

Media News Report on “Daridrer Orthoniti: Otit, Bortoman O Bhobishshot”

Thursday, Mar 12, 2020

BD’s poverty reduction record not impressive

Akbar Ali tells book launching ceremony

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Former Bangladesh Bank governor Dr Mohammed Farashuddin (centre), PRI Chairman Dr Zaidi Sattar (left) and former caretaker government adviser Dr Akbar Ali Khan at the launching ceremony of a book titled ‘Daridrer Orthoniti: Otit, Bortoman O Bhobishshot’ on Wednesday — FE photo

Former caretaker government adviser Dr Akbar Ali Khan on Wednesday said that Bangladesh is still on the bottom rung of 30 per cent countries in the world.

“I don’t see any remarkable improvement in the country’s poverty level,” he said.

“If our country used to reach within 50 per cent of the list, then I will say it a significant improvement in the poverty reduction,” he added.

He said around 40 poor nations were behind Bangladesh in the past. “Presently the picture is the same if the number of nations is considered,” he added.

He said the World Bank used to measure poverty on 140 nations in the past and that time there were around 40 countries behind Bangladesh, and now it measures 213 nations and

the country is above 40 nations.

He was critical of the existing World Bank’s poverty limit or criterion. “I don’t agree with the definition as it is based on some 13 developing nations.”

He made the remarks while speaking on book “Direder Orthoniti: Oit, Bortoman O Bhobishshot (Economics of Poverty: Past, Present and Future).

The book launch function was held at the at the conference room of the PRI in the city.

Dr Mohammed Farashuddin, former governor of Bangladesh Bank, attended the function as the chief guest, where Dr Zaidi Sattar, chairman at the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, presided.

Speaking as the chief guest, Dr Mohammed Farashuddin warned the fourth industrial revolution will slash jobs for youths.

He said Bangladesh should give emphasis on the micro and small and medium enterprises as it creates much employment.

Speaking at the function, Dr Binayak Sen said the democracy is being beaten at the cost of development.

But there is choice of taking reference. “Will we take the example of Czech or Hungary, Rwanda or Botswana....”

He, however, said Bangladesh needs to containue on an average 6.0 per cent growth over the next 10-20 years.

Rizwanul Islam, former special adviser, Employment Sector, International Labour Office, former chairman of National Board of Revenue Abdul Mazid, and former commerce secretary Suhel Ahmed, spoke, among others, at the function.

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<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bds-poverty-reduction-record-not-impressive-1583950932>

Lack of good governance intensifying income inequality, say economists

Ahmed Shawki

- Published at 10:59 pm March 11th, 2020

Participants display a book titled, ‘ Daridrer Orthoniti: Otit, Bortoman O Bhobishot’ by former caretaker government advisor Dr. Akbar Ali Khan at the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh’s (PRI) office in the capital on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 Mehedi Hasan/Dhaka Tribune

They made the remarks at a book launching event titled, ‘ Daridrer Orthoniti: Otit, Bortoman O Bhobishot’

Lack of good governance in the financial sector was intensifying income inequality and politicians’ false claims on poverty eradication were affecting the country’s capacity to create new jobs, said economist on Wednesday.

They made the remarks at a book launching event titled, ‘ Daridrer Orthoniti: Otit, Bortoman O Bhobishot’ by former caretaker government advisor and economist Dr. Akbar Ali Khan at the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh’s (PRI) office in the capital.

“Statesmen across the globe are claiming that there will be no poverty in the future and our leaders are no different. Both the government and Dr. Mohammad Yunus belief in this poverty projection. But the estimation is wrong as the country is still among the lowest 30%

economies in the world as per a World Bank report,” Akbar said at the event.

“When we will become among the top 50% economies then it should be called progress,” adds the economist.

He termed the statesmen’s projections—Bangladesh will have no poverty after the next five year plan—wrong.

Rather such statements were reducing our capacity and readiness to fight poverty, he said.

He said considering economic and poverty progress since the independence in 1971 there was some advancement.

“But we also need to consider progress of the rest of the world and in that case Bangladesh did not make any significant progress,” he mentioned.

Questioning the lawmakers claim that the unemployment rate in the country is just 4.2%, he said, “I cannot help laughing hearing such comments in the parliament. There is no base for such figure,” he added.

Echoing Akbar, Dr. Binayak Sen. Research Director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) said the growing income inequality was an important concern when the development was taking place.

“We need to update the poverty line from the prescribed calorie-based poverty measurement. When it was done the situation was different, now we need to add new determinant for poverty measurement. Income inequality should be a major concern in this regard,” he said.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) executive Director Dr. Fahmida Khatun said the politician did not want to raise the bar of poverty line to save themselves.

“If the poverty bar is raised and updated then a large group of people will come under the poverty line suddenly. This will raise question about the success of the politicians,” she said.

