

Sirajdikhan in Munshiganj and Fakirhat (Raozan) in Chattogram yesterday. Golam Awlia, managing director and chief executive officer, and Harunur Rashid, deputy managing director and chief financial officer, also joined the ceremony through video conference.



Nizam Uddin Ahmed, chairman of Meghna Life Insurance Company, cuts a cake to mark its silver jubilee celebrations at its head office recently. Chief Executive Officer NC Rudra was also present.

Iftekharul Islam

Uttara Bank gets new vice chairman

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Uttara Bank recently witnessed the appointment of a new vice chairman of its Board of Directors.

The appointee, Iftekharul Islam, will also serve as vice chairman of the executive committee and chairman of the risk management committee, said a press release.

Islam has been serving as managing director of Aftab Group and chairman of Uttara Bank Securities and UB Capital and Investment, both subsidiaries of Uttara Bank.

He is also a member of the Executive Committee and General Body of the Bangladesh Association of

Yellen urges G7 to keep up fiscal support

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen urged other rich nations on Saturday to keep up spending to support their economies even as the Covid-19 pandemic wanes, and said US inflation this year would be elevated but transitory.

Yellen told a news conference after G7 finance ministers met in London that they needed to invest in a fight against climate change and inequality, even after putting their economies "back on track" from the enormous hit of the pandemic.

Her comments placed a different emphasis on fiscal support than the joint statement by the G7 finance ministers, which also stressed the need to ensure long-term sustainability of public finances once the recovery takes

'Most countries have fiscal space, and have the ability to put in place, fiscal policies that will continue promoting recovery and deal with some of the long run challenges that all of us face when it comes to climate change and inclusive and sustainable growth, and we urge countries to do that," she said.



SOUTH BANGLA AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE BANK

South Bangla Agriculture and Commerce Bank Deputy Managing Director Md Kamal Uddin presided over the bank's business meeting with its Dhaka regional branch managers at its head office recently. Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, managing director and chief executive officer of the bank, was also present.

Fiscal measures hardly linked to job creation

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There should have been a multiyear rational, coherent and inclusive budget to achieve faster and inclusive recovery, he said.

"But they did not do it. It is the shallowness of their thinking, the tendency of avoiding risks and attitude of denial."

The second wave was not considered in the preparation of the budgetary numbers. So, all projections for the next fiscal year were on the higher side, he added.

Mustafizur Rahman, a member of the core group of the platform, said many people fell into poverty in urban and peri-urban areas. Many shifted from the services sector to agriculture, and their income declined and they became

"If we can transfer cash to them, it will create demand in the SME sector and generate jobs. The cash transfer should be repeated."

Sultana Kamal, also a core group member, said there was a lack of transparency in the proposed budget.

"If we always show the glamour and deny the weakness, it is not a good sign.

Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, the vice-chairperson of Brac, thanked

the finance minister for value- 13 lakh teachers. added tax exemption on sanitary napkin production, duty waiver on raw materials for cancer drugs and on latrine pan used in villages, and the VAT exemption for autism-

"But it is hard to find in the budget proposal anything that is aimed at reducing the basic problems in the health sector."

The policymakers seemed to have failed to understand that the pandemic comes with waves after waves, he said.

"There was nothing in the finance minister's speech on how the country will counter the second wave and other future waves."

Rasheda K Choudhury, another member of the core group of the platform, said they had not expected any surprises from the finance minister for the development of the education sector in the budget.

"We had just wanted guidance, investment and measures to overcome the crisis in the education sector. But nothing was found in his speech.'

"Because of Covid-19, which forced the closure of educational institutions, a generation is being destroyed. There is nothing in the budget for four crore students and

Inequality is being created in the education sector, according to the former caretaker government

"The children of the rich families can access education with digital devices whereas the children of poor people cannot."

About 60 per cent of students lacked access to online education, but no steps were taken to overcome it, said Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation. "The current condition of the

terrible scenario in the education sector in the future. Child marriage has increased significantly due to the closure of

education sector will create a

schools and colleges, she said. "We are not focusing on the mental state of the kids confined to

The budget allocated Tk 2,023 crore to 17 lakh disabled people,

"But if we count it in the most conservative way, there are 1.5 crore disabled people in the country. What will happen to them?"

