VOLUME 1 OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE 9

SANEM ROUNDUP

A PERIODIC DIGEST OF RESEARCH, DIALOGUE & IMPACT



SANEM

RESEARCH | KNOWLEDGE | DEVELOPMENT

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A PERIODIC DIGEST OF
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ABOUT THE ISSUE

The October issue brings together SANEM's research, policy engagement and public commentary from June to September 2026. It examines the choices and constraints shaping Bangladesh's next phase of development, from social protection and fiscal management to jobs, energy security, labour standards and regional trade. It also covers SANEM's work on industrial development and a just transition, records 39 media contributions across eight outlets and platforms, and highlights new research partnerships and developments within the organisation.

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

THINKING ALOUD – VOLUME 13 | ISSUE 1 | JUNE 2026



The June issue examines Bangladesh's social protection system as the Family Card pilot gets under way. Selim Raihan argues for a more integrated and adaptive system, while Zubayer Hossen and Bazlul Haque Khondker assess whether the proposed benefit is sufficient to meet household needs. The issue examines gaps in coverage, benefit adequacy, indexation, targeting and programme integration.

Click here to read the full issue

THINKING ALOUD – VOLUME 13 | ISSUE 2 | JULY 2026



The July issue examines Bangladesh's FY2026–27 budget and the gap between policy ambition and implementation. Selim Raihan assesses fiscal discipline, revenue mobilisation, debt, investment, and the need for realistic budgeting. Md. Tuhin Ahmed and Mohammad Iftekharul Islam examine the limits of the budget's green transition measures, while Nafis Mubarrat looks at whether higher education and health spending can deliver better outcomes.

Click here to read the full issue

THINKING ALOUD – VOLUME 13 | ISSUE 3 | AUGUST 2026



The August issue examines three areas where Bangladesh's ambitions face institutional constraints: investment, food security, and banking. Selim Raihan examines the investment climate and the need for greater policy certainty, while Md. Al-Hasan explores Bangladesh's exposure to disruptions in fertiliser and fuel supplies. Sudeepto Roy analyses the country's long-running non-performing loan crisis and the need for effective banking-sector reform.

Click here to read the full issue

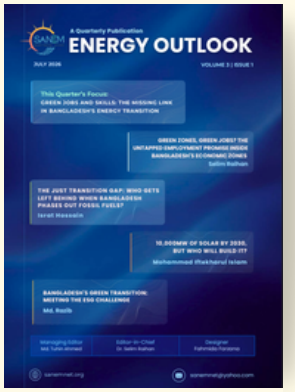
THINKING ALOUD - VOLUME 13 | ISSUE 4 | SEPTEMBER 2026



The September issue explores three key challenges facing Bangladesh: macroeconomic stability, energy security, and digital financial inclusion. Selim Raihan examines the need for credible economic reforms, Md. Tuhin Ahmed analyses the gas crisis, and Takrem Ferdous Surid explores the potential of Bangla QR. Together, the articles highlight pressing policy priorities for Bangladesh's evolving economy.

Click here to read the full issue

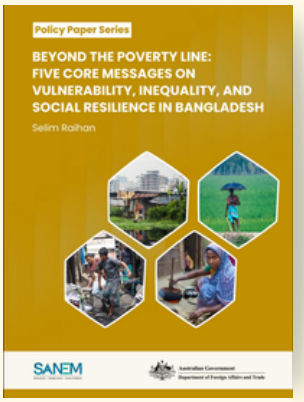
ENERGY OUTLOOK - VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 1 | JULY 2026



The July issue focuses on green jobs, skills, and Bangladesh's energy transition. Selim Raihan examines the employment potential of green economic zones, while Israt Hossain looks at workforce challenges in a fossil-fuel phase-out. Mohammad Iftekharul Islam explores the skills needed for solar expansion, and Md. Razib examines the growing ESG demands facing Bangladeshi industries.

Click here to read more

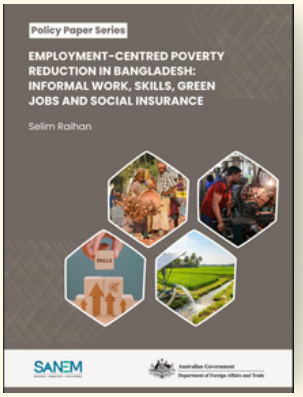
POLICY PAPER SERIES
BEYOND THE POVERTY LINE: FIVE CORE MESSAGES ON VULNERABILITY, INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE IN BANGLADESH



The paper examines how changing labour-governance standards and mandatory due-diligence rules in the European Union and the United States are reshaping export competitiveness as Bangladesh approaches LDC graduation. Dr Selim Raihan analyses the compliance-cost gap between large factories and smaller subcontractors, and calls for stronger public enforcement, shared digital traceability systems and targeted support for smaller exporters.

