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EconPodium 1.0 – Registration begins

The poster for EconPodium 1.0 is a vertical rectangular graphic with a light green background. At the top, it features the logos of BRAC University Department of Economics and Social Science and the BRAC University Economics Club. The central text reads 'CONCORD presents ECON PODIUM 1.0 RE-ENVISIONING URBAN LIVING', with 'co-powered by city bank' and 'in association with The Daily Star' below it. A large blue button at the bottom center says 'REGISTRATION ENDS 28TH FEBRUARY'. On the left side, a list of events includes Round 1: 'THE REFORMER IN YOU', Workshop 1: 'THE ART OF POLICY MAKING: A PRAGMATIC APPROACH', Round 2: 'BREAKING BARRIERS', Workshop 2: 'PUBLIC POLICY ANALYTICS', and Grand Finale: 'THE BIG QUESTION I'. On the right side, a 'PRIZE MONEY' section lists: Winner (BDT. 1 LAC), First Runner Up (BDT. 60K), and Second Runner Up (BDT. 30K). At the bottom, five partner logos are displayed: Radio partner (radio foorti 88m), Youth engagement partner (YOUTH), Digital content partner (Business TIMES), Electronic media partner (Rtv), and Photography partner (a camera icon).

Mehnaz Tabassum Khaleel

Concord presents EconPodium 1.0 co-powered by City Bank in association with The Daily Star is an inter-university policy making competition, challenging young minds of various universities around the nation to address the aspect of policy making encompassing the subject of urban housing crisis in Dhaka city. The event is jointly organised by BRAC University Economics Club and BRAC University Department of Economics and Social Sciences.

The registration process has already started for the challenge. The event will be hosting the final two stages in the upcoming month of March, which will be assessed by distinguished individuals from both the academic and the development sectors.

The primary objective behind introducing this event is to engage youth perspectives in a discourse, highlighting one of the most poignant issues in the status quo of Bangladesh's economy. The entourage of the BRAC University Economics Club strongly believes that, the participants will translate their analytical and critical thinking aptitudes into effective policy measures, which can transform the various tenets of the urban housing sector, maneuvering it towards a trajectory that promises a brighter tomorrow for the millions of masses inhabiting the metropolis.

The competition comprises of three stages. In the preliminary round, participants will have to submit a written essay online focusing on a particular topic provided by the organising committee during the registration process. In the second round, the qualifiers (selected on the basis of the writing completed in the inception phase) will present their policy solutions based on the topic assigned to them in the first workshop. Finally, the Grand Finale, where the top five teams will deliver a comprehensive presentation before the judging panel pertaining to the case provided in the second workshop, will constitute of the underlying structure of the competition.

The winner will be facilitated with a prize money of BDT 100,000, while the first and second runners-up will take home BDT 60,000 and BDT 30,000 respectively. Furthermore, the two workshops have been arranged prior to and post completion of Round 2, in an attempt to expand the knowledge-base of the contestants regarding the analytics and art of policy making.

Concord is the Title Sponsor for this programme, which is also being co-powered by City Bank in association with The Daily Star. The Electronic Media Partner is RTV; the Youth Engagement Partner is Star Youth, The Daily Star; the Radio Partner is Radio Foorti; the Digital Content Partner is Ice Business Today; and the Photography Partner is Memory Lane.

Registration for the challenge closes on February 28, 2018.

To know more, visit the Facebook event page titled “EconPodium / 1.0 - An Inter-University Urban Policy Challenge” or the website www.econpodium.com