“I agree with Dr. Akbar. According to World Economic Forum, one of the criteria of the SGD is reducing gender gap and it will take 99 years for the country to achieve that goal,” she said.

PRI Chairman Zaidi Sattar said it was not usual that the growth rate was high and the income inequality was high at the same time.

“It indicates unequal distribution of wealth,” he said.

Dr Mohammad Farashuddin, former Bangladesh Bank Governor, however, dismissed the claim of the speakers, saying there was no lack of good governance in the country.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2020/03/11/lack-of-good-governance-intensifying-income-inequality-say-economists>

POVERTY REDUCTION

Experts differ with govt

Staff Correspondent | Published: 01:18, Mar 12,2020 | Updated: 01:39, Mar 12,2020

Guests hold copies of the book written by former caretaker government adviser Akbar Ali Khan at its launch ceremony organised by Policy Research Institute at its office in the capital on Wednesday. — New Age photo

Experts at a discussion on Wednesday said the country’s success story of reducing poverty did not match with many other indicators like growing inequality, employment, lack of good governance, low tax base and abysmal state of the banking sector.

Besides, they said the assessment of poverty with the World Bank yardstick of \$1.9 and traditional method of calorie intake should be changed in the light of sustainable development goals to address the vicious cycle of poverty meaningfully.

The speakers gave the views as they were reviewing the book titled ‘Daridrer Arthaniti: Atit, Bartaman O Bhabishyat’ by former caretaker government adviser Akbar Ali Khan.

Local think-tank Policy Research Institute organised the event at its office in the capital.

Former Bangladesh Bank governor Mohammad Farashuddin, Akbar Ali Khan, PRI chairman Zaidi Sattar, Prothom Alo editor Matiur Rahman, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies research director Binayak Sen, former Bangladesh Bank chief economist MK Mujeri, Centre for Policy Dialogue executive director Fahmida Khatun and BRAC University economics and social science department chairman ATM Nurul Amin took part in the discussion.

While narrating the main features of his book briefly, Akbar Ali Khan said the country improved its poverty situation from what it was like in 1971, but the poverty reduction was not comprehensive if Bangladesh’s case compared with other countries.

He said it would not be possible for the country to achieve the sustainable development goals by 2030.

He criticised prime minister Sheikh Hasina and Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus for making propaganda that the country’s poverty was eliminated.

Focusing on the country’s unemployment scenario, Akbar Ali said that it made him laugh when it was announced in parliament that the country’s employment rate was over 4 per cent.

Binayak Sen said one third of the children in the country was facing stunted growth due to the prevailing inequality which threatened efforts in poverty reduction.

Fahmida Khatun said many governments did not want change in poverty assessment

yardstick as it would risk an increase in the number of the poor.

She said growing inequality, low tax base and suppression of the poor and the middle class would not have been possible if there was rule of law and discipline in the financial sector.

While addressing the session as chief guest Farashuddin argued that a country with high growth and good governance became very rare today.

He said Vietnam is an exceptional case where the magic of manufacturing capacity under a strict regulation.

Farashuddin, however, supported the view held by others on the country’s tax-GDP ratio, which is below 9 per cent and one of the lowest in the world.

He said a financial sector reform was an imperative to collect tax from the affluent.

Zaidi Sattar chaired the session while PRI executive director Ahsan H Mnasur gave the welcome speech.

Zaidi Sattar said in his address that Akbar Ali in his book did not focus on inequality that grew initially alongside speedy economic growth.

He said the syndrome was acute in Bangladesh’s case although China and South Korea did not experience such outcome.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/101960/experts-differ-with-govt>

Akbar Ali Khan’s magnum opus on poverty launched at PRI

- UNB NEWS
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Photo: UNB

A book on poverty named after ‘Daridrer Orthoniti, Otit, Bortoman O Bhobishshot’ (Economics of Poverty: Past, Present and Future) authored by noted economist and bureaucrat Dr Akbar Ali Khan was launched in the capital.

Former Bangladesh Bank governor Dr. Mohammad Farashuddin launched the book as the chief guest of the event. Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI) organised the ceremony at its Conference Room in the city while its Chairman Dr Zaidi Sattar presided over the function.

Former Caretaker Government Adviser Dr. Akbar Ali Khan said people started to think about poverty before industrial revolution. Prior to it, they had thought of poverty as part of life. Then there was no thinking to eliminate poverty.

“However, there is now talk about ‘Sonar Bangla’ in Bangladesh. I thought about the concept and its past analysis and wrote the book. Today poverty is the main problem in the world. From 1950 to 1990 the world witnessed the highest number of poverty-stricken population in history. Actually it was highest in 1970. The research with poverty mainly began from this time. I included recent poverty situation and probable problems in future in my book,” he added.

“I find it laughable when I hear around four percent unemployment in the country. It’s nothing but idle talk. How has Bangladesh improved to such position? I never saw such position of the country in the past,” the author said.

Citing Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen, Akbar Ali said Bangladesh is not a model country because of less tax collection and problem of infrastructure and weak policy implementation capability of government.

