



**UNNAYAN ONNESHAN**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
JULY 2017 to JUNE 2018

**Advancing Ideas and Building  
Constituencies for Social Transformation**

## Unnayan Onneshan during July 2017 to June 2018

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Message from the Chairperson	03
About Unnayan Onneshan	06
UO in Action	11
July, 2017	12
August, 2017	15
September, 2017	17
October, 2017	19
November, 2017	21
December, 2017	23
January, 2018	25
February, 2018	27
March, 2018	29
April, 2018	31
May, 2018	33
June, 2018	35
2nd Sundarbans Biannual Forest Peoples Convention	37
Media Participation	41
International Participations and Training Programs	44
UO Book Series	48
Organisational Development	51
Membership and Partnership	54
UO Family	57
Summary of Financial Statement	59

A large, stylized graphic of two human figures in grey, one slightly behind the other, with their heads represented by circles. The figures are set against a background of diagonal lines and a green base at the bottom.

**Message from the  
Chairperson**



I would like to convey my gratitude to the members of the Unnayan Onneshan family who have been working relentlessly and nurturing continuation of progress of the organization. I also thank our national and international partners for their constant support and cooperation and acknowledge the valuable contributions of the members of the Board of Trustees, in shaping the successful year of July 2017 to June 2018.

Keeping conformity with our core values, we have worked hard to improve our analytical ability and delivery pattern through re-examination and proper conceptualization. Our restructuring process this time has enabled us to concentrate on rigorous and resilient research on the one hand, and to trigger action research programmes on the ground to build models at the grassroots that could provide innovative solution to the pressing development problems that people and community face on the other.

The UO is working to publish a book series which will consist five volumes. The volumes will be on “New Theory and Evidence on Development : The Case of Bangladesh”, “Representational and Responsive: An Enquiry into Fiscal and Monetary Policymaking in Bangladesh”, “Public Good and Public society: An Exploration in to Social Policies in Bangladesh”, “Transition and Transformation: In Quest of Expansion of Productive Capacity through Capital, Labour and Technology in Bangladesh”, “Wellbeing of Nature: An Examination into Natural Resource, Biodiversity and Climate Change in Bangladesh” and “Agrarian Transition: Land Transactions and Accumulation in Bangladesh”.

The UO has continued to concentrate on young professionals on the basis of strong learning capacity and effective delivery provision. These young researchers have been “learning by doing” under rigorous guidance. Afterwards, they are going to different fields of multi-disciplinary prospect on the ground of research; a good number of these researchers have started teaching in different public and private universities.

The UO’s path-breaking publications have boosted public debates, demystified policies and provided robust and rigorous analyses for evidence-based policymaking. Besides, concomitant public related issues have been focused through vibrant discussions. The organisation has always actively put ideas directly to decision-makers at national and international levels as members of different national and international committees and members of official delegations in different negotiations.

The Economic Policy Unit through its flagship monthly reports on the vexing issues of the economy has demystified the puzzles, formulated influx of productive and encouraging ideas. restructured bunch of debates and made a new pathway of understanding, analyzing and evaluating congruent and prevalent problems. Research is not only confined in understanding and evaluating problems but also deals with productive and sustainable solution. The Unit has focused, amongst others, on implication of non- economic factors on macroeconomic performance, budgetary implications, monetary policy, growth, inflation, liquidity crisis, debt and deficit, remittance, capital market, tax, food price and food security.

The Climate Change, Bio-diversity & DRR Unit has marveled by engaging in building implementable innovative models on the ground through multi-level partnerships with its two pioneering programmes, Regenerative Agriculture and Sustainable Livelihoods for Vulnerable Ecosystems (RESOLVE) and Community Based Management of Sundarbans (CBMS). The members of the unit have authored five reports, dealing with agricultural biodiversity and adaptation, food security, climate induced displacement and innovative techniques and methods toward regenerative agriculture.

The Social Policy Unit has published eight research reports and one occasional report on health, gender, education and poverty.

The UO has successfully organized the 2nd Sundarbans Biannual Forest Peoples Convention of the forest dependent peoples' cooperatives took place at office premises of Adibasi Munda Unnayan Samity (Indigenous Munda Cooperative) on Tuesday, 20th February 2018. The convention was successfully attended by the members of the three cooperatives, namely Koyra Bonojibi Bohumikhi Unnayan Samity (Koyra Forest Dependent Peoples' Cooperative), Horinagar Bonojibi Bohumikhi Unnayan Samity (Horinagar Forest Dependent Peoples' Cooperative), and Adibasi Munda Unnayan Samity (Indigenous Munda Cooperative). In addition, the local government representatives, and a group of representatives from Unnayan Onneshan participated in the convention. This was followed by Annual General Meeting for Drafting Strategies and Preparing Work Plan in respective Cooperative offices on 21 February 2018. On 22 February 2018, a Meeting was held for finalisation of Strategies and Work Plan.

The UO also attended in an IPSI workshop in Japan from 28 to 30 June, 2017. This participation has come up with an article that, by identifying the Sundarbans Reserve Forest (SRF) area as a socio-ecological production landscape and seascape (SEPLS), reveals that powerful agents at local, national and international levels have been extracting the resources of the Sundarbans beyond the sustainable limit. On the contrary, the IPLCs are playing an important role in the restoration of natural resources through traditional knowledge and practices, which in turn can establish a sustainable resource management system. This article also attempts to demonstrate that the institutional fragility, the existing nature of the power sharing arrangement, the nature of the political settlement and most importantly the exclusion of the IPLCs in the conservation and management process, have contributed to loss of biological diversity. Accordingly, this chapter presents empirical evidence showing that the local people of the Sundarbans have been practicing unique production methods that can significantly contribute to the revitalization and sustainable management of resources through symbiotic human-nature relationships.

Given the UO's memberships and accreditations to the different UN processes including the UN (economic and social council-ECOSOC), climate change (UNFCCC), biodiversity (UNCBD), the UO shared research findings and raised issues for the advancement of humanity, society and nature.

The organisation has been active in providing innovative ideas on regional integration in South Asia by being contributors in regional processes such as Imagine a New South Asia (INSA), Climate Action Network on South Asia (CANSA), and other forums.

The UO is in committed relationships with organizations such as Oxfam Novib and Forest People Programme (FPP).the collaboration of the organisation has become more resilient than before. The organisation has actively collaborated with the University of London and the University of Bradford. The organisation is in committed relationships with organizations such as Climate Action Network on South Asia (CANSA), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Imagine a New South Asia (INSA), South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE), Jubilee South APMDD, Asrai, Shariatpur Development Society (SDS), and Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK), Gono Kalyan Sangstha (GKS), Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).

The year has also been a year of institutionalization of Unnayan Onneshan. The organisation has taken some time-befitting decisions to develop policies like provident fund, gratuity, endowment fund and employee welfare fund.

I would like to reiterate my gratitude to the members and partners of the UO for giving strong support through this incessant journey of bridging policies to public needs and demands.

More duties and responsibilities have become incumbent on us to make forthcoming year more productive and fruitful to continue this successful stream of progression. We are strongly optimistic that our sincerity and endeavor will generate more effective outcome than before. Assuring proper division of responsibilities among each member of the UO, the organization continues to hold the purpose of becoming a premier independent think-tank through championing productive solutions of relevant public related issues from multi-dimensional perspectives.

I believe that upcoming year comes with optimum enthusiasm and optimism on a strong analytical platform, giving us the confidence that we will achieve our desired goals. Thank you again for your continuous support and camaraderie.

## About

### Unnayan Onneshan

A Centre for Research and  
Action on Development

The Unnayan Onneshan undertakes policy research for advancing ideas and building constituencies for social progression and provides technical assistance and capacity building services to local, national, regional and international organisations and levels. The Institute advances critical scholarship, promotes innovative solutions, and amplifies grassroots perspectives. The organisation works in collaboration with local and national partners, international organisations and leading universities.

The Research Division, divided into three units – Economic Policy, Social Policy, and Ecology and Environment Unit – brings flagship publications such as monthly economic update, annual state of economy and development, and four annual research based status reports on poverty, food security, women and labour. The nine research programmes deal with issues like governance, poverty, growth, equity, human rights, trade, agriculture, rights and participation, women rights and gender equality, education and health.

The Programme Management and Development Division provides advisory services, technical assistance and capacity building to the government and local, national, international, bilateral and multilateral organisations, ranging from likes of trade-related research and capacity building services to the government to technical assistance to local organisations to help farmers adopt to the climate change, to help indigenous communities to form collectives in sustainable use of biodiversity and eco-system services, to manage multi-partnership processes in addressing poverty, gender inequality and governance deficits, and to claim rights and held government agencies accountable to people.

The Unnayan Onneshan was registered in Bangladesh in 2003 as a not-for-profit Trust to contribute towards search for solutions to endemic poverty, injustice, gender inequality and environmental degradation at the local, national and global levels. The philosophy, ideas and actions of the organisation focus on pluralistic, participatory and sustainable development.

## **MISSION**

The mission is to champion innovation for exploring paths of transformation towards a world, free from poverty, injustice, gender inequality and environmental degradation.

## **VISION**

An egalitarian world free from all forms of inequality, injustices, discrimination and exploitation

## **CONCEPTUAL APPROACH**

Since the organization's aim is to search for alternative paths of social transformation, it conceptualizes paradigm of development as of social transformation and change. Therefore, the unit is society, which according to us, is an inter woven system consisting of economic, political and social sub-systems, intertwined at every sphere–local, national and global. The societal sub-system entails configuration of classes, which interact with each other in political arena in order to retain control over productive resources in the economic sphere.

The political sub-system is the reflection of societal sub-system as the dominant class attempts to arrive at or impose a set of collective goals. The economic sub-system actualized goals through the production of goods and services. Likewise, environment disproportionately suffers from mere financialisation of nature. In other words, the societal sub-system defines players, the political sub-system inscribes rules and economic sub-system actualizes the system of accumulation.

