSROOMS









FROM THE MARGINS

MUSLIM WORLD

The Rub' al-Khali, or Empty Quarter, of Arabia is the largest continuous sand desert on Earth.

DID YOU KNOW? · SCIENCE

Your heart beats around 100,000 times every single day.

RIDDLE ME THIS

What has a ring but no finger?

WORD OF THE DAY

Perseverance (noun): steady effort to keep going despite difficulty.

GLIMPSES INTO THE CLASSROOMS

Beyond the lessons on the board, our classrooms hum with everyday learning — the quiet focus of a writing task, the buzz of a group discussion, and the small moments of discovery that shape each day at Averroes Uttara. These pages offer a closer look inside.













FROM THE MARGINS

MUSLIM WORLD

Arabic is written from right to left and is recited by well over a billion people in their daily prayers.

DID YOU KNOW? · SCIENCE

Honeybees tell each other where to find flowers by performing a little 'waggle dance'.

RIDDLE ME THIS

What has a tongue but cannot talk?

WORD OF THE DAY

Diligence (noun): careful and steady effort in your work.

GLIMPSES INTO THE CLASSROOMS









FROM THE MARGINS

THE PROPHET ﷺ & HIS SAHABA · THE BLESSED TEN

The Sahaba were the companions who learned Islam directly from Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Ten of them received the glad tidings of Paradise in a single hadith — the *Ashara Mubashshara*, meaning the 'Blessed Ten': Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali, Talha, Zubayr, Abdur-Rahman ibn Awf, Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas, Sa'id ibn Zayd and Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Jarrah (may Allah be pleased with them all).

Abu Bakr as-Siddiq (RA) was the first adult man to accept Islam and the Prophet's ﷺ dearest friend. He stood beside him in the cave during the Hijrah, spent his wealth to free enslaved believers, and became the first Caliph. The Prophet ﷺ loved him for his truthfulness and unshakable faith — he was called *as-Siddiq*, 'the one who always believed'.

RIDDLE ME THIS

What goes up but never comes down?

WORD OF THE DAY

Loyalty (noun): staying faithful and true to someone or something.

SCHOOL LIFE · FIELD TRIPS

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At Averroes Uttara, learning goes beyond the four walls of the classroom. Through field trips, nature exploration, and real-world experiences, students discover new ideas by seeing, observing, and experiencing them firsthand. These opportunities make learning more meaningful, enjoyable, and connected to everyday life. They also inspire curiosity, creativity, and a deeper understanding of the world around them.













THE QUR'AN JOURNEY

A Beautiful Beginning on the Journey of Al Qur'an

Our KG students completed Noorani Qaida and proudly took their first Sabaq of the Noble Qur'an.

Our KG students completed Noorani Qaida and proudly took their first Sabaq of the Noble Quran, marking an important milestone in their path towards learning, reciting, understanding, and memorising the words of Allah ﷻ.

Completing the Qaidah and taking the Qur'an is an extraordinary achievement for children this young — it is the true starting point of both their Hifz journey and their lifelong Qur'an journey.

May Allah bless them with knowledge, wisdom, sincerity, and a lifelong connection with the Quran.











HONOURED GUESTS · Huffazul Quran Foundation Chairman **Hafez Qari Ustaz Abdul Haq Saheb** and Uttara Central Jame Masjid Khatib, Islamic Scholar **Rafiqul Islam Madani**, were present at the event to inspire the students for their Qur'an journey. Their presence and dua added a special blessing to the ceremony, encouraging the young beginners as they take their first steps as students of the Book of Allah.

TARBIYAH · BUILDING CHARACTER

Nurturing character, not just results

Tarbiyah runs through everything at Averroes Uttara — the school's promise of two successes, here and hereafter. Across the term our students prayed in congregation, sat in adab and akhlaq circles, explored the Seerah of the Prophet ﷺ and the rites of Hajj, and visited the masjid — learning that good character is worship made visible.













BIOGRAPHY

Lives that shaped our world

THE FATHER OF MODERN SURGERY

Al-Zahrawi is known as the Father of Modern Surgery. He was a medieval surgeon who shaped our world. A brilliant Arab Muslim physician and surgeon from Islamic Spain (Al-Andalus), he wrote At-Tasrif, a massive medical encyclopedia filled with detailed illustrations and guides. He also invented surgical tools such as surgical hooks, forceps, and catgut sutures for internal wounds. His books were used to teach medical students in Europe for hundreds of years.

From 10th-century Cordoba to modern operating rooms, Al-Zahrawi's genius lives on. As the pioneer of surgery, his innovative spirit reminds us that the tools we rely on today were forged by the brilliant minds of our past.

— Fariza Zartaz Nawar · Class 6

IBN RUSHD

Imagine being a top judge, a skilled doctor, an astronomer, and a brilliant philosopher all in one lifetime! That was Ibn Rushd, a famous 12th-century scholar from Islamic Spain who was known in the West as "Averroes."

During that time, people thought science and religion were two opposites that could never agree. However, he argued and proved them wrong. He insisted that asking questions to study nature and learning about the Earth actually brings you closer to God's creation. He wrote world-famous books on medical science and philosophy that later inspired the European Renaissance.

Ibn Rushd showed the world that asking big questions and studying the sky and nature is one of the most powerful things a human can do. He used to question things himself and discover the answers through study. He was a deeply curious person who wanted to understand the world.

To this day, modern scientific techniques heavily rely on logic, law, philosophy, and many other fields championed by Ibn Rushd. He truly helped us understand our environment.

— Safaa Hafiz Khan · Class 6

LEADERSHIP OF OSMAN GAZI

Osman Gazi was born in 1258 AD. He was the son of Ertuğrul Gazi and the founder of the Ottoman Empire, initially established as a beylik. While it was a small Turkoman principality during Osman's lifetime, his beylik turned into a vast empire in the centuries following his death.

After researching many historical sources, very little factual information about Osman has survived; not a single written source survives from his reign. According to later Ottoman tradition, almost nothing is known for certain about Osman's early activities, except that he controlled the region around the town of Söğüt.

The first datable event in Osman's life is the Battle of Bapheus in 1301 or 1302, in which he defeated a Byzantine force sent to encounter him. This great man died at the age of 70 in 1324.

— Tasin · Class 8

FROM THE SUNNAH

The Prophet ﷺ said: "The best of you are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it."

