



The Daily Star

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Separating party from the govt?

7 ministers not included in partially announced AL committee; Hasina, Quader re-elected to lead party again

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Seven ministers do not feature in the partially announced Awami League Central Working Committee, and party insiders view it as an effort to separate the party from the government.

The seven are among the 12 ministers who were in the previous committee. The other five have retained their posts.

On the second and final day, the AL council yesterday elected 42 office-bearers in the 81-member central working committee, the party's highest decision-making body.

Names of the other 11 office-bearers and 28 members would be announced later by Sheikh Hasina, as the councillors gave her the responsibility, said party insiders.

Hasina was re-elected the party president for the ninth consecutive time, while Obaidul Quader got a second straight term as the general secretary. Both of them were

elected unopposed.

The AL was initially floated as the East Pakistan Awami Muslim League at the historic Rose Garden in Dhaka on June 23, 1949. Hasina, a four-time prime minister, has been at the party helm for the last 38 years.

Her re-election as the party chief was certain, but all eyes were on the GS post as several names were in discussion within the party.

Party sources had said the council may drop hints about future leadership of the party.

They said three names -- Sajeeb Wazed Joy, Saima Wazed Hossain and Radwan Mujib Siddiq -- have long been in discussion among the party's rank and file, and their inclusion in the central working committee may indicate who might be at the party helm in the future. Joy and Saima are the children of Sheikh Hasina; Radwan is the son of Hasina's sister Sheikh Rehana.

The AL chief, who on several occasions

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Cold spell on though mercury rising

HSIA operations disrupted for 5 hrs due to fog

STAR REPORT

The cold spell continued for the third consecutive day yesterday, hitting people's day-to-day life across the country. The northern and northeastern regions are the worst affected.

Flights and river communications were disrupted in some places due to dense fog. The sun was hardly visible in Dhaka, like many other parts of the country, on the day.

Due to foggy weather and cold wave, many people -- mostly children and the elderly -- are suffering from cold-related diseases.

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Brac founder Sir Fazle Hasan Abed talking to some of the NGO's beneficiary farmers during a field visit.

PHOTO: BRAC

POVERTY ALLEVIATION, WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Champion goes, legacy lives on

Janaza at Army Stadium, burial at Banani graveyard today

SOHEL PARVEZ

A bolt from the blue came in 2005 and left Sufia Begum in despair: she lost her husband, the sole breadwinner in her family, in an instant to electrocution, leaving her with no money and three young daughters to raise by herself.

With her back against the wall, Sufia, then 26, found a job as a maid in her village, Panimach Kuthi, in the northwest district Kurigram to make ends meet. But her life took a turn for the better two years later, when Brac made its entry.

The world's largest non-governmental organisation included her in its ultra-poor graduation programme and provided her with a cow and two sheep, a daily stipend and training so that she could rear the cattle properly and make a good livelihood



out of it. Today, Sufia leases land for farming and has a home of her own.

"I have made it -- I have no hardships now. My daughters are in schools," said a content Sufia over phone last evening.

Sufia's story, one of triumph, of female empowerment, of rags to riches, sums up the impact Sir Fazle Hasan Abed has had in the lives of countless poor the world over via his brainchild Brac.

"It is one of the great NGOs of the world," said Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee in his Prize Lecture on December 9 in Sweden.

He highlighted the ultra-poor graduation programme that Sufia has been part of as being a definitive agent for poverty alleviation.

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IN REMEMBRANCE

You are our friend, forever

MUHAMMAD YUNUS

Abed left us. But it is not possible to bid him farewell. He will remain our friend and a fellow nation builder forever. From the Liberation War to this day, he is present in every sphere of our society. There is no corner of the country which the refreshing wind of Abed's activities did not touch. He is the main architect behind the monumental changes in Bangladesh's society.

Abed's creative genius has touched all the dark and broken alleys,

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Tributes shower on Abed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tributes poured in from around the world for Brac founder Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, who breathed his last at a city hospital on Friday night.

Former US president, Nobel laureates and leading economists were among the people who expressed profound shock at the death of Sir Fazle Abed, the champion of the deprived people.

In his condolence

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Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and General Secretary Obaidul Quader on stage at the party's national council just after being re-elected to their respective posts. This is Hasina's ninth term as the president and Quader's second term as the general secretary of the party.

PHOTO: BSS

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Chairman & Managing Director of
Al Haramain Perfumes Group of
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Award Category
CIP Status for Sending Remittance
through proper Channel

**CIP Award
2017**

Congratulations

NRB Bank Limited congratulates the Hon'ble Chairman of the Bank for winning **CIP Award 2017** for the highest remittance sender among the remitters through proper channel. He achieved the CIP status for consecutive six years.

We mourn the loss of a great soul who dedicated his life to serving humanity. We pledge to continue his work to spread the light and honour his legacy.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed
1936 - 2019

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