

**Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS)**  
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance  
[www.spfms.gov.bd](http://www.spfms.gov.bd)  
**Scheme of Internal Audit and Audit Follow-up**

Workshop on  
**Feedback of CSC-UK training**

**Venue:** Conference room, SPFMS , 3th floor, IEB Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.  
**Date:** 07 July, 2025  
**Chairperson:** Bilquis Jahan Rimi  
Additional Secretary (Budget-1) and National Program Director, SPFMS  
**Keynote Presenter:** Kowser Nasrin  
Joint Secretary, Finance Division and PIT Member  
**Participants:** Lead Governance Specialist, World Bank. PECs of SPFMS Program, Governance Specialist, World Bank. Officials from the Road Transport and Highways Division, Local Government Division, Health Services Division, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, and five other high-spending government departments.

A delegation of senior government officials from Bangladesh participated in a specialized training program titled “Internal Audit Reforms and Practices in the UK Public Sector,” held at the UK Civil Service College (CSC) from 13–16 May 2025. The initiative aimed to expose participants to international best practices in internal audit, with a focus on learning from the structured and strategic frameworks used in the UK public sector.

To disseminate the key insights from this training, SPFMS organized a feedback workshop on 7 July 2025 at its headquarters in Dhaka. The workshop was attended by Suraiya Jannath, Lead Governance Specialist at the World Bank; Md. Rafiqul Islam, Dr. Abdur Rahim, and Tanima Tasmin—all Joint Secretaries and Program Executives under SPFMS and Rizwana Tabassum, Governance Specialist, World Bank, among others. Kowser Nasrin, Joint Secretary, Finance Division and Officials from the Road Transport and Highways Division, Local Government Division, Health Services Division, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, and five other high-spending government departments

The event was chaired by Ms. Bilquis Jahan Rimi, who opened the session with remarks emphasizing the critical role of internal audit in enhancing transparency and accountability in public financial management. The welcome address was delivered by Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Joint Secretary and Program Executive & Coordinator (PEC), SPFMS.

During her keynote presentation, Ms. Kowser Nasrin highlighted the objectives and takeaways of the UK training. She noted that the program enabled participants to explore the UK's audit environment—including structured risk-based planning, the "Audit Universe" concept, and the centralized service delivery model of the Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA). The training also featured engagements with CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy), offering deep dives into professional development, digital transformation, and the “three lines of defense” model for risk management. She also expressed that although participants initially faced challenges such as adapting to a paperless system and unfamiliar technical jargon, they found the sessions enriching and highly relevant. Key themes included the role of oversight bodies like Audit and Risk Committees and departmental boards, which ensure both strategic alignment and operational performance.

Ms. Suraiya Jannath, Lead Governance Specialist at the World Bank, provided critical observations during the discussion. She emphasized the need for high-level policy guidance to institutionalize internal audit practices across all ministries and divisions. Internal audit, she noted, not only strengthens domestic accountability but also reinforces donor confidence and serves as a vital assurance mechanism for development partners. Ms. Jannath advocated for the inclusion of internal audit reforms in the upcoming PFM Reform Strategy, calling for systematic documentation of lessons learned and expedited digitization of internal audit systems.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Bilquis Jahan Rimi, highlighted the progress already made in establishing internal audit units across five major government entities. The Chairperson reiterated the Finance Division’s commitment to making internal audit a core component of its broader financial governance agenda. The recent formation of an Internal Audit Wing within the Finance Division marks a critical step toward institutionalizing this function and advancing the goals of sound public financial management.

The workshop served as a valuable platform for sharing global perspectives and reinforcing the Government of Bangladesh’s commitment to strengthening internal audit practices. With the insights gained from the UK training and growing momentum at the national level, internal audit is poised to play a transformative role in enhancing service delivery and public sector accountability.

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## *Pictures from the Event*