— Sahih al-Bukhari

THE BLESSED TEN

Among the *Ashara Mubashshara* — the ten companions given the glad tidings of Paradise — was **Umar ibn al-Khattab (RA)**, the second Caliph. Once a fierce opponent of Islam, he became one of its greatest defenders; the Prophet ﷺ said that if there were to be a prophet after him, it would be Umar. Renowned for his justice, he built the systems that governed a fast-growing Muslim state and was called *al-Faruq*, 'the one who distinguishes right from wrong'.

FROM THE MARGINS

FROM THE SUNNAH

The Prophet ﷺ said: "Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim."

— Sunan Ibn Majah

MUSLIM WORLD

Cairo's Al-Azhar, founded over a thousand years ago, is one of the oldest universities still teaching students today.

RIDDLE ME THIS

What building has the most stories?

HISTORY CORNER

Journeys through the past

THE ISLAMIC GOLDEN AGE

The Islamic Golden Age was a period when science, learning, art, and culture flourished in the Muslim world. It began around the 8th century and continued for several hundred years. During this era, cities such as Baghdad, Cairo, and Cordoba became vital centers of knowledge.

Muslim rulers supported scholars and built schools, libraries, hospitals, and learning centers. One famous institution was the House of Wisdom in Baghdad. Scholars there studied many subjects, including mathematics, medicine, astronomy, geography, and philosophy. They also translated important books from Greek, Persian, and Indian languages into Arabic.

Many great thinkers made groundbreaking discoveries. Al-Khwarizmi helped develop algebra, Ibn Sina wrote famous medical texts, and Ibn al-Haytham studied light and vision. Muslim scholars also improved maps, navigational instruments, and calculation techniques.

The Islamic Golden Age was important because knowledge was shared among people of different cultures and religions. Later, many of these ideas reached Europe, contributing to the growth of modern science and education. This period demonstrates how learning, curiosity, and cooperation can help a civilization grow and leave a lasting contribution to the world.

— Mahmuda Akter Farhana · Class 6

GOLDEN AGE OF ISLAM

In the "Golden Age of Islam," many Muslim scientists invented and discovered theories. There were massive developments in topics such as astronomy, medicine, optics, science, and mathematics.

The Golden Age of Islam gave birth to many scientists like Musa al-Khwarizmi, who invented algebra. He wrote the book called The Compendious Book on Calculation by Completion and Balancing, which established algebra as independent from arithmetic and geometry.

There were scientists who specialized in medicine, like Ibn Sina. He wrote the medical encyclopedia called "The Canon" and described how epidemics spread. For astronomy, an observatory was established at Maragheh in Azerbaijan. As a result, Islamic civilization was the most productive civilization among all the others, and we will rise again in future in shaa Allah.

— Saifan Bin Ahmad · Class 6

36TH JULY

Some days are written in the calendar, while some are written in history. 36th July is one of those days remembered in history. Bangladesh faced a bloody July in 2024. My people were killed during the July protests. It was a battle led by Bangladeshi students.

And the students proved that they were fighting for their nation. Their hard work, unity, and hope helped them win the protest. In that protest, many mothers lost their children. That was a battle for justice, justice for the people of Bangladesh.

In that July, we realized that we can do anything if we work with unity, hard work, and a good aim. The events of July taught us many things about what Bangladeshi people can do.

— Muhammad Ateeb Rahman · Class 7

DID YOU KNOW?

Baghdad's House of Wisdom (Bayt al-Hikma) drew scholars of every background to translate and expand the knowledge of the ancient world — a library and academy at the heart of the Golden Age.

FROM THE MARGINS

MUSLIM WORLD

Timbuktu, in Mali, was a great centre of Islamic learning whose libraries once held tens of thousands of handwritten manuscripts.

FROM THE QUR'AN

"So remember Me; I will remember you."

— Surah Al-Baqarah (2:152)

HISTORY · FEATURE

The rise and fall of Moorish Spain

Al-Andalus: The Golden Age of Moorish Spain

Anisa Tabassum Tani · Class 9

The history of Al-Andalus is one of conquest, cultural achievement, and conflict. Beginning with the Muslim conquest of Iberia in 711, Al-Andalus developed into a powerful civilization before gradually losing territory to the Christian kingdoms and finally falling in 1492.

As Al-Andalus became even stronger, the city of Córdoba grew to be the capital of a powerful and influential civilization. It was in the year 756 when Abd al-Rahman I founded the Emirate of Córdoba, bringing greater stability to the region. Almost two centuries later, Abd al-Rahman III declared himself Caliph in 929 and established the powerful Córdoba Caliphate.

Córdoba, the capital of the new Caliphate, was a city like no other in the medieval world. Its architecture, bustling markets, great libraries, and centers of study made it a beacon of knowledge and culture for scholars from across the medieval world.

However, the prosperity of Al-Andalus could not last forever. After the death of the powerful military leader Almanzor in 1002, political instability began to spread throughout the region. Finally, in 1031, the Caliphate of Córdoba collapsed, and the regions were divided into various Taifa kingdoms, some of which became very wealthy and culturally rich. But although Muslim-controlled regions remained, over time their weakness allowed the Christian kingdoms in the north to reconquer the lost territories.

The more the Taifa kingdoms fragmented, the stronger the Christian forces became. In 1085, Toledo was taken by Alfonso VI, marking a major turning point in the Reconquista. The Almoravids, from North Africa, defeated Alfonso VI at the Battle of Sagrajas in 1086 and took over much of Al-Andalus. However, their rule was superseded by the Almohads in 1147, who briefly revived Islamic power but were shattered at the Battle of Las Navas de Tolosa in 1212. This victory allowed the Christian kingdoms to expand rapidly and permanently weakened Muslim power in Iberia.

By the 13th century, Muslim rule in Iberia had been reduced to a small part of the peninsula. In 1236, Córdoba—once the glorious heart of Al-Andalus—fell to Christian forces. Just two years later, the Nasrid Kingdom of Granada emerged as the last major Muslim state in Iberia. For more than 250 years, Granada survived through diplomacy, trade, and careful alliances.

However, its independence eventually came to an end. In 1492, Boabdil surrendered Granada to Ferdinand and Isabella, marking the end of almost 800 years of Muslim political rule in Iberia and bringing the remarkable story of Al-Andalus to a close.

MUSLIM WORLD

The Alhambra in Granada, Spain, is one of the best-preserved works of Islamic architecture in the world — a lasting echo of Al-Andalus.