Click here to read more

POLICY PAPER SERIES
EMPLOYMENT-CENTRED POVERTY REDUCTION IN BANGLADESH: INFORMAL WORK, SKILLS, GREEN JOBS AND SOCIAL INSURANCE



The paper argues that the next phase of poverty reduction in Bangladesh must focus on the quality of employment rather than relying on economic growth and social assistance alone. Dr Selim Raihan examines persistent informality, skills mismatches and exposure to income shocks, and proposes an integrated framework linking gradual formalisation, outcome-based skills financing, green-job creation and phased social insurance.

Click here to read more

EVENTS & ENGAGEMENTS

Between June and September 2026, SANEM's public engagement addressed a broad range of economic and development priorities. Regional consultations, field-based initiatives, policy dialogues, training programmes and public events brought together policymakers, development partners, businesses, researchers, workers and other stakeholders. Discussions covered industrial development, export diversification, investment, agrifood systems, employment, economic modelling and a just transition, connecting research evidence with policy debate and perspectives from across sectors and regions.

JUST TRANSITION CHAPTER FOR NDC 3.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

SANEM × ILO × DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT



From June to September 2026, SANEM provided technical support to the Department of Environment under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and ILO in developing Bangladesh's Just Transition Chapter for the NDC 3.0 Implementation Plan. This is financed by the Embassy of Sweden through the ILO–Sida Global Partnership. The process involved a series of technical and stakeholder consultations, including a webinar (12 July), target-group consultation (19 July), inter-ministerial tri-partite meeting (26 July and 6 September), sector-specific consultation (29 July) and thematic-area consultation (3 August). The chapter was presented at a national dialogue in Dhaka on 10 September 2026, titled "Advancing Bangladesh's Just Transition: From Commitment to Action". The dialogue brought together government representatives, workers, employers and young people. The process culminated in the development of the Just Transition Chapter, providing a framework for translating Bangladesh's climate commitments into action while incorporating the perspectives of key stakeholders.

SURVEY OF INDUSTRIES IN BANGLADESH
SANEM × ADB × INVEST BANGLADESH



SANEM, with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under its technical assistance to the Invest Bangladesh, is conducting the "Survey of Industries in Bangladesh" to build a comprehensive investment information system covering manufacturing and services.

As part of the initiative, Invest Bangladesh, ADB and SANEM jointly organised a sensitisation meeting with private sector enterprises and stakeholders in Dhaka on 6 August 2026 to introduce the survey and seek their cooperation in data collection. Regional workshops were held in Barishal (15 July), Khulna (16 July), Mymensingh (22 July), Rajshahi (28 July), Sylhet (11 August), Rangpur (16 August), and Chattogram (19 August 2026) to gather local perspectives on investment opportunities, challenges and industry concentrations.

YOUNG WORKERS, ECONOMIC SECURITY AND A JUST TRANSITION
SANEM × ACTIONAID BANGLADESH



As part of the study "Just Transition in Bangladesh: Economic Security and Transition Support for Young People", SANEM and ActionAid Bangladesh held participatory learning and action workshops with young workers in Satkhira on 17 July, Dhaka on 13 August and Savar on 14 August 2026. The study draws on a survey of 625 young workers across nine climate-vulnerable districts and four sectors. Its findings were presented at a national dissemination event in Dhaka on 1 September. The discussion highlighted gaps in decent employment and social protection for young people in climate-vulnerable areas, alongside the need for targeted reskilling, job matching and social insurance.

ADVANCING BANGLADESH'S LEATHER SECTOR CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND REFORM
SANEM × AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION (DFAT) × FLAXA



SANEM, in partnership with the Footwear, Leathergoods and Accessories Exporters Association (FLAXA), hosted a policy dialogue on "Advancing Bangladesh's Leather Sector: Challenges, Opportunities and Reform" at BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka, on 3 September 2026. The initiative was supported by The Australian High Commission, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Mr Khandaker Abdul Muktadir, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Ministry of Commerce, attended as Chief Guest and Australian Deputy High Commissioner Mr Clinton Pobke attended as Special Guest. Dr Selim Raihan Chaired the session and presented the keynote policy paper, outlining the institutional, environmental and market reforms needed to unlock the sector's export potential. From FLAXA, a presentation was made by its President Mr Syed Nasim Manzur highlighting the industry perspectives. Discussions covered the rehabilitation of the Savar central effluent treatment plant (CETP), bonded-warehouse reforms and greater value addition in finished leather and footwear exports.