## **STRATEGIC APPROACH**

The organisation has opted for a 4-S strategic approach, combining three hands of critical scholarship, shared learning and social transformation, with sustainability at the center. The approach evolves from grassroots to link to local-national and international entities and maintains a circular flow. Both research and technical assistance are influenced by the principle of growth having rights, equality, justice sustainability and partnership for development through historic responsibility.

### **Critical Scholarship**

The UO strongly believes that research and solution contribute to achieving sustainability, but these do not lead to bring in social transformation. The organisation builds critical scholarship through rigorous research underpinned on robust science.

The Unnayan Onneshan has adopted an optimistic view on role of knowledge in country's journey towards development wherein the empowered citizens enjoy their rights equally. The organisation involves much of its energy in innovating approaches where sustainability is central. Building empirical model with full and effective participation of stakeholders concerned is a strategy of knowledge development and dissemination wherein best practices are up -scaled based on local politico-economic dynamics.

The UO examines every issue critically to explore underlying causes as well as to build knowledge base for future. Sustainability is a longitudinal process. Evidence based action research leading to model building for practical demonstration is one of the major tools used by the UO for developing and sustaining new knowledge. The organisation also comes up with thought-provoking research for mainstreaming principles of rights, equality and justice that results in improved wellbeing in the society and collectively contributes towards social transformation, which upholds a sustainability regime.

### **Shared Learning**

Unnayan Onneshan deems learning as the core to sustainability based on the understanding that through learning actors assimilate information and update their cognitions and behavior. The Unnayan Onneshan works in collaboration with other organisations, forms partnerships, participates in events and act as a bridging organisation between local, national and international organisations which promote learning systems and facilitates the development of better theories and empirically testable models of learning for sustainability.

### **Social Transformation**

Putting sustainability into practice requires knowledge about interactions among society, economy, politics and environment. Orthodoxy segregates operation of different interconnected spheres, which forge compartmentalised understanding on sustainability and puts obstacles towards social transformation. Unnayan Onneshan acknowledges that gap remains both in knowledge and practices and therefore research for sustainability demands cross and multidisciplinary cooperation on different levels of social sciences as well as between social and natural sciences. The Unnayan Onneshan transcends the disciplinary boundaries. Truly, sustainability presents many challenges, but creates many opportunities as well for research and knowledge generation.



## CORE VALUES

The Unnayan Onneshan believes that a defined value system contributes to the culture and ultimate success of the organisation. The organisation, therefore, has developed its own value system and is persistently following in its activities

Value	What does the value mean?
Editorial Independence	The Unnayan Onneshan centres on the integrity of having editorial independence. The organisation's research, public affairs and policy advice are built on knowledge, evidence and rigour, irrespective of individual's choice, ideology, funding, or political persuasions.
High Quality	Quality is the key to UO's working approach. The organisation endeavors to ensure, innovative approaches and best practices in its research, policy advice and public affairs.
Fairness, Diversity & Equality	The UO is committed to fairness, diversity and equality. The organisation works for raising voice of the unheard. The organisation has mainstreaming inclusionary principles in work, human resource and organisational development.
Working Together	The organisation works in collaboration with multiple partners ranging from community organisation to government and international organisations. A range of stakeholders is always consulted for setting our agenda.
Transparency & Accountability	There is open reporting on the use of public funds, with full communication of our work to our donors, research subjects and partners. Every year the organisation publishes its annual and audit reports in its website for as public information. The organisation has an open information policy, besides decisions are being taken by different staff-level Committees on the operations of the organisation, with guidance from the Board of Trustees.
Sustainability	Sustainability is not only an issue of promotion through research; resources are used within the UO in a sustainable way, reflecting its consciousness of commitment to environment.

## STRATEGIC ROLES

**Science-led independent research:** We conduct independent science-led research and explore heterodox perspectives in our search for evidences and solutions. This induces us to advance critical scholarship, promote inter-disciplinary dialogue and amplify grassroots perspectives. This also allows us to emphasize the seamless integration of research and policy as well as the close coupling of research infrastructure and discovery.

**New approaches to public policies:** We explore public policies and development intervention strategies by exposing their underlying paradigms and the impacts on the people. Our emphasis on new approaches allows us to examine alternative concepts, approaches, practices, and interventions by uncovering assumptions and the implications on the people, society and planet.

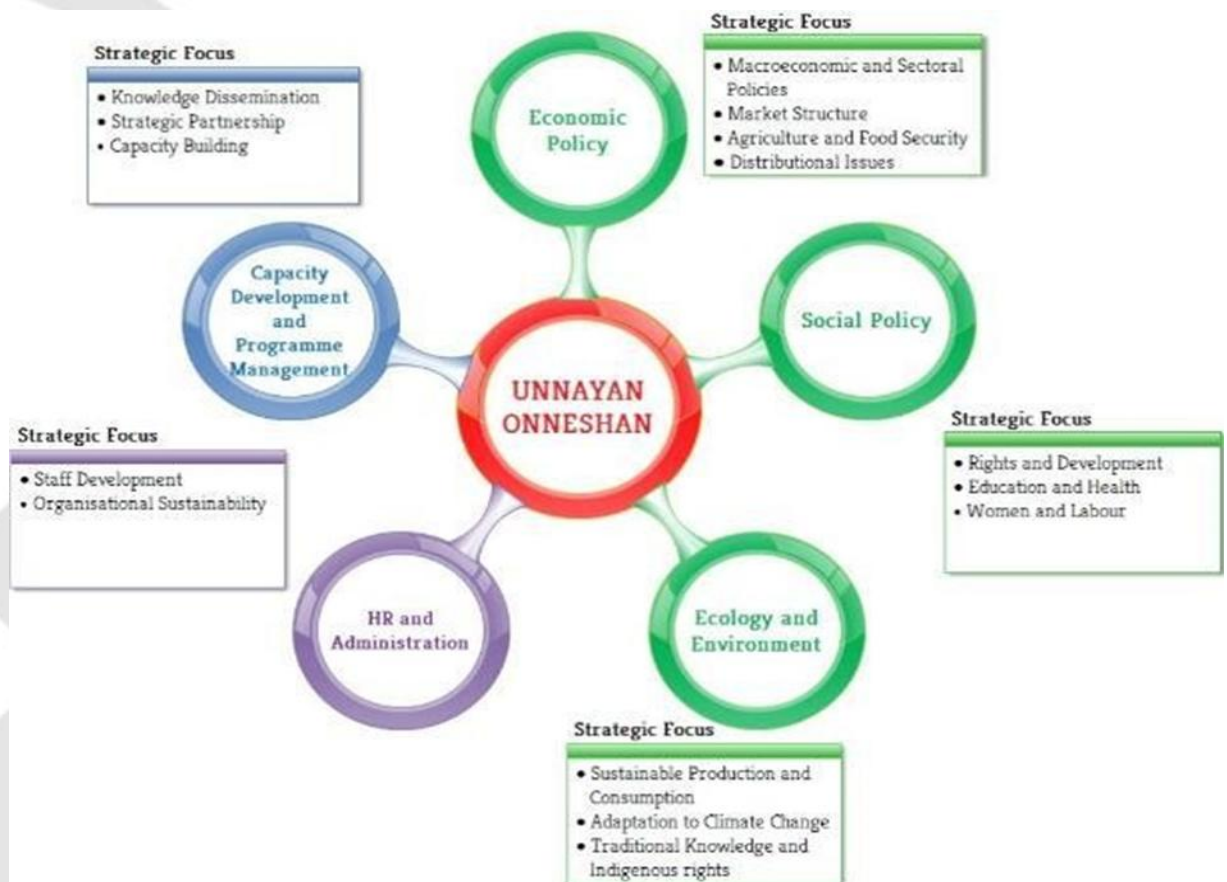
**Innovative solutions on the ground:** We blend indigenous wisdom with scientific knowledge to provide creative solutions at the grassroots. This also allows us to bring in indigenous perspectives from the margins with a view to shaping development discourse and democratizing policy making. Our interactive and participatory learning enable development of innovative practices to respond to diversity of needs, and encourage dissemination and sharing of best practices across communities.

**Empowering capacity building and community-based management:** We embark upon perspective and capacity building as social action to build and strengthen constituencies of change agents for social transformation. Our approach, dialogue among equals enables the rights holders to be authors of their own development as well as organizations to build up tangible and intangible assets.

## OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

The internal professional staff and external networked fellows are grouped into three research and programme based and two function based operational units – Economic Policy, Social Policy, Climate Change, Biodiversity and DRR, and Programme and Communication, and Finance and HR. The professional staffs, with expertise in all areas of development studies, are educated and trained from top-ranking universities from both home and abroad.

**Figure: Operational Units of Unnayan Onneshan**



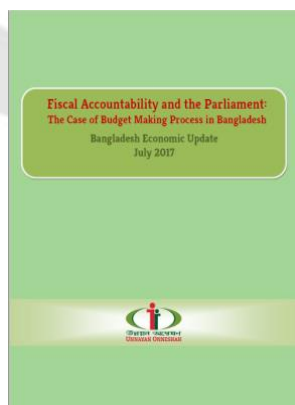
## **UO in Action during July 2017 to June 2018**

**Advancing Ideas and Building  
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## JULY 2017

### FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE PARLIAMENT: THE CASE OF BUDGET MAKING PROCESS IN BANGLADESH

#### MONTHLY BANGLADESH ECONOMIC UPDATE, JULY 2017



The Unnayan Onneshan (UO), an independent multidisciplinary think-tank, in its July 2017 issue of Bangladesh Economic Update, states that lack of fiscal accountability due to limited role of the parliament in budget making process together with constitutional and systematic rigidities results in inefficiency, poor implementation of budget and misuse of public resources.

To deal with the problem, the research organization calls for immediate adoption of necessary reform measures that may include revision of budget-related constitutional provisions, expansion of scope of parliamentary surveillance over fiscal management, and strengthening of concerned parliamentary standing committee.