Asif Ibrahim, chairman of Chittagong Stock Exchange, also

Bureaucrats not smart enough to execute budget on time

Higher allocations in the mega projects will lost their jobs and it seems that there were fuel the economy and create employment, he said, adding that the tax cuts indicate that the budget is business friendly.

"The budget will spur the growth of startups and e-commerce," Rahman said while presenting a keynote paper.

Both Mannan and Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute (PRI) echoed Rahman's views "We need to complete the vaccination

of our people by June next year. But the finance minister did not say anything clearly about such a pace of vaccination in his budget proposal," Mansur said.

He also questioned the rationale behind keeping the primary, high and girls' schools shut in villages where there were no cases of Covid-19 infections.

A good number of students will drop out from schools due to the long shutdown of educational institutions, he said.

The 2 per cent allocation for education is not adequate and it should be at least 4 per cent of the GDP to ensure quality education in the country.

For job creation, the allocation for the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) needs to be increased, the former economist of International Monetary Fund added.

He suggested providing the CMSMEs a grant as their financial strength was poor. The revenue target proposed for the next fiscal year might not be achieved because

of the current business trend, Mansur said. While moderating the discussion, said by now, a few thousand people had chances that more people would become jobless and lose their incomes within the next few months. Moreover, thousands of fresh university graduates are waiting to enter the job market.

The pandemic is still far from over and so, we can't find any reason to ignore it," Ahmed said.

The proposed budget comes at a time when all educational institutions had remained shut for nearly one and a half years, he pointed out.

There is a concern over the digital divide depriving a large number of children of education, which has been leading to child marriage, school dropouts and child labour, the AmCham chief said.

"But the budget does not mention any measure to recover the learning loss and bring back students to schools, colleges and universities. Already a big gap between poor and rich people exists and it could widen further. We apprehend that this may result in an unbalanced society," he added.

Aftab ul Islam, a Bangladesh Bank director, said now was the time for the central bank to give an expansionary monetary policy for the country with a view to help the economy recover from the Covid-19 fallout.

Naser Ezaz Bijoy, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh, said the stimulus would work for the economy.

Black money will create problems for a compliant financial system. Overall budget has been accepted but there is room for

AmCham President Syed Ershad Ahmed further review, he added. ONE Bank "We have been working relentlessly as a development greement Signing emonv for Online Gas Bills Collection v Limited

ONE Bank Additional Managing Director Md Monzur Mofiz and Secretary to Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Md Khorshed Alam signed an agreement at the latter's head office in Chapapur, Cumilla recently facilitating gas bill payments through its online banking system.

Finance Bill 2021: a few welcoming moves

These cuts come at a time when Bangladesh is experiencing price stability, moderate levels of exports, high inward remittance, record-high foreign reserves, and stable exchange rates. Therefore, these corporate tax rate cuts and exemptions are well-timed and are expected to further boost the economy during a period when the Covid-19 pandemic had slowed it down compared to the pre-

pandemic days when the economy was moving ahead. A significant point to note regarding the current budget is that it also seems socially progressive and inclusive. There is also a special tax exemption, which will be available for SMEs owned by women entrepreneurs with the primary goal of encouraging and motivating more females to become involved in business ventures.

Additionally, the enactment of special tax incentives has also been proposed in the budget to increase work opportunities for transgender employees.

The new budget proposes to put forth the necessary provision in the country's tax ordinance whereby there would be a rebate of 75 per cent of the total salary paid to employees from the third gender or 5 per cent of tax payable, whichever is lower.

Such a rebate would be available to employers who employ at least 10 per cent of their total workforce or have higher than 100 workers from the third gender. However, it remains to be seen what would happen with respect to the companies whose tax liability is dominated by advance income tax. Such inclusionary fiscal policies will certainly put Bangladesh on a praiseworthy list of progressive nations.

