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# **UNNAYAN ONNESHAN** Annual Report 2019-2020

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

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## Unnayan Onneshan in 2019-20

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## Message from the Chairperson





This has been an unprecedented year due to COVID-19 pandemic. The global health sector has been dealing with capability crisis being rumpled by this lethal disease. It is quite unknown when this health emergency will come to an end but the massive economic shock which is already on the rise will be at the centre stage of concern. Global economic recession has already been started. The changing circumstances due to this pandemic call for new set of thinking and actions.

It is my immense pleasure to thank every member of the Unnayan Onneshan for their incessant and countless efforts throughout the year. Our national and international partners have been with us throughout the journey with optimum support and solidarity. I would like to acknowledge the dedication of the members of the Board of Trustees.

The 2019-20 has been afflicted with new experiences and crises. Against the backdrop of emergence of COVID-19, world has been going through new dimensions of challenges comprising health and economic collapses mostly. The Unnayan Onneshan has always been making attempts to make highest possible use of the unprecedented predicament. The organization has been making rigorous research works, arranging webinar discussions and paperworks on the implications of COVID-19 and recovery and reconstruction pathways of the economy from this pandemic. Webinar discussions have covered vulnerability of socio-economic shock during COVID-19 period in different regions of Bangladesh as well as SAARC countries.

During this challenging period, the Unnayan Onneshan has proposed a new monetary and fiscal policy framework for Bangladesh which has been appreciated among the policy level and civil society. Besides, a new dimension of "basic income grant" for the poor ones has gathered great deal of attention at the policy level. Unnayan Onneshan believes, without providing a comprehensive social security system for the people of the society irrespective socio-economic status, equality will not be achieved. Thanks to the research team and all other partners since their efforts and continuous support have made the research function easier through this time in spite of manifold barriers and constraints. UO is working further in collaboration with analysts and expertise on the post COVID-19 economic shock and how life and livelihoods can be managed focusing on the poor people on the backdrop of addition of newly poor ones.

While respecting our core values, we have given our optimum level of effort to improve our level of research and investigation by nurturing the penchant to explore things in multi-dimensional ways. Our restructuring process in 2019-20 has enabled us to concentrate on rigorous and robust research on the one hand, and to steer 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.

Throughout the year, the UO has been in the process of building capacity and training young researchers to create substantial pool of researchers in manifold aspects who are currently working with diligence and efficiency to produce innovative research. Besides, a good number researchers later joined public and private universities as faculties. Many are working in development organizations and are contributing with their earned knowledge.

The UO's path-breaking publications have steered public debates, demystified policies and provided robust and rigorous analyses for evidence-based policymaking. The organization 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, generated provocative ideas, reframed the debates, or provided new ways of looking at persistent problems. 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 seven reports, dealing with traditional and customary knowledge, rules and beliefs practiced by the traditional resource users that are congenial for the conservation of the natural resources of the Sundarbans.

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

The UO is in committed relationships with organisations such as Oxfam Novib and Forest People Programme (FPP) while this year it has come in a new partnership for 'Research on Inequality from a 3D- Perspective in Bangladesh: Desire, Development and Democracy with Oxfam GB. The partnership of the organisation has been further strengthened. The organisation has actively collaborated with the University of London and the University of Bradford. The organisation is in committed relationships with organisations 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) and Gono Kalyan Sangstha (GKS).



The UO also got membership in Regional Centers of Expertise (RCE) on Education and Sustainable Development. This project, RCE Sundarbans, brings together leading universities and research organisations of Bangladesh to work with communities in the Sundarbans ecological critical area (ECA) through the multiple evidence base (MEB) as an approach that proposes parallels whereby indigenous and local as well as scientific knowledge systems are viewed to generate new insights and innovations through complementarities.

The UO participated number of international events during pre-COVID-19 pandemic. It participated in 'China and the World' workshop in Hong Kong SAR, China on August 2019. It also facilitated Expert Thematic Workshop on Landscape Approaches for the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, organised by the United Nations University in association with Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ministry of the Environment, Japan and Kumamoto Prefectural Government. UO attended at the 11th meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Montreal, Canada, at the Headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization, from 20 to 22 November 2019. UO also attended workshop on the Evidence base for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: Fifth Edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and IPBES Global Assessment held at Montreal, Canada, 32 November 2019.

The UO keeps working to publish a book series which consists of 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".

This year UO is working to publish another three books. The first one addresses the numbers and narratives that help analyze the necessary and sufficient conditions of the development of Bangladesh's economy. The other book on Sundarbans makes an investigation into the traditional and customary knowledge, rules and beliefs practiced by the Traditional Resource Users (TRUs) that are congenial for the conservation of the natural resources of the Sundarbans. It attempts to contemplate the traditional practices of TRUs of the Sundarbans of Bangladesh part and identifies the contributions of traditional practices in the sustainable usage of natural resources.

Finally the Bengali one is extended version of the "Political Settlement and Economic Outcome" published last year which includes a new chapter regarding COVID-19 and provides recovery path of the economy from the ongoing pandemic based on new principles.

I would like to reiterate my gratitude to all of my members and partners, who have been comrading with us throughout our journey with their incessant dynamism along with devotion in a full rhythm.

The success of 2019-20 has made us incumbent with more responsibilities to work hard and make innovative research work to put a resilient sign of multi-faceted dedication in the upcoming year. Moreover, we will try our best to amend the mistake and deficiencies which we could not do due to limitation of time and some unavoidable reasons.

I believe and hope that the upcoming year brings plenty of possibilities and innovations through relentless efforts. A strong rendezvous of dynamic issues will be made on a strong foundation of research field. I also hope UO will be more resilient in 2020-21 and contribute more in its respective research wings to make fruitful outcome, especially in the context of wavering economy of Bangladesh. Your continuous support and camaraderie is our strength which is worth appreciating once again.

Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir

## 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 mange 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.



#### **0ERATIONAL 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 July 2019 - February 2020 Pre-COVID-19 Period

Advancing Ideas and Building Constituencies for Social Transformation

## JULY 2019



#### **Research and Op-ed**

The first two op-ed pieces explore the nature of growth in Bangladesh published in Bengali newspaper, the Daily Prothom Alo. The analysis particularly illustrates the clientelistic nature of growth observing in the economy.

#### কোন ধরনের, কী পথে ও কার জন্য প্রবৃদ্ধি

https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1602499

#### গোষ্ঠীতন্ত্রের বিপদে অর্থনীতি

#### https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1606014



রাশেদ আল মাহমদ তিত্বমীর

০৪ জুলাই ২০১৯, ১৩ :৫৫ আপডেট : ০৪ জুলাই ২০১৯, 10:50

প্রিন্ট সংস্করণ



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তিত্বমীর

30:00

২৯ জুলাই ২০১৯, ১৬ :৩১

আপডেট : ২৯ জলাই ২০১৯

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বাংলাদেশের জাতীয় আয়ের প্রবন্ধি হিসাবের গরমিল এ কলামে আলোচনা হয়েছে (প্রথম আলো, ২০ মে ২০১৯)। এ মাসে প্রকাশিত এক গবেষণায় ভারতের সাবেক প্রধান অর্থনীতিবিদ ও হার্ভার্ড বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষক অরবিন্দ

সুব্রামানিয়ান দেখিয়েছেন, ভারতে জিডিপির প্রকৃত প্রবৃদ্ধির হার সরকারি হিসাব থেকে ২ দশমিক ৫ শতাংশ কম। সরকারি হিসাবে, ২০১১-১২ থেকে ২০১৬-১৭ সময়ে ভারতে বার্ষিক গড় প্রবৃদ্ধির হার

ছিল প্রায় ৭ শতাংশ। ভারতের সরকার এ গবেষণাকে গুরুত্বের সঙ্গে বিবেচনায় নিয়ে সাবেক পরিকল্পনা কমিশনের প্রতিস্থাপনকারী 'নীতি-আয়োগ' উত্থাপিত প্রতিটি প্রশ্নের উত্তর দিতে চেষ্টা করেছে। তর্কবিতর্ক চলছে। অর্থাৎ তর্কাতর্কির গণতান্ত্রিক সংস্কৃতি বজায় রাখছে।

রাশেদ আল মাহমুদ তিত্রমীর ২৫ জুলাই ২০১৯, ১২ :২৫ আপডেট : ২৫ জলাই ২০১৯. 30:00

প্রিন্ট সংস্করণ **₽ 🚹** 

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#### গোষ্ঠীতন্ত্রের বিপদে অর্থনীতি

আর্থিক বছরের শুরুতে সবারই চাওয়া থাকে প্রথম মাস ভালো যাক। কিন্তু গত তিন সঞ্জাহে আর্থিক খাতের অন্যতম প্রধান বাজারে অস্থিরতা ও আতঙ্ক বিরাজমান। পুঁজিবাজার হু হু করে দরপতন ঘটেছে, যদিও একটা সাময়িক স্থিতি দেখা যাচ্ছে। অর্থবছরের বাজেট পাস হওয়ার পর থেকে গত মঙ্গলবার পর্যন্ত মাত্র ১৫ কার্যদিবসে বিনিয়োগকারীদের প্রায় ২৭ হাজার কোটি টাকা লোকসান হয়েছে। শেয়ারের মূল্যমান কমে যাওয়ায় প্রায় চার লাখ কোটি টাকা থেকে ডিএসইর বাজার মূলধন নেমে এসেছে ৩ লাখ ৭৩ হাজার কোটি টাকায়।

আপাতদৃষ্টিতে মনে হয়, আর্থিক খাতের প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলোর শেয়ারের বড় রকমের পতনের কারণেই এই ঘটনাগুলো ঘটেছে। পতনের মৌলিক কারণ নির্দিষ্টকরণ জরুরি। প্রথমত, এই পতনের সঙ্গে রাজনৈতিক বন্দোবস্তের কোনো সম্পর্ক আছে কি না? দ্বিতীয়ত, এই পতনের কারণগুলো জানা ছিল কি এবং জানা থাকলে নিয়ন্ত্রণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলো তাদের যথাযথ নিয়মকানুন বলবতের মধ্যে এই পরিস্থিতি এড়ানোর চেষ্টা করেছে কি না? মৌলিকভাবে এই পরিস্থিতি অর্থনীতির মৌলিক ভিত্তি বা বনিয়াদে প্রভাব ফেলবে কি?

#### উচ্চপ্রবদ্ধি: কেতাবে আছে গোয়ালে কই?

#### https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1606792

This one explores and raises questions on the validity and reliability of the estimation of growth. It attempts to find several errors and shortcoming in the estimation process.



রাশেদ আল মাহমদ



উন্নয়ন মাপার একটা নিক্তি হলো জাতীয় আয়। আর জাতীয় আয বাডছে কি না, তা দেখারও কিছ হিসাব-নিকাশ আছে। সরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানের দেওয়া তথ্যের শতভাগ না হোক, সন্তোষজনক মাত্রায় বিশ্বাসযোগ্যতা আছে কি না, তা নিয়ে

প্রশ্ন ওঠার কারণ রয়েছে। তা সত্ত্বেও, সরকারি ডেটার বিশ্লেষণেও অনেক অঙ্ক মেলে না। একদিকে আমরা আত্মবিশ্বাস আর গর্বের সঙ্গে উন্নয়নের ফিরিস্তি দিচ্ছি, অন্যদিকে সক্ষমতার খাতগুলোয় ভাটার টান। একে একে দেখা যাক সেই খাতগুলোর বাস্তবতা।

#### জাতীয় আয়ের হিসাবে গরমিল

সরকারি হিসাবে জিডিপি প্রবৃদ্ধি তরতর করে এগোচ্ছে। জাতীয় আয় বা জিডিপি হচ্ছে বিনিয়োগ, ভোগ, সরকারি ব্যয় এবং আমদানি-রপ্তানির সমষ্টি। এই চলকগুলোয় পরিবর্তন এলে জিডিপি কমে বা বাড়ে।



#### **SDGs and Environment**

The Presentation of the key note on the occasion of launching of Bangladesh Platform for Sustainable Biodiversity Conservation on 29 July 2019 at Hotel Lakeshore, Gulshan, Dhaka.



The **Bangladesh Platform for Sustainable Biodiversity Conservation** is an initiative of the IUCN Members in Bangladesh to promote a greater understanding on the country's biodiversity, its key policy challenges, domestically, and internationally. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.



## **Action Research**

- Rally during Climate fair in Koyra upazilla aiming to raise awareness about effect of climate change on Sundarbans and on the TRUs. The rally demanded proper measures to compensate the losses due to climate change from the world community and the government of Bangladesh as well.
- Celebrating world environment day 2019 at Koyra where local people voiced on the complications they are facing due to environmental pollutions- particularly salinity intrusion across the coast and the lack of potable water and its effect of agriculture, business etc. They also showed their concern that Sundarbans is getting seriously harmed due to pollutions.
- Forest people usually plant Keora around the coastal region that come floating from the Sundarbans during high stream. They, therefore, are expanding the forestation of the costal belt.