WORDS TO GROW BY

"There is no wealth like knowledge, and no poverty like ignorance."

— attributed to Ali ibn Abi Talib (RA)

FROM THE MARGINS

MUSLIM WORLD

The Great Mosque of Córdoba dazzled visitors with its forest of red-and-white arches — they still stand today.

DID YOU KNOW?

The pointed arch and the astrolabe both reached medieval Europe through Al-Andalus.

WORDS TO GROW BY

"Acquire knowledge, and learn tranquillity and dignity."

— attributed to Umar ibn al-Khattab (RA)

RIDDLE ME THIS

What can travel all around the world while staying in one corner?

NOAKHALI · SCIENCE SPARKS

Culture, and curiosity about how things work

CULTURE IN NOAKHALI

Noakhali is one of the 64 districts of Bangladesh, located in the Chattogram division. The historical name of Noakhali was "Bhulua." Noakhali was established in 1821 and officially named "Noakhali" in 1868. Maijdee is the headquarters of Noakhali.

Noakhali district consists of 9 Upazilas, 8 municipalities, 91 unions and 967 villages. "Hatiya" Upazila is the largest, while "Chatkhil" Upazila is the smallest. "Bengali" is the official language, but the main dialect spoken here is called "Noakhailla."

Bengali literature in Noakhali dates back several centuries, with the "Puthi" tradition being prominent. In the 20th century, Mukarrim Billah Chowdhury wrote Noakhalir Itihas, an important historical work. Noakhali's architecture is marked by Sultanate-era mosques with domes and terracotta decoration — notably the Bajra Mosque and Ramadan Mia Mosque. Nijhum Dwip is a beautiful natural spot which attracts migratory birds and visitors every winter.

The region is also known for its rich culinary traditions, including fermented hilsa and local fish dishes, spicy prawns, and rice cakes such as khola pitha and mera pitha. Communal feasts bring villagers together during Ramadan to share traditional meals.

— Fairuz · Class 8

THE MYSTERY OF THE DEEP OCEAN

While humans spend millions of dollars researching new planets, it is surprising how much is left undiscovered beneath the waters of Earth. The deepest parts of the ocean (the hadal zone) have long been a mystery, home to strange species that thrive in utter darkness and crushing pressure.

Crushing pressure. At the deepest point of the Mariana Trench, the water pressure is strong enough to crush a submarine — equivalent to an elephant standing on your thumb!

Alien biology. Sunlight is too weak for photosynthesis, but strange bacteria thrive by using chemical energy from hydrothermal vents to produce sugars.

Unexplored terrain. Scientists believe we have explored only 25% of the ocean floor, meaning there are millions of undiscovered species.

Bioluminescence. Some creatures produce their own light through a luciferin–luciferase system to lure prey and communicate in the dark.

Glass skeletons & gigantism. Fragile skeletons are reinforced with silica, such as the glass sponge; and some species grow far larger than their surface cousins, like the giant squid (Architeuthis dux).

— Subaita Ibnaht · Class 6

DID YOU KNOW?

We have mapped more of the surface of the Moon and Mars than we have of our own ocean floor.

RIDDLE ME THIS

The more of me you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?

FROM THE MARGINS

DID YOU KNOW? · SCIENCE

A single bolt of lightning is about five times hotter than the surface of the Sun.

DID YOU KNOW? · SCIENCE

An octopus has three hearts and blue blood.

WORD OF THE DAY

Resilience (noun): the ability to recover quickly from difficulty. "Her resilience helped her pass after two failed tries."

CREATIVE STORIES

Fiction from our young writers

THE DREAM

"Liza!" Andry shouts. He is running through a muddy path. After a while, he sees a mansion. The darkness creates a feeling of fear. Andry knocks on the main door. The door makes a creaking sound and opens.

Andry enters and sees a painting of a lady. Suddenly, the sound of Liza's voice comes from upstairs. He goes upstairs and opens the door to room number 5. He enters and sees Liza sitting on a bed. He shouts, "Liza! Liza!"

The girl rotates her head 180°. It is not Liza — it is the lady from the painting! Her teeth are like spikes, and her eyes are filled with darkness. Andry shouts and starts running. Before he can exit, the door slams closed. The lady starts laughing like a devil. "Andry... Andry..."

Andry opens his eyes and sees Liza. He realizes it was all just a dream and starts laughing.

— Zayanur Rahman · Class 8

TITANS AROUND THE WORLD

One day, a child named Eren was walking down the road with his friend Mikasa. He saw a boy being bullied by some kids. Eren ran to save the boy, but he could not defeat them on his own. Mikasa stepped in to help him. Together, they fought back and saved the boy, whose name was Armin. From that day on, the three became good friends.

Eren's father was a doctor. Mikasa had no home or parents of her own; robbers had attacked her house and killed her family, but Eren's family had saved her. One day, Eren's father went down to the underground basement and later gave Eren a key to a lock, offering no explanation.

Beyond their city lived giant human-like creatures known as Titans, so massive they could swallow a person in a single bite. To protect humanity, the 45th king had built walls 50 meters high. While the children were playing, a Titan even taller than the wall appeared, kicked the wall and shattered it. Smaller Titans flooded in. Soon, the Titans ruled the world — and no humans were left alive, except for one.

— Abdullah al Noman · Class 6

FNO6XX-VIRUS

It was a dank and cloudy day, and windy too. I was in my class studying chemistry, with everything going over my head as usual. I was bored, so I asked to go to the washroom — my real intention was to kill some time.

As I walked through the corridor, a body fell in front of me with a splatter! I gasped and almost vomited as drops of blood soaked into my white shirt. I ran, slipped, and fell face-forward into a crimson pool of blood. The metallic smell filled my lungs.

I stood there, soaked in someone else's blood, while the dismembered body lay a few feet away. I forced myself to run as a putrid smell emanated from it. As I neared the main gate, I heard wailing, screams, and sirens. My peaceful world had vanished in a matter of a minute. Then I woke up and realized it was all a nightmare.

— Abdullah Ibn Zubayer · Class 8

RIDDLE ME THIS

What has to be broken before you can use it?

FROM THE MARGINS

RIDDLE ME THIS

What has many teeth but cannot bite?

WORD OF THE DAY

Imagination (noun): the power to form pictures and new ideas in the mind.