The think tank finds that the status of budget implementation is on the decline since FY 2010-11. Of the total budget outlay, 97.05 percent was implemented in FY 2010-11, whereas the rate subsequently decreased to 93.18 percent, 90.76 percent, 84.59 percent, and 81.59 percent in FY 2011-12, FY 2012-13, FY 2013-14, and FY 2014-15 respectively.

#### MEDIA

Exploring new export markets

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/views/views/exploring-new-export-markets-1504105010>

Balance of payment under pressure: Unnayan Onneshan reveals

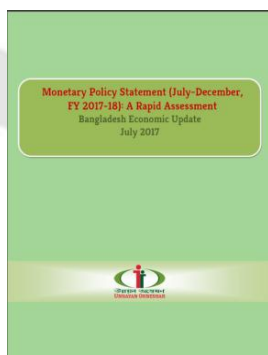
<http://www.daily-sun.com/home/printnews/251104>

উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণের পর্যালোচনা: মুদ্রানীতিকে চ্যালেঞ্জ ফেলবে খাদ্য মূল্যস্ফীতি

<http://www.prothomalo.com/economy/article/1275126>

## MONETARY POLICY STATEMENT (JULY-DECEMBER, FY 2017-18): A RAPID ASSESSMENT

### MONTHLY BANGLADESH ECONOMIC UPDATE, JULY 2017



The Unnayan Onneshan (UO), an independent multidisciplinary think-tank, in its rapid assessment of recently announced monetary policy statement for the first half of the FY 2017-2018 cautions that targeted private sector credit growth may fail to boost private investment in absence of a business enabling environment. Rising food inflation may further challenge the effectiveness of the policy.

The UO in its July issue of Bangladesh Economic Update 2017 fears that without increasing the quality, mere growth in private sector credit by the targeted level – 16.3 percent for July-December of the current fiscal year compared to 16.5 percent for the January-June of the previous year – may prove ineffective in facilitating investment-led employment generation and economic expansion.

The think tank points out that private investment has remained stagnant and stood at 22.07 percent of GDP in FY 2014-15, 22.99 percent in FY 2015-16, and 23.01 percent in FY 2016-17 despite significant increase in domestic savings from 22.16 percent in FY 2014-15 to 26.06 percent in FY 2016-17.

#### MEDIA

উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণের পর্যালোচনা

মূল্যস্ফীতি নিয়ন্ত্রণ মুদ্রানীতির বড় চ্যালেঞ্জ

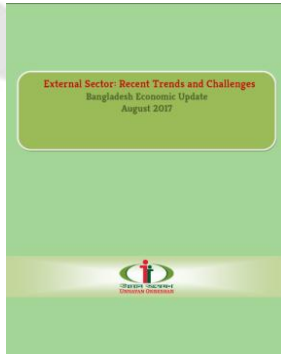
<http://samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-economics/article/1707312691/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%82%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AB%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%A3%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%9C-%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%9E%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9C>

## ACTION RESEARCH IN THE SUNDARBANS

- If plantation program is undertaken on both sides of roads at Wapda (Koyra Multipurpose forest people development cooperative has made an example in this respect), soil capacity will increase. It will work as a safeguard in case of high tide, storm and preventing road depletion. The Sundarbans works as a shield itself which protects people from disasters and lets them renovate their houses with wood and leaves after the calamities.
- Reduction of unscrupulous means of capturing rent and altruistic mindset to serve people i.e. government intervention to protect the rights and solve the local problems will create a harmonious environment in the marine and coastal region and will assure sustainability of the people of that area.
- Apart from natural calamities, influx of people from outside belt as well as legal and illegal use of resources are leading to degradation of the Sundarbans. In spite of having sufficient number of forest officials, damage is being occurred due to lack of supervision. Moreover, a clientelistic network among powerful groups has been generated where employees of forest department are also involved. A “bribing culture” has become rampant in this regard.
- Due to trivial amount of wage, insecurity, extortion, gender violence and some other issues, fishermen are leading a miserable life. Again, there is lack of training opportunity for the purpose of income enhancing provision. Crab cultivation has become a less earning source in this respect.



AUGUST-2017

**EXTERNAL SECTOR: RECENT TRENDS AND CHALLENGES****MONTHLY BANGLADESH ECONOMIC UPDATE, AUGUST 2017**

The Unnayan Onneshan (UO), an independent multidisciplinary think-tank, in its monthly publication of the 'Bangladesh Economic Update' August 2017, reveals that monumental deficit in current account together with declining wage earner's remittance and foreign aid disbursement exerts immense pressure on the country's balance of payment.

Calling for a thorough reexamination of the current trade and industrial policies to address the structural bottlenecks and creation of a stable business climate to attract increased inflow of private investment including FDI, the UO urges for the adoption of new strategies to expand country's productive capacities that enhance utilization of available resources through efficient entrepreneurial capabilities and increased production linkages.

Referring to declining rate of growth in inflows of wage earner's remittance, the think tank shows that the inflow of remittance declined by 14.48 percent and stood at USD 12769 million in FY 2016-17 compared to the previous fiscal year. On monthly basis, the remittance inflow declined by 4.18 percent in June 2017 compared to May 2017 and stood at USD 1214.61 million, which further declined by 8.15 percent to USD 1115.57 million in July 2017.

**MEDIA**

জিডিপি'র অনুপাতে অভ্যন্তরীণ ঋণের আকার বাড়ছে

ঋণ পরিশোধে সরকারি ব্যয় বৃদ্ধি আন্তঃপ্রজন্ম ঋণের বোঝা বৃদ্ধি করছে

<http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/print-edition/trade/2017/10/04/226579.html>

## ACTION RESEARCH IN THE SUNDARBANS

- Shrimp culture is damaging opportunity of employment for local people who are mainly dependent on the resources of the Sundarbans. Shrimp culture has created a devastating situation in both social and natural environments. Fishermen are compelled to go the marine belt to catch fish but since they have technical deficiency along with less capital, they are bearing loss and getting less amount of fish than before. Due to extensive use of chemical in shrimp culture, other fishes are also getting affected. As a result, fishes are being killed and quantity of many species of fish has drastically fallen.
- Alongside with primary occupation, sustainable and alternative employment opportunity should be created. Proper pricing system should be assured for the local forest people.
- Capacity of the people should be strengthened. Natural calamity resisting cultivation methods should be introduced such as seeds, harvesting process, hanging/floating garden and training opportunities.
- Incumbent organizations should be made liable to ensure safe water and sanitation facilities.
- As an outcome of constant meetings and conversation, local forest people are now planting more trees like Keora, Golpata than before to ameliorate resistant capacity of roads.





## SEPTEMBER 2017

### DEBT AND DEFICIT: TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

#### MONTHLY BANGLADESH ECONOMIC UPDATE, SEPTEMBER 2017



The Unnayan Onneshan (UO), an independent multidisciplinary think-tank, in its monthly publication of the 'Bangladesh Economic Update' September 2017, reveals that persistently increasing outstanding debt along with high debt-service payment every year is likely to lower development finance and escalate intergenerational debt burden in the future.

The research organisation in its eighth year of this monthly publication notes that at the end of FY 2016-17, the total outstanding domestic debt has increased by 13.25 percent. According to the most recent data, the total outstanding external debt burden increased by 10.1 percent at the end of FY 2015-16. On the other hand, rate of growth in net foreign aid decreased to 2.10 percent in FY 2016-17 from 17.54 percent in FY 2015-16.

The think tank finds that the debt-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio is on the rise since FY 2013-14. Referring to the recent data published by the central bank, the UO states that the outstanding domestic debt as percentage of GDP was 15.45 percent in FY 2013-14, 15.50 percent in FY 2014-15, and 15.78 percent in FY 2015-16, and 15.83 percent in FY 2016-17.

#### MEDIA

Rising outstanding debt likely to lower dev finance: UO

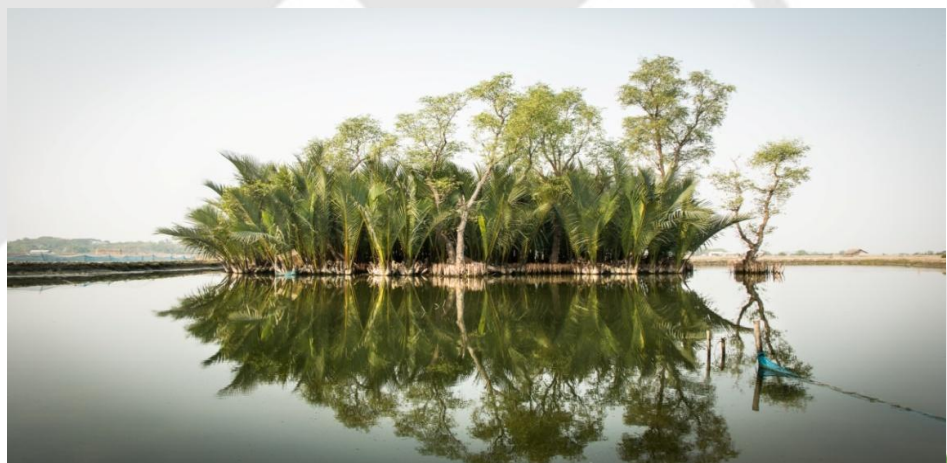
<http://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/258609/Rising-outstanding-debt-likely-to-lower-dev-finance:-UO>

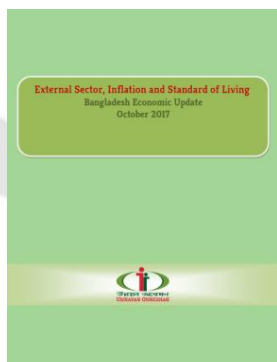
Growing outstanding debt may lower development finance

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/views/reviews/growing-outstanding-debt-may-lower-development-finance-1508221216>

## ACTION RESEARCH IN THE SUNDARBANS

- Discussion has been conducted among members of Koyra multipurpose forest people development cooperative on honey collection, easy provision of pass permit and non-adulteration.
- Enormous plantation of Golpata has been conducted as a result of rigorous discussion and awareness among Koyra forest people cooperative.
- As a consequence of collaboration between indigenous Munda community and Unnayan Onneshan, Munda workers are now getting appropriate wages per day.
- Issues like crab culture and more vibrant role in conservation of the Sundarbans have been addressed in the meeting of indigenous Munda community.
- There are several problems in some camps and stations which are situated in different regions and junctions of water bodies. For example, at Ghagramari camp, there is deficiency of drinking water and infrastructure. At Jiudhora station, there is lack of manpower and due to aggression of bandits and smugglers, staffs do not want to work here because of fear. Manpower should be increased in this region. Shawarmara camp is known as a center of resource trafficking. Manpower is also minimal in this place. Suggestions have been made to increase security in these regions.



