

Life-sketches of Ministers

Following are the life-sketches of the Cabinet Ministers sworn in on Sunday, according to an official announcement.

MAJID-UL-HUQ

Born in 1926 in Jessore, Major General (Retd.) M. Majid-ul-Huq received his general education in Delhi. An engineering graduate, he studied at Shibpur (India) and Pakistan. He undertook practical engineering training at Chatham and Ripon in UK. He studied advanced engineering at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, USA.

Major-General (Retd.) M. Majid-ul-Huq was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers from the Indian Military and in 1969-70 had been after attending the Postwar Regular Course. As a Lieutenant he was appointed instructor at the School of Military Engineering, Pakistan. A graduate of the Staff College, Quetta, he was the first Corps of Engineers Officer from Pakistan and the only Bangladeshi Officer to have attended the prestigious Command and General Staff Course at Fort Leavenworth, USA. He also qualified the Army War course in Pakistan.

During his service, he served both in command of troops as well as on the staff in every rank. He was the Commander of the Karakoram Highway First Group to do the pilot cut from Khunjerab to Gilgit.

He had been on secondment to civil appointments from time to time during which he served in the Planning Ministry and in 196-70 had been in charge of the Provincial Departments of Industry, Communication, education and health.

On return from Pakistan in December 1973, he was appointed Chairman of Steel Corporation and subsequently of Steel as well as Fertilizer, Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Corporations. In February 1975, he was appointed Special Secretary for the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources as well as for Steel and Fertilizer, Chemical and Pharmaceutical of the Ministry of Industries with the rank and status of a Minister of State.

Major General (Retd.) M. Majid-ul-Huq was appointed Secretary of the Ministry of Industries in January 1976.

In 1977, he was appointed a member of the President's Council of Advisers and was given charge of the Ministry of Railways, Roads, Highways and Road Transport.

Major General (Retd.) M. Majid-ul-Huq was appointed Minister for Establishment in 1978. He started active politics by joining Bangladesh Nationalist Party. He was elected a Member of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad in Parliamentary election in February 1979 from the Magura constituency of Jessore district.

ABDUR RAHMAN

Mr Abdur Rahman was born at Chittikbari, Tangail on August 2, 1920.

Educated in the Bindubasini High School and the Sadat College at Tangail, Mr. Abdur Rahman actively participated in student politics and was elected member of the All Bengal Muslim Student's Federation in 1938. He later joined the student's league. In 1944, he was elected Joint Secretary of Tangail Sub-Divisional Muslim League and Assistant Secretary of Mymensingh District Muslim League. In 1948, he joined the Awami Muslim League. He actively participated in the historic Language Movement. From 1955 to 1958, he was a member of the Mymensingh District Board.

Mr Abdur Rahman later joined the National Awami League founded by late Moulana Abdur Hamid Khan Bhashani and held the offices of the Secretary and President of the Tangail District NAP for a long period. He became the Vice-President of NAP in 1962 and held this office till the merger of NAP with the Bangladesh Nationalist Party in 1978.

Mr Abdur Rahman was appointed a member of the President's Council of Ministers on June 29, 1978 and held the portfolio of Public Works and Urban Development. He was elected to the Jatiya Sangsad in the recent parliamentary elections from the constituency No. 138-Tangail-5. He was one of the top vote pollers in the election.

A renowned social worker, Mr Abdur Rahman is the founder of several educational institutions and cultural and social welfare organisations. He takes keen interest in fish cultivation and received the Presidential Award in 1977 for his outstanding success in this field.

Mr Abdur Rahman is married and has two sons and four daughters.

Mr. Abdur Rahman was sworn in as Minister on April 15, 1979.

MUSTAFAZUR RAHMAN

The eleventh child in a family of 14 brothers and sisters, Abu Saleh Mohammad Mustafazur Rahman was born in 1934 in village Ronbijoypur, under Dagerhat P.S. in the district of Khulna. His father, Khan Bahadur Bazlur Rahman, was Commissioner of Excise in undivided Bengal.

A.S.M. Mustafazur Rahman was educated at St. Xavier's School, Calcutta, St. Gregory's School, Dacca, and Dacca Govt.

ernment College. He joined the Pakistan Military Academy (PMA), Kakul as Gentleman Cadet in 1952, and was commissioned in 1955. While at the PMA, he was graduated from the Peshawar University receiving B.A. degree. In active service, Mustafazur Rahman served in different parts of Pakistan in various capacities, including as Staff Officer with an Infantry Brigade. He also successfully passed out from the Command and Staff College, Quetta. On repatriation from Pakistan, he retired from the Army in December, 1973 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. The same year he joined as a partner in a business firm of his brother's, M/s Industrial Chemical & Allied Co., Ltd., Chittagong.

