



Govt may take a tough decision on IMF loan

Says Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will decide whether to continue with the International Monetary Fund's \$4.7 billion loan programme if the fourth and fifth tranches are not released, said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

"We will take a tough decision," he told journalists after a meeting of the advisory committee on government purchase yesterday.

Disbursement of the two instalments remains uncertain after the government and the IMF failed to reach a consensus on the reform measures under the programme.

Salehuddin held several meetings with the IMF on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings in Washington, DC, over the release of the two instalments. The meetings ended without any agreement.

There are conditions for the IMF loan that the

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Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus awarded police personnel during an event on the occasion of Police Week at Razarbagh Police Lines in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

'PRESS MEET FALLOUT'

2 journalists sacked, one suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Depto TV, a private television channel, suspended its news service for hours till late last night, while three journalists from three TV stations, including Deepto, were dismissed.

The development came a day after the three journalists, among others, asked Cultural Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki a range of questions about the July uprising movement, including about the death toll.

Around yesterday afternoon, Deepto TV ran a scroll saying, "Due to unforeseen circumstances, all news services will be suspended until further notice." No reason was provided.

The news service, however, resumed at 11:00pm.

Meanwhile, Information Adviser Mahfuj Alam said the government had not instructed the suspension of Deepto TV's news service.

"This is Deepto TV's internal decision,"

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JULY UPRISING

Rights bodies worried over false cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights organisations yesterday expressed concern over implicating innocent persons in cases filed over the July uprising, saying that such actions, driven by malicious intent or harassment, amount to a violation of human rights.

In separate statements, Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB), a platform of several rights bodies, and Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) demanded law enforcers drop the names of innocent persons, including actor Iresh Zaker, from the case filed recently over the killing of a person named Mahfuz Alam Shrabon during last year's mass uprising.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) demanded that law enforcers stop harassing individuals through politically motivated and indiscriminately filed cases, and instead

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Form an independent police commission

Top cops tell chief adviser it's necessary to ensure impartiality in law enforcement

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Police officials have called for the formation of an independent commission to ensure the force operates impartially and free from political influence.

They raised the demand during a meeting with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the Bangladesh Police Auditorium in Rajarbagh Police Lines yesterday, following the inauguration of Police Week-2025.

Two officers placed demands on behalf of the force at the closed-door meeting, according to a senior officer who was present.

Mohammad Al Asad, assistant superintendent of police at Police

Acknowledging past tensions with the public, particularly during the student protests, IGP Baharul Islam said steps had been taken to rebuild trust.

Headquarters (PHQ), said political pressure often compels officers to act in favour of parties, citing examples under the previous regime.

"As such, the Police Reform Commission has proposed forming an independent Police Commission. While the [reform] commission is working on the proposal, it said further discussion is necessary."

Asad also noted that the National Consensus Commission had yet to address the matter.

"To ensure police operate independently and without interference, an independent commission is essential."

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Asiatic 3sixty denies graft, monopoly allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asiatic 3sixty issued a statement yesterday denying a series of allegations made against the agency group, including the supply of fake gold medals, CRI connection, corruption in organising events for the 50th anniversary of independence and Mujib Borsho, involvement in organising Joy Bangla concerts, and monopolising the advertising market.

The statement, signed by group chairman Sara Zaker, said that none of the allegations and "extravagant claims" applied to Asiatic 3sixty, and that a "vested quarter"

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17 actors sued for 'attempt to murder'

Another actor assaulted, handed over to police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventeen actors were sued yesterday in a case filed over the July uprising, while another actor was handed over to police after being assaulted by a group of youths.

The accused include Nusraat Faria, Apu Biswas, Nipun Akter, Ashna Habib Bhabna, Zayed Khan, Suborna Mustafa, Rokeya Prachy, Sohana Saba, Meher Afroz Shaon, Jyotika Jyoti, Symon Sadik and Azizul Hakim.

Filed in March with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, the case accuses the actors, ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and 265 others of attempted murder.

The complainant, one Enamul Haque, claimed he was injured during student protests in Bhatara last year. After recording his statement, the court directed the officer-in-charge of Bhatara Police Station to register the complaint as a First Information Report.

Sujan Haque, inspector (investigation) of the station,

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

People walk through a narrow stretch of road in Ashkona, in front of the Hajj camp, as construction work has squeezed it from both sides. The road has remained closed for vehicles since construction work for an underpass for Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport began in August last year. The photo was taken yesterday.

Trump threats help Liberals win Canada polls

PM Carney aims for global leadership role against Trump as congratulations pour in

REUTERS, Ottawa

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney completed a comeback victory for the governing Liberals in Monday's election, positioning himself for a global role as a champion of multilateralism against US President Donald Trump's more protectionist policies.

The first person to lead two G7 central banks has the experience to earn immediate international credibility, experts say. Carney's tough words for Trump during the campaign have been closely watched in other parts of the world.



"Canada is ready to take a leadership role in building a coalition of like-minded countries who share our values," Carney said on April 3 in Ottawa. "We believe in international cooperation. We believe in the free and open exchange of goods, services and ideas. And if the United States no longer wants to lead, Canada will."

Carney's Liberals beat the Conservatives, led by Pierre Poilievre, whose slogan "Canada First" and sometimes acerbic style evoked comparisons with Trump that may have cost him the election. The Conservatives for months had held

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