Photo: Planting alongside river during low tide



Photo: Rally observing the "World Environment Day"



## **Media Engagement**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6xnfkXO\_GY&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=I wAR0dx8rD\_CmgwAOwBzDBTVIp3S22b9heiKsFM206jIWOsd5HqDZ9ZQMOC tY



#### https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBaR5kXFdJ8&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=I wAR0xW1gO7fZHI9P8X0DIfHzgtvbVF4Hpdn7445YVLDrnCYYvtYiePLwoso0

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5b3zRE2LI78&feature=share



YOUTUBE.COM দৈনিক বণিক বার্তার সমসাময়িক বিষয়ভিত্তিক আয়োজন 'আলাপচারিতা'

## August 2019



## **International Participation**

Presentation and conversation in 'China and the World' workshop in Hong Kong SAR, China







#### **Action Research**

- Forest department is setting fire on prohibited nets seized from the Sundrabans. These harmful fishing nets kill small fishes and other aquatic fauna.
- Handing over the memorandum to local administration on behalf of the local people so that proper steps are taken to protect the embankment of the river.



নারেগদের মুখনে) অবৈধ জাল নির্ম্যাকনগ অভিযানের অঞ্চকুর ভাল। আলহা পুরিয়ে নিনট করে উপয়েল। প্রশাসন 🗴 অধ্য নারব

#### Photo: Burning pervious net



Photo: Meeting local administration

## September 2019



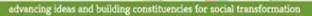
## **Research and Publication**

1. A article named "Strategic Implications of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): The Case of Bangladesh" has been published in international journal *China and the World: Ancient and Modern Silk Road, Vol. 2, No. 3, 1–59.* DOI: 10.1142/S2591729319500202

The paper presents a new framework in explaining the geostrategic compulsions arising out of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with particular emphasis on finding the implications on Bangladesh amidst a translation of erstwhile pacifist Indo-Pacific region to a point of strategic importance. The framework, on the contrary to the exuberances of voluminous literature by liberals and realists, analyzes the internal compulsions stemming from a particular political settlement of the countries involved. While most available accounts typically urge to strike a "delicate balance", but hardly any exercise has been carried out on how to achieve such balance. The paper makes an attempt to work out the balancing mechanism. The paper also identifies the conditions for mutual stability and growth by outlining equiangular development diplomacy — the optimal outcome that can be reached if there is an alignment of necessary, sufficient and sustainability conditions amongst the collaborating and/or contending partners. The sustenance of such partnership is dependent upon normative legitimacy arising from broad-based social approval along the lines of particular political settlement.

2. Another article named "Economic Implications of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): The Case of Bangladesh" has also been published in international journal *China and the World:* Ancient and Modern Silk Road. Available at: <u>https://www.worldscientific.com/doi/10.1142/S2591729319500214</u>

The paper provides an alternative framework to identify the compulsions and contradictions arising out of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as voluminous literature, stemming from the perspectives of realism and liberalism are either marred in assertive dogmatization or excessive apprehensions or non-feasible (lack of) solutions. Taking into such inadequacies of existing approaches into account, the paper also attempts to chalk out elements for a new form of cooperation under the BRI. Using Bangladesh as a case study, it suggests for integration of production network, transfer of technology and sharing of risk of capital as necessary condition as well as alignment of domestic political settlement and normative legitimacy as sufficient condition to achieve mutual stability and growth outcomes.



## **SDGs and Environment**

## **International Participation**

Facilitating Expert Thematic Workshop on Landscape Approaches for the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, organised by the United Nations University in association with Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ministry of the Environment, Japan and Kumamoto Prefectural Government.







## **Action Research**

- TRUs selling Golfol (fruits from *Nypa fruticans)* collected from the Sundarbans. Golfol is famously used to make pickle.
- TRUs now cultivate golpata near the embankment. They cultivate it for business purposes although it is positively affecting the coastal region too.



Photo: Selling golfol



Photo: Plantation in the river bank



## **Media Engagement**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8E1Zg95uuA&feature=share&fbclid=IwA R1ZI9blg2j-zy-umBtA90hmq8nIBx2IMEjOcx1AV2LQQOIHgmMxQTP-5eM





## October 2019



#### **Research and Publication**

#### Whither Inequality in Bangladesh

The report has been prepared by Unnayan Onneshan in collaboration with Oxfam Bangladesh. The report explores the various dimensions of inequality ranging from income, health, education, employment and several other less explored aspects on inequality in Bangladesh followed by discussions on rights-based approach to inequality based in an empirical study of inequality in access to justice and power and policy-driven inequality with respect to access to financial services.

The study extends the discussion of rights-based inequality in the context of Bangladesh by focusing on access to justice and how it is manifested with respect to inequality in other reported measures. The study also concerns how institutions and power create new forms of discriminations and perpetuate existing inequalities in the society.

The final section summarizes the main points and puts forward key policy recommendations.



## **Action Research**

- Golpata plantation and mixed fishery have been expanded and made popular in the Koyra forest people community.
- Depletion of roads has been brought to reduction by afforestation program held by local forest people.
- Plantation of trees has been done by the local forest community people to preclude depletion and river erosion near Wapda.



Photo: Tree plantation on the isle of Wapda.



Photo: Golpata plantation has become more popular among the forest people.



## **Media Engagement**

 <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8L3qH5Pwqb8&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0d5H</u> AsgYwEFf7wh7UkdAV3Esep9aDIECLAqtI7xAJ\_nfHDB1hwpwbuRAo



- <u>Participation at National dialogue on inequality organized by Oxfam at CIRDAP</u> <u>auditorium. Unnayan Onneshan conducted this research and presented paper before the</u> <u>dialogue.</u>
- <u>https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-business/news/rising-inequality-may-hamper-social-development-1815280</u>

# Rising inequality may hamper social development

Say economists at Oxfam dialogue



## November 2019



#### **Research and Publication**

#### "The Sundarbans is our mind":

## An exploration into multiple values of nature in conversation with traditional resource users

A book chapter published in UNU-IAS and IGES (eds.) 2019, Understanding the multiple values associated with sustainable use in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review vol. 5), United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, Tokyo.

#### Chapter 8

## "The Sundarbans is our mind": An exploration into multiple values of nature in conversation with traditional resource users

#### Lead authors:

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<sup>2</sup> Researcher, the Unnayan Onneshan, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

#### Abstract

This study captures and depicts the understanding on multiple values of nature (MVN) by traditional resource users (TRUs) of the Sundarbans. The research, using multiple evidence-based approaches, combining participatory insights of the TRUs of the Sundarbans and interdisciplinary heterodox perspectives, demonstrates that valuation of environmental resources through market penetration pricing does not reckon the social benefits and values coproduced through complementarity between humans and nature. The TRUs of the Sundarbans treat the forest as their mind, through which human-nature sociality flourishes. The traditional knowledge system can significantly contribute to the sustainable management of biodiversity resources, both within the protected areas system and potentially within other effective area-based conservation measures, if given a chance and supported by governmental and non-governmental agencies. Moreover, TRUs argue that due to lack of a proper market structure and equal distribution of power, rents are dissipated through market pricing, going into the pockets of the rent-seeking powerful class. This rent-seeking behaviour induces unproductive, expropriating activities that bring positive returns to the individual but not to society. Dividing the tranformational pathways into three phases – stabilization, transformation and sustainability – this chapter argues that such processes require approporiation of nature, as oppossed to expropriation, for harmony of nature with people.

Keywords: Interdisciplinary Valuation, Multiple Evidence-based Approach, Traditional Resource Users, Indigenous and Local Knowledge, Human Sociality, the Sundarbans

## **Research and Op-ed**

The following op-ed piece identifies the discrepancies in the economy and calls for taking appropriate action against the culprits.

#### অর্থনীতিতে শুদ্ধি অভিযান শুরু হবে কবে

https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1625284



সব শুভ উদ্যোগই আশা জাগায়। আশাজাগানিয়া আকাঙ্ক্ষায় উদ্বুদ্ধ হয়ে নীতি-দূরদর্শিতার

#### Discussion in Alokito Sokal on "Pluralism in South Asia" at November 5, 2019 organized by Institute of Modern Languages (IML), the University of Dhaka

#### https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_LpdS659D2w&t=17s&fbclid=IwAR03ET3BKiQQ028HN 5HXfcGBvIyCXZIYDSQpIrJ0pHf2bDsLBeInollswKc

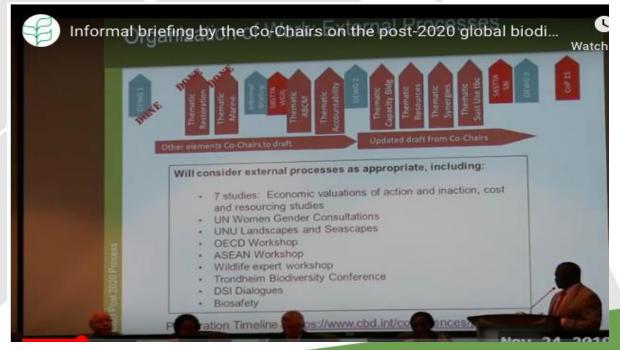




#### **SDGs and Environment**

#### **International Participation**

- Attended at the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Montreal, Canada, at the Headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization, from 20 to 22 November 2019, concurrently with the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The Working Group on Article 8(j) focused on the role of indigenous peoples and local communities and addressed links between nature and culture for the development of the post-2020 framework. The Working Group further conducted its thematic dialogue; addressed recommendations from the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; and discussed progress towards Aichi Target 18 (traditional knowledge).
- Attended workshop on the Evidence base for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: Fifth Edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and IPBES Global Assessment held at Montreal, Canada, 32 November 2019. The purpose of the workshop was to inform participants of the findings of the IPBES assessments – in particular the IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the first draft and draft summary for policymakers of the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.
- Attended at the session for co-chairs of Working Group on post-2020 to share update on post-2020 process and Informal Briefing for Parties and Observers on Sunday, 24 November 2019. This meeting provided an update on the status of preparations for the second meeting of the Working Group and a preliminary overview of the zero draft text of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.





#### UNNAYAN ONNESHAN

## **Action Research**

- Discussion with local forest communities has been conducted where some substantial demands have been raised from the local forest people which should be taken into action as early as possible.
- **②** Government monitoring should be increased to save Wapda dam.
- 2 More plantation should be occurred on the river embankments under the supervision of forest department and local forest communities.
- 2 Abolishment of the precarious nets in the rivers and canals.
- More shelter houses should be built in the coastal areas for safety during natural calamities and the shelter houses should be maintained with proper supervision.
- Engine powered trollers should be strictly prohibited from the rivers since they cause erosion of river and also river banks get depleted.



Photo: Fishermen are going for fishing by troller



Photo: New birds have been seen gathering recently



## Media Engagement

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUPdafMp7tM&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR2ZIONFN60 OyhTv\_BgCt-PpYUkJiUHS5tqrzIF8RNfAvRmwsU7AaShVdIM

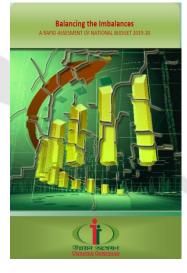


## December 2019



#### **Research and Publication**

#### Macroeconomic Mirage: Year-end Assessment of Bangladesh Economy 2019 MONTHLY BANGLADESH ECONOMIC UPDATE, DECEMBER 2019



The Unnayan Onneshan (UO), an independent multidisciplinary think-tank, states in its year-end report that the cold waves of macroeconomic indicators have further chilled the bones of the economy of the country in the year 2019.

"The headwinds of macroeconomic indicators have put further downward pressure on the economy despite the assertion of achieving growth of 8.13% in the half way mark of 2020," says the research organization.

Elaborating, the Unnayan Onneshan reasons that investment is stagnant, unemployment and inequality are mounting, export earnings have dipped, revenue collection has shrunk, inflation is on the rise, and import has also dropped, depicting an economy with all signs of downturns.

While noting that the clientelistic network is gulping most of the resources, the organization cautions that if this menace cannot be stopped, the unwanted cold wave will further aggravate the country drastically.

Observing that there is mismatch between targeted and actual revenue collection which is basically driving the government to lessen public expenditure, the Unnayan Onneshan adds that the government is borrowing money to bear the recurrent public expenditure from the banks which is creating liquidity crisis in the banking sector. Additionally, private investment has not flourished rather stumbled due to capital crisis in the banking sector plagued by the ever increasing default in the absence prudent enforcement and compliance mechanisms, despite a series of concessions given to large defaulters.

Referring to the continuation of the deficit in balance of payments, the overall deficit in the balance of payments in July-October period stood 229 million US dollars, which was 444 million US dollars in the same period of the last fiscal, despite having the so-called good news of higher remittance inflows. "The ongoing hardship of the families of expatriates in the midst of economic pressures is pushing them to send all of their income to the family. They are sending more despite of being in debt, hardship or in misery," adds the report. Moreover, the number of overseas employments declined to 604,060 during January and November of current fiscal from 684,962 of the same period of 2018.

