



Asiatic Society of Bangladesh President Prof Sirajul Islam gives away the fellowship award to Brac Chairperson Fazole Hasan Abed at a reception in the city yesterday. On their left is Prof Sharif Uddin Ahmed and on their right is Prof Rehman Sobhan.

FAZLE ABED AWARDED ASIATIC SOCIETY FELLOWSHIP 'Turn poor, deprived people into development agents'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac Chairperson Fazole Hasan Abed was honoured with fellowship of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (ASB) in recognition of his contribution to national development and poverty reduction yesterday.

He was also accorded a reception at the programme held at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday.

Chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue Prof Rehman Sobhan, who is also a fellow of ASB, attended the programme as the chief guest.

Prof Sobhan hoped that Abed would take his innovative initiatives forward and turn the poor and deprived people into development agents.

He said Brac's system of non-formal education has become a role model in many countries.

The speakers appreciated the development theories of Abed, his thoughts and steps for the improvement of education sector, and the contribution of Brac to poverty reduction.

Abed in his speech said, "When we were engaged in rehabilitation work after the liberation war, we learnt that long-term development initiative needed to eliminate corruption from the country and we have started doing that through Brac."

"The honour was given not only to me but also to all the staffs of Brac," he said.

Abed formed Brac (Bangladesh

Rural Advancement Committee) in 1972 with a view to rehabilitating the poor people in the aftermath of the Liberation War.

Brac has now expanded its activities to different countries of Asia and Africa, including Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Uganda.

Abed also received many prestigious international awards like Unicef Maurice Pate Award, Ramon Magsaysay Award, Hilton Award and Rockefeller Award.

Presided over by ASB President Prof Sirajul Islam, the programme was also addressed by another ASB Fellow Prof AF Salahuddin Ahmed and Vice-Presidents Sharif Uddin Ahmed and Ameer-ul-Islam Chowdhury.

Dec 18 polls come first to AL

Party not focused on Hasina-Khaleda talks
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) will look into the issue of dialogue between party President Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia when it comes up later.

"We are now heading towards the December 18 election and we are busy with nomination process (for party candidates). When the question of dialogue (between the two top leaders) comes up next time, we will look into it," AL spokesman Syed Ashraf Islam told newsmen yesterday.

The party's nomination process is almost finalised, and candidates' names will be declared in a day or two after a meeting of the AL-led 14-party alliance on sharing of seats, he said.

"There is a matter of give and take with the alliance partners, and when those will be coordinated, we will declare candidates' names," said Ashraf, joint general secretary of the AL.

He was briefing newsmen after Pakistan High Commissioner Alamgir Babar met Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in Dhanmondi.

The AL chief and the Pakistan envoy discussed the upcoming parliamentary poll, and they agreed that the present crisis could only be resolved through the election.

Asked about his views about the December 18 poll, the envoy said it is an internal affair of Bangladesh. If it becomes acceptable to the people of this country, it would also be acceptable to his country.

He however added that the AL president was optimistic about the election.

Garment worker stabbed to death in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Local people chased and caught hold of a criminal after he and his accomplices stabbed a garment worker to death at Pagla under Fatullah police station on Friday night.

The gang of criminals stabbed Azizul Huq of Zed Apparels indiscriminately when he was returning home from the factory at Dholpara, the police said.

Hearing the scream of Aziz, local people came to his rescue and managed to catch one of the attackers. The attacker was identified as Ashab Uddin.

Critically injured Aziz died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Fatullah police said he was killed over previous enmity.

'Give highest priority to energy sector in election manifestos'

UNB, Dhaka

With the polls knocking at the door, experts yesterday urged the political parties to give the highest priority to the energy sector in their election manifestos.

"Resolving energy crisis will be a major challenge for the next elected government. If they fail to resolve the energy crisis, it'll be difficult for them to survive in power," said Prof Ijaz Hossain of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) at a seminar organised by the Energy Reporters' Forum at the National Press Club.

Political leaders at the meet spoke on their respective plans for future energy sufficiency and security.

The latest thinking by experts, politicians and stakeholders came especially against the backdrop of outcry on different occasions and recent near-confrontation over hydrocarbon exploration in the Bay of Bengal.

BNP leader Gayeshwar Chandra Roy said there is a need to take unified initiative to resolve the crisis on the country's energy front. It is very unfortunate that the energy sector fell in serious crisis few days after the BNP government had left office, he lamented.

"We don't know why such a grim situation has arisen when the caretaker government is running the country," he told the energy reporters.

He observed that foreign investment would come in the energy sector only when the investors are convinced that they could get returns.

Awami League leader Lt Col (ret'd) Faruque Khan appraised the audience that his party is giving priority to the energy sector in its election manifesto, which is being crafted in a changed situation of the country.

"We have a plan to generate 5,000-MW electricity in the next 5 years if we are voted to power in the next election. Every year, we'll

generate 1,000 megawatts," he said.

In this context, the former lawmaker assured that all the previous contracts in the energy sector would be honoured if those are not found to be against national interest.

He said Awami League would prepare a vision statement envisioned to ensure electricity for all by 2021.

About the coal extraction for meeting energy needs, Faruque said the coal sector would be developed keeping the environment protected.

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon said country's natural resources have to be protected from the hands of "foreign merchants".

He suggested that the state-owned exploration agency Bapex should be strengthened to conduct petroleum exploration works "on our own", instead of contracting out the hydrocarbon mines to international oil companies.

"If we can strengthen Bapex, it will reduce our dependence on the foreign companies," he told the meet in support of his recommendation for going local on matters of such national wealth that also bears strategic importance.

Gas Transmission Company Managing Director Monjur Morshed, however, viewed that the country does not have enough funds for conducting exploration works with the Bapex.

