

Technology at a Crossroads: Navigating Opportunities, Risks, and the Future

Md Hasanur Rahman Tanzir – Technology has evolved far beyond a standalone industry—it is now woven into every aspect of modern life, from economic growth and education to public administration and global communication. The accelerated expansion of artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing, fintech solutions, and cybersecurity is reshaping the world at a remarkable speed. Bangladesh, driven by the digital aptitude and creativity of its youth, is actively embracing this transformation. Yet with these advancements come complex challenges and critical responsibilities.

Digital Growth Amid Talent and Security Gaps

Although digital services continue to expand across both government and private sectors, Bangladesh faces a pronounced shortage of skilled technical professionals. Cybersecurity infrastructure remains insufficient, leaving the country increasingly vulnerable to cyber threats. Many institutions still lack strong data protection protocols, causing lingering concerns about digital trust, safety, and reliability.

AI's Dual Impact on Productivity and the Workforce

Artificial intelligence is revolutionizing efficiency, accelerating decision-making, and improving service delivery. At the same time, it is dramatically altering the labor market. Without targeted skill development, a significant number of workers are at risk of displacement. Educational institutions must therefore adopt tech-integrated curricula and prioritize training programs that prepare people for an AI-driven future.

A Promising Startup Landscape with Structural Barriers

The startup ecosystem in Bangladesh is showing impressive growth, with entrepreneurs introducing innovative solutions across various sectors. However, challenges remain: access to long-term financing, meaningful tax incentives, and entry into global markets is still limited. For technology-based entrepreneurship to thrive, cohesive policy frameworks, increased risk capital, and stronger international collaborations are essential.

Data as a Strategic Resource: Rights, Ethics, and Protection

As data becomes the defining asset of the digital economy, fundamental issues surrounding data rights, usage, and governance demand urgent attention. Clear legislation, ethical standards, and robust privacy safeguards are no longer optional—they are indispensable. Protecting citizens' personal information must be recognized as a core responsibility of the state and all digital institutions.