

Date: June 3, 2025

Subject: Jury Letter for Mr. Md. Kamruzzaman – ActionAid Young Journalist Fellowship 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to **confirm that I served as a jury member** for the **ActionAid Young Journalist Fellowship 2021**, a nationally recognized and competitive program aimed at identifying and supporting emerging Bangladeshi journalists committed to social justice, human rights, and youth leadership.

The fellowship was organized by **ActionAid Bangladesh**, a respected global development organization operating in over 40 countries. This initiative was designed to empower early-career journalists who demonstrate a strong commitment to ethical and impactful storytelling.

The **award ceremony** took place on **October 31, 2021**, at the **CIRDAP Auditorium in Dhaka**, in the presence of the Honorable **Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Government of Bangladesh, Dr. Hasan Mahmud**, who attended as Chief Guest, and **Professor Dr. Md. Golam Rahman**, former Chief Information Commissioner of Bangladesh, who chaired the event.

The jury panel included:

- Mr. Munir Hasan, Head of Youth Program, **The Daily Prothom Alo**
- Mr. Borhanul Haque Shamrat, **Senior News Editor, News24**
- Myself – Dr. Nazneen Ahmed, then **Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies**.

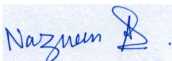
The selection process was **highly competitive**, based on a transparent and merit-based evaluation. Applicants were assessed based on **originality, thematic relevance, societal impact, and journalistic integrity**. From a large nationwide pool (more than 500 applicants), **three journalists were awarded** for their published reports, while **four fellows were selected** based on their **outstanding story proposals**. Each fellow received a certificate, formal recognition, and a cash prize of **BDT 67,648**.

Mr. Md. Kamruzzaman, widely known as **Babu Kamruzzaman**, was the **only television journalist** selected as a fellow through the above-mentioned process. His proposal focused on the **dropout of young entrepreneurs in rural Bangladesh**, highlighting critical gaps in public and private support systems. His story idea stood out for its **originality, urgency, and strong alignment with the values of socially responsible journalism**.

This fellowship holds **high esteem in the Bangladeshi media community**, and Mr. Kamruzzaman's selection reflects his growing reputation as a journalist committed to **underreported issues and public interest storytelling**.

Please feel free to contact me for any further information.

Sincerely,



Dr. Nazneen Ahmed

Policy Advisor, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific Headquarters in New York
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Former Country Economist, UNDP Bangladesh

Senior Research Fellow (On Leave), Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)

Email: nazneen.ahmed@undp.org

Phone: +1 631 922 6672

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nazneen.ahmed@undp.org

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