Because, he observed, exploration works involve high business risks, which local banks cannot afford. "So, local banks do not feel interested to invest in the energy-exploration sector."

President of Jatiyatabadi Samik Dal Zafurul Hasan said energy sector is a very sensitive sector and political parties always try to avoid any sensitive issue.

"That's why the energy and power sector sometimes fail to get proper attention of the political parties," he added.



Communist Party of Bangladesh launches a month-long mass awareness campaign at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding trial of the war criminals and restoration of the constitution of 1972.

50 shops burn down

UNB, Savar

About 50 shops burned down in a devastating fire that broke out at Zirani Bazar in Savar yesterday morning.

Fire Brigade sources said an electrical short-circuit at a shop sparked off the fire at about 9:00am, which soon engulfed adjacent grocery, stationery and cloth shops.

On receiving information, firefighters from Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ), Savar and Gazipur rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control at about 12:00 noon.

The affected shop owners estimated that cash and valuables

worth about Tk one crore were destroyed in the fire.

However, no-one was injured in the incident.

8 shops gutted in N'ganj
In Narayanganj, eight shops of chemical and mosquito net burned down in a fire on Friday midnight.

The fire originated from an electrical short-circuit at Lucky Bedding Store at about 11:30pm and ripped through other shops at Pukur Par in Tanbazar area, Fire Brigade sources said.

Firefighters from Narayanganj station rushed in at about 12:30am and extinguished the blaze after two hours of hectic efforts.

The shop owners estimated the loss at Tk 60 lakh.

Woman, schoolgirl commit suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman and a schoolgirl committed suicide in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

The victims were identified as Sanjida alias Joti, 15, a class nine student of Rajarbagh Police Lines High School, and Alo Begum, 40, a housewife in Katasur area of Mohammadpur.

Police recovered the body of Joti who hanged herself from a ceiling fan in her bedroom at Gulbagh residence at 9:30am.

An unnatural death (UD) case

was filed with the Motijheel Police Station in this connection.

Quoting the victim's mother, Investigation Officer of the case Sub-Inspector Abdullah Baki told The Daily Star that Joti was a not that a good student. She committed suicide as her mother had scolded her.

Alo, wife of one Hafiz Uddin, hanged herself from a roadside tree with a rope some 100 yards away from her house at Katasur.

Police said Alo might have committed suicide due to a family feud, they added.



Pakistani High Commissioner Alamgir Babar calls on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.

27TH BCS EXAM Candidates demand appointment as per first phase results

DU CORRESPONDENT

Candidates who passed the 27th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations at first but were dropped from the list of successful candidates as per its second phase results yesterday reiterated their demand that the first-phase results be declared valid and they were given immediate appointment.

In support of their demands, several hundred candidates took out a procession and held a rally on Dhaka University (DU) campus in the morning. Besides, they continued their fast-unto-death

programme at Central Shaheed Minar. Yesterday was the 15th day of the programme.

At the rally, the candidates expressed hope that a positive decision about their immediate appointment in the civil service will come from today's cabinet meeting.

They also threatened that they would again declare self-immolation programme if their demands are not met.

Earlier, the candidates announced self-immolation programme for November 7 to press home their demand but deferred it

after assurance from DU high-ups.

On November 11, Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed assured a delegation of DU led by its Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz that the issue would be discussed in the next cabinet meeting to be held today.

Meanwhile, Fair BCS Movement at a press conference at Madhu's Canteen of DU demanded that the government take a special BCS examination to resolve the issue.

They also demanded exemplary punishment to corrupt officials of Public Service Commission, who are responsible for the prevailing situation over the BCS results.

ANZ PROPERTIES

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Corporate Office: House: 342, Road: 114, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212. Phone: 9892373, 882601, 8822613, 8851607, Cell: 01817 036474, 01817 036475, 01817 036476, 01817 036478, 01817 036479, 01817 046632, 01817 143981, 01817 143982, 01817 143983, e-mail: anz_dhaka@yahoo.com
 Chittagong Office: 1182, Nur Ahmed Road, Live Lane, Chittagong. Phone: 613004, 613005, 2851414 0443 4490606
 Cell: 01817 046953, 01817 210412, 01817 210411, 01817 210413, 01817 210410, 01817 210414, 01817 210415
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www.anzproperties.com

ঘূর্ণিঝড় সিডর-এর ১ বছর পর আবার মংলায় বাংলাদেশ সংলাপ

বিবিসি বাংলা রেডিওতে: ১৬ নভেম্বর, রোববার, রাত ৮ টায় এবং ১৭-১৮ নভেম্বর, সোমবার ও মঙ্গলবার (পুনঃপ্রচার), সকাল ৯.৩০ টায় চ্যানেল আই-এ: ১৭ নভেম্বর, সোমবার, রাত ৮ টায়

তাদের কণ্ঠে শুনুন, তাদের কথা! তাদের প্রশ্ন!!

রোববার: শর্ট ওয়েভ ৩১ ও ৪১ মিটারব্যান্ডে, যথাক্রমে ৯৪৩৫ ও ৭৮৫০ কিলোহার্টজে আর ঢাকায় এক এম ১০০ মেগাহার্টজে
 সোমবার ও মঙ্গলবার (পুনঃপ্রচার), সকাল ৯.৩০ টায়: শর্ট ওয়েভ ৩১, ২৫ ও ২২ মিটারব্যান্ডে, যথাক্রমে ৯৪৪০, ১১৯৯৫ ও ১৩৭৯০ কিলোহার্টজে আর ঢাকায় এক এম ১০০ মেগাহার্টজে

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 ই-মেইল পাঠান: bengali@bbc.co.uk
 চিঠি লিখুন: বিবিসি বাংলা, পোস্ট বক্স - ২০৬০, ঢাকা-১০০০