Despite the rise in remittance, the Unnayan Onneshan notes that the foreign exchange reserves have not increased much. The reserves stood at 32.43 billion US dollars during July-October period of current fiscal and have not crossed the 33 billion US dollars mark since 2017.

Observing that the structural transformation in the economy has not occurred yet, it cited the examples reduced productivity and lack of crop diversification in agriculture, falling export growth in RMG and reduction in manufacturing capacities and shortfall of the skills in the service sectors.

The Unnayan Onneshan observes that the rate of poverty reduction has declined. "This negative pace of the rate of the poverty reduction does not reckon the story of high GDP growth of the country," opines the organization.

The research organization also notes the dangers of mounting inequality amidst jobless growth and outflow of capital amidst institutional fragility.

Terming condition of environmental crisis as "sacrificed beneath growth" the UO states that "The issue of environment is not brought to concern as the definition of development has been confined in the dungeon of visible infrastructural gestures."



## Media Coverage and Engagement

Macroeconomy in peril in 2019:UO

http://www.newagebd.net/article/95099





#### #Channeli\_Shows

Tritiyo Matra | Ep-5809 | Dr. Fahmida Khatun | Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir | Channel i Shows



## **Media Engagement**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFd526z3s2Q&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1NfaNO3 xJ7Pp2ZLqWOv7ICcsC8fnerCMvAhHiPIuME0cGve1Z4oyO5PGA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sysgLOm179I&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR0aTTuYn9De MoUA73qsjFSZa3QzX6L-5vXICDdwqcpYcXWZzPHYM-OTqJI



Tritiyo Matra | Md. Mainul Islam | Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir | Ep-5966 | Channel i Shows

#### **Seminar Participation**

Discussion on "Economic Development of Bangladesh under One Belt One Road Initiative"





## **Action Research**

- Monthly meeting with forest people communities has been conducted.
- Many time-worthy steps are urged to undertake such as complete enforcement of ban of pernicious nets, embargo on killing of the carps (especially iodine carrying ones) and more plantation on the river banks.
- Further plantation beside has resulted in less prevalence of high tide than before and more arrival of migratory birds.



Photo: Shakbaria river during Winter



Photo: Plantation beside WAPDA has reduced river erosion

## January 2020

## **Research and Op-ed**

The op-ed piece illustrates the downturns in the economy of Bangladesh and provides recovery pathways.

### অর্থনীতিতে শৈত্যপ্রবাহ

https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1634473



এবার সারা দেশে হাড়কাঁপানো শীত পড়েছে। অর্থনীতির আবহাওয়াও শৈত্যপ্রবাহে আক্রান্ত। বছর শেষে দখিনা হাওয়ার দেখা নেই; বরং প্রায় সব সূচকই নিন্নমুখী চাপে

## **Media Engagement**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N444nV-G5CY&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3xTgo54ti7qhdp9juURK85e4s\_f1AJ9ajlLw5bLJB8xaeDj U4QzmxE7dw





## **Action Research**

- Local fishermen, during discussion mentioned that they were practicing traditional rules as usual like their predecessors while fishing. They refrain from catching carps, using detrimental nets and blocking canals to catch fish.
- TRUs alleged that number of animals are on decline due to constant hunting and smuggling by the bandits and smugglers. Forest people needs to take prompt steps to prevent the malpractice.
- TRUs demand strengthened monitoring as well as transparency of the personnel or the forest department since there was allegation of illegal transaction of money in form of bribe which was conducted in favour of the rent-seeking group of people to expropriate resources from the forest illegally.



Photo: Keora trees are burgeoning near the forest area



Photo: A migratory bird in the Sundarbans area during the winter season

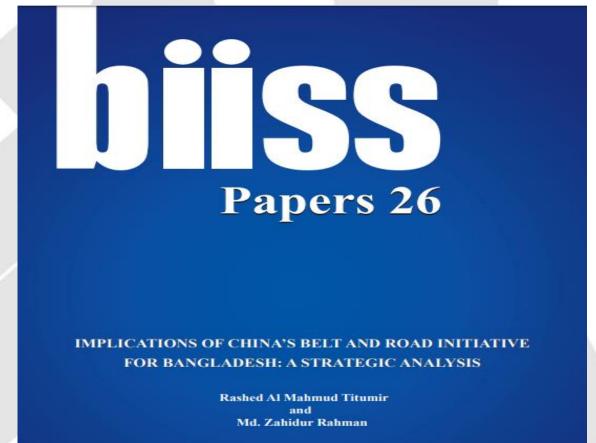
## February 2020



## Research and Publication IMPLICATIONS OF CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE FOR BANGLADESH: A STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

Published by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) 1/46, Old Elephant Road, Ramna Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

The paper provides an alternative framework in comprehending the geostrategic implications of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for Bangladesh in the milieu of transition of pacifist Indo-Pacific region to a point of strategic significance. The paper also makes an attempt to propose a balancing mechanism to contribute to the perceived gap, as most available accounts typically urge to strike a 'delicate balance'. Identifying conditions for mutual stability and growth by outlining equiangular development diplomacy, the paper further fleshes out optimal outcome that can be reached if there is an alignment of necessary, sufficient and sustainability conditions amongst the collaborating and/or contending partners. Finally, the paper argues that the sustenance of such partnership is contingent upon normative legitimacy, which arises out of broad-based social approval along the lines of political settlement.



### **Research and Op-ed**

The following op-ed piece in a Daily Bengali newspaper illustrates the potential and challenges of Bangladesh in terms of industry 4.

চতুর্থ শিল্পবিপ্লব : সম্ভাবনা ও প্রস্তুতি

https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/jugantar-20-years/274067

🛐 🅱 কোভিড-১৯ জাতীয় রাজনীতি অর্থনীতি আন্তর্জাতিক সারাদেশ খেলা আইটি বিশ

## চতুর্থ শিল্পবিপ্লব : সম্ভাবনা ও প্রস্তুতি

💄 রাশেদ আল মাহমুদ তিতুমীর ② ০২ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২০, ০০:০০:০০ | প্রিন্ট সংস্করণ



চতুর্থ শিল্পবিপ্লবের প্রযুক্তিগত আলোড়ন সর্বত্র বিরাজমান। এ বিপ্লব চিন্তার জগতে, পণ্য উৎপাদনে ও সেবা প্রদানে বিশাল পরিবর্তন ঘটাচ্ছে। মানুষের জীবনধারা ও পৃথিবীর গতি-প্রকৃতি ব্যাপকভাবে বদলে দিচ্ছে। জৈবিক, পার্থিব ও ডিজিটাল জগতের মধ্যেকার পার্থক্যের দেয়ালে চির ধরিয়েছে। আর্টিফিসিয়াল ইন্টেলিজেন্স, রোবটিক্স, ইন্টারনেট অব থিংস, ভার্চুয়াল রিয়েলিটি, থ্রিডি প্রিন্টিং, জেনেটিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, কোয়ান্টাম কম্পিউটিং ও অন্যান্য প্রযুক্তি মিলেই এ বিপ্লব। এ বিপ্লবের ব্যাপকতা, প্রযুক্তিনির্ভর আধুনিকতা ও এ সংশ্লিষ্ট জটিল ব্যবস্থা বিশ্বের সরকারগুলোর সক্ষমতাকে বড় ধরনের পরীক্ষার সমুখীনও করেছে। বিশেষত যখন তাবৎ সরকার টেকসই উন্নয়ন লক্ষ্যমাত্রা তথা এসডিজির আলোকে 'কাউকে পিছিয়ে ফেলে না রেখে' সবাইকে নিয়ে অন্তর্ভুক্তিমূলক উন্নয়নে প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ। টেকসই উন্নয়ন, বৈষম্য হ্রাস, নিরাপদ কর্ম এবং দায়িত্বশীল ভোগ ও উৎপাদন এসডিজি বাস্তবায়ন ও অর্জনের মূল চ্যালেঞ্জ।

#### Digital revolution: Prospects and preparations

https://www.thedailystar.net/supplements/29th-anniversary-supplements/digitisation-andinclusivity-taking-everyone-along/news/digital-revolution-prospects-and-preparations-1860583



Home » Supplements » 29th Anniversary Supplements » DIGITISATION AND INCLUSIVITY: TAKING EVERYONE ALONG

BO AM, February 18, 2020 / LAST MODIFIED: 12:46 AM, February 18, 2020

### Digital revolution: Prospects and preparations





## **Action Research**

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundarbans Biannual Forest People Convention 2020

- 3rd Sundarbans Biannual Forest Peoples Convention has been carried out in 22-23 February in the Koyra union which was organized by the forest people communities.
- All three communities gave presentation on their achievement during 2011-2020 period.
- Next five year strategies have been presented by the representatives of the communities.
- Challenges have come forward through rigorous discussion and group work.
- Communities have achieved substantially till now. For example, Munda Indigenous community have obtained the power of negotiation over property rights. They have already regained their 42 bigha lost land which was captured by the powerful people illicitly. They have raised movement, struggled a lot and compelled the administrative authority to help them regain their snatched land. Still a case is on the run in the court but the community people are determined not to stop. Apart from land rights, communities have become more focused on education, health, social security, women empowerment and vocational training of their community members which imply bunch of positive outcomes and impressive effort for the future



Photo: Banner of 3rd Sundarbans Biannual Forest Peoples Convention



Photo: Women of Koyra forest people cooperative making their work plan



UO in Action March 2020 - June 2020 Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic

Advancing Ideas and Building Constituencies for Social Transformation

## March 2020



### **Research and Op-ed**

The first one is an op-ed piece published in Bengali newspaper exploring why depositors in the banking sectors are facing trust deficits.

আমানতকারীরা কেন আস্থা পাচ্ছেন না

https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1644407

প্রথম আ	বাংলাদেশ আন্তর্জাতিক অর্থনীতি মতামত খেলা বিনো	দন উত্ত
মতামত সংবাদ	আমানতকারীরা কেন আস্থা পাচ্ছেন না	
রাশেদ আল মাহমুদ তিতুমীর		
১২ মার্চ ২০২০, ১৩ :২৯ আপডেট : ১২ মার্চ ২০২০, ১৩ :৩২	100	
প্রিন্ট সংস্করণ	A 73878	
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	ব্যাংকগুলোতে আমানতের প্রবৃদ্ধি কমছে। গত বছরের ফেব্রুয়ারির পর চলতি অর্থব	<del>গছরের</del>

জানুয়ারিতে এই প্রবৃদ্ধি সর্বনিন্ন। তফসিলি ব্যাংকে রক্ষিত মোট আমানতের পরিমাণ এবং

The following first one is an interview in a Bengali newspaper which frames the necessity of transferring basic income grant to people in the midst of economic crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic. The second one is an op-ed published in a English Daily.

#### সাক্ষাৎকার

অর্থনীতি সচল রাখতে ব্যাংকিং চ্যানেলের মাধ্যমে বেসিক ইনকাম গ্রান্ট দিতে হবে

ড. রাশেদ আল মাহমুদ তিতুমীর

https://bonikbarta.net/home/news\_description/224920

Money should go to people who need it most

https://www.newagebd.net/article/103247

যাক্ষাওকার

অর্থনীতি সচল রাখতে ব্যাংকিং চ্যানেলের মাধ্যমে বেসিক ইনকাম গ্রান্ট দিতে হবে চ. রাশেদ আল মাহমুদ তিতুমীর

মার্চ ২৬, ২০২০



ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের উন্নয়ন অধ্যয়ন বিভাগের অর্থনীতির অধ্যাপক।তিনি একাডেমিয়া, সরকার, থিংক ট্যাংক, আন্তর্জাতিক সংস্থা, মিডিয়াসহ বিবিধ ক্ষেত্রে কাজ করেছেন। তিনি ইউনিভার্সিটি অব লন্ডন থেকে অর্থনীতিতে পিএইচডি এবং উন্নয়ন ও ফিন্যান্সিয়াল অর্থনীতিতে এমএসসি ডিগ্রি অর্জন করেন। তিনি কার্লটন ও অটোয়া বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে বাণিজ্যনীতি ও ব্যবসায়িক কূটনীতির ওপর সনদধারী। অধ্যাপক তিতুমীর বিভিন্ন আন্তর্জাতিক, আঞ্চলিক ও দেশীয় সংগঠনের পরিষদ সদস্য এবং স্বাধীন মাল্টি ডিসিপ্লিনারি থিংক ট্যাংক 'উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণে'র প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারপারসন।বিভিন্ন বিষয়ের ওপর অনেক বই ও প্রবন্ধ লিখেছেন তিনি।করোনা প্রাদুর্ভাবে অর্থনৈতিক