**OCTOBER 2017****EXTERNAL SECTOR, INFLATION AND STANDARD OF LIVING****MONTHLY BANGLADESH ECONOMIC UPDATE, OCTOBER 2017**

Recent rise in import, particularly import of consumer goods, vis-à-vis export earnings is likely to spell trouble for low income people whose standard of living deteriorates amid frequent price hikes in the commodity market.

The Unnayan Onneshan (UO), an independent multidisciplinary think-tank, in its monthly publication of the 'Bangladesh Economic Update' October 2017, fears so.

Taking account of the increasing trend in inflation rate, the research organization projects that at the end of the current fiscal year, food inflation is likely to stand at 9.4 percent in the absence of immediate price stabilization measures.

Such increase in price in the commodity market coupled with reduced production of food grains, decline in real wage, and lack of employment opportunities is likely to adversely affect people's standard of living on the one hand and threaten overall food security in the country, comments the research organization.

**MEDIA**

NBR tax revenue collection falls short of target

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/nbr-tax-revenue-collection-falls-short-of-target-1512803202>

NBR tax revenue falls short of target in July-Oct

<http://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/274189/NBR-tax-revenue-falls-short-of-target-in-JulyOct>

Unnayan Onneshan suggests medium-term strategy, employment enhancement actions

<http://www.daily-sun.com/post/278814/Unnayan-Onneshan-suggests-mediumterm-strategy-employment-enhancement-actions>

UO suggests medium-term strategy, employment enhancement actions

<http://www.unb.com.bd/bangladesh-news/UO-suggests-medium-term-strategy-employment-enhancement-actions/59534>

লক্ষ্যমাত্রার চেয়ে ৩৯ হাজার কোটি টাকার রাজস্ব আদায় কম হতে পারে

<http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/print-edition/trade/2017/12/10/241912.html>

NBR tax revenue falls short of target in first 4 months: Unnayan Onneshan

<http://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/274189/NBR-tax-revenue-falls-short-of-target-in-JulyOct>

পদক্ষেপ না নিলে আরো বাড়বে খাদ্য মূল্যস্ফীতি

<http://www.kalerkantho.com/home/printnews/561663/2017-11-05>

## ACTION RESEARCH IN THE SUNDARBANS

- Almost all male forest people collect Golpata from the forest. Apart from that, they collect some dry wood (Gewa, Kakra, Bain etc.) as fuel. At present, they don't have permission to collect Goran wood. Though Golpata collectors do not need to pay any extra fee for the collection, they have to handover almost all they get to the moneylender.
- Forest department take bribe from the fishermen for collecting wood for fuel from the forest as it is illegal. On the other side, powerful people give bribe and collect more wood by giving same amount of bribe. Resources like wood are getting lessened day by day.
- Government has leased many canals and rivers. As a result Bawalis have lost opportunity to catch in those regions. In most of the cases, affluent and powerful people get the access to take lease of those canals and rivers. They do not let the Bawalis come and fish there.
- Decision has been taken to plant more trees on the courtyard and roadside in the meeting of Harinagar forest people cooperative. Same decision has emerged in the meeting of Koyra forest people cooperative.
- Food has been distributed among members of Harinagar forest people cooperative from the cooperative itself.



**NOVEMBER 2017****REVENUE MOBILISATION: RECENT TRENDS AND IMMINENT CHALLENGES****MONTHLY BANGLADESH ECONOMIC UPDATE, NOVEMBER 2017**

The Unnayan Onneshan (UO), an independent multidisciplinary think tank, in its monthly publication of Bangladesh Economic Update November 2017 reveals that collection of NBR tax revenue falls short of target in the first four months of the current fiscal year.

For the period of July–October 2017, revenue target was set at Tk. 19575 crore for income and travel tax, Tk. 25331.01 crore for value added tax (VAT) at the local level, and Tk. 20552.57 crore for import and export tax, while the actual collections fall short by 13 percent, 9.55 percent, and 7.78 percent respectively.

Analysing historical data of revenue mobilization, the think tank comments that the trend in the growth of revenue collection has never been stable, let alone increasing. In view of the fact that revenue collection has particularly been assuming a declining trend in the periods of national elections since the FY 1994-95, the UO fears a drop in revenue growth in the coming years.

**MEDIA**

উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণের পর্যালোচনা প্রবৃদ্ধির সুফল সাধারণের নাগালে পৌঁছতে হবে

<http://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-industry-trade/article/180115>

জীবমানযাত্রার মানের সাথে প্রবৃদ্ধির তথ্য মিলছে না

অর্থনীতি নিয়ে উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণের পর্যালোচনা

<http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/print-edition/trade/2018/01/01/246913.html>

বার্ষিক অর্থনৈতিক পর্যালোচনায় উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণ

অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি ও জীবনযাত্রার মানে বিপরীত চিত্র

<http://bonikbarta.net/bangla/news/2018-01-01/143239/%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%88%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%83%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%93-%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%A4-%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0/>

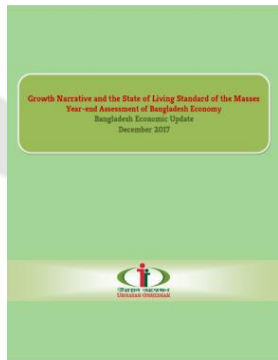
Inflationary pressure likely to mar MPS effectiveness, says UO

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/33846/inflationary-pressure-likely-to-mar-mps-effectiveness-says-u-o>

## ACTION RESEARCH IN THE SUNDARBANS

- Activities of Munda kings and other leaders have shrunk due to extension of poverty and other concomitant problems like losing possession of land, miniscule earning opportunity and aggression of outsiders.
- Incumbent organizations are not serving their duties properly, especially in case of assuring rights and needs of the Munda community. Influential people are grabbing facilities and depriving Munda people from getting fundamental rights.
- Meetings have been conducted among members of Munda community. Both male and female members were present in the meetings. They expressed their opinion on how to augment precaution measure against natural calamities. There was also discussion on nutrition and health of the people of the Munda community, especially children and women.
- Several problems have been addressed in the meetings. Some are worth mentioning like lack of employment for eight months in a year, lack of nutritious food, discrimination of wage between male and female workers, lack of safe drinking water during dry season, outbreak of drugs, encroachment of Bengali people on the land of the indigenous people and occupying them by force and so on.



**DECEMBER 2017****GROWTH NARRATIVE AND THE STATE OF LIVING STANDARD OF THE MASSES YEAR-END ASSESSMENT OF BANGLADESH ECONOMY****MONTHLY BANGLADESH ECONOMIC UPDATE, DECEMBER 2017**

The Unnayan Onneshan (UO), an independent multidisciplinary think tank, in its year-end assessment of the economy reveals that the growth narrative contrasts living standard of the masses.

The Issue identifies the medium-term macroeconomic challenges in the forms of inequality of opportunities, arrested productive capacity, ineffectual macroeconomic policy framework and resultant growth hiding in shadows looming large.

“The causes of elapsing prospects are more institutional. The gradual corrosion of institutions has constrained allocation of resources to channel efficiently into the productive sectors in order for the economy to get higher returns in terms of reduced welfare gap and expanded productive capacity,” observes the last issue of the UO’s monthly Bangladesh Economic Update.

**MEDIA**

উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণের মত মুদ্রানীতি স্বাধীন ও সৃজনশীল হয়নি

<http://samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-taka-ana-pai/article/140236801>

ব্যবসা পরিবেশ উন্নত না হলে মুদ্রানীতি চ্যালেঞ্জ পড়বে

উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণের পর্যবেক্ষণ

<http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/print-edition/trade/2018/02/01/254178.html>

উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণের পর্যালোচনা

মুদ্রানীতির কার্যকারিতা নিয়ে সংশয় প্রকাশ

<http://bonikbarta.net/bangla/news/2018-02-02/146646/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%9F-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B6/>

Mid-term strategy needed to face macro-economic challenges

Unnayan Onneshan makes the observation in a report

<http://www.daily-sun.com/home/printnews/195271>

## ACTION RESEARCH IN THE SUNDARBANS

- People from different communities are getting deprived due to inactive functioning of service providing institutions at union and upazilla level. In some cases, laws and policies are discriminatory. Lax enforcement and execution of laws make the local people deprived of their forest rights.
- Considering these issues, problems of local rights based programs are divided into four categories. They are: violation of women's rights, livelihood crisis, deprivation of services from the incumbent institutions and violation of indigenous people's rights.
- As a result of plantation by Koyra forest people cooperative, more plantation of trees has been occurred at Wapda and other regions. People are also planting seed plants on the premises of their houses.