CREATIVE STORIES

Fiction from our young writers

JULIAN AND THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN

At night, Julian woke up and saw the Headless Horseman. Terrified, he spoke up anyway. "Who are you?" asked Julian. He replied, "I was a Muslim, but my sins were many, worsened by smoking, drinking, and much more."

Astonished, Julian asked, "What if I make Dua for you?" The Headless Horseman replied, "I guess it will work. But how? I am very bad." Julian asked his name. "Johnson David," he replied.

Then Julian started praying. Day by day, Johnson improved. One day he came and thanked Julian. In the end, they both became friends and lived happily. Moral: Bad behavior results in a bad fate, but you can be forgiven if you have good friends.

— Mohammad Ayman Rahaman · Class 7

THE MAP AND THE BOY

One day, a boy named Leo was searching through his grandma's drawer. Suddenly, he found an old map. "Grandma? What is this map for?" Grandma replied, "This is a map of a jungle. Its nickname is the Star Jungle. In this jungle there is an oak tree that has an entrance. It is very wonderful in there." "Can I go there?" "Yes, I think you are old enough!"

That night he got ready. The next morning he set off with his cat, Mimi, and a small backpack. Leo followed the map and stopped at a river, where there was a little boat. After some time, they arrived at the Star Jungle.

He searched for the oak tree and finally found it — full of green leaves. On the ground was a hidden door covered with leaves. Inside were golden and silver trees shining brightly, with a table and chairs. Leo and Mimi sat a while before leaving. From that day on, he went to the jungle many times.

— Khadija Osman · Class 5

SAM'S JOURNEY BEYOND THE STARS

This story is about a young, curious boy named Sam who dreams of becoming an astronaut. He loves watching the stars and imagining what it would be like to travel through space. Although he doesn't have a real rocket, he uses cardboard boxes to build one and lets his imagination take him to the Moon and other planets.

Some of Sam's friends laugh at his dream, but he doesn't lose hope. Instead, he reads books about space and astronauts, learning more every day.

— Safwan Ibn Jobayer · Class 3

RIDDLE ME THIS

I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have no body, but I come alive with the wind. What am I?

WORDS TO GROW BY

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

— Nelson Mandela

FROM THE MARGINS

FROM THE QUR'AN

"Do not lose hope, nor be sad."

— Surah Aal-e-Imran (3:139)

RIDDLE ME THIS

The more you remove from me, the bigger I get. What am I?

DID YOU KNOW? · SCIENCE

A day on Venus is longer than a whole year on Venus.

CREATIVE STORIES · POEM

Fiction and verse from our young writers

THE LAST RIDE

One night, a girl named Lushi missed her train. The clock read 10:00 PM as she waited alone. There was not a single person around, and it was very dark across the station.

Suddenly she heard a train approaching. She boarded and sat in the corner. The passengers looked strange, but she ignored them. A strange man boarded the moving train and Lushi felt uneasy. Her mom called her phone. Glancing at the reflection in the window, she realized in horror that the passengers were not human — they were evil spirits!

Before she could react, they approached her with knives. She screamed, causing them to lose concentration for a second. Taking the moment, Lushi sprinted to the door and jumped off the moving train! When she looked back, the train had vanished. The next day, the news reported that a train had been in a terrible accident!

— Tabia Binte Humayun · Class 5

THE IMPORTANCE OF NEVER GIVING UP

Once, a boy named Ibn Azad attended a madrasah called Darussunnah, dreaming of becoming a great scholar. After years of failure, he gave up, set off for home, and sheltered in a cave for the night.

While trying to sleep, he noticed water dripping onto a boulder. When he woke, he saw the droplets had carved a hole into the solid rock. He thought, "If a simple drop of water can wear away a boulder, why can't I learn?" Inspired, he returned to the madrasah, studied diligently for years, and eventually became a renowned scholar.

— Mohammad Shafaqat Ifran · Class 6

THE NECKLACE

A girl named Mathilda lived in Paris. She was sad because the Queen of France would come for a ceremony, and Mathilda wanted to attend as a VIP guest because she was very beautiful. But one VIP ticket cost 400 F, and they were very poor.

Her husband brought a ticket and a good dress. Still sad without jewellery, she borrowed an expensive necklace from a friend and went to the ceremony — but she lost it. She searched everywhere in vain, then bought a replacement for 30,000 F, promising to pay later.

It took her ten years to pay the cost. After ten years, she met her friend, who told her the original necklace had not been real. THE END.

— Abdullah Al Fatin · Class 6

THINGS I LOVE — A POEM

I love the smell of rainy days,
And jumping into muddy lakes.
I love the games my puppy plays,
And eating chocolate birthday cakes.

I love my yellow, shiny bike;
It zooms so fast down to the park.
I love the Friday walks I take,
Before the sky gets scary dark.

I love the taste of buttery corn,
And drawing rockets on the wall.
I love when cartoons start at morn,
And being happy most of all.

— Maarifa Sharker Saiyara

FROM THE QUR'AN

"So, surely with hardship comes ease."

— Surah Ash-Sharh (94:5)

FROM THE MARGINS

WORDS TO GROW BY

"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet."

— attributed to Aristotle

DID YOU KNOW? · SCIENCE

Sharks are older than trees — they have swum the oceans for over 400 million years.

FROM THE QUR'AN

"And those who strive for Us — We will surely guide them to Our ways."

— Surah Al-Ankabut (29:69)

TRAVEL

Places we have been

A Trip to Cox's Bazar

Arham Bin Ali · Class 6

In April 2024, my father took us to Cox's Bazar. We woke up at 5:00 am, freshened up and got ready. My mother prepared some snacks for the journey. When everyone was ready, my father booked a car and we went to Dhaka Bimanbandar Railway Station. When our train arrived, we got on and started our main journey.

The train kept moving towards Chattogram Railway Station. When it reached there, it took a 20-minute break for engine turning. During that break, we had lunch, went to the washroom and came back to our seats. The train moved on towards its destination, Cox's Bazar.

We reached Cox's Bazar at 3:20 pm. We took a tomtom to our hotel, Hotel Sea Palace Limited, rested a while, and then went to the beach. We enjoyed our time there and returned after sunset. At night we went to a restaurant named Handi for dinner, then came back and slept.

The next morning, we had breakfast and went to the beach, then had a great time in the swimming pool before lunch. In the afternoon my mother and cousin went shopping while the rest of us relaxed. At night we returned to Handi for dinner.

