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Life-sketch of Maj-Gen (retd) Nurul Islam

Major General (Retd). Nurul Islam, Minister for Agriculture and Forests, was born in a family of educationist in Perojpur Bakerganj.

He went to St. Francis School and later to St. Gregory's School in Dacca. After matriculation, he studied science and passed I.Sc. Examination from Dacca College.

While studying Honours in Geography in Dacca he joined the Army in 1959. On being commissioned he was posted with the 2nd Battalion, the East Bengal Regiment and was with the Battalion for first five years of his service. He is a graduate from the Peshawar University.

During his tenure of service with 2nd East Bengal Regiment General (Retd). Nurul Islam attended a number of military courses including one on administration. Later, he served as General Staff Officer in the Directorate of Inter-Services Intelligence. He participated in the War of Liberation from the very beginning.

After independence he served as Brigade Major at Rangpur Cantonment and commanded the 18th East Bengal Regiment at Comilla. Towards the end of 1972 he was promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel and took over command of 44 Brigade at Comilla.

He was promoted to the rank of full Colonel in September 1973 and in early 1974 was posted as Military Attache at the Bangladesh Embassy in Burma with concurrent accreditation to Singapore.

Before he could serve the full term of his diplomatic assignment, he was called back in November 1975 to assume the office of Adjutant General, Bangladesh Army. Following month, he was given the additional responsibility to serve as Principal Staff Officer (Martial Law Affairs) to the Hon'ble President and Chief Martial Law Administrator. In 1976 he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier. He was promoted to the rank of Major General in the Bangladesh Army in December 1978. An able administrator, a bright negotiator and an intelligent observer of current affairs, General (Retd) Nurul Islam played a vital role as Principal Staff Officer to the President in the process of transition to democracy in Bangladesh which was started by President Ziaur Rahman three years ago.

A widely travelled person he has friends in many countries of the world. He is married to Mrs. Naima Islam and has two daughters.