

Date: June 25, 2025

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing in my capacity as a jury member of the **ERF-Nagad Best Reporting Award 2023**, a nationally recognized annual journalism award presented by the **Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF)**, in partnership with **Nagad Ltd.**, a leading mobile financial service provider in Bangladesh. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to economic journalism in Bangladesh.

As the **Founder of Digitally Right, Associate Professor at Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP)**, and **former Editor of GIJN Bangla**, I have been deeply involved in advancing investigative journalism, media literacy, and digital rights in South Asia. I also personally know **Mr. Md Kamruzzaman**, known professionally as **Babu Kamruzzaman**, and am familiar with his impactful work in the field of economic journalism.

In 2023, I served on a **six-member** independent jury panel that included:

- **Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud**, Adviser to the Former Caretaker Government of Bangladesh and Former Professor, University of Dhaka
- **A. A. M. S. Arefin Siddique**, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka
- **Barrister Nihad Kabir**, Former President, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI)
- **Dr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem**, Research Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)
- **Shamsul Huq Zahid**, Editor, *The Financial Express*

The jury evaluated **168 submissions** from leading journalists across television, print, and digital media. The process involved a two-tiered evaluation: a preliminary screening conducted by ERF's technical committee, followed by jury assessment using standardized criteria including:

- Originality and depth of reporting
- Public relevance and impact
- Clarity of presentation
- Adherence to ethical journalism practices

From this rigorous and highly competitive process, **19 journalists** were selected for awards. **Mr. Kamruzzaman was selected as the winner in the "Private Sector" category**, in recognition of his exceptional analytical reporting that significantly contributed to public understanding of private sector issues in Bangladesh.

The award ceremony took place on **November 6, 2024**, at **Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka**, in the presence of senior policymakers, business leaders, and media professionals. Awards were presented by:

- **Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed**, Finance Adviser, Government of Bangladesh
- **Dr. Ahsan H Mansur**, Governor, Bangladesh Bank
- **Dr. KAS Murshid**, Chairman, Nagad Ltd.

Mr. Kamruzzaman received a commemorative crest and a monetary award of BDT 1,00,000, presented on stage before a distinguished audience.

The ERF, founded in 1993–94 and registered under the Companies Act 1913, is the most prominent association of economic journalists in Bangladesh, with over **250 members** representing major national media.

I affirm that **Mr. Kamruzzaman's selection was based on merit and reflects his national-level recognition in economic journalism.** His work stood out among a large and competitive pool of applicants, further affirming his contributions to the field.

Sincerely,



Miraj Ahmed Chowdhury

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