On another day, my father, brothers and I went to a fish aquarium named Radiant Fish World, while my mother and cousin visited a market. Every evening we came back to the hotel tired but happy, and every night we shared dinner together.

On our final morning, after breakfast and one last swim, we got ready, took a tomtom and went to Cox's Bazar Railway Station. The train was waiting on the platform. We boarded, and after some time it started moving towards Dhaka — and our trip ended, leaving us sad to go.

MUSLIM WORLD

The traveller Ibn Battuta spent about 30 years journeying roughly 120,000 km — from Morocco to China — far more of the known world than Marco Polo ever saw.

RIDDLE ME THIS

What has keys but opens no locks, space but no room, and lets you enter but not go in?

FROM THE QUR'AN

"And it is He who sends down rain from the sky... and makes the earth come alive."

— meaning of Surah Al-Hajj (22:63)

FROM THE MARGINS

MUSLIM WORLD

Samarkand and Bukhara, on the Silk Road, were dazzling centres of science, trade and blue-tiled architecture.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Sahara Desert can get cold enough to snow — it has happened more than once.

WORD OF THE DAY

Serendipity (noun): finding something good without looking for it.

RIDDLE ME THIS

What has a bed but never sleeps, and runs but never walks?

ARTICLES & PERSPECTIVES

Essays, opinions and reflections

ABOUT ART

What is the world without art? It is just a rock. Everything that exists is art — even Allah's precious creations. Being an artist is a blessing that not everyone acquires; it is the eternal language of the human soul.

In my own life, I have had this skill since I was a child of six. Drawing used to bring me happiness and pride, and it still does today. My artistic genes come from both my mother and my father, who were quite talented in art back in their day.

Art is often described as silent poetry, painted to convey feelings, hidden secrets, and emotions. Applying colour theory and finding the right matches can be challenging. Ultimately, art transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary.

In Islam, drawing humans or other living beings created by Allah is considered impermissible. Instead, drawing man-made structures — buildings, objects, or anything that does not involve living beings — is suitable and permissible.

— Jaiyana Khan · Class 8

A NIGHT IN THE FOREST

Last winter, five of my friends and I went on a jungle trip. We were excited because it was our first adventure. We carried our bags, tents, flashlights, and some packet food. After walking a long time, we found a beautiful place near a river and set up camp. We spent the evening talking, playing games, and enjoying the cool breeze.

Around midnight, we heard strange noises from the bushes. We came out with our flashlights and suddenly saw a large black bear! We quickly climbed onto a big rock. The bear found our food bags and started eating the snacks. We stayed quiet until it slowly walked back into the jungle. The next morning we returned home safely — we lost our snacks, but gained an unforgettable adventure.

— Omar Rafan · Class 7

THE LOST PUPPY

I was going home after school when I heard a soft sound: "Woof! Woof!" Behind the tree there was a little puppy. He had a name tag that said Max.

I went to a nearby store and asked if anybody knew his owner. A worried man came by and shouted, "Max!" The puppy jumped into its owner's arms. The man thanked me and walked away. I went home feeling happy that I had helped someone.

— Rifaaiz Hossain Tafheem · Class 4

FROM THE SUNNAH

The Prophet ﷺ said: "Whoever does not thank people has not thanked Allah."

— Sunan Abi Dawud

RIDDLE ME THIS

What gets wetter the more it dries?

FROM THE MARGINS

FROM THE SUNNAH

The Prophet ﷺ said: "None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself."

— Bukhari & Muslim

WORDS TO GROW BY

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

— attributed to Benjamin Franklin

RIDDLE ME THIS

What has a thumb and four fingers but is not alive?

ARTICLES & PERSPECTIVES

Essays, opinions and reflections

A SURPRISING DAY OF MY LIFE

It was a cold, foggy winter morning. My mother handed me a list and said, "Go to the grocery store and bring back what I've written down." I left home and walked along the misty road, feeling calm and confident that I was alone. I gathered the groceries, paid the bill, and set off home.

After a few minutes, I noticed someone following me. I suspected a pickpocket or thief. To confirm, I turned down a different road, but the man stayed right behind me. I was scared. I called my mom, who urged, "Come back home as fast as you can!"

I quickened my pace, but he kept following. I turned onto a wrong road so he wouldn't learn where I lived, but I became exhausted and slowed down. The man caught up, rushed towards me and grabbed me. I was so terrified I thought it was the last day of my life!

Then the unexpected happened. The man I assumed was a thief turned out to be a salesman. He pulled an item from his bag and asked, "Would you like to buy one?" Breathing a huge sigh of relief, I gasped, "Oh man! You scared me so badly, my soul almost left my body!"

— Md Rubayet Mahadi · Class 8

THE JOY OF HELPING OTHERS

Helping others is one of the best things we can do in life. It makes us happy, and even a small act of kindness can make a big difference.

There are many ways to help. We can give food and clothes to the poor, and assist the elderly, the sick, and children when they need us. We can help friends with their studies, and sometimes a simple, kind smile can make someone feel better.

Helping others teaches us love, kindness, and care. Helping our family is also an important part of kindness. In conclusion, helping others brings immense joy, makes us feel fulfilled, and creates a more peaceful world.

— Samiha Jahra · Class 6

WORDS TO GROW BY

"Learning never exhausts the mind."

— Leonardo da Vinci

DID YOU KNOW?

Honey never truly spoils. Sealed jars found in ancient tombs were still edible thousands of years later.

FROM THE QUR'AN

"Indeed, Allah is with those who are patient."

— Surah Al-Baqarah (2:153)

FROM THE MARGINS

FROM THE SUNNAH

The Prophet ﷺ said: "Kindness is not found in anything but that it beautifies it."

— Sahih Muslim

DID YOU KNOW? · SCIENCE

The human nose can recognise about 50,000 different smells.

WORD OF THE DAY

Gratitude (noun): being thankful and ready to show appreciation.

FROM THE QUR'AN

"Whoever relies upon Allah — then He is sufficient for him."

— Surah At-Talaq (65:3)

ARTICLES & PERSPECTIVES

Essays, opinions and reflections

MY FAVOURITE SUBJECT

My favourite subject is Geography. I enjoy it because it helps us understand the Earth and the world around us. Geography teaches us about countries, continents, oceans, rivers, mountains, deserts, forests, and different landforms. I especially like learning about different countries and their cultures, people, languages, and lifestyles.

