

**Scheme on Strengthening the Capacity of Treasury and Debt Management wing of
Finance Division**

**Strengthening Public Financial Management Reform to Enable Service Delivery
(SPFMS)**

Finance Division, Ministry of Finance

Workshop on “Navigating Public Debt in Bangladesh”

Chief Guest : Dr Salehuddin Ahmed
Honorable Advisor, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Science &
Technology
Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh

Special Guest : Dr. Anisuzzaman Chowdhury
Special Assistant to the Honorable Chief Advisor
Ministry of Finance
Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh

Chairperson : Dr. Md Khairuzzaman Mozumder
Secretary, Finance Division
Ministry of Finance

Date : 27 June 2025

Venue : Bhawal Resort and Spa, Gazipur.

Participants : Officials from Finance Division, Economic Relations Division,
Internal Resources Division, OCAg, Bangladesh Bank, NSD, World
Bank, IMF.

A day long workshop on “Navigating Public Debt in Bangladesh” held at Bhawal Resort and SPA on 27 June 2025, was organized by the scheme on Strengthening the Capacity of the Treasury and Debt Management Wing of the Finance Division under the Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS).

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Honorable Advisor, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Science & Technology inaugurated the workshop as chief guest. Cautioned against approving unnecessary large-scale projects that could undermine debt sustainability. “Before approving any big project, we must assess whether the demand is justified, whether the project is feasible, and whether it promises long-term benefits,” he noted. Dr. Anisuzzaman Chowdhury as special guest in his speech emphasized the need for various ministries and departments to work together to ensure

coordination in the government's debt management efforts. He urged all relevant stakeholders to convene soon to take effective decisions on the matter. The program was chaired by Dr. Md. Khairuzzaman Mozumder, Secretary, Finance Division. The guests of honor included Bilquis Jahan Rimi, Additional Secretary of the Finance Division and National Program Director of SPFMS, and Suraiya Jannath, Lead Governance Specialist of the World Bank

Presentations at the workshop were delivered by Mr Hasan Khaled Foisal, Additional Secretary of the Treasury and Debt Management Wing; Mohd Rashedul Amin, Joint Secretary; Farid Ahmed, Deputy Secretary; and IMF Economist Arindam Roy. Mr Shirajun Noor Chowdhury, Additional Secretary (Budget and Macroeconomics), Dr. Ziaul Abedin, Additional Secretary (Macroeconomics-1), Finance Division, Dr Kabir Ahmed, Deputy Governor, Bangladesh Bank and Md Firoz Ahmed, Joint Secretary Finance Division spoke in the workshop as moderators.

In his presentation, Hasan Khaled Foisal mentioned reforms such as automation of National Savings Certificates, initiation of secondary trading of government securities, issuance of Sukuk bonds, and regular publication of debt reports. Efficiency in debt management is being enhanced through the Public Debt Act, 2022 and the introduction of market-based interest rates. However, he noted that institutional fragmentation and the underdevelopment of the bond market remain significant challenges. Plans are in place to address these through the establishment of a separate Debt Management Office and improved information coordination systems.

Mohammad Rashedul Amin, in his presentation, said the country's debt risk level has been reduced from "high" to "moderate." He emphasized the importance of cautious borrowing, maintaining revenue discipline, and diversifying exports in the face of pressure on export earnings and the rising debt-to-export ratio.

Farid Ahmed, in his presentation, noted that the goal of the 2025 Medium-Term Debt Strategy is to lower interest rates and extend debt maturity. Under this strategy, the government plans to shift from short-term treasury bills to long-term bonds, with over 90% of debt to remain at fixed interest rates to reduce risk.

IMF Economist Arindam Roy, in his virtual presentation, said that Bangladesh is advancing strategic debt management reforms to address fiscal and structural challenges, with support from the IMF and World Bank. Due to the depreciation of the Taka, the share of external debt rose from 37% in FY2023 to 43% in FY2024. Inflation and rising interest rates have significantly increased interest payments.

Dr. Md. Khairuzzaman Mozumder stressed the importance of innovative planning in debt strategies to ensure fiscal sustainability. He said external borrowing opportunities becoming slimmer and focus should now shift to domestic borrowing. He also underscored the need to build a stronger professional base by increasing the number of skilled experts with in-depth knowledge of debt management.

Pictures from the Event



Picture: 01



Picture: 02