CAPACITY-BUILDING IN COMPUTABLE GENERAL EQUILIBRIUM (CGE) MODELLING
SANEM × IFPRI × CEDECON (TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY)



The International Capacity Strengthening Training on CGE Modeling for Policy Analysis, co-hosted by South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and the Central Dept. of Economics, Tribhuvan University, took place in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 25 September to 30 September 2026. Designed for early-career economists, the programme covered the foundations of general equilibrium, social accounting matrix (SAM) construction, model calibration and applied policy simulations.

AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS, QUALITY GROWTH AND JOBS
SANEM × WORLD BANK



SANEM and The World Bank's Bangladesh office, jointly held a dissemination event on 15 June 2026 for the report "Repurposing Agricultural Public Spending for Quality Growth and Jobs in Bangladesh's Agrifood System". The event presented the report's main findings and brought together policymakers, development practitioners, academics, researchers, journalists and students to discuss how public spending on agriculture can support productivity, quality growth and employment.

ENDOGENOUS AI, O-RINGS AND THE FUTURE OF LABOUR MARKETS
PUBLIC LECTURE BY PROFESSOR JEAN-LOUIS ARCAND, PRESIDENT OF THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



SANEM hosted a public lecture by Professor Jean-Louis Arcand, President of the Global Development Network, on "These Aren't the Droids You're Looking For: Endogenous AI, O-Rings, and the Bottleneck Reallocation Theorem." The lecture explored how artificial intelligence can reshape labour markets through changes in productivity, skills, and the allocation of work, offering perspectives on the economic implications of technological change. The event was held on 10 August 2026 in Dhaka.



SANEM IN THE MEDIA

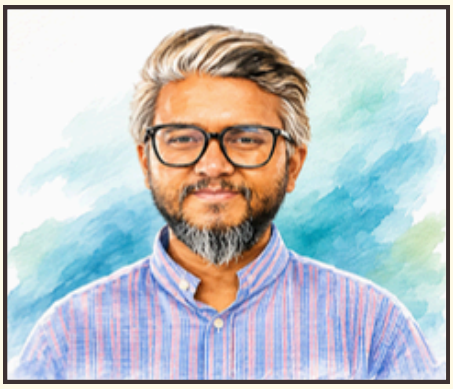
33
MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

8
OUTLETS & PLATFORMS

4
COLLEAGUE CONTRIBUTIONS

Between June and September 2026, SANEM's research and analysis generated 33 media contributions across eight outlets and platforms, including opinion articles, interviews and podcasts. Coverage ranged from the FY2026–27 budget, public-sector pay-scale pressures and revenue mobilisation to social protection, inflation, monetary policy, investment, industrial growth, energy prices, climate and El Niño risks, regional trade integration and financial-sector reform.

MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR RESEARCHERS



ZUBAYER HOSSEN
Programme Director

BANGLADESH'S CLIMATE PLANS HAVE A LABOUR BLIND SPOT
11 September 2026 | TBS
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DIPA DAS
Senior Research Associate

BLAMING 'TESLA' DRIVERS IS EASY, BUT THE PROBLEM RUNS DEEPER
23 September 2026 | The Daily Star
Read More



SUDEEPTO ROY
Research Associate

NON-PERFORMING LOANS: A CRISIS TOO LONG IGNORED
10 August 2026 | TBS
Read More

BANGLADESH'S EL NIÑO RISK IS BIGGER THAN WEATHER
10 August 2026 | The Daily Star
Read More



MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS OF
DR SELIM RAIHAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SANEM

BUDGET, REVENUE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

THE BUDGET MUST REBUILD SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR A CHANGING ECONOMY
4 June 2026 | The Daily Star
Read More

PROFESSOR SELIM RAIHAN DISCUSSES THE BUDGET SCOPE PODCAST
June 2026 | Politiscope
Watch Full Podcast

কর্মসংস্থান তৈরির প্রতিশ্রুতি বাস্তবায়নে বড় চ্যালেঞ্জ লক্ষ্যমাত্রাকে প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক ব্যবস্থায় রূপ দেয়া
12 June 2026 | Bonik Barta
Read More