Editorial Opinion Cartoon

প্রতিকার থেকে প্রতিরোধই উন্দ্র

George Floyd Budget 2020-21 COVID-19

### Money should go to people who need it most

ed Al Mahmud Titumir | Published: 00:00, Mar 28 2020

### 

THIS could be a Beveridge moment in his birthplace since the coronavirus pandemic urges a new way of economic thinking as the 1929 crash triggered a sea change. His ground breaking report titled 'The Social Insurance and Allied Services' formed the basis of welfare state, instituted by the Labour Party in the United Kingdom, which returned to power after World War II in 1945. Lord William Henry Beveridge, a British economist and social reformer, was born on March 5, 1879 in Rangpur, Bangladesh to Henry Beveridge, an Indian civil service officer and district judge, and Annette Ackrovd, who cofounded the Working Women's College in London



## **Action Research**

- Four FGDs have been conducted by the UO with four separate groups comprising Mouals (Honey collector), jele (Fishermen), Bawali (Golpata collector) and Crab collectors where the participants categorized their respective goods and services. These goods and services have multiple values to them, which contributes to well-being. Each of the groups developed resource map depicting distribution of respective resources in the forest.
- The woodcutters (Bawalis) identified and drew the resource map on flora, fishermen (Jele) categorized and drew the resource map on fish, honey collectors (Mawals) depicted about honey and wax and crab collectors told about the distribution of carbs
- Forest people informed during the regular meeting of communities that number of deer has increased in the forest signifying reduction of tigers.
- Rive erosion has decreased due to extensive plantation occurred by the local forest people. As a result, oysters, crabs and other kind of resources are seen in this area. The ecological harmony is well-maintained as per the opinion of the TRUs.
- Honey collectors urged for increased supervision over honey collection since some illegal collectors harm the total beehive and don't follow the traditional instruction of collecting honey

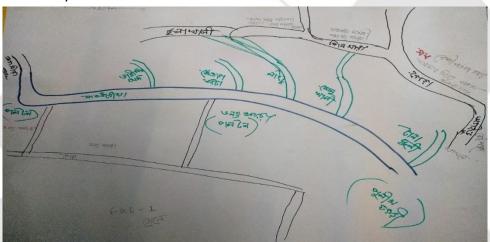


Photo: Distribution of fishes drawn by Jele



Photo: Distribution of flora drawn by woodcutters



## Media Engagement

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGWBuR6U2j8&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0Y2VRz cWxAoKfqUK6Dp9T4TE5e238uvfQhKB6UxEMC0P8yBTE-Tai-zx8

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wqb\_XJcs\_lc&fbclid=IwAR2KFLa6s5FgMNhJgQJNVzDm oWoWCwYk79cz6rWTAQh5\_9TvcXZPIhVIK1s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZfqimGNBBk&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR30Ns9wJ 37Vxir3AWm\_K9PF4DYhtoxnyF04\_QR0oPEDEFTFSPaxOS574I4



EP: 6055 | Professor M Shahiduzzaman | Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir | Tritiyo Matra



## April 2020

### **Research and Op-ed**

সময়ের ভাবনা (Op-ed in Bengali newspaper on Social Security Programme)

আসন্ন বাজেটে সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কর্মসূচির জন্য কতিপয় সুপারিশ

ড. রাশেদ আল মাহমুদ তিতুমীর, রওনক জাহান, অন্তরা চৌধুরী, রুবাইয়া সিদ্দিকা, মো. গুলজার হোসেন

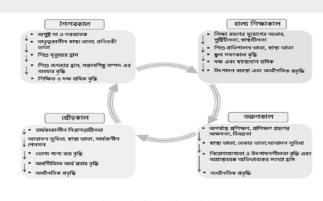
https://bonikbarta.net/home/news\_description/226555

আসন্ন বাজেটে সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কর্মসূচির জন্য কতিপয় সুপারিশ

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এপ্রিল ১২, ২০২০





চিত্র : প্রস্তাবিত জীবনচক্র ভিত্তিক সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কর্মসূচি

নভেল করোনাভাইরাস মহামারী সারা বিশ্বকে এ শতাব্দীর সবচেয়ে বড় চ্যালেঞ্জের সামনে দাঁড় করিয়েছে। বৈশ্বিক অভিজ্ঞতা থেকে দেখা যায়, মহামারী বা অর্থনৈতিক সংকটের মতো বিপর্যয়গুলো দীর্ঘমেয়াদি প্রভাব রেখে যায়। নেতিবাচক এসব প্রভাব মোকাবেলার জন্য বেশির ভাগ ক্ষেত্রেই তাৎক্ষণিক জরুরি কর্মসূচি নেয়া হয়। সাধারণত উন্নয়নশীল দেশগুলোয় মাঝারি ও দীর্ঘমেয়াদি অভিঘাত নিরসনে স্থায়িত্বশীল পদক্ষেপ নেয়া হয় না। সংকট উৎপন্ন বহুমুখী পার্থক্যমূলক নেতিবাচক প্রভাব নির্মূল না করায় ঘূর্বল, দরিদ্র ও সুবিধাবঞ্চিত জনগোষ্ঠী তুর্বিষহ

#### জীবনযাপনে বাধ্য হয়।

আশঙ্কা করা হচ্ছে, কভিড-১৯ মহামারী গত শতাব্দীর ত্রিশের দশকের মহামন্দা ও এ শতাব্দীর প্রথম দশকের আর্থিক NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

#### A proposal for forthcoming budget

https://www.newagebd.net/article/104450/a-proposal-for-forthcoming-budget

NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

## A proposal for forthcoming budget

by Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, Rawnak Jahan, Antara Chowdhury, Rubia Siddiqua and Guljar Hossain | Published: 00:00

#### т

IN MOST cases, responses to pandemics or economic crises for right reasons have catered to emergencies but they have not transcended to transformational pathways of medium and long terms in developing countries, leaving particularly the needs of the vulnerable with adverse differential outcomes of catastrophes unaddressed. In such a discrepant milieu, COVID-19 upheavals warrant a sustainable solution since the calamity has put economies into recession, a breakdown of labour market and consumer spending. The novel coronavirus fallout is predicted to be more distressing than those of the 2008 financial crisis and the Great Depression. For instance, the International Labour Organisation estimates an overall loss in labour income between \$860 billion and \$3,440 billion, a rise in unemployment between 5.3 and 24.7 million from 188 million in 2019 and 20.1 million to 35.0 million more people in working poverty.

In Bangladesh, like any other developing countries, daily wagers such as house helps, rickshaw pullers, roadside vendors and transport workers having no savings are bearing the brunt because of their reliance on cash flow that has now been cut off because of the shutdown.

A staggering 85 per cent of the labour force is employed in the informal sector, says the recent 2017 Labour Force Survey of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. Around 60 million are employed as wage labourers, of which 51.7 million are working devoid of job security in this unorganised sector. The



## **UNNAYAN ONNESHAN**

advancing ideas and building constituencies for social transformation

## **Research and Op-ed**

The following three op-ed pieces call for new macro-economic framework amidst CVID-19 pandemic, published as a series in a Bengali daily.

করোনাকালে নতুন অর্থনৈতিক নীতিকাঠামোর খোঁজে

https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1651512

করোনাকালের অর্থনীতি ২

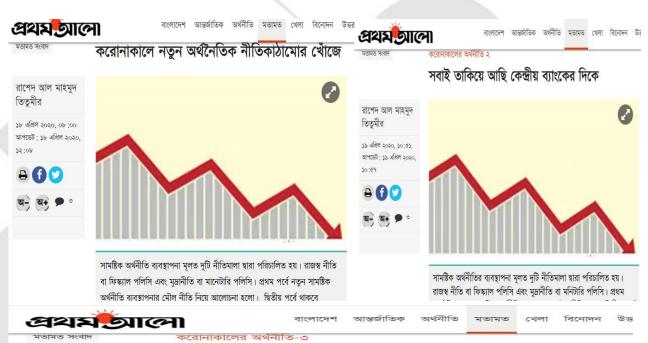
সবাই তাকিয়ে আছি কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের দিকে

https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1651766

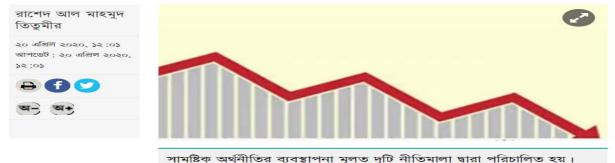
### করোনাকালের অর্থনীতি-৩

নতুন রাজস্ব নীতিকাঠামো দরকার

https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1651913



### নতুন রাজস্ব নীতিকাঠামো দরকার



সামান্ডক অথনাতির ব্যবস্থাপনা মূলত দুটে নাতিমালা দ্বারা পারচালিত হয়। রাজস্ব নীতি বা ফিস্ক্যাল পলিসি এবং মুদ্রানীতি বা মনিটারি পলিসি। প্রথম

deas and building constituencies for s

## **Research and Op-ed**

Stimulus ineffective to majority jobless workers in informal sector: Titumur

https://www.newagebd.net/article/105030

### Stimulus ineffective to majority jobless workers in informal sector: Titumur

vat Hossain | Published: 10:06, Apr 24,2020 6 🖸 🚳 💼 🚭 🕒





A new fiscal, monetary policy framework in COVID-19 era

https://www.newagebd.net/article/105059/a-new-fiscal-monetary-policy-framework-incovid-19-era

# NEWAGE Opinion

প্রতিকার থেকে প্রতিরোধই উৎ

#### Editorial Opinion Cartoon

TRENDING: Rohingya Crisis

Coronavirus Kashmir George Floyd Budget 2020–21 COVID-19

## A new fiscal, monetary policy framework in COVID-19 era

by Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir | Published: 00:00, Apr 25,2020

## 🗗 💟 🚷 (in) 🌀 🖾 😭

THE world of economic policymaking will never be the same in the wake of COVID-19. This is not a typical recession stemmed from declining demand or supply but is rather a closure of economic activities - mobility of factors from, and return to, households and firms - by governments. Moreover, the pandemic is a public bad and the free-market system is yet to come to terms with such public bad. The orthodox solutions will not work. With providence and prudence, governments need to lead to respond the unmatched catastrophe.





## **Research and Op-ed**

The following one is an interview published in Bengali newspaper on the crisis of the economy fueled by COVID-19 pandemic.

একান্ত সাক্ষাৎকারে ড. রাশেদ আল মাহমুদ তিতুমীর

অপ্রয়োজনীয় ব্যয় কমাতে হবে প্রশাসনসহ সব খাতে

ঋণ প্রণোদনা নয়, মানুষকে নগদ অর্থ দিতে হবে; বৈদেশিক সহায়তা পেতে সরকারকে বড় উদ্যোগ নিতে হবে

https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/first-page/498521





## **Action Research**

- With continuous plantation conducted by the TRUs, local forest people is now conducing social afforestation and making people conscious of necessity of afforestation near the forest area.
- Members of Koyra forest people community has planted a good number of Keora Trees near WAPDA, beside road tracks and on the river banks. They are planning of planting more trees around their living areas.
- TRUs alleged that illegal act of wood collection had been occurring rampantly under the shade of some personnel of the local forest department.



Photo: Social afforestation by the local forest department



Photo: Arrival of migratory birds near WAPDA has increased in April



## **Online Discussion**

### Clio Bangladesh

**Basic Income Grants for the Informal Sector Workers** 

https://www.facebook.com/ClioBangladesh/videos/611721976090835

### Life-cycle based full-fledged National Social Security

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLYC4Vk76k8&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR2Uolk7GTOd tTE9Nire0bAPWvmJIHzLBBDY\_7NIpmwkI4Mqavj-02mT2WI

### **Bangla Bitorko**

Participation in a online discussion on the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the economy of Bangladesh.





## Webinars



WEBINAR SERIES - 14

## **COVID-19 & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

TIME: April 27, 2020 at 10:00 PM

## DISCUSSANTS

Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir , PhD Professor of Economics Department of Development Studies & Chairperson, Unnayan Onneshon A K M Mazharul Islam Professor Shahjalal University of Science & Technology & Executive Director, Indtitute of Applied Anthropology

HOST Sudipta Das Gupta

Live Broadcast from Anthropublic: fb/anthropublic

## May 2020



## **Research and Op-ed**

৩ বছর মেয়াদি পুনর্গঠন পরিকল্পনা করা উচিত (Op-ed proposing three years recovery plan of the economy published in newspaper)

https://www.prothomalo.com/economy/article/1654712



আগামী বাজেট কেমন হওয়া উচিত (A budget proposal for FY 2020-21 published in a Bengali newspaper) <u>https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1655648</u>





### **Research and Op-ed**

A series of op-ed pieces in Bengali newspaper proposing medium term economic framework for the recovery, reconstruction of the economy and calling for social and economic solidarity.

