



PRESS RELEASE

Leading Bangladeshis in London for Policy Exchange conference The Rise of Political Islam in Bangladesh: What's At Stake in the 2007 Elections?

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In advance of crucial elections in Bangladesh, British 'Think Tank of the Year' Policy Exchange in association with The Hudson Institute in Washington DC and International Bangladesh Foundation are holding a one-day seminar to discuss the forthcoming Bangladeshi elections in January 2007.

Entitled 'The Rise of Political Islam in Bangladesh: What's At Stake in the 2007 Elections?', the event will take place from 11 am to 5 pm on Tuesday 14 November 2006 at The Ideas Forum, 10 Storey's Gate, London SW1P 3AY. The nearest Tube stations are Westminster and St James' Park. Lunch will be served.

Speaking ahead of the seminar, the organiser, Policy Exchange Director, Nicholas Boles, said: *"January's election will obviously be critical for the future of Bangladesh. Will it ratify the gains over 30 years of fundamentalists in eroding secularism? What will be its effects on Bangladesh's role in assuring regional and global security? And what will be its effects on the Bangladeshi diaspora, especially in Britain? We hope to get some of the answers on the 14th November."*

Speakers at the seminar include Lord Avebury, Mahfuz Anam (Editor of the Daily Star), Saber Hossain Chowdhury, (Political Secretary to Sheikh Hasina), Moudad Ahmed (former Law minister), Abbas Faiz (Amnesty International), Brad Adams (Human Rights Watch), Martin Bright (New Statesman Political Editor) and Shariar Kabir (independent film-maker). The BNP and the Awami League will be represented.

Anyone wishing to attend the seminar should email events@policyexchange.org.uk or call 020 7340 2650.