Prima facie, while the budget seems to be focusing on supplying more liquidity to the market through lower tax on the businessmen and entrepreneurs, a further upward adjustment on the minimum taxable income for individuals would have helped this vision a lot.

The author is a partner at PwC Bangladesh. Views are personal.

REHAB demands low-cost fund

This has played an effective role in reviving the economy amid the current crisis.

"So, we firmly believe that if this policy continues, more money will be added to the mainstream economy, which will help increase revenues," REHAB said in its statement. Besides, the proposed budget has reduced corporate and annual turnover tax rates, which is very positive, it added.

partner of the government for a long time. In all, about 50 lakh manpower is involved in the entire construction sector while the backward linkage industries have kept our economy afloat," it said. According to the association, about Tk 100,000 crore

is directly and indirectly deposited in the government treasury from the real estate sector every year by combining different sectors and sub-sectors.

Therefore, special importance should be given to this

Withdraw VAT, import duty on manmade fibre: BTMA

The BTMA chief welcomed the proposed budget, but he wants some facilities for the textile sector for attracting further investment and for generating more employment. Khokon also demanded that the government fix Tk 3 as VAT on sales per kilogramme (kg) of all kinds of yarn in

Currently, the National Board of Revenue collects Tk 3

as VAT on the sales of per kg of yarn made from cotton and Tk 6 per kg on the sales of yarn made from manmade fibre. So the VAT rate should be uniform for all kinds of yarn sale, he said.







প্রেস ইনস্টিটিউট বাংলাদেশ (পিআইবি) স্থানীয় সরকারবিষয়ক পিআইবি-ইএএলজি মিডিয়া ফেলোশিপ

স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ ও ইউএনটিপি কর্তক বাস্তবায়িত কার্যকর ও জবাবদিহিমলক স্থানীয় সরকার (ইএএলজি) প্রকল্প সহায়তাপ্রাপ্ত ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ ও উপজেলা পরিষদগুলোর বিভিন্ন কার্যক্রম, সফলতা, শিক্ষণ ও উত্তমচর্চাগুলো সংগ্রহ ও প্রচারের লক্ষ্যে জাতীয় পর্যায়ে কর্মরত সাংবাদিকদের জন্য পাঁচ (০৫) মাস মেয়াদি 'Media Fellowship on Local Governance' ফেলোশিপ প্রদান করবে। প্রেস ইনস্টিটিউট বাংলাদেশ (পিআইবি) এবং ইএএলজি প্রকল্পের পার্টনারশিপের মাধ্যমে এই মিডিয়া ফেলোশিপ প্রোগ্রামটি বাস্তবায়িত হবে। আগ্রহী সাংবাদিকদের আগামী ১ - ১৭ জুন ২০২১ এর মধ্যে পিআইবি'র নিমুলিখিত ঠিকানায় আবেদন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

ফেলোশিপে অংশ নেওয়ার জন্য সাংবাদিকদের স্লাতক পাস এবং কমপক্ষে পাঁচ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন হতে হবে। স্থানীয় সরকার বিষয়ে কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতা আছে যাদের, সেসব সাংবাদিককে অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হবে।

ক্যাটাগরি-১

ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের ওয়ার্ভ সভার কার্যকারিতা

ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের স্ট্যাভিং কমিটির কার্যকারিতা

ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের ম্যান্ডেটে প্রদর পরিষেবাগুলো

ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের উন্যক্ত বাজেট অধিবেশনের কার্যকারিতা

নির্দিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের ভালো কাজের/উত্তমচর্চার নমুনা

ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের জেভার-সংবেদনশীল পরিকল্পনা ও বাজেট

ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের রিসোর্স কাজে লাগানোর উপায় ও কৌশল