বাজেট প্রত্যাশাকে ভাষা দিয়েছে, পূরণের পথ স্পষ্ট করেনি
14 June 2026 | Prothom Alo
Read More

রাজস্ব সংগ্রহের মূল বাধা অর্থনৈতিক নয়, রাজনৈতিক
13 June 2026 | Samakal
Read More

A BUDGET OF PROMISES, PRESSURES, AND UNANSWERED QUESTIONS
4 June 2026 | The Daily Star
Read More

BIGGER SAFETY NETS, UNFINISHED PROTECTION: ASSESSING BANGLADESH'S FY27 SOCIAL SECURITY AGENDA
14 June 2026 | The Daily Star
Read More

THE FISCAL RISK OF A PAY RISE WITHOUT REVENUE REFORM
9 September 2026 | The Daily Star
Read More

নতুন পে স্কেল: স্বস্তির আড়ালে আর্থিক ঝুঁকি
12 September 2026 | Prothom Alo
Read More

সরকারের আয় ও আয়ের উৎসের সঙ্গে ব্যয় সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ নয়
9 September 2026 | Samakal
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GROWTH, INVESTMENT, INFLATION AND ECONOMIC REFORM

CORPORATE TAX FREEZE MAY EASE POLICY UNCERTAINTY
11 June 2026 | The Daily Star
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SANEM CHIEF SEES POSITIVE SIGNALS FOR INVESTORS, LAUDS RECOGNITION OF LOGISTICS
11 June 2026 | UNB
Read More

অর্থনীতি পুনরুদ্ধারে সাহসী পদক্ষেপ দরকার
1 July 2026 | Prothom Alo
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A HIGHER GROWTH TARGET WITHOUT CREDIBLE REFORM WILL REMAIN ELUSIVE
20 July 2026 | The Daily Star
Read More

A TRILLION-DOLLAR AMBITION NEEDS A STRONGER INVESTMENT CLIMATE
20 July 2026 | The Daily Star
Read More

শুধু নীতি সুদহার কমালেই কি অর্থনীতির সংকট কাটবে
31 July 2026 | Prothom Alo
Read More

সরকারের ৬ মাস: সামনে অর্থনীতির কঠিন সমীকরণ
16 July 2026 | Prothom Alo
Read More

BANGLADESH'S INFLATION PUZZLE: A CRISIS DEEPER THAN MONETARY POLICY
24 September 2026 | TBS
Read More

মূল্যস্ফীতি এখন শুধু বাজারের সমস্যা নয়, কাঠামোগত সংকট
24 September 2026 | Samakal
Read More

সিদ্ধান্তের চেয়ে কার্যকারিতাই বড় প্রশ্ন নয় কি
30 September 2026 | Samakal
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ARE POLICYMAKERS UNDERSTANDING THE WARNING FROM INVESTMENT?
26 September 2026 | TBS
Read More

BANGLADESH'S FIRST QUARTERLY MONETARY POLICY: IS CAUTION ENOUGH?
30 September 2026 | The Daily Star
Read More

POWERING BANGLADESH'S FUTURE: WHY THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY CHAIN MUST BE BUILT AT HOME
20 June 2026 | TBS
Read More

ENERGY, CLIMATE, TRADE AND EXTERNAL VULNERABILITIES

POWERING BANGLADESH'S FUTURE: WHY THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY CHAIN MUST BE BUILT AT HOME
2 July 2026 | The Daily Star
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BANGLADESH'S EXTERNAL CUSHION IS WEARING THIN
3 August 2026 | The Daily Star
Read More

BD UNVEILS $1.85B PLAN FOR GREEN TRANSITION
11 September '26 | Financial Express
Read More

FUEL PRICE HIKE WHO BEARS THE COST?
21 September '26 | The Daily Star
Read More

RCEP: THE DOOR IS OPENING, BUT IS THE HOUSE READY?
29 September '26 | TBS
Read More

আরসিইপি: দরজা খুলছে, কিন্তু ঘর কি প্রস্তুত?
29 September '26 | TBS (Bangla)
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INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

NEW RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP WITH PKSF



SANEM signed a joint research agreement with the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) on 7 July 2026, to estimate the employment generated by PKSF's loan programmes and enterprise development activities. The study will examine the nature and quality of employment created through these programmes and contribute to a better understanding of employment outcomes.

