



Fazle Hasan Abed wins UNDP Award

Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac, has been awarded United Nations Development Programme Mahbub ul Haq Award 2004 for his outstanding contribution to human development, says a press release.

He received the award in recognition of his commitment to empowering the poor and his success in providing opportunities for women and other marginalised groups in Bangladesh.

His visionary leadership and pioneering initiatives have helped Brac become a large and virtually self-financed institution of today, from a small scale relief operation in 1972.

The UNDP award, instituted in 2000 and presented biennially, recognises the outstanding initiatives in furthering the progress of human development in national, regional and global context.

President Henrique Cardoso of Brazil was the first to receive the award.

Fazle Hasan Abed was nominated by those working on Human Development Reports in over 130 countries around the world.

He was selected by a panel of judges comprising Princess Basma of Jordan, former minister of economy of Venezuela Moises Naim, Executive Chairman of African Development Policy Ownership Initiative and former finance minister of Ghana Dr Kwesi Botchway, and former Iranian minister of State for Women's Affairs Dr Mahnaz Afkhami.

The UNDP Award is a recognition of Brac's three decades of untiring service to the poor and devastated communities, the release added.

AHSANULLAH MURDER Appearance of accused in court tomorrow

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday re-fixed October 19 for appearance of the accused in the lawmaker Ahsanullah Master murder case, as Gazipur jail authorities did not take them to the court.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 also ordered to send a special messenger to the jail with production warrants for Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal leader Nurul Islam Sarker and 11 others.

Earlier on October 13, the court sent the warrants to Gazipur jail but the authorities said they did not get them, court sources said.

The court had earlier issued a warrant for arrest of Chhatra Samaj leader Nurul Islam Dipu and 17 others, who are absconding since the murder.

Gunmen opened fire on Ahsanullah at a rally of Awami Shechchhasebak League, the volunteer front of Awami League, at Noagaon near the legislator's house in Tongi on May 7. Schoolboy Omar Faruq Ratan was also killed and at least five others were hurt.

Ahsanullah's brother Motiur Rahman filed a case against 17 with Tongi Police Station the next day.

Criminal Investigation Department on July 10 pressed charges against 30 people and accused Jubo Dal leader Nurul of masterminding the assassination. As many as 78 people have been shown prosecution witnesses.

Nurul's lawyer has meanwhile submitted a bail petition, which will be heard tomorrow.