সামাজিক সংহতি থেকে অর্থনৈতিক সংহতি

করোনাকাল থেকে উত্তরণে তিন বছর মেয়াদি পুনরুদ্ধার পরিকল্পনা জরুরি

https://bonikbarta.net/home/news\_description/229375

সামাজিক সংহতি থেকে অর্থনৈতিক সংহতি

করোনাকাল থেকে উত্তরণে তিন বছর মেয়াদি পুনরুদ্ধার পরিকল্পনা জরুরি ত. রাশেদ আল মহমুদ ভিত্নমির

মে ১১, ২০২০



### f 💙 in 😰

নভেল করোনাভাইরাস চোখে আঙুল দিয়ে দেখিয়ে দিচ্ছে উৎপাদন ও সামাজিক সম্পর্কের বিচ্ছিন্নতা, বৈষম্য ও বিভাজন। স্থানীয় গৃহস্থালি থেকে কারবার থেকে বিশ্বব্যাপী পরিব্যাণ্ড। সে কারণেই নভেল করোনাভাইরাসের সংক্রমণ থেকে প্রতিরোধের ক্ষেত্রে ভুল বার্তা দেয়ার চেষ্টা করা হয়েছে।বলা হয়েছে সামাজিক দূরত্বের কথা। বর্তমান বিশ্বে রাজনৈতিক স্বার্থসিদ্ধির জন্য বর্ণ-শ্রেণীভিত্তিক বিভাজন উসকে দেয়ার প্রবণতা দিন দিন বেড়ে চলছে, এ বার্তাটি সে চিন্তা থেকেই এসেছে। জনগণ এগিয়ে এসে শারীরিক দূরত্বের কথা বলেছে। বলেছে সামাজিক সংহত্রি কথা।

জনগণ 'দিন আনে দিন খায়' মানুষের মাঝে ত্রাণ বিতরণ করছে; সামনের সারির কর্মীরা তাদের সাধ্যমতো সামাজিক সহমর্মিতা বজায় রাখতে চেষ্টা করছেন।সামাজিক যোগাযোগমাধ্যমে নতুন বাংলা বর্ষকে স্বাগত জানাতে গিয়ে অনেকে

সামাজিক সংহতি থেকে অর্থনৈতিক সংহতি পুনরুদ্ধার পরিকল্পনা বাস্তবায়নে অর্থের উৎস সন্ধানে <u>https://bonikbarta.net/home/news\_description/229422</u>

অর্থনৈতিক সংহতি

গুরুত্ব দিতে হবে যেসব খাতে

https://bonikbarta.net/home/news\_description/229625

#### সামাজিক সংহতি থেকে অর্থনৈতিক সংহতি

পুনরুদ্ধার পরিকল্পনা বাস্তবায়নে অর্থের উৎস সন্ধানে

#### ড. রাশেদ আল মাহমুদ তিতুমীর

(म ५२, २०२०



স্থিতিশীলকরণ ও উন্নয়নমুখী–দুটো দায়িত্বই পালন করতে হবে।



বর্তমান পরিছিতিতে প্রচলিত বাজেটীয় ব্যবস্থা থেকে সরে এসে তিন বছর মেয়াদি পুনরুদ্ধার পরিকম্পনার আলোকে বাজেট প্রণয়ন করতে হবে। পরিছিতি থেকে উত্তরলে মধ্যমেয়াদি বাজেটীয় কাঠামোয় মুদ্রা ও রাজস্ব নীতির সমন্বয়ে নতুন ব্যবস্থা প্রধায়নের প্রয়োজনীয়তা দেখা দিয়েছে। অর্থনীতির ক্রমহ্যসমান সংকোচন রোধে কর্মসংস্থান গ্রে রাখা ও নতুন কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টিই নতুন পরিকম্পনার কেন্দ্রবিন্দু হতে হবে। পাশাপাশি বাজারে নগদ অর্থপ্রহাহ নিন্চয়তার জন্য সক্রিয় মুদ্রানীতি লাগবে।বাংলাদেশের মতো উন্নয়নশীল দেশের জন্য মুদ্রানীতিক অর্থনিটক সংহটি গুরুতু দিতে হবে যেসব খাঁতে

ড, রাশেদ আল মাহমুদ তিতুমীর

#### 



দারিদ্রাসীমার নিচে চলে যেতে পারে। অতএব, নতুন এ ধরনের কর্মসূচির আওতায় আয় সহায়তা, বেকার ভাতা, প্রতিবন্ধী ডাতা, শিও প্রতিপালন ভাতা, পেনশন ডাতা, আবাসন সুবিধা, স্বান্থ্য ডাতা অন্তর্ভুক্তি জরুরি।ঙক্রতে জিডিপির প্রায় ৭ শতাংশ ব্যয় করা যেতে পারে।বহু দেশেই জিডিপির ১১ শতাংশের বেশি সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কর্মসূচিতে ব্যয় হয়।

**1 7 in (** 

#### \জীবনচক্রভিত্তিক সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কার্যক্রম এবং সর্বজনীন স্বাস্থ্য ও শিক্ষা

প্রান্তিক জনগোষ্ঠী, বিশেষ করে 'দিন আনে দিন খায়' খেটে খাওয়া অনানুষ্ঠানিক খাতের মানুষেরা সবচেয়ে বেশি ভুক্তভোগী হচ্ছে।চলমান সংকট এ দেশের নিম্নমধ্যবিত্তসহ সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠ সঞ্চয়হীন মানুষের ভূর্দশার চিত্র ভূলে ধরেছে। দারিদ্র্য আন্তর্জাতিক সীমারেখার ওপর রাখতে হলে সর্বজনীন সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কর্মসূচি থাকা অত্যাবশ্যক। বেশি জরুরি এ কারণে যে মন্দার ফলে কর্মসংস্থানহীনতা বেড়ে যাবে।আরো মানুষ



### **Research and Op-ed**

সংশোধন দরকার অর্থঋণ আদালত ব্যাংক ও দেউলিয়া আইন (Interview calling for amendment of the laws in banking and financial sector)

https://www.bd-pratidin.com/firstpage/2020/05/13/529771?fbclid=IwAR3oEQUDg3daH7y9LGPuxEsqCAQmCeG3I6qpPn\_Fsf6Ehz3F-

সংশোধন দরকার অর্থঋণ আদালত ব্যাংক ও দেউলিয়া আইন <sub>ড. রাশেদ আল মাহমুদ তিতুমীর</sub>

গড় রেটিং: 0/5 (0 টি ভোট গৃহিত হয়েছে)



লকডাউন ছাড়া আর কোনো বিকল্প নেই (Op-ed calling for the necessity of imposing lockdown to curb the COVID-19 infection)

https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1656683

From social solidarity to economic solidarity

https://www.newagebd.net/article/106369/from-social-solidarity-to-economic-solidarity

মতামত সংবাদ

## লকডাউন ছাড়া আর কোনো বিকল্প নেই

রাশেদ আল মাহমুদ তিতুমীর ও জান্নাতুন ইরানা

১৫ মে ২০২০, ১২ :৩০ আপডেট : ১৫ মে ২০২০, ১২ :৩৪

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করোনার বিস্তার ঠেকাতে বাংলাদেশে গত ২৬ মার্চ থেকে সাধারণ ছুটি চলছে। অনেক জায়গায় করা হয়েছে লকডাউন। প্রথম আলো ফাইল ছবি

## From social solidarity to economic solidarity

by Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir | Published: 00:00, May 14,2020

### 1 💙 🗞 🛅 🚭 🕒

Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir write son the relaxation of shutdown, a three-year recovery plan and the national budget

COVID-19 has exposed the fallacious estrangement, alienation and segregation in social relations. As the contagion dispersed from local households to firms to the global sphere, distorted messages were circulated, particularly in the name of social distancing. The official narrative serves at instigating social profiling that has been worsening worldwide in recent times. Nevertheless, a good many citizens have come up with the phrase of physical distancing instead, emphasising social solidarity. They have come forward to distribute relief to people living hand-to-mouth and the frontline workers are putting in utmost efforts. On the eve of the Bengali New Year, social media was flooded with messages reverberating 'may we reunite when all this ends, may we emerge triumphant' whilst many others have echoed 'let there be an end to this pandemic, breaking all shackles of contagion.'

The citizens are aspiring for a transformational mission for a legitimate state to provide for universal basic needs and to ensure fundamental rights of its citizens. On the economic front, the crisis begs a thought-thorough strategic framework to transcend to transformational medium and long-term pathways with an emphasis on the needs of the vulnerable.







## **Action Research**

• Super cyclone Amphan damaged the coastal regions of Bangladesh in this month. Besides other coastal belts, Koyra union has been afflicted with the deadly cyclone. Houses have gone under water and crops have been damaged. In this circumstance, the local forest people have worked day and night to make dam on the river embankment under supervision of Bangladesh Army.

• Damage did not become worse due to presence of several kind of trees like Golpata, Keora and others which resisted the hit of high surge during the cyclone.

• Local forest people are drowned into anxiety of their economic state since current status of unemployment. There is apprehension of increases poverty rate. TRUs demanded more assistance from the local government in terms of fighting against massive flood and earning their livelihood.



Photo: Houses have been drowned due to massive flood caused by Amphan



Photo: Abundance of Keora trees has resisted flood in some areas



as and building constituencies for social tran

## Online Discussion and Webinar

### **Clio Bangladesh**

New Macroeconomic Policy: New Monetary Policy

https://www.facebook.com/ClioTV.org/videos/2481655255480304

New Macroeconomic Policy: New Fiscal Policy

https://www.facebook.com/ClioTV.org/videos/169509917681889





## A webinar on the occasion of

## **International Day for Biological Diversity 2020**

at 3pm on 22 May 2020 Friday

## Theme: Our solutions are in nature

Facebook Live @ https://www.facebook.com/rashed.titumir





Dr. A Atiq Rahman Executive Director, BCAS



Ms. Hasna J Moudud Executive Director CARDMA







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Mr. A.B.M. Sarowar Alam Senior Program Officer, IUCN



Prof Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir Chairperson Bangladesh National Committee of IUCN





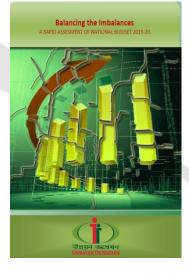
## June 2020



### **Research and Publication**

Whither Bending for life and livelihood: A RAPID ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL BUDGET 2020-21

### MONTHLY BANGLADESH ECONOMIC UPDATE, JUNE 2020



The Unnayan Onneshan (UO), an independent multidisciplinary think-tank, finds that the proposed budget for FY 2020-21 lacks measures necessary to address the macroeconomic, medium term and institutional challenges facing the economy at the advent of a pandemic.

"In the wake of a global pandemic that has overturned the historical legacy of trends in macroeconomic indicators for the first time in decades, the budget of FY 2020-21 ... still remains abundantly in the spectrum of exclusion and short-sighted motivations, and in favour of clientelist networks", says the organization in its report titled "Whither Bending the Curves for life and livelihood: A Rapid Assessment of National Budget 2020-21."

Income erosion resulting from the losses in various productive sectors from the shutdown will lead to the emergence of a 'new' poor in the country. According to the research organization, the income erosion may result in 43.5 percent households having income less than the international poverty line.

"In the worst case scenario, with prolonged shutdown, we estimate 47.43 percent of the households will have income below the poverty line. Systematic reopening up the economy with focus on job creation and retention will see the percentage come down to 39.43 percent," the report adds.

For the first time in decades, macroeconomic indicators in Bangladesh are set to dramatically reverse their course - what had been a gradual decline in poverty since 1992 is about to take off in an upward direction, economic growth is stalled to 5.2%, the lowest since 1980, unemployment figures almost double since 2018 reaching an all-time high since 1984, the assessment notes.

Pointing out that the inequality may further be entrenched, the Unnayan Onneshan says that the it would cross the fault line 0.50 from the existing 0.32 in terms of Gini coefficient while further exacerbate if measured by Palma ratio of 2.93 as there would be descent of low and middle-income section as new poor due to differentiated returns on labour and capital stemming from erosion of income, given the preponderance of most of the labour force to be engaged in informal sector and a ubiquitous loss of employment in both formal and informal sectors.

The Unnayan Onneshan estimates that a percentage decrease in the GDP growth will result in 0.93 percent increase in unemployment rate. Hence, the unemployment rate may rise more than 3 percent because of the fall in GDP.



### **Research and Publication**

### **Indecisive Action Leaves Vulnerable Population at Risk**

Published in Georgeou, N., & Hawksley, C. (eds.). 2020. State Responses to COVID-19: A Global Snapshot at 1 June 2020. https://doi.org/10.26183/5ed5a2079cabd

STATE RESPONSES TO COVID-19: A GLOBAL SNAPSI

## BANGLADESH

### INDECISIVE ACTION LEAVES VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AT RISK

ESTIMATED POPULATION (2020): 164.6 MILLION

COVID-19 statistics at 1 June 2020

TOTAL CASES	46,534
TOTAL RECOVERED	10,597
DEATHS	672

Introduction: On 7 June, Bangladesh recorded its highest official figure of COVID-19 deaths per day, with 2,743 new confirmed cases, after a week of easing lockdown.<sup>1</sup> The country now ranks among the top 20 affected countries with 65,769 confirmed cases within three months of the first detection.<sup>2</sup> Much of the damage so far may be attributed to the government's apparent lack of decisiveness on the crisis, and downplaying its severity. The non-pharmacological intervention was implemented in the form of a state-ordained 'general holiday', which was withdrawn in late May, much to the dismay of the health experts.