Geography is not only interesting but also creative. It is fascinating to discover how people live in different parts of the world. It also teaches us about weather, climate, and natural disasters like tsunamis, earthquakes, and tornadoes. I like looking at maps because finding countries is very exciting for me.

Geography is important for our future lives, so we should all study it. Most importantly, it is essential for scientists and many other professionals.

— Shifa Hoque · Class 6

DO YOU HAVE FREE WILL?

The terrifying possibility that your mind decides before "you" do.

Imagine you are about to raise your hand. You feel like you decided to do it — but what if your brain had already begun preparing the movement before you consciously became aware of making the decision?

Some experiments suggest that brain activity can occur shortly before people become consciously aware of choosing. If that is true, what exactly is the "you" making the decision? What if consciousness isn't the commander of your mind, but the narrator?

Maybe your brain makes countless decisions beneath your awareness while consciousness simply watches and calls those decisions "mine." So how much of your life have you actually chosen? Maybe the strongest prison is a mind that believes it is free.

— Hasnat Jubayer Araf · Class 7

ONOMATOPOEIA IN INFORMAL CHATS

Notice how we use lots of acronyms in daily life while texting — ASAP, idk, omg, lol, and countless more. But other than that, there's onomatopoeia. Way before acronyms were used frequently, onomatopoeia was here first. We have always used "hahaha," or "wah" to express surprise.

What I like most is that different countries laugh in text differently. In Spanish it's "jajaja," in Russian "xaxaxa," in Portuguese "kkkkk" or "rsrsrs." My personal favourite is random keyboard mashing — chaotic strings of letters that mimic a burst of laughter. It's very creative and adds whimsy to boring texts.

There's also "tsk" / "tch." I write both, for different purposes: "tsk" when someone tells me to do something and I don't mind it much, and "tch" when somebody annoys me.

— Abida · Class 8

GEOGRAPHY

Indonesia is home to more Muslims than any other country on Earth — and it is made up of over 17,000 islands.

FROM THE MARGINS

MUSLIM WORLD

Many stars still carry Arabic names given by Muslim astronomers — Betelgeuse, Aldebaran and Rigel among them.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bananas are berries — but strawberries, botanically, are not.

RIDDLE ME THIS

What has one eye but cannot see?

ARTICLES · FEATURE

A teacher's reflection on writing by hand

Write to be Bright

How using a pen instead of typing helped me improve my writing

Md Shihabun Sakib · Teacher

Writing helps me to relieve myself of my brain-busting thoughts. It has been one of my good habits since childhood, acquired by imitating my parents. My father used to do a lot of report writing — an official job, nothing creative. My mother kept a personal notebook for her private words, all in English.

Back then, my writing was mostly not creative. I was fond of making charts and tables, a fascination from my father. Only occasionally would I do some creative writing — poems or funny stories. But I took writing as a different form of art: not literary quality, but handwriting.

After writing a piece, I'd look back to appreciate how it looks — not how it sounds. I tried many styles during my school life, because good handwriting was a great point of attention among family and friends; someone with good handwriting was always deemed a very good student.

This makes me wonder — is handwriting really worth such serious concern? My own stand had been 'no'. I've advised parents to prioritise content — spelling, word choice, grammar, punctuation — over the beauty of handwriting. But recently I've hit upon a new reflection.

The new idea is that good handwriting could motivate one to write more, while 'ugly' handwriting could do the opposite. So parents' worry over handwriting is not too wrong, as long as they don't forget content quality.

It was only at university that I started to care about the quality of content in my writing, and I realized the huge struggle it involves. Writing with pen and paper takes patience and focus. Words come to mind in flashes but get lost as quickly while the hand works at its slower pace.

Here comes the boon of technology. In a word processor, a piece can be edited at any part; one can even insert a whole missed paragraph, and voice-typing saves time. I became a fan and did a lot of typing at university — assignments, theses, blogs, personal entries.

But I faced an irritating problem: I lost my precision, focus, and deliberation. While typing, I rattled words out, feeling cool about my speed, without deliberating on word choice — because I could simply edit later. But editing turned out to be much harder than I thought.

I gradually realized my digital dependency reduced my precision in the first draft, which cost me time in proofreading. So I started writing on paper again, and my writing quality greatly improved — it also sharpened my memory. A piece I put down on paper sounds smarter than one I type on a screen.

> **FROM THE QUR'AN**
>
> *"And say, 'My Lord, increase me in knowledge.'"*
>
> — Surah Ta-Ha (20:114)

RIDDLE ME THIS

I have a point but win no argument, a lead but follow no one, and I speak on paper without a sound. What am I?

FROM THE MARGINS

WORDS TO GROW BY

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

— attributed to Mahatma Gandhi

WORD OF THE DAY

Eloquent (adjective): fluent and persuasive in speaking or writing.

FROM THE SUNNAH

The Prophet ﷺ said: "The strong person is the one who controls himself when he is angry."

— Bukhari & Muslim

RIDDLE ME THIS

What must you give before you can keep it?

FAITH & REFLECTION

Values and belief

KINDNESS TO ANIMALS

Allah has created everything, including animals for human benefit — such as horses, donkeys, and others. Allah's Messenger (S.A.W.) told us not to harm animals. One day, a man was very thirsty. On his way to the river, he saw a dog eating mud because it too was thirsty, and the man brought water for the dog with his boots.

Animals have rights in Islam. Allah's Messenger (S.A.W.) forbade killing animals for sport, except for food. He said, "Whoever does not show mercy will not be shown mercy," and, "Have mercy towards those on the earth, and the One over the heavens will have mercy on you."

— Saifan Azam · Class 6

JUNIOR VOICES

Words from our youngest students · Class 1

I love to travel to Spain again. I want to travel with my family because it is a beautiful place. I like to eat there.
— Abu Bockor Zarif · Class 1 Aqua

Yes, I like my school. I go to school with my mom. I play with my friends and I love reading books. Teachers care for me.
— Ahmed Aiaan Bin Atique · Class 1 Aqua

I love my school because it's interesting. It's an international school, and I have friends to play and eat with. I love my teachers and vice principal. I want to come to school every day.
— Mahad Ur Rahman Ryan · Class 1 Coral

I went to Malaysia and saw the twin towers. We spent our Eid days there. We went to Thailand and to malls. Our hotel had a swimming pool — one big and one small.
— Usman Makki · Class 1 Coral

I loved football when I was a kid. I saw a lot of matches. I was good at football and I still am. I am a big fan of Spain.
— Mohammed Sadit · Class 1 Coral

I like to travel because we can go where we want. I went to Saudi Arabia for Umrah, where we can drink Zamzam water and I can see the clock tower. Alhamdulillah, I love to do Sunnah.
— Rabita Chowdhury · Class 1 Aster

School is fun. I play with my friends, and I read and write in school. All my teachers are so good. I like to read story books in the library.
— Rehnuma Mumtaz · Class 1 Cherry

DID YOU KNOW?