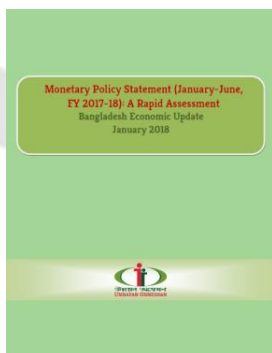




## JANUARY 2018

MONETARY POLICY STATEMENT (JANUARY-JUNE, FY 2017-18): A RAPID ASSESSMENT  
JANUARY, 2018

## MONTHLY BANGLADESH ECONOMIC UPDATE, JANUARY 2018



The Unnayan Onneshan (UO), an independent multidisciplinary think-tank, in its rapid assessment of recently announced monetary policy statement for the second half of the FY 2017-2018 cautions that inflationary pressure together with higher target of credit growth in absence of business enabling environment is likely challenge the effectiveness of the policy.

The UO in its January issue of Bangladesh Economic Update 2018 fears that without increasing quality and regulatory oversight, mere increasing target of growth in private sector credit – 16.3 percent for the first half and 16.8 percent for the second half of FY 2017-18 – may prove ineffective in facilitating investment-led employment generation and economic expansion.

The think tank points out private investment as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) has increased by less than one percent on average during the period between FY 2010-11 and FY 2016-17. Private investment as percentage of GDP stood at 22.50, 21.75, 22.03, 22.07, 22.99, and 23.01 percent in FY 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17 respectively.

## MEDIA

উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণের মত মুদ্রানীতি স্বাধীন ও সৃজনশীল হয়নি

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<http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/print-edition/trade/2018/02/01/254178.html>

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<http://bonikbarta.net/bangla/news/2018-02-02/146646/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%9F-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B6/>

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## ACTION RESEARCH IN THE SUNDARBANS

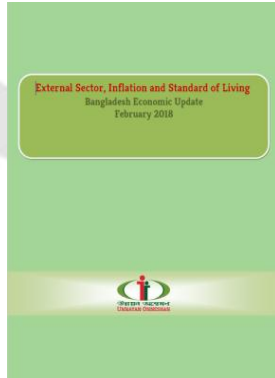
- Due to loss of fishing opportunities in several water bodies like canals and rivers, fishermen are getting less fish than before. Powerful people are grabbing most of the canals and portions of rivers. They collect fish using detrimental nets and collect all the fishes including carps. As a result, quantity of fish is decreasing rapidly. Local fishermen are getting affected through reduction in income.
- Forest people communities of Koyra and Harinagar have taken initiatives to plant more trees. Therefore, forest people are planting more trees not only on the roadsides, but also on the courtyard of their houses and on the islands of rivers.
- Munda indigenous community has been successful in crab culture. Other forest people are now getting involved in crab culture.
- Suggestions have been given in the community meetings such as more opportunity of alternative employment, safe water and sanitation, assurance of proper price etc.



## FEBRUARY 2018

### EXTERNAL SECTOR, INFLATION AND STANDARD OF LIVING, FEBRUARY, 2018

#### MONTHLY BANGLADESH ECONOMIC UPDATE, FEBRUARY 2018



Monumental increase in import payment together with low export growth amid no possibility of revival of the generalized system of preferences (GSP) has caused enormous current account deficit, which is highest in the last decade.

Moreover, recent hike in oil price and high import of consumer goods are likely to result in an upsurge of food inflation adversely affecting standard of living of the low-income people.

The Unnayan Onneshan (UO), an independent multidisciplinary think-tank, in its monthly publication of the 'Bangladesh Economic Update' February 2018, fears so.

Taking account of the increasing trend in inflation rate and recent upsurge in oil price, the research organization projects that at the end of the current fiscal year, food inflation is likely to stand at 8.34 percent in the absence of immediate price stabilization measures.

#### MEDIA

অর্থনৈতিক পর্যালোচনায় উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণ:

চলতি হিসাবে ঘাটতি এক দশকে সর্বোচ্চ

<http://bonikbarta.net/bangla/news/2018-03-05/150134/%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%98%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9A/>

Food inflation upsurge likely, to affect low-income people: UO

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/36033/food-inflation-upsurge-likely-to-affect-low-income-people-uo>

## ACTION RESEARCH IN THE SUNDARBANS

- Second Sundarbans Biennial conference took place. Several responsible persons gave their opinions on problems, current state and recommendations regarding the forest.
- It has been opined that only forest people cannot save the forest by themselves. Coordinated efforts are required in this context. Culture of bribing has been identified as a big problem. Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, Chairperson of Unnayan Onneshan said that local forest people have to make a constructive strategy to conserve the forest. They should expose the name of poisons which are being applied on the water bodies.
- People from different forest communities expressed their gratitude to the Unnayan Onneshan for their initiatives.



## MARCH 2018

### DEBT AND DEFICIT: RECENT TRENDS AND CHALLENGES, MARCH 2018

#### MONTHLY BANGLADESH ECONOMIC UPDATE, MARCH 2018



The Unnayan Onneshan (UO), an independent multidisciplinary think-tank, in its monthly publication of the 'Bangladesh Economic Update' March 2018, reveals that persistently increasing outstanding debt along with high debt-service payment every year is likely to lower development finance and escalate intergenerational debt burden.

The research organisation notes that at the end of FY 2016-17, the total outstanding domestic debt increased by 15.12 percent while the total outstanding external debt burden rose by 8.59 percent.

During the period of July-December of FY 2017-18, the total outstanding domestic debt increased by 15.32 percent compared to the corresponding period of FY 2016-17. On the other hand, rate of growth in net foreign aid decreased to 2.10 percent in FY 2016-17 from 17.54 percent in FY 2015-16.

#### MEDIA

Unnayan Onneshan calls for taking prudent fiscal management

<http://www.daily-sun.com/home/printnews/306700>

সরকারের অভ্যন্তরীণ ঋণের বোঝা বাড়াচ্ছে

উন্নয়ন অশেষণের পর্যালোচনা

<http://samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-industry-trade/article/180432/>

উন্নয়ন অশেষণের বিশ্লেষণ

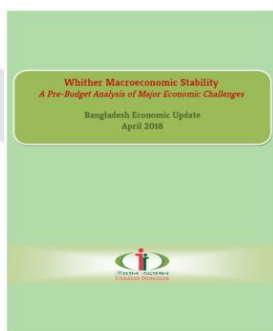
আন্তঃপ্রজন্ম ঋণের বোঝা বাড়াচ্ছে ক্রমবর্ধমান ঋণের স্থিতি

<http://bonikbarta.net/bangla/news/2018-04-01/153082/%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%83%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AE-%E0%A6%8B%E0%A6%A3%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%9D%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9C%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%8B%E0%A6%A3%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF/>

## ACTION RESEARCH IN THE SUNDARBANS

- Forest department has taken some initiatives to conserve the forest and increase fish production. These are: embargo on fishing in 3 wildlife sanctuaries in the Sundarbans forest region, embargo on fishing in 18 canals outside wildlife sanctuaries, ban on collection of prawn larvae inside the forest and ban on crab collection in January and February.
- Meetings were held among Koyra forest people cooperative where community people pledged to refrain from adulteration of honey. Moreover, discussions occurred on how loan can be attained from the cooperative and how proper price can be achieved.
- Meetings took place among Harinagar community people where discussion occurred on how trees should be cut off. Besides, participants talked about the necessity of coordination of people and community police for the purpose of preventing illegal cutting of trees.



**APRIL 2018****WHITHER MACROECONOMIC STABILITY, A PRE-BUDGET ANALYSIS OF MAJOR ECONOMIC CHALLENGES****MONTHLY BANGLADESH ECONOMIC UPDATE, APRIL 2018**

The Unnayan Onneshan (UO), an independent multidisciplinary think tank, in its pre-budget issue of Bangladesh Economic Update calls for prudent fiscal management strategies for dealing with potential economic risks and vulnerabilities in the year ahead.

In identifying the major economic challenges as regards the national budget 2018-19, the UO notes that numerous setbacks in the economy may threaten macroeconomic stability.

**MEDIA**

Unnayan Onneshan calls for taking prudent fiscal management

<http://www.daily-sun.com/post/306700/2018/05/05/Unnayan-Onneshan-calls-for-taking-prudent-fiscal-management-->

## ACTION RESEARCH IN THE SUNDARBANS

- Meeting on cutting honeycomb and preservation occurred among Koyra forest people cooperative.
- Women gave their opinions in discussion with Harinagar forest people cooperative. They discussed issues like fishing techniques, household income opportunity through handicraft such as making pickles of Keora, sewing mat etc.





**MAY 2018****MEDIA**

অর্থনীতির বেশিরভাগ সূচক ছিল নিম্নমুখী

বিনিয়োগ ও কর্মসংস্থানে প্রবৃদ্ধি কমেছে, আয়-ব্যয়ে বৈষম্য আরও বেড়েছে

<https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/first-page/1531/%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%AD%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%97-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%82%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%95-%E0%A6%9B%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B2-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%96%E0%A7%80?fbclid=IwAR27bwoEv8oYwp4NF0sOF-0zQjrigqaoBY5ojGoCSsmfjdrpdX-m0BtKtaU>

ব্যংকগুলোকে কি সুবিধা দিয়ে ফেরানো যাবে?

<https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1483336/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AB%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8B-%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87?fbclid=IwAR2C1LOxGjDtQBx7bnF6-6 Yv6u-wHob1lrQpvPmuk2tG5AtZDNxQ1YGEE>

পরিস্থিতি অন্য সময়ের চেয়ে ভিন্ন: বিনিয়োগ স্থবির

<https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1482691/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%87%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AD%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%97-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0?fbclid=IwAR0f7h7Sq0Jrw0ppGdUMD5tLVm2SBVpUKPgMFfHmbbMkuH0a0x9Lr0o SZw>

বেপরোয়া ব্যংকিং ও খেলাপি ঋণের খাদ

<https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1481286/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8B%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%82-%E0%A6%93-%E0%A6%96%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%8B%E0%A6%A3%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%96%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A6?fbclid=IwAR2O15LzYXrj74vwwOrDO0nN6bizagZ6S9GupDtAtT44wsE0lKRHaWk6DwA>

## ACTION RESEARCH IN THE SUNDARBANS

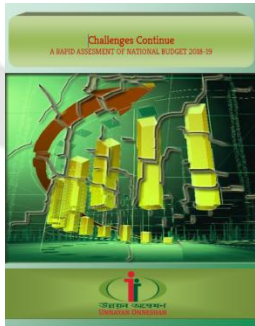
- Members of Munda community made some specific demands in the meeting. They are- assuring safety while staying in the forest, particular project for development of Munda people, reducing price of daily necessary commodities and increasing wage and others.
- Women of different communities are now involved in carp collection and cultivation. They have become more self-reliant than before. Different awareness and income opportunity related programs have inspired to make a thrive in this context.