আগ্রহী সাংবাদিকদের এক কপি সিভি, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সত্যায়িত কপি, দুই কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি, এক কপি ভিজিটিং কার্ড, সর্বশেষ কর্মরত প্রতিষ্ঠানের অনাপত্তি সনদ (এনওসি)-সহ আবেদনপত্র পিআইবি তৈ সরাসরি এবং পিআইবি ই-মেইল (dgpib@yahoo.com)-এ পাঠাতে হবে। আবেদনকারী সাংবাদিক নিম্নোল্লিখিত বিষয়গুলোর মধ্য থেকে যে কোনো পাঁচটি (০৫) বিষয়ের ওপর সংবাদ/ফিচার/ স্টোরি প্রকাশ করবেন, তা উল্লেখ করে ধারণাপত্র প্রদান করতে হবে। আবেদনকারীকে নিম্নে উল্লিখিত প্রতিটি (৩টি) ক্যাটাগরি থেকেই বিষয় নির্বাচন করতে হবে।

রিপোর্টের বিষয়

ক্যাটাগরি-২

 উপজেলা পরিষদের কমিটিসমূহের কার্যকারিতা ছানীয় নারীর ক্ষমতায়নের প্র্যাটফরম হিসাবে নারী উন্নয়ন ফোরাম

নির্দিষ্ট উপজেলা পরিষদের ভালো কাজের/উন্তমচর্চার নমনা

উপজেলা পরিষদের বচ্ছতা, জবাবদিহিতা ও সুশাসন

উপজেলা পরিষদের মহিলা ভাইস চেয়ারম্যানদের চ্যালেঞ্চ ও সম্ভাবনা

 উপজেলা পরিষদের জেভার-সংবেদনশীল পরিকল্পনা ও বাজেট উপজেলা পরিষদের ম্যান্ডেটে প্রদন্ত পরিষেবাগুলে

 ইউনিয়ন ও উপজেলা পরিষদের প্রশাসনের সরঞ্জাম হিসাবে উপজেলা পরিষদের উন্মৃক্ত বাজেট ও উন্মৃক্ত পরিকল্পনার সেশ-গণতনানির সক্রিয়করণ ও কার্যকারিতা

ইউনিয়ন ও উপজেলা পরিষদের স্বচ্ছতা, জবাবদিহিতা এবং

ইউনিয়ন ও উপজেলা পরিষদের নির্বাচিত সদস্যদের প্রযুক্তিগত

ইউনিয়ন ও উপজেলা পরিষদের পরিকল্পনা প্রক্রিয়া

ক্যাটাগরি-৩

আবেদনকারীদের আবেদনের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে জুরি বোর্ড যোগ্য প্রার্থী বাছাই করবে। চূড়ান্তভাবে বাছাইকৃতদের কর্মশালার মাধ্যমে কার্যকর ও জবাবদিহিমূলক স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকল্প রিপোর্ট/ফিচার সম্পর্কে ধারণা দেওয়া হবে। নির্বাচিত ফেলোগণ স্থানীয় সরকারের কার্যক্রম সম্পর্কে ফিচার বা ফিচারধর্মী প্রতিবেদন তৈরি করবেন।

🏄 ফেলোশিপ সংখ্যা ৮টি (২ জন বাংলা সংবাদপত্রের, ২ জন ইংরেজি সংবাদপত্রের, ৩ জন টেলিভিশন এবং ১ জন অনলাইন সাংবাদিক।)

অর্থিক সম্মাননা ৫০,০০০.০০ (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা (প্রতিটি বা প্রতিজন)

মাঠ পরিদর্শন ও তথ্য সংগ্রহকালীন দৈনিক ভাতা এবং পরিবহণ খরচ সর্বোচ্চ ৩০,০০০,০০ (ত্রিশ হাজার টাকা – প্রতিজন) বিলের কপি প্রদান সাপেক্ষে

আবেদনের সময়সীমা : ১ - ১৭ জুন ২০২১ (অফিস সময়ের মধ্যে)

জুরি বোর্ড কর্তৃক বাছাই : ২৩ জুন ২০২১

তালিকা প্রকাশ: ২৮ জুন ২০২১

কৰ্মশালা : ৫-৬ জুলাই ২০২১

ফিচার প্রকাশের সময়সীমা : ২৫ জুলাই -৩০ নভেম্বর, ২০২১ আবেদনের ঠিকানা মহাপরিচালক

প্রেস ইনস্টিটিউট বাংলাদেশ (পিআইবি)

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