A honeybee visits up to a thousand flowers to make a single teaspoon of honey — and the Qur'an has a whole chapter named after the bee, An-Nahl.

RIDDLE ME THIS

What has a neck but no head, and two arms but no hands?

FROM THE MARGINS

FROM THE QUR'AN

"And He is with you wherever you are."

— Surah Al-Hadid (57:4)

FROM THE SUNNAH

The Prophet ﷺ said: "The best of people are those most beneficial to others."

— al-Mu'jam al-Awsat

RIDDLE ME THIS

What runs all around a garden, yet never moves at all?

SCHOOL NEWS · RECOGNITION

Averroes on the Cambridge Stage

Academic Adviser Farhan Alim addresses the Cambridge Schools Principals' Meet 2026.



Farhan Alim, Academic Adviser, speaking at the Cambridge Schools Principals' Meet 2026, Glenrich International School, Uttara.

Averroes International School Uttara's Academic Adviser, **Farhan Alim**, was invited to speak at the Cambridge Schools Principals' Meet 2026, hosted at Glenrich International School, Uttara.

Addressing an audience drawn from around **122 Cambridge schools** across Bangladesh — principals and directors alike — he delivered a talk on the changing landscape of English-medium education and the gap between an English-medium school and a truly English-rich environment.

The meet was attended by senior leaders of **Cambridge University Press & Assessment**, including Arun Rajamani and Cambridge Global Managing Director Rod Smith.

The gathering was also covered by *The Daily Star*.



"

It was really wonderful to see how Averroes International School Uttara is creating impact in the learners' life through globally recognised qualifications like Cambridge Curriculum and Cambridge English Qualifications. They not only teach the academic knowledge but also help the learners getting English Communication Skills which enable them to get ready for the world. I appreciate the school management, teachers for their dedication and thanks to the parents for choosing the right institution for their child. I wish the school leaders and the young learners all the success!

Mr Md Bodruddoza
Business Development Manager – English, Bangladesh
Cambridge University Press & Assessment, Bangladesh

EDUCATION & LEARNING

Maths Is Not a Race

Helping every child make sense of numbers — with a little patience, and a lot less fear. **A note for our parents and teachers.**

Ask a room full of adults how they feel about maths and you hear two very different stories. Some light up; many go quiet, or laugh and say, "I was never a maths person." That second reaction is the one we most want to change for our children — because no child is born disliking maths. Every child is born curious about how many, how much, more and less. Our real job is simply to keep that curiosity alive.

MATHS SHOULD MAKE SENSE — AND CAN BE JOYFUL

Maths is not a pile of rules to memorise. It is a way of seeing patterns in the world: sharing snacks fairly, counting steps, measuring rice, splitting a bill. Taught as something children do and see — real objects and drawings before symbols — it stops being frightening and becomes a puzzle to enjoy. This is the Concrete Pictorial Abstract idea: a child rst handles real things, then draws them, and only then works with bare symbols like 24 ÷ 3. By the time the symbols arrive, the meaning is already there.

WHY MEMORISING STEPS IS NOT ENOUGH

A child can memorise "borrow one, carry one" and still have no idea what is happening. Memorised steps collapse the moment a problem changes, because nothing was understood underneath — and the child often concludes that they are the problem. Understanding is what lasts: a child who genuinely knows that 7 is "3 and 4" can rebuild a forgotten fact in seconds.

BAR MODELLING: PICTURES THAT MAKE MATHS VISIBLE

One of the simplest and most powerful tools is the bar model — a quick drawing that shows the structure hidden inside a problem, so a child can see which calculation to do, and why. The worked example below builds one up, one step at a time.

WHY SO MANY CHILDREN FEEL STRESSED

Maths anxiety is real. It grows from being pushed to symbols before the idea is secure, being rushed, and being made to feel slow. An anxious mind works less well — worry uses up the very attention needed to think. We can replace "maths is where I fail" with a better lesson: "maths is where I think — and mistakes are how I learn."

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US IN BANGLADESH

This is not a distant problem. A 2025 UNICEF study found that 91% of Grade 5 students in Bangladesh were still at the "novice" level — unable to answer even half of the questions expected for their grade. Too often children are pushed through too many topics too quickly; when the foundation is shaky, everything built on top of it wobbles.

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FEWER THINGS, UNDERSTOOD DEEPLY

The answer is not more pressure — it is less content, taught more deeply. A child who fully understands counting, place value, number bonds, addition and subtraction has a foundation that will carry them for years. Revisit the same ideas in different, playful ways until they become second nature.

WHAT TEACHERS CAN DO

- Begin every new idea with objects and pictures, not symbols.
- Ask "why?" and "how do you know?" — not just "what's the answer?"
- Treat mistakes as useful thinking, never as failure.
- Make sure the basics are secure before moving on.
- Value understanding over speed.

