

*"People trapped in a cycle of destitution often do not realise their lives can be changed for the better through their own activities. Once they understand that, it is like a light gets turned on."*

SIR FAZLE HASAN ABED KCMG



*"In 1971, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed travelled to different European countries from England in order to gain support, collect funds and form public opinion for our great War of Liberation. He worked for the rebuilding of the war-torn and newly independent Bangladesh. The demise of such a great humanitarian soul is an irreparable loss to our nation."*

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA



*"Through founding Brac, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed made immense contributions to the socioeconomic development of Bangladesh. The whole nation will remember him with respect for the work that he accomplished."*

PRESIDENT MD ABDUL HAMID



*"The scale and impact of what he has done, and yet the utter humility with which he has done everything, is a lesson for every single one of us."*

12TH PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK JIM YONG KIM



*"How often do we see people like Sir Fazle Hasan Abed? His absence has left a great sense of loss in all of us."*

NOBEL LAUREATES ABHIJIT BANERJEE AND ESTHER DUFLU



*"Sir Fazle Abed's life was a great gift to humanity. His nearly 50 years of visionary leadership at Brac transformed millions of lives in Bangladesh and beyond, and changed the way the world thinks about development. Driven by an unwavering belief in the inherent dignity of all people, he empowered those in extreme poverty to build better futures for themselves and their families."*

*"I will always be grateful for the chance to see his life-changing programmes in action in Bangladesh when I was President, for his many years of work with the Clinton Global Initiative, and for the kindness, friendship, and inspiration he gave Hillary and me - including the grace and courage of the final months of his life. His legacy will live on in all the people whose lives are better, healthier and more secure because of his remarkable service."*

42ND PRESIDENT OF THE USA BILL CLINTON



*"My condolences on the passing of Sir Fazle Hasan Abed of @BRACworld. His passion and work in alleviating poverty and empowering the poor inspired many. My thoughts are with him and his family and friends."*

WHO DIRECTOR GENERAL TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS



*"In 1972, after Bangladesh's War of Liberation had left many homeless, Fazle Abed left his job as a London oil executive and returned to his home country with 16,000 in his pocket - and the ambitious goal of building 10,400 houses. He ended up raising enough money to build 16,000 houses for some of the poorest people in Bangladesh and still had enough left over to start his next project."*

*"That's who Sir Fazle was as a humanitarian, and that's what he helped us learn about development work: How to build a big, efficient organisation, while never forgetting who you were doing it for. We were saddened to hear of his passing and will forever draw inspiration from his work, as will the rest of the world, which he left so much better than he found."*

BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION CO-FOUNDER MELINDA GATES



*"Unflinching dedication, focus and work ethic is what we have always experienced in Sir Fazle, or Abed Bhai, as the Brac family calls him lovingly. He always put others before himself and let his work speak for itself. Even when Brac attained its global stature, his concern and focus was always on those who were less fortunate within society and whose potential needed nurturing. He embodied the highest level of integrity, humility and humanity, which continues to be the essential guiding spirit of Brac."*

BRAC GLOBAL BOARD CHAIR AMEERAH HAQ



*"Sir Fazle Hasan Abed. Unparalleled sense of responsibility, a profound philosophy of life embedded in empathy, and tireless work - a personality whose memory will remain indelible and whose footsteps will show the path for others. He succeeded in establishing the world's largest development organisation with a simple conviction that even a person in the most disadvantaged situation has the potential to change their fate. The organisation now draws admiration from around the world. At this painful moment of departure, his warm smile still gives us the confidence that we must tread further ahead, holding on to his values of empathy, responsibility and labour. Adieu in respect and love."*

BRAC BANGLADESH CHAIRPERSON HOSSAIN ZILLUR RAHMAN



*"It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Sir Fazle Hasan Abed. Over the course of three decades, under Sir Fazle's inspiring leadership, the humanitarian organisation he founded, Brac, has become one of the world's leading development organisations. From its humble beginnings in Bangladesh -- the country he loved so well -- to its expansion to 10 countries across Asia and Africa, Brac has stood as an inspiring example of how we can gather people together in common cause to improve the lives of the most vulnerable. All of us at Unicef will miss his ideas and advice. We will never forget the example he set."*

UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HENRIETTA H FORE



PHOTO: BRAC/SHEHZAD NOORANI