JUNE 2018

## CHALLENGES CONTINUE, A RAPID ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL BUDGET 2018-19

### CHALLENGES CONTINUE, A RAPID ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL BUDGET 2018-19, JUNE 2018



The Unnayan Onneshan (UO), an independent multidisciplinary think-tank, finds that the proposed budget for FY 2018-19 lacks measures necessary to address the macroeconomic, medium term and institutional challenges facing the economy.

“The budget speech seems to lack providing prudent and farsighted solutions to the current challenges except it earmarks ambitious targets of expenditure amidst inefficient distribution of resources and cost overrun, says the organization in its rapid assessment of the proposed national budget for the FY 2017-18”, says the research organisation.

Inequality has widened on the back of the gap between return on capital and return on labour on the one hand and the persistent primitive accumulation in the form of looting in different sectors of the economy on the other.

#### MEDIA

চাঁদের অপর পিঠের চেহারা

<https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1517496/%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%81%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A0%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE?fbclid=IwAR2e8aDqsOHeu5BCRIhtx6eeEBDd1fKYmuKQHJRK8OyC0DhkW1dSyF95IC0#comments>

হারাচ্ছে প্রবৃদ্ধি, হারাচ্ছে একটা প্রজন্ম

[https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1509576/%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%83%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AE?fbclid=IwAR0J0\\_1wEG1CgDi8bNwf2ESDGu3OiuKHR7PQYRUKnPF2JhQA3HY5qVaOrrY](https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1509576/%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%83%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AE?fbclid=IwAR0J0_1wEG1CgDi8bNwf2ESDGu3OiuKHR7PQYRUKnPF2JhQA3HY5qVaOrrY)

অর্থমন্ত্রী আসল সংকট নিয়ে নীরব

<https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1507361/%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%80-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%B2-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%9F-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%AC?fbclid=IwAR32DB6-FfDGI-guu1lBp4J-ljAuwj3MGcCCQUJCN5U0lu5CTO0WsqBhKu3A>

গোষ্ঠীতন্ত্রের পছন্দের বাজেট

[https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1506696/গোষ্ঠীতন্ত্রের-পছন্দের-বাজেট?fbclid=IwAR38Wxm6pvivWBcM9Ccd4gRpyd4dgFgnGUKI\\_n24c52dio9tjPndHmzeyZo](https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1506696/গোষ্ঠীতন্ত্রের-পছন্দের-বাজেট?fbclid=IwAR38Wxm6pvivWBcM9Ccd4gRpyd4dgFgnGUKI_n24c52dio9tjPndHmzeyZo)

Major challenges remain unaddressed

[http://www.newagebd.net/article/43213/major-challenges-remain-unaddressed?fbclid=IwAR3vvrCDriO\\_5P-3NDq4m74C\\_MUwVl5ZtT058-drUdMwBhi-RzcdqAGW2U](http://www.newagebd.net/article/43213/major-challenges-remain-unaddressed?fbclid=IwAR3vvrCDriO_5P-3NDq4m74C_MUwVl5ZtT058-drUdMwBhi-RzcdqAGW2U)

## ACTION RESEARCH IN THE SUNDARBANS

- Meeting took place with Amadi forest people community. Several issues were discussed like resource collection method, current earning source, income level, gender perspective, precaution against disaster, conservation of forest and so on.
- As a result of constant meetings and awareness programs, members of forest people communities do not use pernicious nets like 'current nets' and also they make others aware to refrain from using these nets.
- Women of the communities are getting engaged in fishing more than before. Consequently they have become able to earn more from the market and meet the demand of nutrition.



## The 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDARBANS BIENNIAL FOREST PEOPLE CONVENTION

The 2nd Sundarbans Biannual Forest Peoples Convention of the forest dependent peoples' cooperatives took place at office premises of Adibasi Munda Unnayan Samity (Indigenous Munda Cooperative) on Tuesday, 20th February 2018. The convention was successfully attended by the members of the three cooperatives, namely Koyra Bonojibi Bohumikhi Unnayan Samity (Koyra Forest Dependent Peoples' Cooperative), Horinagar Bonojibi Bohumukhi Unnayan Samity (Horinagar Forest Dependent Peoples' Cooperative), and Adibasi Munda Unnayan Samity (Indigenous Munda Cooperative). In addition, the local government representatives, and a group of representatives from Unnayan Onneshan participated in the convention.

This was followed by Annual General Meeting for Drafting Strategies and Preparing Work Plan in respective Cooperative offices on 21 February 2018. On 22 February 2018, a Meeting was held for finalisation of Strategies and Work Plan.

The focus of the Convention was on sharing the views of cooperative society members on the issue of participatory monitoring of biodiversity and climate change and enabling them to understand the rationale behind their role as rangers in efficiently managing forest resources, thereby securing sustainable livelihoods. The outcomes of the day long fruitful discussion of the forest peoples, biodiversity, livelihoods and climate change can be categorised into three parts – progresses, prospects, and challenges. The members of all the three cooperative societies are well-equipped with biodiversity monitoring techniques particularly through self-monitoring of harvests by themselves. The speakers narrated as to how the customary sustainable practices and traditional knowledge of traditional resource users (TRUs) such as wood collectors (Bawalis), fisherman (Jele), honey collectors (Mouals), shell collectors (Chunary) and crab collectors play a major role in reversing destructive trends. For example, Jamila Bibi, 52, hailing from the Koyra Bonojibi Bohumikhi Unnayan Samity, who every week goes for fishing in the waterbodies of the Sundarbans recalls how this globally important ecosystem is now vulnerable due to over-harvesting, destructive fishing and habitat degradation. She also pointed out about the small fries have been destructed through use of poisons to allure more catch due to lack of oxygen fishes are caught by nets. She passionately described, on the other hand, she takes care of fries so that there could be sustainable fishing.



A remarkable change in women's role in the promotion of sustainable livelihoods for the forest peoples drew the particular attention of the Convention participants. Women along with their male counterparts are now actively engaging in the income generating activities and earning livelihoods for their families. Mazid Sardar of Horinagar Bonojibi Bohumukhi Unnayan Samity shared that they have organised a Self-Help Savings system. They have now 197 Members. From the accumulated fund, they provide loan to the members and through self-help they are helping each other in mitigating distress and in creation of alternative livelihood for the whole year and/or during the off seasons. The members of Adibasi Munda Unnayan Samity shared experience of making significant amount of profit through cultivation of crab. They explained that there was growing demand for crab in market, and cultivation of crab is women-friendly and less risky. They further said that the female members of almost every Adibasi Munda family were by some means involved in crab cultivation. Thus, a remarkable change in women's role in the promotion of sustainable livelihoods for the forest peoples drew the particular attention of the convention participants. Women along with their male counterparts are now actively engaging in the income generating activities and earning livelihoods for their families. f almost every Adibasi Munda family were by some means involved in crab cultivation.



- A considerable increase in the number of members of each of the cooperative societies was noticed indicating the dissemination of local knowledge of natural resource use among the large number of newly young entrants to the cooperative societies. As a result, intensification of social cohesion has been observed among the communities fostering participatory or collaborative monitoring of biodiversity and climate change and promoting sustainable use of natural resources. For example, Khalilur Rahman, the Secretary of the Koyra Bonojibi Bohumukhi Unnayan Samity, discussed in the convention that 13 new entrants to his cooperative was trained through a number of meetings for sustainable use of natural resources, particularly collecting honey through applying traditional knowledge.
- There exists potential scope for higher income for the members of the cooperatives. Marketing of the harvests or resources that the cooperatives collect is not efficient. As experienced by the Adibasi Munda Unnayan Samity, income of the crab cultivators would increase if they did not have to rely on the middlemen – in other words, if they had access to market. Reckoning the development of a marketing strategy for the harvests or resources is likely to increase the income of the forest peoples.
- The new entrants to the cooperatives are innovative. They are interested in the low-input farming system, e.g. silvoaquaculture. Promotion of supplementary income generating activities that require low-input could attract a large pool of young enthusiastic members and be effective in creating employment and increasing income in the communities.
- Lack of coordination between the government agencies and the cooperatives, corruption in the administration, discrimination and harassment by the law enforcement agencies, and information asymmetry pose serious challenge to the access of forest peoples to natural resources. As complained with frustration by a number of members from the cooperatives, they had to bribe the law enforcement agencies to access the forest despite having valid license, or else the law enforcement officials lodged false cases against them. However, the representatives from government agencies also complained that some of the members of cooperatives entered the forest illegally and endangered various species of plants and animals. It is, therefore, imperative to eradicate the growing tensions between the administration and the cooperatives in order to ensure sustainable livelihoods of the forest peoples as well as the use of biodiversity in a sustainable manner.