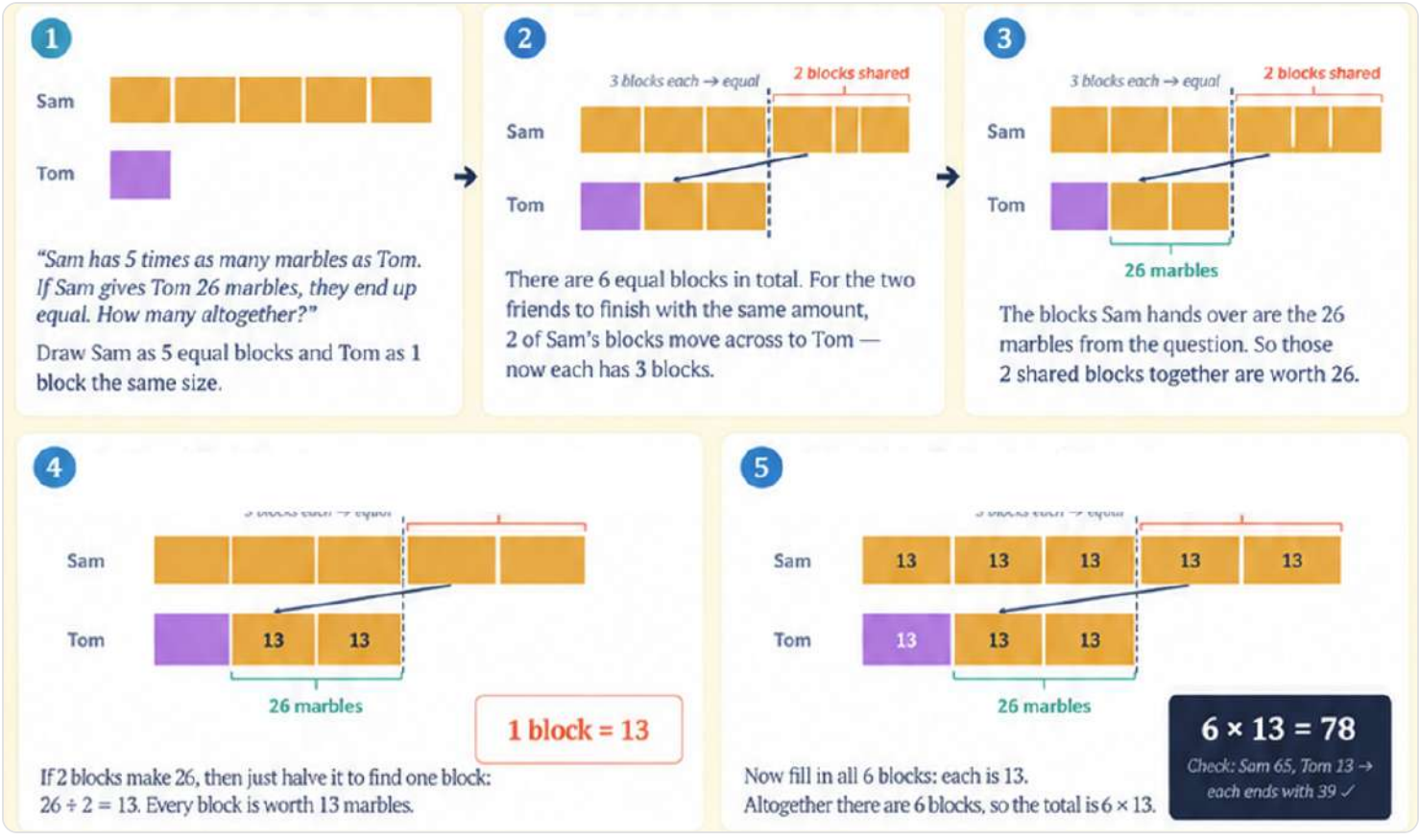
WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- Do maths together at home without stress — cooking, shopping, sharing, counting.
- Never say "I was bad at maths" in front of your child.
- Praise effort and thinking, not only right answers or speed.
- Allow a little struggle — being stuck is part of learning.
- Ask your child to teach you how they solved something.

EDUCATION IS NOT A RACE

A grade is a snapshot of a single day — not a measure of a child's worth, intelligence or future. Children bloom at different times. Give them the time, the patience and the joy that maths deserves, and the numbers will take care of themselves.

WORKED EXAMPLE · THE BAR MODEL



FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

A personal reflection

My Dream

Abdul Bashir · Acting Principal, Averroes Uttara

It has been an old dream that one day I shall be part of a scientific project. The dream was so close to my heart that I believed that one day I shall be part of a scientific discovery or invention.



It is another matter that after so many years, I could not still make any discovery or invention. That did not deter me from cherishing that dream. The dream to become a scientist or explorer remained deep in my heart.

I had very peculiar and diverse patterns of dreams — day dreams mostly. When I was in class three, I dreamt of winning the football World Cup but the dream was hidden when I saw that my country does not rank among the first 100 countries of FIFA. My dream propagated to my students who carry the mantle of secret dream.

When I was in class eight, I dreamt of flying a space ship (I called it "rocket") which acts as a time-machine. I was confident that in a few years, people will be flying personal rockets as they fly helicopters or balloons or boats. As I did badly in maths in class XII, I was denied Physics in BSc and was offered biology and chemistry. Then I modified my dream. Instead of solving the problems of Relativity (which remained undone after Einstein died in 1955), I thought of experimenting with plants in the rocket — in space; and in other planets.

As they say, dreams never die. I had to join job after my graduation. Though I could not research on Time or Relativity or Space, I accepted every opportunity of research in my professional career. When all my classmates and office colleagues thought that field research was only part of our jobs, I pursued research works seriously and sincerely. Allah gave me the opportunity to work in diverse fields — social psychology, education, counseling, media. I have utilized all those opportunities sincerely — with passion.

Life is like a river. I dreamt of research in Physics but life took me to social science from biology. I thought my place is in laboratory but in reality, society and people became my field of study — laboratory. As they say — Nature is the best laboratory.

All these years of studies with scholars and students have taught me that dreams of discovery or invention should not only be for recognition or fame. Rather, the major purpose of studies (research) should be to know about the Creator (Allah) and solve social problems. Knowledge or science should be able to answer basic questions of life and solve the major problems of the society.

Nowadays, my passion for science and discovery has taken the shape of team-building for my students to choose and pursue a single project in school life that would lead them to a career. I help them choose careers or topics that they love. I sincerely believe their projects will be successful and will influence the way of life in our country.

Currently, my priority projects are the following:

a. How to make food organically (Organic Farming)

b. Saving the wetlands of North Dhaka, especially Diyabari area.

c. Solving the traffic problems of Dhaka City.

These are not merely projects for me. They are dreams connected with real life and real people.

My childhood dream of football taught me that dreams may change with time. When I think of Palestine, I think of children whose simple dreams are to study, play and live peacefully.

Life is like a river. It does not always follow the course we imagine, but continues towards its destination. My dream took me from Physics and space to biology, social psychology, education, counselling and media.

Perhaps dreams do not die. They only change their course.

Today, my dream is to help my students discover, innovate and serve society. If they succeed, their success will be my dream fulfilled.

That is **MY DREAM**.

Abdul Bashir
Acting Principal · 30 August 2026, Dhaka

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