The government has also not been able to demonstrate coordinated and inclusive strategies, including bureaucratic dilly-dally on an indigenously The severe lapse in testing has led experts to believe that existing cas in the capital city Dhaka may in fact be as high as 750,000 including those left undiagnosed.<sup>5</sup> Researchers had come forward with a locall manufactured fast-testing kit that still remains in wait for validation from regulatory authorities a month after applying for approval.<sup>6</sup>

**Poverty:** After the imposition of a general holiday, earnings have plummeted of low income groups, leading to the emergence of the ni poor – almost 36 million as estimated by recent studies.<sup>7</sup> Individuals dwelling in urban slums or low-income settlement areas contribute both to the formal and informal economy of the country, but yet rema deprived of basic necessities such as healthcare, water and sanitation often for problems as trivial as not having acquired a 'holding' numbe for identification. Coverage of the social safety net programs is rural centred and there are rising suspicions about the effectiveness of the initiatives.

The Government's USD \$8 billion stimulus package, about 2.5% of GC primarily focuses on export-oriented industries, leaving out the most vulnerable sections of society.<sup>®</sup> Mass scale corruption is also causing significant leakages from the government's relief measures, depriving the vulnerable people.<sup>®</sup>

Migration and Remittance: On average over 400,000 workers migrate

404

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## **Research and Op-ed**

An alternative national budget for next fiscal year

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/alternative-national-budget-next-fiscal-year-1909281

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12:00 AM, June 05, 2020 / LAST MODIFIED: 03:09 AM, June 05, 2020

## An alternative national budget for next fiscal year

#### RASHED AL MAHMUD TITUMIR

The national budget for fiscal 2020-21 is being formulated at a time when the global coronavirus pandemic is leaving a long-lasting stain on the economy.

A shift from conventional budgetary system to a three-year resuscitation strategy for Bangladesh is the need of the hour to inhibit the contraction of the economy.

The medium-term macroeconomic framework, through coordinated fiscal and monetary policies, will have to centre on employment to control erosion and increase income.

The economy had been in distress before the strike of the pandemic with jobless growth, slowed-down poverty reduction, declining export-import and unfulfilled targets of revenue collection.

### রাশেদ আল মাহমুদ তিতুমীরের সাক্ষাৎকার

সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা বিভাগ গঠন করা জরুরি

(Interview on the implications of COVID-19 and recovery pathways of the economy, proposing to establish a separate social security department to ensure livelihoods of the people)

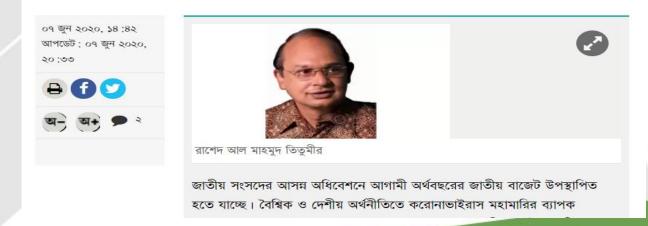
https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1661228



মতামত সংবাদ

রাশেদ আল মাহমুদ তিতুমীরের সাক্ষাৎকার

## সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা বিভাগ গঠন করা জরুরি







## **Research and Op-ed**

The Op-ed pieces in Bengali dailies cover the implications of COVID-19 proposing recovery pathways of the economy and analyzing the measures taken to tackle recession in the national budget 2020-21.

অর্থনীতি পুনরুদ্ধারে দিতে হবে পথনকশা

http://www.dainikamadershomoy.com/post/261012

### জীবন বাঁচিয়ে জীবিকার চাকা সচল করুন

### https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/16624



ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের উল্লয়ন অধ্যয়ন বিভাগের অধ্যাপক রাশেদ আল মাহমুদ তিতুমীর

### বাজেট ব্যবস্থাপনায় নানা বৈপরীত্য

https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1665368/

The public and accountability in budgetary process

https://www.newagebd.net/article/109823/



and social protection have been at the core. Besides, they also have waited for a comprehensive

roadmap for restoration, recovery and restructuring of the economy. The untold anxieties probing

জাতীয় সংসদে ঘোষিত বাজেট প্রস্তাবে জিডিপি প্রবৃদ্ধি আর রাজস্ব আয়ের বড় লক্ষ্য সম্পর্কে অর্থমন্ত্রী বলেছেন, 'টাকা কোথা থেকে আসবে, সে চিন্তা আমরা করিনি ।... অর্থ যা ই লাগদের স্ফোঁ জোগাত করা ফরে ।'



## **Research and Op-ed**

Life and livelihood in national budget

https://www.newagebd.net/article/108276/life-and-livelihood-in-national-budget





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Editorial Opinion Cartoon

TRENDING:

Rohingya Crisis Coronavirus Kashmir George Floyd Budget 2020-21 COVID-19

## Life and livelihood in national budget

by Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir | Published: 00:00, Jun 13,2020



EACH day, Bangladesh records an accelerating number of COVID-19 cases, coupled with harrowing experiences of treatment refusal, job insecurity, eroded income and an overall curtailed control over life. At the strike of the pandemic that necessitates targeted rethinking in budgetary action, it is almost perilous to be on the fence about the significance of redirecting interventions in particular sectors. For the first time in decades, macroeconomic indicators are set to dramatically reverse their course — what had been a gradual decline in poverty since 1992 is about to take off in an upward direction, economic growth is stalled to 5.2 per cent, the lowest since 1980 and unemployment figure almost doubles since 2018, reaching an all-time high since 1984. The revelations, as astounding as they may be, depict a vivid imagery of how ghastly the economic slowdown is becoming and how much of the economic recovery is hanging by a thread by the effectiveness of the point-by-point roadmap to recover lives and livelihoods, laid out by the 49th national budget.

আলোকপাত

জীবন, জীবিকা ও জাতীয় বাজেটের গতিপথ (Op-ed: analysis of national budget 2020-21)

রাশেদ আল মাহমুদ তিতুমীর, মো. শাহ পরান, মোস্তফা ওয়ালিদ পাশা, আদরিনা ইবনাত জামিলী আদিবা, ওয়াহিদ হায়দার, ফাহিম শাহরিয়ার

https://bonikbarta.net/home/news\_description/232340

#### আলোকপাত জীবন, জীবিকা ও জাতীয় বাজেটের গতিপথ

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বা জে

জুন ১৩, ২০২০



পরিবর্তিত পরিস্থিতির আলোকে কভিড-১৯-এর মধ্যেই দেশের ৪৯তম জাতীয় বাজেট ঘোষিত হয়েছে। এরই মধ্যে অর্থনীতিতে বড় ধরনের সংকোচন শুরু হয়ে গেছে। ১৯৮০ সালের পর প্রবৃদ্ধির এত বড় পতন আর দেখা যায়নি।১৯৯২ সালের পর এই প্রথম দারিদ্র্য বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে।কিন্তু এই সংকোচন অর্থনীতির গতানুগতিক কারণ তথা চাহিদা ও জোগান হ্রাসের কারণে ঘটছে না।বরং করোনা মোকাবেলায় বিশ্বব্যাপী সরকার কর্তৃক সকল প্রকার অর্থনৈতিক কার্যাবলি বন্ধের ফলে অর্থনীতি এ মন্দায় পতিত হয়েছে। তাই বিচক্ষণতার সঙ্গে সরকারকেই এ বিপর্যয়

মোকাবেলায় নেতৃত্ব দিতে হবে।সমস্যা আগেকার মতো নয়, তাই প্রচলিত কায়দায় সমাধানও কাজ করবে না।অর্থনীতি পুনরুদ্ধার পরিকল্পনায় তাই নতুন ধরনের পথনির্দেশের আবশ্যকতা রয়েছে।



### **Action Research**

- Cyclone Amphan damaged the embankment of the river. The members of the cooperatives joined with other people to repair the embankment immediately.
- Despite the devastation caused by Amphan to the forest and forest people, the growing trees and other floral varieties in the islands of the rivers is creating hope.
- The season for collecting fruits from *Nypa fruticans* (Golpata) is running now. TRUs are collecting *golfol*.



Photo: People repairing embankment

Photo: Growing trees in the islands



Photo: A boy collecting golfol

Photo: Golpfol

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# Media Coverage

### Budget 2020-21 FY: Unnayan Onneshan finds 8.2 percent growth rate unrealistic

http://www.unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/budget-2020-21-fy-unnayan-onneshan-finds-82-										
percent-growth-rate-										
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Home > Bangladesh > Others

# Budget 2020-21 FY: Unnayan Onneshan finds 8.2 percent growth rate unrealistic



Enforce lockdown to save lives, Unnayan Onneshan urges govt in budget analysis

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/enforce-lockdown-to-save-lives-uo-urgesgovt-in-budget-analysis-

1591957230?fbclid=IwAR1YJwkCDGlyuAXZfdQo7P2uNHPT2YV46D2X2C7Ud57wDqOHei80UU16yO4



#### 🕷 / Economy





Budget FY21: 8.2% growth rate is unrealistic, says Unnayan Onneshan

https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/economy/2020/06/12/budget-fy21-8-2-growth-rate-isunrealistic-says-unnayan-onneshan?fbclid=IwAR2RvqxatJwifj1JOw7zXZduy24cssywvj9zfhcKqPc49op\_hTxREcQVNs

≡ Q 🖀 TODAY'S PAPER NEWS ~ BUSINESS ~ SPORTS ~ OPINION ~ D2 ~ SHC

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# Budget FY21: 8.2% growth rate is unrealistic, says Unnayan Onneshan

Tribune Desk

here at 06:26 pm June 12th, 2020

দেয়ন অন্যেষন Innayan Onneshan The Innovators



## জীবন-জীবিকার মানোন্নয়নেই হবে অর্থনীতি পুনরুদ্ধার

https://www.ekushey-tv.com/%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7 %9F%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%87-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%A2%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6 %BF-

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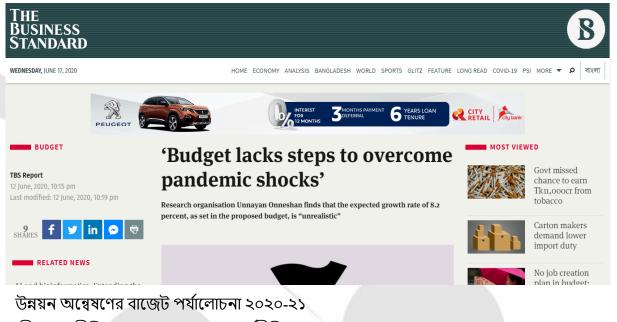
# ৵ জাতীয় রাজনীতি রাজধানী দেশজুড়ে আন্তর্জাতিক অর্থ-বাণিজ্য খেলাধুলা বিনোদন লাই জীবন-জীবিকার মানোময়নেই হবে অর্থনীতি পুনরুদ্ধার একুশে টেলিভিশন ত প্রকাশিত : ১৯:২৬ ১২ জুন ২০২০



## Media Coverage

'Budget lacks steps to overcome pandemic shocks'

https://tbsnews.net/economy/budget/budget-lacks-steps-overcome-pandemic-shocks-92482



জীবন ও জীবিকার মানোন্নয়ন ছাড়া অর্থনীতি পুনরুদ্ধার করা সম্ভব নয়

https://bonikbarta.net/home/news\_description/232359?fbclid=IwAR0nUIIhuaF1kM60FXzAT6LdoSXr 3VTuumACLwCEmGk5bje3BlSoJnswpGQ

### উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণের বাজেট পর্যালোচনা ২০২০-২১

জীবন ও জীবিকার মানোন্নয়ন ছাড়া অর্থনীতি পুনরুদ্ধার করা সন্তব নয়

বা জে ট

2020-25

জুন ১৩, ২০২০

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স্বাধীন গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান 'উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণ'-এর ২০১৯-২০ সালের বাজেট পর্যালোচনায় ২০১৯-২০ অর্থবছরে প্রবৃদ্ধির হার ৫.২ শতাংশ নির্ধারণকে প্রশ্নবিদ্ধ মনে করছে। প্রতিষ্ঠানটি বলছে, ১৯৮০ সালের পর প্রবৃদ্ধির এত বড় পতন আর দেখা যায়নি।১৯৯২ সালের পর এই প্রথম দারিদ্র্য বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে। কিন্তু এই সংকোচন অর্থনীতির গতানুগতিক কারণ তথা চাহিদা ও জোগানের হ্রাসের কারণে ঘটছে না।বরং করোনা মোকাবেলায় বিশ্বব্যাপী সরকার কর্তৃক সব ধরনের অর্থনৈতিক কার্যাবলি বন্ধের ফলে অর্থনীতি এ মন্দায় পতিত হয়েছে।নতুন বাজেটে

