

May 10, 2025

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Endorsement of Mr. Md Kamruzzaman as the winner of ERF Best Reporting Award 2022 (Jury Confirmation)

This is to confirm that I acted as a jury member for the ERF Best Reporting Award 2022. Let me hereby endorse the selection of Mr. Md Kamruzzaman for this national-level recognition. As part of an independent jury panel I was tasked with evaluating submissions for this prestigious award that recognizes excellence in economic journalism in Bangladesh.

The award, organized annually by the Economic Reporters Forum (ERF), honors outstanding reporting across categories such as banking, macroeconomy, capital market and public finance. Formed in the early 1990s, ERF is the country's largest professional body of economic journalists, with more than 250 members from leading national media outlets. The 2022 edition of the award, sponsored by bKash, was presented under the title "**bKash-ERF Best Reporting Award 2022,**" and the nomination and evaluation were fully administered by ERF.

As many as **103 eligible entries were submitted** by ERF members in the competition in 2022. Submissions were categorized based on topic and media type and reviewed through a structured process. As jury members, **we evaluated reports on the basis of originality, journalistic rigor, clarity, public impact, and relevance.** The final jury comprised of **Mr. Saiful Amin, Mr. Waliur Rahman Miraz and myself**, each with significant experience in journalism and media education.

Mr. Kamruzzaman, then a Senior Reporter at **News24 Television** (Currently Special Correspondent), was **selected as the winner in the Banking and Insurance category (Television).** His investigative report explored how inflation and declining interest rates were eroding the real value of personal savings in the formal banking system, forcing many individuals into riskier, unregulated alternatives. Using field interviews, expert analysis, and data-driven reporting, he revealed systemic financial vulnerabilities affecting the middle-income citizens. The jury unanimously found the report to be timely, original, and impactful.

The award ceremony was held at **the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh (KIB), Dhaka, on December 12, 2022,** and attended by the then **Planning Minister MA Mannan, the CEO of bKash, ERF's present and former leaders, and members of the media and policy community.** The event received wide coverage in the national media.

I feel good that this award reflects a rigorous, merit-based selection process. Mr. Kamruzzaman's recognition demonstrates his journalistic excellence and the national significance of his reporting. I am pleased to endorse his selection and let me assure that I am available for any verification if needed.

Sincerely,


Khawaza Main Uddin

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