

'We are pulling economy back from edge of cliff'

Says finance adviser at launch of his book

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has been striving to rescue the economy from the brink of collapse since taking office, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said yesterday.

"We are pulling the economy back from the edge of a cliff. Only those who have worked from within can fully understand the state of the economy at that time," he said.

"We've taken responsibility, not power," Ahmed said. His remarks came at the launch of his book "Governor's Memoirs" at the ICAB auditorium in Dhaka.

The event, organised by Bonik Barta, also featured a discussion on the book's themes and insights.

Speaking about his book, Ahmed said it not only covers his tenure as governor of Bangladesh Bank but also reflects on various experiences from his life.

The first edition of the book was published in 2019. This time, additional insights have been included, he said.

Economist Mahbub Ullah said Salehuddin's career depicted the power of education in achieving success.

"The book details his journey from a lower middle-class background to policymaking roles, with no hesitation in sharing his story," said Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow at Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Prof Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir of Dhaka University said, "A governor must have an understanding of politics. Salehuddin Ahmed had a practical grasp of national politics, which aided him during his tenure."



People try to salvage whatever they can from the rubble after a fire broke out at the Karail slum in the capital's Mohakhali early yesterday. Eleven fire engines completely doused the blaze around 2:30pm. The cause or extent of the fire could not be known yet. No casualties were reported so far.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Students demand arrest of attackers at Kuet

Stage protest on campus, send letter to CA

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Students of Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (Kuet) staged a protest yesterday demanding the immediate arrest of those responsible for the recent attack on students.

The protest march began at 12:00pm from the Student Welfare Centre and passed through several halls, including Dr SM Rashid Hall, Shaheed Smriti Hall, Fazlul Haque Hall, Ekushey Hall, and Khan Jahan Ali Hall, before returning to the starting point.

During the demonstration, students chanted slogans such as "Break the shackles of student politics," "Beware of political agents," and "Education and terrorism cannot coexist."

At a brief rally following the protest, students voiced their frustration over the lack of action even after four days since the incident.

They expressed concern over their security, with many afraid to

leave the campus. They also criticised the university administration, saying that the advisory committee had yet to engage with them or offer any resolution.

A student of civil engineering said, "We urge the chief adviser to take



immediate action and ensure our safety so we can resume our studies without fear."

Meanwhile, the protesting students sent a letter to the chief adviser, demanding the removal of Vice-

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DEVIL HUNT

769 more held across country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces arrested 769 more people across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday afternoon as part of the "Operation Devil Hunt", according to the Police Headquarters.

With the latest arrests, the total number of people arrested in the operation since its launch on February 8 has risen to 8,079 in the past 15 days.

Additionally, 572 others, who were either accused or wanted in previous cases, were also arrested in the last 24 hours. Law enforcers also recovered a gun and eight sharp weapons.

The government launched the operation on February 8 to restore law and order following an attack on "students and people" in Gazipur.

KOCHOPATRA RIVER

Damaged sluice gate leaves farmers in peril

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The six-vent sluice gate in Chakamaia union of Kalapara upazila, Patuakhali, has remained unusable for years, causing suffering to farmers.

Constructed in 1965 over the Kochopatra river, the sluice gate was meant to prevent saline water from entering agricultural lands in 50 villages in Patuakhali and Barguna.

However, decades of neglect and lack of maintenance have left the structure in a fragile state.

A recent visit revealed crumbling concrete pillars with exposed rusted rods, while the corroded gates remain permanently open, allowing continuous saline water intrusion. The guide wall has long eroded into the river, and illegal fishing nets were hanging over each gate.

As a result, around 30,000 farmers along the riverbanks face uncertainty over their cultivation.



"Since the sluice gate cannot be operated, saline water continuously inundates our croplands," said Abdul Malek, a local farmer.

A road built over the sluice gate is also in a dilapidated state, disrupting communication.

"With the gates damaged and left open, water flow remains uninterrupted. As a result, around a 200-metre stretch of three sections of the embankment on the west side has been washed away, while the only road along the canal is also eroding," said Motaleb Howlader, another farmer.

According to the Water Development Board, the sluice gate underwent only minor repairs since 1965. No substantial repair has ever been carried out to it.

Locals also alleged that certain groups with political backing earn Tk 5,000-20,000 daily by setting fishing nets in front of the sluice gate, often leading to conflicts.

Abdur Rahman Bhuiyan, sub-divisional engineer of WDB's Kalapara Circle, said at least Tk 8 crore would be required to renovate the sluice gate. "A proposal requesting necessary funding has been submitted to higher authorities. Renovation will commence upon approval and allocation of funds."

Man dies as brick falls on him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 52-year-old man was killed after a brick fell on his head from a five-storey under-construction building in Tejgaon area of Dhaka yesterday.

The deceased is Akhtar Hossain. The incident occurred around 6:30pm. His family members rushed him to DMCH, where he died around 8:30pm.

Abir Hossain, the victim's nephew, said Akhtar lived in their family home in Kunipara of Tejgaon. He was returning home during a storm when, upon reaching Nurul Pharmacy in Kunipara, a brick fell from the building, hitting him on the head.

Inspector Md Faruq, in charge of the DMCH police outpost, said Akhtar was brought to the hospital in critical condition, where doctors declared him dead.



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