Lt. Col. (Retd.) Mustafazur Rahman was appointed Deputy Adviser for the Ministry of Home Affairs on December 9, 1977. After the Presidential election of June 3, 1978, he was sworn in, on 29 June 1978, as Minister for Home Affairs in the new Cabinet.

Lt. Col. (Retd.) Mustafazur Rahman is a prominent member of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) headed by President Ziaur Rahman. He contested the Parliamentary election of February 18, 1979 from Bagerhat-Kachua constituency (Kulna-2) as a nominee of the BNP and won the seat with a big margin. In the new Cabinet, sworn in on Sunday, he retains the portfolio of Home Affairs.

Lt. Col. (Retd.) Mustafazur Rahman is deeply interested in educational and social welfare activities. He has been associated with a number of educational institutions in Bagerhat and an orphanage in Dacca. He has been a member of the Rotary Club, Chittagong, since 1975. A keen sportsman, Lt. Col. (Retd.) Mustafazur Rahman is a good cricketer. His hobbies include shooting, reading and photography.

Lt. Col. (Retd.) Mustafazur Rahman is married and has a son and a daughter.

SHAMSUL HUDA

CHAUDHURY

Born in 1920, Mr. Shamsul Huda Chaudhury obtained Bachelor Degree from the Presidency College, Calcutta, and M. A. and L. B. Degrees from the Aligarh University in 1944. While a student, Mr. Shamsul Huda Chaudhury was the first Bengalee to be elected as Vice-President of the Aligarh University Students' Union. In 1944 he was also elected President of All Bengal Muslim Student's League.

Mr Shamsul Huda Chaudhury devoted his long career in broadcasting. He joined broadcasting in 1945. He was appointed Director, Staff Training and also Director, Music, Radio Pakistan. He was in Dacca Radio for 16 years and also served as its Regional Director. He was in Radio Pakistan till 1967. He is associated with many socio-cultural organisations.

In early 1976, Mr. Shamsul Huda Chaudhury was appointed Chairman of the Broadcasting Reorganisation Committee

which submitted an exhaustive report in January, 1977 on the present working condition in radio and its future development plans.

Mr Chandhury visited USA on Leader Exchange Grant in 1957. In 1962 he was with BBC for training. He attended a seminar on Asian Broadcasting in Berlin in 1963. He led cultural delegations to People's Republic of China in 1965 and United Kingdom and Thailand in 1967. During 1977, he also led cultural delegations to Malaysia and the People's Republic of China.

Mr Shamsul Huda Chaudhury joined the President's Council as Adviser for Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in October 1977 and Minister for Cultural Affairs and Sports in June 1978. He was elected as Member of Parliament from Constituency No. 8 (Mukttagacha) Mymensingh in February this year.

KHANDAKAR ABDUL HAMID

Khandakar Abdul Hamid was born at Sherpur town in Jamalpur district on 1 March 1918.

Graduated from the University of Calcutta, in 1940, Khandakar Abdul Hamid took up journalism as his profession in Calcutta in the pre-partition days and worked as leader writer and editor of different dailies, including daily Ittehad, for 34 years. He was the Chairman of the Editorial Board of the now-defunct daily Millat from 1953 to 1956 and of the daily Azad in 1969. He was also connected with 'Weekly Chashi' of Mymensingh and started a Bengali weekly 'Bangladesh' in London in 1976.

Khandakar Abdul Hamid worked as the Chief Script writer of the then Radio Pakistan, Dacca for 5 years. He is also member of the Management Board of the Press Institute of Bangladesh.

He was awarded the 'Ekushey Padak' for journalism in 1977.

Khandakar Abdul Hamid joined parliamentary politics in 1953 and was elected member of the then Provincial Assembly in 1954 and 1965. He was appointed Political Secretary to the Chief Minister in 1955 but declined the appointment. He was also Secretary to the Government-coalition parliamentary party in the Provincial Assembly of erstwhile East Pakistan from 1956 to 1958.

He was detained as a security prisoner in 1954 during the 12-A regime of General Iskander Mirza.

Mr Abdul Hamid was a member of the Pakistan delegation to the United Nation's General Assembly in 1968. He also visited Britain and Scotland in 1976 on the invitation of the British Government.

He was elected a member of the Bangladesh Jatiya Sangshad from Jamalpur in the February 18 general elections.

Prior to his appointment as Minister, Khandakar Abdul Hamid was the Senior Leader Writer and columnist of daily Ittefaq. He was the writer of the popular column 'Manchey-Nepathay' under the pen-name 'Spashtabhashi'. He also wrote in daily Azad under the pen-name 'Mard-e-Momin'.

Khandakar Abdul Hamid was sworn in as a Minister on Sunday, April 1979.

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