অগ্রাধিকার ও নীতি-কৌশল নিয়ে অর্থনীতিবিদদের মধ্যে কতগুলো বিষয়ে মতৈক্য লক্ষ করা গেছে। অর্থনীতি পুনরুদ্ধারে একটি মধ্যমেয়াদি সামষ্টিক অর্থনৈতিক নীতিকাঠামো, রাজস্ব ও মুদ্রানীতির সমন্বয়, প্রয়োজনে ১০ শতাংশের মতো বাজেট ঘাটতি নির্ধারণ এবং স্বাস্থ্য, শিক্ষা, সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা ও কৃষি খাতে অগ্রাধিকারের কথা বলা



উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণের পর্যালোচনা

অর্থনীতি পুনরুদ্ধারে দিকনির্দেশনা নেই প্রস্তাবিত বাজেটে

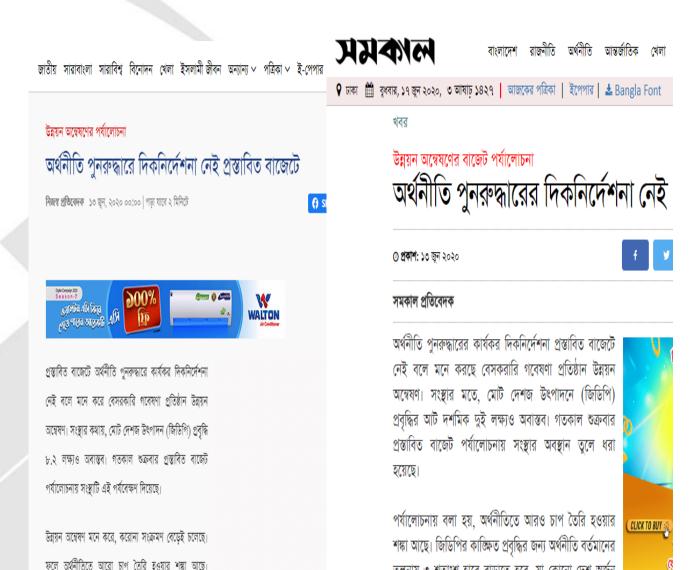
https://www.kalerkantho.com/printedition/news/2020/06/13/922389?fbclid=IwAR2RvqxatJwifj1JOw7zXZduy24cssywvj9zfhcKqPc49op hTxREcQVNs

উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণের বাজেট পর্যালোচনা

জিডিপির কাঞ্চিত গ্রবৃদ্ধির জন্য অর্থনীতি বর্তমানের তুলনায় ৩

অর্থনীতি পুনরুদ্ধারের দিকনির্দেশনা নেই

https://samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-khobor/article/200642210



তুলনায় ৩ শতাংশ হারে বাড়াতে হবে, যা কোনো দেশ অর্জন

হাবে ক্রম্য মারে।

করতে পারেনি। এটি অসম্ভব, কারণ করোনার কারণে প্রবাস আয় এবং তৈরি পো



## জীবন ও জীবিকার মানোন্নয়ন করেই অর্থনীতি পুনরুদ্ধার সম্ভব উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণ

http://print.thesangbad.net/news/frontpage/%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%A6%AC%E0%A6%A8%2 0%E0%A6%93%20%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0 %A6%B0%20%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6 %A8%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%A8%20%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%87%20%E0%A6 %85%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%20 %E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6 %A7%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%20%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AD%E0%A6%A6 %20%E0%A6%89%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%A8%20%E0%A6%85 %E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A2%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%A8%20%E0%A6%A8%20%E0%A6%85 %E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%A8%20%E0%A6%85 %E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%A3-77364/



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## সংবাদ » প্রথম পৃষ্ঠা

## জীবন ও জীবিকার মানোন্নয়ন করেই অর্থনীতি পুনরুদ্ধার সম্ভব উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণ

সংবাদ : নিজস্ব বার্তা পরিবেশক | ঢাকা , শনিবার, ১৩ জুন ২০২০

জীবন ও জীবিকার মানোন্নয়ন করেই অর্থনীতি পুনরুদ্ধার করা সম্ভব বলে মন্তব্য করেছে স্বাধীন গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান 'উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণ'। প্রতিষ্ঠানটি বলছে, মহামারীতে রূপ নেয়া করোনা মোকাবিলায় বিশ্বব্যাপী সরকার কর্তৃক সব ধরনের অর্থনৈতিক কার্যাবলী বন্ধের ফলে অর্থনীতি যে মন্দায় পতিত হয়েছে, তা পুনরুদ্ধারে ২০২০-২১ সালের নতুন বাজেটে অগ্রাধিকার এবং নীতি-কৌশল নিয়ে অর্থনীতিবিদদের মধ্যে কতগুলো বিষয়ে ঐকমত্য লক্ষ্য করা গেছে।অর্থনীতি পুনরুদ্ধারে একটি মধ্যমেয়াদি সামষ্টিক অর্থনৈতিক নীতি-কাঠামো, রাজস্ব ও মুদ্রানীতির সমন্বয়, প্রয়োজনে ১০ শতাংশের মতো বাজেট ঘাটতি নির্ধারণ এবং স্বাস্থ্য, শিক্ষা, সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা ও কৃষি খাতে অগ্রাধিকারের কথা বলা হয়েছে।

উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণের পর্যালোচনায় উঠে এসেছে, এ বছর মোট দেশজ উৎপাদনের উচ্চ প্রবৃদ্ধির হারের লক্ষ্যমাত্রা নির্ধারণের চেয়ে চলমান সংকট থেকে অর্থনীতির পুনর্বাসন, পুনরুদ্ধার ও পুনর্নির্মাণের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপ

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%E0%A6%89%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B7%E0%A6%A3/28051?f bclid=IwAR2VaaJFn01zJaL3QIFVr74XsrkpYL3yPGsEvQXQamCccqc4 FPn7ADuM74



https://www.newagebd.net/article/108254/82pc-growth-rate-unrealistic-unnayanonneshan?fbclid=IwAR30yleNI0C5\_7V3Mjc3k4YgnNozLWLufXhorTNewII5Lcj\_9aHONasndxg



### Newsletter published in IUCN website

From Social Solidarity to Economic Solidarity

https://www.iucn.org/news/commission-environmental-economic-and-social-policy/202006/socialsolidarity-economicsolidarity?fbclid=IwAR2kKF8zLX0rtpLj3oNQzpQOIEOW4IoY p24i vsIR750q5K2aYIz YxHR8

## From Social Solidarity to Economic Solidarity

■Fri, 05 Jun 2020

CEESP News: by Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir\*

The citizens are aspiring for a transformational mission for a legitimate state to provide for universal basic needs and to ensure fundamental rights of its citizens. On the economic front, the crisis begs a thought-thorough strategic framework to transcend to transformational pathways with an emphasis on the rights of vulnerable.







## Media Engagement

<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_SUFD-</u> <u>GXkCU&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3YfBGm1bEonSDJ9Ens8Y6KmHzLDX2OTmuWJcO15pVLQa6hHGP</u> rQeLb6FY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WqNMice1c&fbclid=IwAR2x2NFLKZAkuiWfDytoHajbL7Qe7gu6IIEpNOFIsUEdrUhqarya IKR8Ao



## #BonikBarta

বাজেটকে বাস্তবায়নযোগ্য করতে করণীয় কী?



#বাংলাদেশ #তৃতীয়\_মাত্রা #বাজেট

Episode 6159 | Dr. Muhammad Abdul Mazid | Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir | Tritiyo Matra



# Webinars

## স্বাস্থ্যখাতে বাজেট, মিটছে কী প্রয়োজন?

https://www.facebook.com/doctortv.net/videos/255044599079388

https://www.facebook.com/watchparty/201544380966423



Webinars Series During COVID-19 Pandemic



# Webinars

# Academics-practitioners' dialogues during COVID-19

Academics-practitioners' dialogues during COVID-19 – Urban Poverty https://www.facebook.com/rashed.titumir/videos/10222359078467854/

Academics-practitioners' dialogues during COVID-19 – Rohingya refugees https://www.facebook.com/rashed.titumir/videos/10222370111463672/

Academics-practitioners' dialogues during COVID-19 – microcredit and NGOs <a href="https://www.facebook.com/rashed.titumir/videos/10222379667582569/">https://www.facebook.com/rashed.titumir/videos/10222379667582569/</a>

Academics-practitioners' dialogues during COVID-19 – Ethnic minorities https://www.facebook.com/krishi.krishok/videos/3498134963548400/

Academics-practitioners' dialogues during COVID-19 – Migrant workers https://www.facebook.com/rashed.titumir/videos/10222393200320879/

Academics-practitioners' dialogues during COVID-19 – Street level bureaucracy https://www.facebook.com/rashed.titumir/videos/10222402246947039/

Academics-practitioners' dialogues during COVID-19 – women, coping mechanisms and violence <a href="https://www.facebook.com/rashed.titumir/videos/10222412193395694/">https://www.facebook.com/rashed.titumir/videos/10222412193395694/</a>

IUCN Statement on COVID-19, Environment and Sustainable Pathways https://www.facebook.com/rashed.titumir/videos/10222117993760887/

Webinars Series During COVID-19 Pandemic South Asia Perspective



# Unnayan Onneshan Webinar Series on Covid-19 and South Asia

The Unnayan Onneshan has organised moderated webinars on COVID-19 and South Asia from 15 June 2020. Each evening session of an hour and a half deals with a specific country. Each session touches upon broad five areas: (a) state of Covid-19 and response, (b) implications on lives and livelihoods, with particular focus on marginalised sections, (c) restarting and recovery of the economy, (d) areas of regional cooperation and the role of SAARC, and (e) changing global order and implications on the region.

### Webinar Series 1: Indian Perspectives

https://www.facebook.com/1294209940/videos/10222637428146422/

Participants:

Dr. S.D. Muni, Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Professor Manish, Chairperson, Centre for International Politics, Dean, School of Int. Studies, Central University of Gujrat

Dr. Sreeradha Datta, Centre Head, Neighbourhood Studies and Senior Fellow, Vivekananda Int. Foundation

Dr. Smruti S Pattanaik, Research Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defense Studies and Anlyses

Subhajyoti Ghosh, Senior Journalist, BBC



## Solidarity in South Asia amidst COVID-19





Dr. S.D. Muni Professor Emeritus Jawaharlal Nehru University



Prof Manish Chairperson Centre for International Politics Dean, School of Int. Studies Central University of Gujarat



Webinar Series -1: Indian Perspectives

**Dr. Sreeradha Datta** Centre Head, Neighbourhood Studies and Senior Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation



Dr Smruti S Pattanaik Research Fellow Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses (MP-IDSA)



Mr. Subhajyoti Ghosh Senior BBC Journalist



#### Prof. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir Chairperson the Unnayan Onneshan www.unnayan.org

Organized by: the Unnayan Onneshan



15 JUNE, 2020, MONDAY 9.00 PM, DHAKA TIME



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# Unnayan Onneshan Webinar Series on Covid-19 and South Asia

### Webinar Series 2: Pakistani Perspectives

https://www.facebook.com/1294209940/videos/10222650560434721/

Participants:

Muhammad Idrees Mahsud, Member, DRR, National Disaster Management Authority, Prime Minister's Secretariat, Islamabad

Dr. Kaiser Bengali, Economist, Ex-member, Pakistan National Finance Commission from Sindh

Ambsdr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Former Deputy Executive Director, UNEP

Gen Saeed Aleem, Former Chairman, NDMA

Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute

Gen. Talat Massod, Strategic Analyst



Webinar Series -2: Pakistan Perspectives









Muhammad Idrees Mahsud Member, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)Prime Minister's Secretariat, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr Kaiser Bengali Economist Ex-member Pakistan



DirectorUnited Nations Environment Programme

Chairperson

the Unnayan Onneshan www.unnayan.org

Ambsdr. Shafqat Kakakhel Former Deputy Executive





Gen. Talat Massod Strategic Analyst





Prof. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir

Organized by: the Unnayan Onneshan

Gen Saeed Aleem Former Chairman NDMA Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute



https://www.facebook.com/rashed.titumir





9.00 PM, DHAKA TIME



# Unnayan Onneshan Webinar Series on Covid-19 and South Asia

Webinar Series 3: Bhutanese Perspective

https://www.facebook.com/rashed.titumir/videos/10222659857227135/?d=n

## Participants

Dr. Lam Dorji, Development Specialist, Former ED, RSPN

Yeshey Dorji, Photographer

Needrup Zangpo, Executive Director, Bhutan Media Foundation

Tshering Choki, Director, Athang Training Academy, Athang Private Limited



Solidarity in South Asia amidst COVID-19

## Webinar Series - 3: Bhutan Perspectives

## PANELLISTS

CHAIR



**Dr. Lam Dorji** Development Specialist Former ED, RSPN



Mr. Yeshey Dorji Photographer

Chairperson

the Unnayan Onneshan

www.unnayan.org



**Mr. Needrup Zangpo** Executive Director Bhutan Media Foundation



**Ms. Tshering Choki** Director, Athang Training Academy, Athang Private Limited



https://www.facebook.com/rashed.titumir



**Organized by: the Unnayan Onneshan** 

Prof. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir



# Unnayan Onneshan Webinar Series on Covid-19 and South Asia

## Webinar Series 4: Nepalese Perspectives

https://www.facebook.com/1294209940/videos/10222659857227135/

Participants

Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota, Former Vice Chair, National Planning Commission of Nepal

