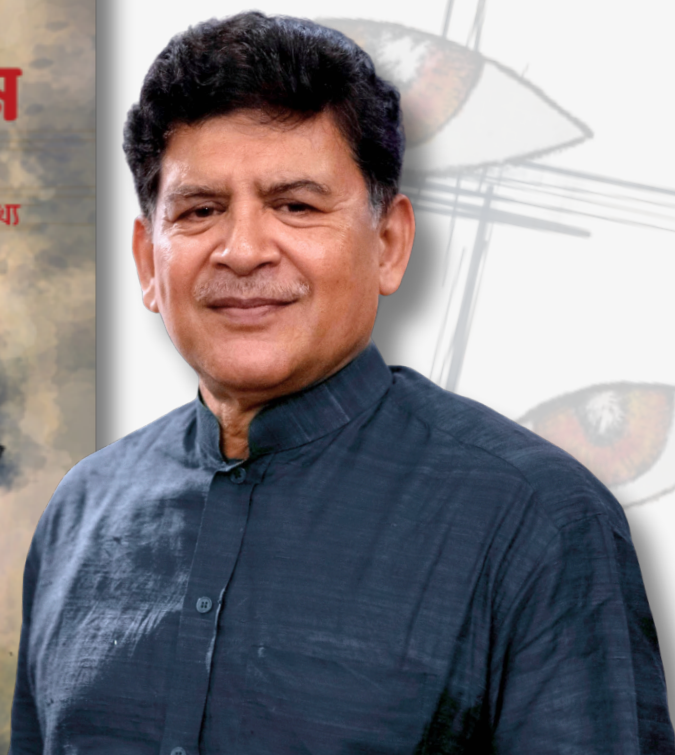


# FROM POLICY TO PEOPLE:



*A Timely Book Launch  
Rekindles Public Discourse*

# Hossain Zillur Rahman's Book Launch Calls for Democratic Reform



On the morning of July 26, 2025, the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and Alo Ghar Publications jointly hosted the launch of Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman's latest book, 'অর্থনীতি, শাসন ও ক্ষমতা: যাপিত জীবনের আলেখ্য', at the CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka.

This timely launch drew a distinguished gathering of policymakers, academics, political leaders, and civil society voices, offering a powerful space for reflection on the intertwined themes of economy, governance, and power—and their urgent relevance to Bangladesh's socio-political present.

## Reclaiming Democracy Through Lived Experience

Chairing the event, Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, economist and Executive Chairman of PPRC, delivered a keynote address that strongly underscored the central message of his book:

*"Economy is not an isolated sphere. It is fundamentally shaped by power and governance structures."*

He argued that Bangladesh's progress is being stalled by authoritarian governance and elitist, top-down approaches that overlook *Japito Jibon*, or the lived experience of ordinary people. According to Dr. Rahman, effective and inclusive policymaking must be rooted in these lived realities.

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*"The people of this country carry a mrittunjoyi shongkolpo—an unyielding commitment to go forward no matter what hurdle comes in the path. We must always remember that top-level decisions deeply affect how people live their lives."*

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## A Framework for Reform

Dr. Zillur Rahman outlined three essential conditions for governance reform:

- 1. Prevent concentration of power:** No individual or political group should monopolize power, including within political parties.
- 2. Build institutional functionality:** Bangladesh must develop capable and autonomous institutions.
- 3. Practice democratic behavior:** A democratic mindset must be embedded in governance and society, starting immediately and not postponed.

*"It may take time, but there is no way to sit idle, saying it will take time. So practice should start."*





# Leading Voices: Insights from Across Sectors

The panel discussion featured thought-provoking remarks from key public figures and experts:



- **Mirza Fakhurul Islam Alamgir**, Secretary General of the BNP, lamented that “the dream of 1971 has never been fulfilled” due to the absence of true democratic systems.
- **Professor Mahbub Ullah** unpacked the historical tensions between economic development and the use of hierarchical power.
- **Dr. Fahmida Khatun**, Executive Director of CPD, warned of Bangladesh being “stuck in a low-level equilibrium” due to weak governance.
- **Altaf Parvez** emphasized the need for structural reform and decentralisation to avoid repeating historical failures.



- **Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed**, finance adviser to the interim government stressed the reality of **stark inequalities** between urban and rural areas.
- **Humayun Kabir** of the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute called for a shift away from personality-centric power structures.
- **Bhuiyan Asaduzzaman** reflected on the “nostalgic reminder” of democratic uprisings but cautioned against increasing institutional conservatism.
- **Dr. Khandaker Shakhawat Ali** praised the book’s accessibility and grounded voice, calling it a text that speaks to all—from students to seasoned policymakers.



## A Book That Bridges Policy and People

Published by Aloghar Prakashana, ‘অর্থনীতি, শাসন ও ক্ষমতা’ is more than a book. It is a call to action—to reform how we think about power, to reconnect governance with people’s lived realities, and to reimagine the role of institutions in building a democratic future.

The event ended with an open discussion and a vote of thanks by Dr. Rahman. What emerged was not just a book launch but a rare and vibrant moment of cross-sectoral dialogue, sparking renewed public discourse around governance, reform, and the people’s voice in state affairs.