Finance Adviser urges public to recognize government’s positive steps

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Online Desk : Finance Adviser Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed has called for a balanced view of the government’s performance, urging stakeholders to acknowledge its achievements alongside its shortcomings. He made the remarks while addressing aseminar, on tax reforms under the 2025–26 national budget, held at the National Board of Revenue (NBR) headquarters on Monday. “We should not focus only on what the government has failed to do. We must also recognize the positive steps being taken,” he said. Dr. Salehuddin emphasized that while criticism is valid and necessary for accountability, it should not overshadow progress. “Some young economists see only the gaps—what’s missing. But we must also appreciate improvements and build on them,” he noted.

He acknowledged that no government is error-free, adding, “Criticism is welcome—it leads to correction. But we must also protect the credibility of institutions like the NBR that have earned public trust.” During the event, chaired by NBR Chairman Md. Abdul Rahman Khan, the Finance Adviser launched the e-filing system for the 2025–26 tax year. From now on, individual taxpayers will be required to file income tax returns online—a move aimed at enhancing transparency and efficiency through digitization.

Daulat Akhtar Mala, President of the Economic Reporters’ Forum (ERF), attended as the special guest. Senior NBR officials, including Member (Customs Policy & ICT) Mubinul Kabir, Member (Tax Policy) Badrul Alam Chowdhury, and Member (VAT Policy) Md. Azizur Rahman, were also present. The seminar reviewed key tax policy measures introduced in the current budget, with a focus on simplifying compliance and broadening the tax base.