## Annual General Meeting for Drafting Strategies and Preparing Work Plan

Following the Convention, on 21 February 2018 every Cooperatives through their participatory meetings came up with activities for the year. The representatives of each Cooperative shared their plans in a plenary on 22 February 2018 which was participated by representatives of three Cooperatives. The consultative process came with the following decisions:

- CBMIS knowledge –three ecosystems – forest, marine and coastal ecosystems – will be covered;
- Monitoring plans/priorities determined and in place – focus will be on marine and coastal ecosystem plus disaster risk reduction;
- Community plans, protocols, strategies and initiatives for conservation, sustainable management and community resilience and adaptability – invasive species, illegal and poisonous fishing, and climate change;
- Preservation and inter-generational transmission of traditional knowledge, traditional occupations and practices – transforming the Cooperatives to Traditional Knowledge Centres;
- Initiatives for sustainable livelihood activities based on traditional occupations – marine and coastal ecosystem;
- Capacities, plans and strategies for effective engagement, advocacy and awareness-raising at various levels developed, particularly on the development of capacity of the TRU leaders as regards their representation at different levels;
- Advocacy and contribution to national level – (a) publication of the Sundarbans LBO, (b) Media engagements, (c) Involvement with government processes, (d) contribution to post 2020 processes, (e) IPBES, (f) CBD - COP, SBSTTA and SBI





## **Glimpses of Electronic Media Participation**

*(Various media reports on the research and publications of the Unnayan Onneshan are shown under different months )*

The Unnayan Onneshan has a unique advantage as a leading think-tank in South Asia and has a track record of its engagements print and electronic media. The experts from the Unnayan Onneshan are regularly invited in prime shows hosted by different TV channels in Bangladesh and in South Asia. The experts were also interviewed by world reputed media organization such as BBC to make expert comments. In these comments the organization highlighted the issues of biodiversity losses, sustainable uses of biodiversity, plights of the traditional forest resource users and the regulatory and government interventions needed for conservation of biodiversity and improvements of the lives and livelihoods of forest peoples. Furthermore, this year UO chairman participated in several talk show on contemporary politics and issues like US presidential election.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSyYO-47X6E&list=PLc\\_kkIn0dwWu9GboFeJF-zZJcNtZK6R1G&fbclid=IwAR1EXIfEn-6aM3nizDHPg7p-f77Zibs1U-YFv4Uf0kKCaunTj8z\\_I-p7Qs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSyYO-47X6E&list=PLc_kkIn0dwWu9GboFeJF-zZJcNtZK6R1G&fbclid=IwAR1EXIfEn-6aM3nizDHPg7p-f77Zibs1U-YFv4Uf0kKCaunTj8z_I-p7Qs)



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JDROWTI3K8&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR21HE4skjS1rOpLxWjsgvL0ITaa0UrelSEtU-A-t6WLLcZTupmVajFvW\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JDROWTI3K8&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR21HE4skjS1rOpLxWjsgvL0ITaa0UrelSEtU-A-t6WLLcZTupmVajFvW_U)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSP-67h0pSE>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8IHgS4-tpw&t=2s>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfPNGBADMis&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2PYhXX9GbinPI3Aoj3CipUVI2xiNoVWqMNNZo2PBgwOKCzVjCDzky7RQM>

A large, stylized graphic of two human figures in grey, walking towards the right. The figures are composed of simple geometric shapes: rectangles for the torso and legs, and circles for the heads. The background is white with a green diagonal stripe running from the top left to the bottom right. The text is centered over the figures.

**International Participations**  
**Workshops and Training Programs**

The UO attended in IPSI case study work 2017, held in Japan from 28-30 June 2017. This participation came up with a publication in Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review , Volume– 3 (SITR- 3).



The article attempts to examine whether livelihood patterns of indigenous people and local communities (IPLC) have contributed to the conservation and sustainable utilization of resources through a case study on the Sundarbans of Bangladesh. The Sundarbans is the largest mangrove ecosystem of the world enriched with high biodiversity. The combination of various types of ecosystems (forest, coastal and wetland) makes the Sundarbans home to several uniquely adapted aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna. These biotic along with other abiotic resources of the Sundarbans contribute directly or indirectly to the economy both at local and national levels. A significant number of local people have maintained their livelihoods by depending on these resources. This article, by identifying the Sundarbans Reserve Forest (SRF) area as a socio-ecological production landscape and seascape (SEPLS), reveals that powerful agents at local, national and international levels have been extracting the resources of the Sundarbans beyond the sustainable limit. On the contrary, the IPLCs are playing an important role in the restoration of natural resources through traditional knowledge and practices, which in turn can establish a sustainable resource management system. It also attempts to demonstrate that the institutional fragility, the existing nature of the power sharing arrangement, the nature of the political settlement and most importantly the exclusion of the IPLCs in the conservation and management process, have contributed to loss of biological diversity. Accordingly, this chapter presents empirical evidence showing that the local people of the Sundarbans have been practicing unique production methods that can significantly contribute to the revitalization and sustainable management of resources through symbiotic human-nature relationships. This article is based upon the data reservoir of the Unnayan Onneshan research institute, which undertakes several biodiversity conservation programmes and conducts research on the Sundarbans. A significant amount of data was collected through participatory observations, questionnaire surveys, key person interviews and focus group discussions. The study particularly draws on the traditional knowledge of the forest people of three cooperatives that the Unnayan Onneshan helped to set up—the Harinagar Bonojibi Bohumukhi Unnayan Samity, the Koyra Bonojibi Bohumukhi Unnayan Samity and the Munda Adivasi Bonojibi Bohumukhi Unnayan Samity. Members pursue their livelihoods as wood and golpata collectors (Bawalis), fishermen (Jele), honey collectors (Mouals), shell collectors (Chunary), and crab collectors.

## Chapter 4

### The complementarity of human and nature well-being: A case illustrated by traditional forest resource users of the Sundarbans in Bangladesh

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#### Abstract

This chapter attempts to examine whether livelihood patterns of indigenous people and local communities (IPLC) have contributed to the conservation and sustainable utilization of resources through a case study on the Sundarbans of Bangladesh. The Sundarbans is the largest mangrove ecosystem of the world enriched with high biodiversity. The combination of various types of ecosystems (forest, coastal and wetland) makes the Sundarbans home to several uniquely adapted aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna. These biotic along with other abiotic resources of the Sundarbans contribute directly or indirectly to the economy both at local and national levels. A significant number of local people have maintained their livelihoods by depending on these resources. This chapter, by identifying the Sundarbans Reserve Forest (SRF) area as a socio-ecological production landscape and seascape (SEPLS), reveals that powerful agents at local, national and international levels have been extracting the resources of the Sundarbans beyond the sustainable limit. On the contrary, the IPLCs are playing an important role in the restoration of natural resources through traditional knowledge and practices, which in turn can establish a sustainable resource management system. This chapter also attempts to demonstrate that the institutional fragility, the existing nature of the power sharing arrangement, the nature of the political settlement and most importantly the exclusion of the IPLCs in the conservation and management process, have contributed to loss of biological diversity. Accordingly, this chapter presents empirical evidence showing that the local people of the Sundarbans have been practicing unique production methods that can significantly contribute to the revitalization and sustainable management of resources through symbiotic human-nature relationships.

This chapter is based upon the data reservoir of the Unnayan Onneshan research institute, which undertakes several biodiversity conservation programmes and conducts research on the Sundarbans. A significant amount of data was collected through participatory observations, questionnaire surveys, key person interviews and focus group discussions. The study particularly draws on the traditional knowledge of the forest people of three cooperatives that the Unnayan Onneshan helped to set up—the *Harinagar Bonojibi Bohumukhi Unnayan Samity*, the *Koyra Bonojibi Bohumukhi Unnayan Samity* and the *Munda Adivasi Bonojibi Bohumukhi Unnayan Samity*. Members pursue their livelihoods as wood and golpata collectors (*Bawalis*), fishermen (*Jele*), honey collectors (*Mouals*), shell collectors (*Chunary*), and crab collectors.

**Keywords:** Livelihoods; Biodiversity; Conservation; IPLC



UO Chairperson during the IPSI workshop in Japan from 28 -30 June 2017

**Unnayan Onneshan**  
**Book Series (Five Volumes)**



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- ❖ Wellbeing of Nature: An Examination into Natural Resource, Biodiversity and Climate Change in Bangladesh
- ❖ Agrarian Transition: Land Transactions and Accumulation in Bangladesh

## SUMMARY

This path-breaking series, first of its kind on a country, is designed with dual attempts of providing alternative economic theories and new empirical validation on 'development problem.' The books will deal with both the fundamental theoretical questions and the empirical reality of the capitalist transition through new approaches based on comparative historical political economy analysis by way of a general case illustrated with reference to Bangladesh.

Second, the books on five different themes, making a departure from, yet providing new insights on, conventional questions of growth, and associated issues such as macroeconomic policy choices, investment priorities, and structural transformation, will include a broader set of concerns as regards societal advancement and environmental sustainability to be comprehensive in both articulation and evidence.

Third, the series is a direct response to fill in the shortcomings of technocratic characterisation of state and government by the mainstream economics in general and economic policy-making in particular through contextualising the fundamental ideas of political economy. Thus the five thematic titles will investigate into a range of contemporary issues to present the role and functioning of deep determinants of development - institutional and political factors - that shape accumulation, technology adoption, and societal progress. The persistent attempts will be geared to bring to the fore new thinking on the notions of state, not confining to the current preoccupations of government failure or institutional deficiency, but towards finding coherent explanations into how politics and institutional structures embedded in societal compositions and political competitions shape policy choices and outcomes.

Fourth, the books will present a new approach to study the subjects to advance theoretical and empirical rigour on the study of development relations, processes, institutions, and policies by engaging disciplines such as history, politics, sociology, and, geography, making a shift from the conventional system of analysis, dominated by narrow apparatuses of economics.

Fifth, the books will contain different strands of theories and the debates between the competing proponents. Each chapter will focus on the way these different theoretical approaches have evolved, how performance in the long period has been analysed, how both orthodox and alternative heterodox theoretical principles have been applied in the short run, to what extent such conventional analyses are relevant to catching-up process for the countries in capitalist transition, and will provide new theoretical constructs to explain ground realities

Sixth, another important characteristic of these volumes are emphasis on empirical validation, and will be reflected through both developments in empirical methods and an enormous investment in data generation. Beyond mere descriptive, most of the work will occupy on how to identify the cause-effect relationships of institutional or political factors on outcomes.

