

CELEBRATING BRAC AND CIMA

ENDEAVOUR

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

CIMA



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed

A reception was hosted by CIMA at the British High Commissioner's residence on May 27th in celebration of the MoU that was signed between CIMA and BRAC Business School during last December. As per the MoU, CIMA awarded BRAC Business School with 8 papers exemptions out of 17 papers in the CIMA 2015 syllabus for Accounting Major students.

The programme was attended by all BRAC Business School faculty members, honorable Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Professor Emeritus Hafiz G Siddique, CIMA Regional Director Bradley Emerson, His Excellency Robert Gibson, Deputy High Commissioner Mark Clayton, and CIMA Country Manager Zareef Tamanna Matin. The chief guest of the ceremony was Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, the founder chairman of BRAC.

Sir Abed had completed his CIMA qualifications in his thirties from UK and was an Associate member of the Institute.

In the celebration program CIMA Bangladesh recognised Sir Abed for his long standing affiliation with Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. Deputy High Commissioner Mark Clayton handed over the crest to Sir Abed. CIMA Bangladesh feels extremely honoured to have Sir Abed in the CIMA fraternity.

In his valuable speech, Sir Abed shared, "In the 50s and 60s of the last century, I was negligent in retaining my membership of the institution and lost all contact with it. Although my later career took a

completely different trajectory, I must say that what I learned from studying first Naval Architecture and then Cost and Accounting shaped my actions in founding and building the world's largest non-government organisation - BRAC. As the founder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of BRAC University, I am happy to be connected with this valuable institution."

Speaking at the event, Deputy High Commissioner Mark Clayton said, "The qualifications offered by UK professional bodies set the benchmark by which others are measured. This partnership between CIMA and BRAC Business School is an excellent initiative, and a further significant development in the broader partnership between the UK and Bangladesh on education and skills."

Compiled by CIMA

YOUTH

CALL TO ACTION YOUNGER GENERATIONS TO RE-IMAGINE SAARC

SAMIRA KHAN



With increasing globalisation, younger generations are identifying more and more with being citizens of humanity. Although we still see a notion of kinship among South Asians, in a more interconnected and fast-paced world, it is often easy to forget the importance of regional cooperation and the integral role of bodies such as SAARC in our political history.

In general, it is too easy to leave cooperation up to our leaders, as a part of a diplomatic agenda alone. And it is about time that we use our interconnectedness and the ability for collaborative innovation to empower SAARC and transform our collective strength. We see it happening in the arts, with cross-pollination of media and music (from Coke Studio to Bollywood), but we need more of it in the socio-economic and political realms.

Natural disasters and tragedies remind us of the acute need for specifically greater logistical cooperation and coordination in light of proximity; in other words, there's a significant benefit of playing "nice" with thy neighbor, not only in a times of crises but before and after the event. There's an onus upon younger generations to not only hold our leaders accountable to the vision of a cooperative body over the long-haul, but participate in grassroots efforts to build peace and diplomacy to elevate this agenda in the minds of our leaders.

The recent earthquake in Nepal has generated much discussion around the benefits of pan-SAARC coordination and the replication of India's National Disaster Response Force at a regional level. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi touched upon the need for

SAARC exercises regarding disaster relief and rescue operations. And past advancement included the SAARC Comprehensive Framework on Disaster Management and a regional framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); however, as with international bodies and agreements, the devil is in the details. With a lack of strong structures of accountability, regional priorities and investments can fall to the wayside, until it is too late. Implementation is limited, and this is where a civil society push is critical. Beyond the settlement of land and resource disputes, we need to push for more collaborative planning with action behind it.

The confluence of natural disaster, poverty, political tension, and the status of women and children is a deadly one. It is our responsibility not to forget some sense of shared vision, history, and borders - and in some cases, shared blood. Further, there's something to be said about harnessing technology, the worldwide web, and the do-gooder trend among younger generations - as citizens of humanity - to inspire a dialogue of greater cooperation in the region.

As it relates to the recent earthquake in Nepal, there is significant strategic advantage to logistical ease and coordination, as we plan out our national futures. And it is our responsibility, especially the younger generations, to never forget this and hold our leaders accountable to regional cooperation. However, that accountability begins with our approach toward one another as neighbors, putting aside the past and using the tools of our future to create new history.

The writer is a Social Impact enthusiast and holds a Masters degree in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

HERITAGE

LEGENDS OF LALBAGH

EVEN AFTER HER DEATH, PARI BIBI'S SOUL IS STILL BELIEVED TO LINGER INSIDE FORT AURANGABAD.

ANANTA YUSUF

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Since the time of inception of Fort Aurangabad, more popularly known as Lalbagh Fort, various myths have revolved around it. Grounding all the historical facts and stories, it is commonly believed that Lalbagh Fort stands as a memorial of the unfulfilled dreams of Mughal Prince Muhammad Azam (The beloved son of Emperor Aurangzeb). In the mid 17th century, he was serving as the Viceroy of

passage, popularly known as *Shurongo Path*. According to different versions of the story, it was connected with other parts of river, but with the passage of time-- dust and sediments closed the cave. There are rumours stating that to see the depth and find out the end of the *Shurongo*, British government sent elephants with other different animals and who never returned from the cave. After the incident, British authorities


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Bengal and began the construction of the impressive Lalbagh Fort complex.

So from this point of historical narration the popular stories begin. According to legend, after the Mughal prince departed to assist his father in the war against the Marhattas, Shaista Khan continued with building the project. Unfortunately, Khan stopped the construction work after the untimely death of his much-loved daughter Iran-Dukht, warmly known as *Pari Bibi*. According to the legends, Bibi was engaged to Prince Azam at the time of her death. Locals believe, after her demise, on every full moon, Pari Bibi comes down on the fort, sings, dances and moves around it.

Historians and archaeologists, however, denied such stories, Dr. Shahnaj Husne Jahan a prominent archaeologist says, "These stories are all made up. In reality no such thing happens inside the fort. In the last 20 years I heard thousands of such stories."

Fort Aurangabad and the Pari Bibi's mausoleum inside the fort is a unique piece of Mughal architecture. The mausoleum's interior is embellished with black basalt stone from Rajmahal and white marbles from Jaipur. Encaustic tiles of various colours were used.

People from all walks of life believe that the gracious fort has a hidden

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closed the mouth of the cave forever.

The custodian of the Lalbagh fort, Sultana Zakia Bedowra tells the Star Weekend, "There are many popular beliefs and stories among the local people. But the dates of the artefacts do not match with them. They only remain as myths."