PROMOTIONS AT SANEM

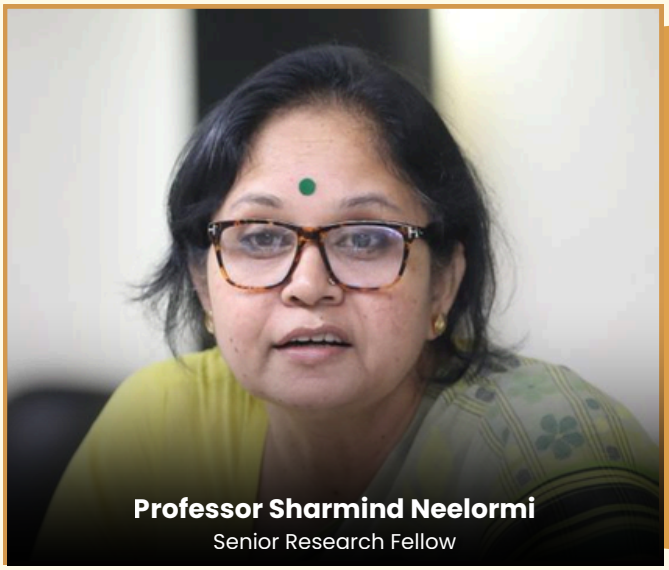






SANEM congratulates Farhan Khan, promoted to Research Economist, and Dipa Das and Shafa Tasneem, promoted to Senior Research Associate position, in recognition of their contributions to the organisation's research work.

INTRODUCING NEW RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

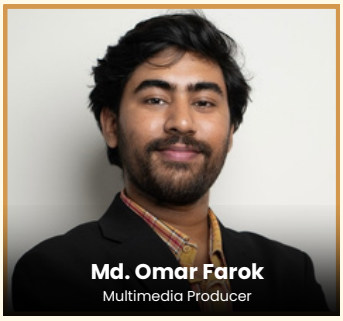


Professor Sharmind Neelormi joined SANEM as a Senior Research Fellow in June 2026. She is a Professor of Economics at Jahangirnagar University. Her research focuses on climate change, gender, green economy, sustainable development, agriculture and livelihoods. She has also contributed to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report.



Dr Syed Shahadat Hossain joined SANEM as a Senior Research Fellow in July 2026. He is a Professor of Institute of Applied Statistics and Data Science, at the University of Dhaka, with expertise in statistical analysis, experimental design, environmental statistics and spatial statistics. He holds a PhD in Statistics from Deakin University, Australia.

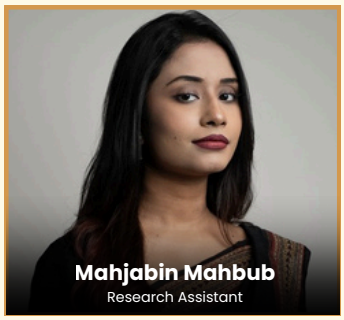
INTRODUCING NEW FACES OF RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION



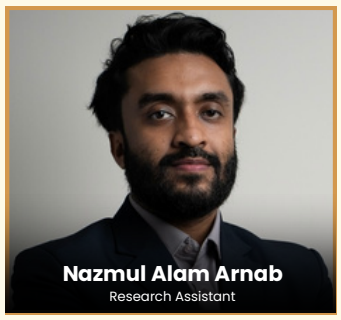












Between June to September 2026, SANEM has welcomed Md. Omar Farok as Multimedia Producer, Rifat Bin Aowlad as Senior Communication Associate, Rifatnur Mohona and Afrina Asad as Research Associates, and Mahjabin Mahbub, Leuna Farhat and Nazmul Alam Arnab as Research Assistants.

SANEM

RESEARCH | KNOWLEDGE | DEVELOPMENT

The South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), established in 2007, is a Dhaka-based non-profit research organization. Over the past nearly two decades, it has grown into an international platform for economists, researchers, policymakers, and institutions committed to promoting high-quality, evidence-based economic analysis and informed policy advocacy in Bangladesh, South Asia, and beyond. SANEM conducts both quantitative and qualitative research on a broad range of development issues, including macroeconomics, international trade, poverty, inequality, labor markets, climate change, political economy, renewable energy, human capital, agriculture, social protection, and sustainability, and translates its findings into policy briefs, technical papers, and public discussions aimed at supporting effective decision-making. Through collaborative projects, training programs, conferences, publications, and initiatives for young economists, SANEM plays a key role in strengthening research capacity, fostering policy engagement, and contributing to inclusive and sustainable economic development in the region.

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