

ICT Leaders Hoped for a Brighter Future at Bangladesh ICT Pioneers Get Together

Recently J.A.N. Associates organized "Bangladesh ICT Pioneers Get Together" at the Meghna Ballroom of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Many distinguished persons of the Bangladesh ICT Sector attended the event including S M Kamal; the first president of BCS; Aftab ul Islam, President, American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh; Abdullah H Kafi, Chairman, Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO); Md. Sabur Khan, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI); M. H. Rana, Former Secretary, Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS); Shafquat Haider, Shaikh Abdul Aziz, Managing Director & CEO, Leads

Corporation Limited; Mustafa Jabbar, former President, Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS); Habibullah N Karim, former President, Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) etc.

Aside from sharing memories, the attendees exchanged opinions on various issues on the ICT sector of Bangladesh and a minute of silence was observed to pay respect to recently deceased M. N. Islam, Chairman, Flora Limited,

The guests thanked Abdullah H. Kafi, former President, Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS) for arranging such a nice event. Mr. Kafi said, "It has been my dream for a long time to bring together the few people who were involved with the ICT industry in Bangladesh in the 80s. Because of their diligent effort, Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS) came into being in 1987. With time, the ICT sector of the country grew rapidly. However, the new generation should know the history of the ICT sector of Bangladesh and learn from it."

At the get together, the respectable leaders talked on a wide range of subjects-the history of establishing BCS, first computer fair of BCS, the movement to remove all taxes on computer

products, reducing Internet price and the inclusion of computer as a subject in secondary and higher secondary education. They said that after establishing BCS, they had to struggle for some year to make computer and Internet affordable for the common people. Often their work was hindered by bureaucratic complications and lack of support but nothing could deter them from achieving their goals. It gives them great pleasure when they see the enthusiasm among people about Internet and computer in Bangladesh.

Some of the guests became emotional having met old friends and colleagues after a long time. But all of them remembered recently deceased M N Islam with great respect. After the dinner, some of them delivered brief speeches. In his speech, S.M. Kamal, the first President of BCS, said that the ICT industry was



like a second family to him. Former BCS President and the current President of AmCham, Aftab ul Islam, stated that he had spent the best time of his life with the leaders of ICT industry and they were his best friends. Another ex-president of BCS and the current President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Md. Sabur Khan, said that all the successes he had achieved in his life were based on the ICT sector and he was proud of it.

Former President of BASIS, Habibullah N Karim revealed that his dream was to see the ICT industry of Bangladesh turn into a multibillion-dollar industry within a very short time. Mustafa Jobbar, another former President of BCS, stated that the ICT industry today stood on a strong base because the industry leaders worked hard with sincerity in its formative years. A number of ICT journalists were present at the reunion ceremony ■

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