Seventh, the books are designed for the policy makers, entrepreneurs, subject specialists and students who want to concentrate on application of theory and evidence-based policymaking.

Team: A team led by Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, comprising six Research Associates are working on the books.

## **Organisational Development**

**Governance, Staff and Policy Development**

The Unnayan Onneshan is governed by a Board of Trustees, which is assisted by two Board-level Committees, namely, (a) Systems, Rules and Procedure Committee, and (b) Finance and Audit Committee. These two Committees help the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities by reviewing and making recommendations in order to enhance the organisation's performance to achieve the desired level of outcomes. Moreover, three Staff-level Committees work closely together in order to produce deliverables in a holistic and integrated way for optimising the organisation's effectiveness. The Research and Programme Committee, comprising all staff of Research and Capacity Building and Programme Management Divisions, is responsible for overseeing the development, coordination and implementation of the research and programmes of the organisation. Administration and Finance Committee, involving all staff members of Administration and Finance Unit, is in charge for coordination of the activities of the organisation relating to human resources, administration and finance. The Coordination and Development Committee, consists of representatives from the two Divisions and Administration and Finance Unit, is a coordinating body of the Staff that makes recommendations to the Board on the development and implementation of the activities of the organisation. Under this committee, the Purchase and Procurement Sub Committee works for purchasing and procurement of goods, articles and equipment for the organisation. Besides the structures, the UO has a full-blown comprehensive manual that includes all encompassing policies, systems and rules.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The organisation follows a point based career path strategy that allows every staff to redefine their position based on achieved points. The point scale has been developed through a yearlong consultation process with staff and human resources experts, which considers academic, research experience, project management, peer review and organisational development factors.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

During the journey of 11 years, the organisation has adopted a number of policies. Some of the important policies are stated below in brief:

**Gender Policy:** Gender policy is adopted by the Unnayan Onneshan to practice equality between female and male employees of the organisation. The policy addressed through integration of gender equality and female empowerment throughout the organization's programme cycle and related processes. The Unnayan Onneshan is an equal opportunity employer. However, female candidates get preference for ensuring gender balance within the organisation.

**Policy for Prevention of Sexual Harassment:** The Unnayan Onneshan has articulated a strong stand on gender justice and, through this policy, seeks to create a work environment free from intimidation and abuse, communicating a zero tolerance of any action that may be construed as sexual harassment. The objective of the policy is to make the employees understand sexual harassment, measures of prevention and procedures of enquiry and punishments.

**Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS:** The purpose of this policy is to provide clarity on Unnayan Onneshan views and commitments regarding HIV/AIDS and the comprehensive management of HIV positive employees and employees living with AIDS. The Policy is also aimed at focusing on aspects of HIV/AIDS which, if not carefully addressed, may impact negatively on UO activities; and for the well-being of its employees, UO recognises the seriousness and implications of HIV/AIDS for the individual employee, as well as co-workers of affected individuals.

## **METINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE TRUSTEES**

### **51st Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

The 51st meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Unnayan Onneshan was held at the office of the Unnayan Onneshan, House No.16/2, Indira Road, Farmgate, and Dhaka 1215 on Monday 2nd October, 2017 at 05:00 pm. Under the facilitation of Unnayan Onneshan Chairperson, Professor Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, the board members approved of the organizational activities- July to September 2017 and management accounts of the organization. The Board also approved the new recruitments for different units of the organisation. All the members of the Board of Trustees along with Head of Admin & Finance, Senior Admin and Finance Executive were present at the meeting.

### **52nd Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

The 52nd meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Unnayan Onneshan was held on Monday 3rd January 2018 at 5:00 pm at Unnayan Onneshan, 16/2 Indira Road, Farmgate, Dhaka 1215, and Bangladesh. Under the facilitation of Unnayan Onneshan Chairperson, Professor Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, the board members approved the organizational activities – October to December 2017 and management accounts of the organization. The members of the Board looked into and expressed their satisfaction. All members of the Board of Trustees along with Head of Admin & Finance, Senior Admin and Finance Executive were present at the meeting.

### **53rd Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

The 53rd meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Unnayan Onneshan was held at the office of the Unnayan Onneshan, House No.16/2, Indira Road, Farmgate, and Dhaka 1215 on Thursday 5th April, 2018 at 6:30 pm. The meeting was presided over by Unnayan Onneshan Chairperson, Professor Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir. The Board members approved the organizational activities – January to March 2018. The Board also approved the new recruitments of the organisation. The Board approved the assessment of assets and directed to dispose off scrapped items and to sell out the assets in good condition. All the members of the Board of Trustees along with Head of Admin & Finance, Senior Admin and Finance Executive were present at the meeting.

### **54th Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

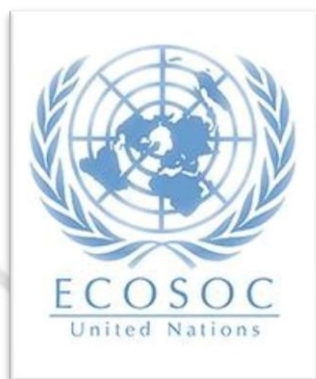
The 54th meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Unnayan Onneshan was held at the office of the Unnayan Onneshan, House No.16/2, Indira Road, Farmgate, and Dhaka 1215 on Wednesday 31st July, 2018 at 07:00 pm. Under the facilitation of Unnayan Onneshan Chairperson, Professor Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, the board members approved of the annual audit report July 2017 to June 2018 and management accounts of the organization. All the members of the Board of Trustees along with Head of Admin & Finance, Senior Admin and Finance Executive were present at the meeting.

**Membership &  
Partnership**

**Institutional Collaboration**

## MEMBERSHIP

Since 2003, Unnayan Onneshan has earned respect and recognition in the field of research and advocacy, by remaining strongly independent, disseminating expertise and proposing alternative and innovative solutions to global issues. Therefore, Unnayan Onneshan now possesses an observatory status, a consultative status, or a membership within the following international organisations.



## PARTNERSHIP

The Unnayan Onneshan greatly values the strong partnerships developed over the years with likeminded, innovative organisations from Bangladesh and abroad. In a globalised world, this cooperation makes for a more efficient and collaborative approach to solving problems and gaining attention on the issues that are most important to us.





**Unnayan Onneshan  
Family**

**Once a Member,  
Always a Member**

**Board of Trustees Members**

Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, Chairperson  
Nazrul Islam, Member Secretary  
Jakir Hossain, Trustee  
Munira Nasreen Khan, Trustee

**Researchers**

Mustafa Kamal  
Ebney Ayaj Rana  
Md. Zahidur Rahman  
Mohammad Saeed Islam  
Tanjila Afrin  
Md. Shamim Reza  
Jayanta Kumar Basak  
Nahida Sultana  
Md. Aslam Hossain  
Mujahidul Islam  
Nishat Tasneem

**Administration**

Azmol Hossain, Coordinator, Finance and Admin

**Support Staffs**

Monirul Islam  
Md. Salam Saikder  
Dulali Soren

A large, stylized graphic of two human figures in grey, one slightly behind the other, walking towards the right. The figures are composed of simple geometric shapes: a circle for the head, a rectangular body, and a triangular base for the legs. The background is white with a green diagonal stripe running from the top left to the bottom right.

**Summary**  
**Financial Statement**



আহমদ এন্ড আখতার  
**AHMAD & AKHTAR**  
Chartered Accountants

## AUDITOR'S REPORT TO UNNAYAN ONNESHAN

We have audited the annexed financial statements of “Unnayan Onneshan” comprising Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2018, Statement of Income and Expenditure, Statement of Receipts and Payments, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Financial Statements for the year then ended.

### Respective responsibilities of management and auditors

The management is the responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

### Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Bangladesh Standards on Auditing (BSA). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), give a true and fair view of the state of the organization's affair as at 30 June 2018 and of the results of its operations and its grant receipts and payments for the year then ended.

### We also report that:

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit;
- Proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the management so far as it appeared from our examination of those books; and
- The balance sheet, statement of income and expenditure and statement of receipts and payments and statement of cash flows dealt with by the report are in agreement with the books of account.

Dated: 25 July 2018  
Place: Dhaka



**AHMAD & AKHTAR**  
Chartered Accountants

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**AHMAD & AKHTAR**  
Chartered Accountant

**Unnayan Onneshan**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As at June 30, 2018

Particulars	Notes	Amount in Taka	
		30 June 2018	30 June 2017
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		<b>2,046,077</b>	<b>1,442,941</b>
Fixed assets	5.00	2,046,077	1,442,941
<b>Current Assets</b>		<b>7,982,514</b>	<b>8,140,802</b>
Investment, deposit & advance	6.00	612,673	612,673
AIT deducted at source	7.00	7,348,533	7,350,533
Loan and advance against salary	8.00	-	-
Cash in hand and at bank	9.00	21,309	177,596
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>10,028,591</b>	<b>9,583,743</b>
<b>Fund &amp; Liabilities</b>			
<b>Fund</b>		<b>(3,907,710)</b>	<b>(1,866,689)</b>
Fund account	10.00	(5,893,710)	(1,866,689)
Revaluation surplus	11.00	1,986,000	-
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		<b>13,936,301</b>	<b>11,450,432</b>
Office rent payable	12.00	11,793,074	10,124,142
Loan from Trustees	13.00	2,143,227	1,326,290
<b>Total fund &amp; liabilities</b>		<b>10,028,591</b>	<b>9,583,743</b>

The annexed notes form an integral part of these balance sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Head of Admin & Finance

\_\_\_\_\_  
Convener, Finance Committee and Trustee

As per our annexed report of even date.

Dated: 25 July 2018  
Place: Dhaka



*AHMAD & AKHTAR*  
Chartered Accountants



### **Unnayan Onneshan**

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### **Preparation and Design**

Md. Shah Paran  
Mostafa Walid Pasha

