Editorial Note

By the grace of Almighty Allah, we are pleased to present Volume I, Issue I, 2026 of the ISU Law Journal of International Standard University. This issue reflects our continued commitment to advancing legal scholarship and fostering critical engagement with the legal questions that shape society, governance, and justice in Bangladesh and beyond. This progress has been made possible through the unwavering support of the Board of Trustees of ISU and the dedicated efforts of our contributors, including authors and reviewers. The journal aims to provide a platform for rigorous and diverse research across national and international law, with particular attention to the legal realities of Bangladesh. We are committed to encouraging scholarship that responds to evolving legal challenges, from technological change and commercial regulation to human rights, security, and international order. The ISU Law Journal welcomes high-quality, original research papers and insightful reviews that contribute meaningfully to legal discourse and law reform. Our goal is to create an engaging, accessible, and impactful publication that reflects contemporary developments in legal thought and practice. We look forward to your continued contributions to knowledge-sharing and academic collaboration.

The current issue of the ISU Law Journal features a wide range of themes spanning constitutional law, international law, human rights, commercial regulation, and emerging areas of legal inquiry. In the first article, Ms. Mayesha Afiya Jarin and Ms. Preeti Kana Sikder examine the recognition of the right to a healthy environment as a human right, following the UN General Assembly resolution of 28 July 2022. Tracing the historical development of this right and its domestic implementation, the authors highlight how marginalized communities are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation without a proper legal framework. The article identifies the challenges that developing nations such as Bangladesh may face in recognizing and enforcing this right, particularly given resource constraints.

In the second article, Mr. Fahmin Chowdhury and his colleagues present a comparative analysis of Bangladesh's Real Estate Development and Management Act, 2010 and India's Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016. By comparing the legal frameworks, enforcement mechanisms, and consumer protection provisions of the two statutes, particularly Bangladesh's developer registration and project approval process against India's project-wise registration model, the authors identify the regulatory deficiencies of the Bangladeshi Act and recommend reforms to improve transparency, accountability, and consumer protection in the real estate sector.

The third paper, by Ms. Subrina Reza, explores the future of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) through the lens of the escalating Iran–Israel conflict, with particular emphasis on Iran's potential withdrawal from the treaty. Adopting a doctrinal legal method, the paper assesses whether the self-defence justification invoked by the United States and Israel satisfies the requirements of necessity and proportionality. It argues that continued military pressure may deepen Iran's sense of strategic vulnerability and weaken its commitment to the NPT, and that the treaty itself may reinforce power asymmetries between nuclear and non-nuclear weapon States. The author recommends equitable nuclear governance, consistent non-proliferation obligations, and meaningful diplomacy.

In the fourth article, Mr. Sikandar Ali Usman investigates why constitutionally guaranteed civil and political rights achieve markedly different levels of practical enforcement even where textual guarantees are similar. Through a doctrinal and functional-comparative study of Bangladesh, South Africa, Ireland, and Denmark, he finds that the justiciability of a right, rather than its mere textual inclusion, is the strongest predictor of effective enforcement. He further shows that a "soft monist" judicial practice within a formally dualist structure, as seen in Bangladesh, allows a degree of enforcement flexibility, and that institutional safeguards such as independent judiciaries, human rights commissions, and ombuds institutions matter as much as constitutional drafting itself.

The fifth article, by Mr. Rashed Ahmed, critically evaluates the effectiveness of Bangladesh's Copyright Act 2000 in addressing the challenges posed by AI-generated content, particularly in light of the growing use of AI technologies during the COVID-19 pandemic. Examining the historical context, key provisions, limitations, and enforcement mechanisms of the Act, the author assesses both the challenges and opportunities for copyright protection of AI-generated works and offers recommendations for reforming copyright law in Bangladesh to keep pace with technological advancement.

In the sixth article, Mr. Md Harun Or Rashid examines how the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) framework shapes the access of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to intelligence, given that the DHS can neither conduct electronic surveillance nor seek authorization from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. Through doctrinal and policy analysis, he finds that interagency dependence delays actionable intelligence, *ex parte* procedures weaken judicial scrutiny, and intelligence-sharing agreements have become outdated. He proposes expanded *amici curiae* participation, limited adversarial review, reformed judicial appointments, and a DHS-led One-stop Center for

Intelligence Gathering and Sharing, arguing that institutional redesign can strengthen both intelligence effectiveness and judicial oversight.

The seventh article, by Ms. Pinak Sarkar, evaluates the legal framework governing consumer protection in Bangladesh's rapidly expanding social commerce sector, which grew substantially during and after the pandemic. The study reveals that existing laws are inadequate to address threats such as cyber fraud, counterfeit products, and violations of consumer data privacy. Drawing on a comparative analysis of national and international laws, the author identifies key legal loopholes, discusses the challenges hindering the growth of the sector, and proposes policy and legal reforms to strengthen digital consumer rights.

In the eighth article, Ms. Era Sharmila Khan assesses the welfare of female prisoners in Bangladesh through a gendered lens. She finds that women in prison face particular challenges, including overcrowding, inadequate healthcare, discrimination, and sexual harassment, often worsened by social stigma and patriarchal norms. Arguing that incarceration should be rehabilitative rather than punitive, the author recommends gender-specific prison architecture, proper healthcare for pregnant inmates, vocational training, legal safeguards, and institutional accountability, in line with international standards.

The final article, by Ms. Maisha Farzana Chowdhury, examines the role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in protecting Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, where the absence of formal refugee recognition and dedicated refugee legislation leaves the community legally and socially marginalized. Adopting a qualitative doctrinal approach, the paper evaluates UNHCR's legal assistance, humanitarian support, and protection mechanisms, while highlighting obstacles such as funding constraints, coordination difficulties, and sovereignty concerns. The author recommends strengthening legal frameworks, improving refugee self-reliance, and enhancing international cooperation, contributing to the broader discourse on the international community's obligations in protracted displacement situations.

In accordance with our editorial policy, all submitted papers undergo a rigorous double-blind peer review process before publication. The editorial board is dedicated to maintaining the highest academic standards, and we encourage authors to ensure linguistic, structural, and intellectual excellence prior to submission. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the authors and reviewers for their valuable contributions. We also extend our gratitude to the

members of the editorial board for their efforts in addressing challenges and refining the submitted manuscripts. A special acknowledgement goes to Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Associate Professor, the Executive Editor and Director of CRDP, for his invaluable support throughout the publication process of this issue. His commitment and dedication have been instrumental in bringing this volume to fruition

Thank you all for your intellectual support, valuable time, and commitment to advancing legal scholarship and the pursuit of justice.

Regards,

Prof. Abdul Awal Khan
Editor-in-Chief
ISU Law Journal
International Standard University (ISU)