“Bangladesh won’t succeed if the problems are not addressed. There is no proper initiative to resolve the weaknesses,” he added.

The economist added once WB collected data from 140-141 countries. Now they now collect data from 213 countries.

“It’s said that the poverty will be eliminated from Bangladesh. I don’t agree with it,” Akbar Ali said.

“The poverty won’t be eliminated in the next 50 or 100 years if we analyse the 189 objectives of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All countries’ statesmen are now chanting slogan that they will eliminate poverty from world as they succeeded MDGs so they will also succeed in SDG too. I think it’s a wrong idea,” Akbar said.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Dr. Fahmida Khatun said good governance is most important to reduce poverty.

PRI Executive Director Dr. Ahsan H. Mansur, Research Director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Dr. Binayak Sen, Executive Director of Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM) Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri, Chairperson of Economics and Social Sciences Department at BRAC University Professor Dr. ATM Nurul Amin also spoke there.

<http://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/akbar-ali-khans-magnum-opus-on-poverty-launched-at-pri/46780>

NEWS

12 March, 2020 00:00 00 AM

Akbar’s book on poverty launched

UNB, Dhaka

A book on poverty named after ‘Daridrer Orthoniti, Otit, Bortoman O Bhobishshot’ (Economics of Poverty Past, Present and Future) authored by noted economist and bureaucrat Dr Akbar Ali Khan was launched in the capital. Former Bangladesh Bank governor Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin launched the book as the chief guest of the event. Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI) organised the ceremony at its Conference Room in the city while its Chairman Dr Zaidi Sattar presided over the function.

Former Caretaker Government Adviser Dr. Akbar Ali Khan said people started to think about poverty before industrial revolution. Prior to it, they had thought of poverty as part of life. Then there was no thinking to eliminate poverty. “However, there is now talk about ‘Sonar Bangla’ in Bangladesh. I thought about the concept and its past analysis and wrote the book. Today poverty is the main problem in the world. From 1950 to 1990 the world witnessed the highest number of poverty-stricken population in history. Actually it was highest in 1970.

<http://www.theindependentbd.com/printversion/details/240580>

পরিচালক: ড. মোহাম্মদ হুমায়ূন কবীর

সহ পরিচালক: ড. মোহাম্মদ হুমায়ূন কবীর

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গতকালে বাংলাদেশের বিভিন্ন সংবাদমাধ্যমে ‘দারিদ্রের অর্থনৈতিক পরিস্থিতি: অতি, বর্তমান ও ভবিষ্যত’ শীর্ষক একটি প্রতিবেদন প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। প্রতিবেদনটিতে বাংলাদেশের দারিদ্রের পরিস্থিতি, এর কারণ, প্রভাব এবং সমাধানের উপায় নিয়ে আলোচনা করা হয়েছে। প্রতিবেদনটিতে দেখানো হয়েছে যে, বাংলাদেশের দারিদ্রের পরিস্থিতি গত কয়েক দশকে উল্লেখযোগ্যভাবে হ্রাস পেয়েছে। তবে, দারিদ্রের কারণে মানুষের জীবন মান এবং সামাজিক ন্যায়বিচারের অভাব রয়েছে।

প্রতিবেদনটিতে দেখানো হয়েছে যে, দারিদ্রের কারণে মানুষের জীবন মান এবং সামাজিক ন্যায়বিচারের অভাব রয়েছে। ‘দারিদ্রের অর্থনৈতিক পরিস্থিতি: অতি, বর্তমান ও ভবিষ্যত’ প্রতিবেদনটিতে দেখানো হয়েছে যে, দারিদ্রের কারণে মানুষের জীবন মান এবং সামাজিক ন্যায়বিচারের অভাব রয়েছে।

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<http://www.dainikamadershomoy.com/post/245754>

প্রতিবেদন প্রস্তুতকারকের পরিচয়

প্রতিবেদন প্রস্তুতকারকের নাম, ঠিকানা, ফোন নম্বর

প্রতিবেদন প্রস্তুতকারকের ঠিকানা

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গতকাল সন্ধ্যা ১১টা নাগাদ, ঢাকার পূর্ব তেজগাঁও এলাকায় একটি বাসে হঠাৎ করে অগ্নিকাণ্ড ঘটে। বাসটিতে যাত্রীসহ প্রায় ১০ জনের মৃত্যু হয়। এ ঘটনায় আহতদের সংখ্যাও প্রায় ২০ জন। এ ঘটনায় মৃতদের পরিচয় এখনও জানা যায়নি। এ ঘটনায় মৃতদের পরিচয় এখনও জানা যায়নি। এ ঘটনায় মৃতদের পরিচয় এখনও জানা যায়নি।

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<https://samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-industry-trade/article/200331262/>

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<http://hi5news.net/bangla-latest-news/kalerkantho/online/business/2020/03/12/885040>