Prof. Dr. Govind Raj Pokharel, , Former Vice Chair, National Planning Commission of Nepal

Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, SAWTEE

Bhim Bhurtel, Faculty Member, Nepal Open University



Solidarity in South Asia amidst COVID-19 Webinar Series - 4: Nepal Perspectives

## PANELLISTS

CHAIR



Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota Former Vice Chair, National Planning Commission of Nepal



**Prof. Dr. Govind Raj Pokharel** Former Vice Chair, National Planning Commission of Nepal



Dr. Posh Raj Pandey Chairman, SAWTEE



**Mr. Bhim Bhurtel** Faculty Member, Nepal Open University



# Prof. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir

Chairperson the Unnayan Onneshan www.unnayan.org

# 

https://www.facebook.com/rashed.titumir

18 JUNE, 2020, THURSDAY 9.00 PM, DHAKA TIME

## **Organized by: the Unnayan Onneshan**



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# Unnayan Onneshan Webinar Series on Covid-19 and South Asia

Webinar Series 5: Sri Lankan Perspective

https://www.facebook.com/1294209940/videos/10222679029346426/

## Participants:

- Prof. Siri Hettige, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, University of Colombo
- Dr. Maneesha S. Wanasinghe- Pasqual, Head, Dept. of International Relations , University of Colombo
- Dr. Muttukrishna Sarvananthan, Senior Lecturer in Economics, University of Jaffna
- Dr. Sathivale Balakrishnan, Independent Consultant



Solidarity in South Asia amidst COVID-19

Webinar Series - 5: Sri Lanka Perspectives





**Prof. Siri Hettige** Emeritus Professor of Sociology University of Colombo



Dr. Maneesha S. Wanasinghe - Pasqual Dr. Muttukrishna Sarvananthan Head Dept. of International Relations University of Colombo



Senior Lecturer in Economics University of Jaffna



Dr. Sathivale Balakrishnan Independent Consultant





# Prof. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir



Chairperson the Unnayan Onneshan



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# Unnayan Onneshan Webinar Series on Covid-19 and South Asia

Webinar Series 6: Afghan Perspective

https://www.facebook.com/1294209940/videos/10222688148414397/

Participants:

Dr Orzala Ashraf Nemat, Director, Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit

Dr Mohammad Saber Perdes, Public Health Specialist

Abdul Basir Azimi, Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies



Solidarity in South Asia amidst COVID-19



CHAIR

Webinar Series - 6: Afghanistan Perspectives



Dr Orzala Ashraf Nemat Director Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit



Dr Mohammad Saber Perdes Public Health Specialist

Prof. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir Chairperson the Unnayan Onneshan www.unnayan.org

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Mr. Abdul Basir Azimi Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies



https://www.facebook.com/rashed.titumir





# Unnayan Onneshan Webinar Series on Covid-19 and South Asia

Webinar Series 7: Maldives Perspective

https://www.facebook.com/1294209940/videos/10222698196945604/

## Participants:

Dr. Ahmed Inaz, Former Minister of Finance and Treasury

Dr Abdul Sattar Yoosuf, Former Asst. Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia

Abdul Azeez Yoosuf, Former Ambassador to India

Athifa Ibrahim, Former Head of Policy and Inclusive Growth, UNDP Maldives

Abdul Haleem, Deputy CEO, Sollarelle Insurance and Former CFO at National Pension Fund







# Webinar Series - 7: Maldives Perspectives



PANELLISTS

Dr. Ahmed Inaz Former Minister of Finance and Treasury



**Dr Abdul Sattar Yoosuf** Former Asst. Regional Director WHO South-East Asia



Mr. Abdul Azeez Yoosuf Former Ambassador to India



Ms. Athifa Ibrahim Former Head of Policy and Inclusive Growth of **UNDP** Maldives



Mr. Abdul Haleem Deputy CEO Sollarelle Insurance and former CFO at National Pension fund





# Prof. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir

Chairperson the Unnayan Onneshan www.unnayan.org

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# Unnayan Onneshan Webinar Series on Covid-19 and South Asia

Webinar Series 8: Bangladeshi Perspective

https://www.facebook.com/1294209940/videos/10222709695673065/

## Participants:

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank

Touhid Hossain, Former Foreign Secretary

Professor Mushtag Khan, Dept. of Economics, SOAS, University of London

Major Gen Jamil D Ahsan BP (retd), Former Ambassador and DG BIISS

Dr. Mahfuz Kabir, Research Director, BIISS

UNNAYAN ONNESHAN





**Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed** Former Governor Bangladesh Bank



Mr. Touhid Hossain Former Foreign Secretary



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**Prof Mushtaq Khan** Dept. of Economics SOAS, University of London



Major Gen Jamil D Ahsan BP (retd) Former Ambassador and DG BIISS



Dr. Mahfuz Kabir **Research Director** Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS)



Prof. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir Chairperson the Unnayan Onneshan www.unnayan.org

**ORGANIZED BY: THE UNNAYAN ONNESHAN** 



22 JUNE, 2020, MONDAY 9.00 PM, DHAKA TIME

Videos and Podcast During COVID-19 Pandemic



# Videos

Partial Lockdown: Withdrawal or Extension https://youtu.be/B4bgIHLvHzg

Life-cycle based full-fledged National Social Security https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLYC4Vk76k8

Basic Income Grants https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8mCSsDVas4

New Macroeconomic Framework – Part - 1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrPMwt-uOBE

New Macroeconomic Framework – Part -2:New Monetary Policy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d18PwSiXdlE

Tritiyo Matra Episode 6110 | Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir | Dr. Muhammad Parvez Emdad

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBi2T4Hdmr4&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3kRix8rTrE1P3qHTiy Il6ssSqwi9izPkY7aJywAX-RR97mIOHFjWRMBCI

NTV Europe Coronavirus Everyday Updates S1\_070520 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghkFWvLsmKM&feature=youtu.be https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-SSIQm-b3Y&feature=youtu.be

# Podcast

Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir joins CIPE Regional Director for Asia & the Pacific John Morrell, and host Ken Jaques to discuss the economic impact of COVID-19 on Bangladesh's economy

https://www.cipe.org/blog/2020/04/28/democracy-that-delivers-199-economic-impact-of-covid-19on-bangladeshs-economy/

# Unnayan Onneshan

# **Book Series**



# The Unnayan Onneshan Book Series

- 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 into 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
- Agrarian Transition: Land Transactions and Accumulation in Bangladesh
- রাজনৈতিক বন্দোবস্ত ও অর্থনৈতিক ফলাফল
- Narratives and Number: Trajectory and Conjecture of Economic Development in Bangladesh
- The Sundarbans: Traditional Knowledge, Customary Sustainable Use and Community Based Innovation
- মুদ্ধোত্তর থেকে করোনাকালঃ বাংলাদেশের রাজনৈতিক অর্থনীতি (১৯৭১-২০২০)

### **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.

The eighth one in Bengali is about the political settlement and economic outcome of Bangladesh . This book divides the history of politics and economics of Bangladesh into four parts and attempts to critically analyze the economic and political characteristics of each parts .

The ninth one addresses the numbers and narratives that help analyze the necessary and sufficient conditions of the development of Bangladesh's economy. The necessary conditions imply the factors of economic growth— land, labour, capital and technology — while sufficient conditions include class, power, political settlement, formal and informal institutions. Exploring these conditions as well as the numbers and narratives, this book attempts to debunk the myth of a perfectly growing economy.

The book on Sundarbans makes an investigation into the traditional and customary knowledge, rules and beliefs practiced by the Traditional Resource Users (TRUs) that are congenial for the conservation of the natural resources of the Sundarbans. It attempts to contemplate the traditional practices of TRUs of the Sundarbans of Bangladesh part and identifies the contributions of traditional practices in the sustainable usage of natural resources.

Finally the Bengali one is extended version of the "রাজনৈতিক বন্দোবস্তো ও অর্থনৈতিক ফলাফল" which includes a new chapter regarding COVID-19 and provides recovery path of the economy from the ongoing pandemic based on new principles.

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



কৃতিক সম্পদ ব্যবহাপনা এবং কৃষিজ রগান্ডরের ওপর বেষণা ও পুরুক রচনায় তিনি নিয়োজিত। আলোকচিত্র : প্রথম আলো

...খন্দৰিক বেষ্ঠিত হলল সন্ধাই সমানবাৰে পাছে মা। তা দিন দিন মাহাবেল হাবহু নে কলাই পানা ৰাইবেশ লাগ যেন্দ্ৰ দেশৰ মেটা মানেৰ বৃষ্ঠ-কৃতিয়াবেশ মালিক পান্ধৰ কিন্ত মানৰ কেইজনৰ মাৰুণ ৫ অন্ধৰ্বকাৰ যাটবেৰমেৰ বিঞ্জনা গেদা যেন্দ্ৰ বিঞ্জন বিশ্ব সূত্ৰক। বা কলে পশন্দৰৈয়ে দুৰ হয়হে। কাৰ্বনোগোঁচ কাৰা নিত্ৰমলৰে মান বহু কথাতে মাৰ্বিক প্ৰথম্পাৰ্যমূহ ব্যৱহান জলাই হণ্ডা সন্থাৰ প্ৰস্তাহ কথাইজনে কোনো জলাই হণ্ডা সন্থাৰ প্ৰস্তাহ কথাইজনে আনকা বিন্তমাণ ও উপন্থান মান্ধৰে মেটজনে আনকা বিন্তমাণ ও উপন্থান মান্ধৰে মেটজনে আৰম্ভ স্থাক সা নাৰ্ধৰ প্ৰথম্বেজন সা

গ্রচ্ছদ : নাজিয়া আন্দালিব হিমা জন্মা (মন্দ্র আন্যা জন্মাজ্য ২০১২

# 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 equipments 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. Theo bjective 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 wellbeing 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

### 59<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The 59<sup>th</sup> 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 Sunday 20th October 2019 at 07:00 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 2019 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, Coordinator, Admin and Finance were present at the meeting.

## 60<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The 60<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Unnayan Onneshan was held on Wednesday 8th January 2020 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 2019 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, Coordinator- Admin and Finance were present at the meeting.

## 61st Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The 61<sup>st</sup> 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 Saturday 11th April, 2020 at 6:00 pm. The meeting was presided over by Unnayan Onneshan Chairperson, Professor Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir. The Board members approved the organizational activities – January 2020 to March 2020. 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, Coordinator- Admin and Finance were present at the meeting.

## 62<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The 62<sup>nd</sup> 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 20th July, 2020 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 2019 to June 2020 and management accounts of the organization. All the members of the Board of Trustees along with Head of Admin & Finance, Coordinator-Admin and Finance 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.

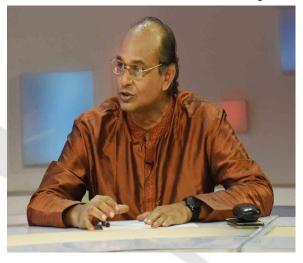


# Unnayan Onneshan Trustees & Family

Once a Member, Always a Member



# Unnayan Onneshan Family



Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir Chairperson, UO



Ebney Ayaj Rana, Adjunct Researcher



Md. Zahidur Rahman, Adjunct Researcher



Azmol Hossain, Coordinator, Admin & Finance



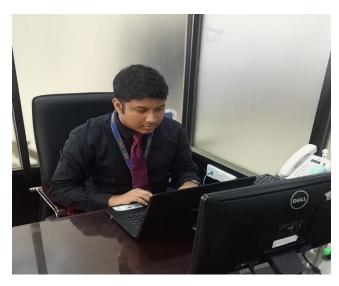
Tanjila Afrin and Mohammad Saeed Islam, Adjunct Researcher



# **Unnayan Onneshan Family**



Abdul Mahidud Khan, Adjunct Researcher



Emran Hasan, Adjunct Researcher



Adib Ahmed, Adjunct Researcher



Mamun-or-Rashid, Community Researcher



Md. Shah Paran, Researcher



Mostafa Walid Pasha, Researcher



# **Unnayan Onneshan Family**



Wahid Haider, Research Intern



Adrina Ibnat Jamilee, Research Intern



Fahim Shahriar, Research Intern

## **Board of Trustees**

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

## Researchers

Ebney Ayaj Rana Md. Zahidur Rahman Mohammad Saeed Islam Tanjila Afrin Abdul Mahidud Khan Adib Ahmed Emran Hasan Md. Monir Md. Shah Paran Mostafa Walid Pasha Wahid Haider Adrina Ibnat Jamilee Fahim Shahriar

## Administration

Azmol Hossain, Coordinator, Finance and Admin

## **Support Staffs**

Md. Toshir Ahmmed Md. Salam Sikder Dulali Soren

Summary Financial Statement





## Unnayan Onneshan

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