

Life sketches of new Ministers

The 29-member Bangladesh Cabinet, sworn in by President Ziaur Rahman in Dacca on Sunday last, included nine new Ministers. Dr. Fasihuddin Mahtab and Dr M.A. Mafin were State Ministers in the previous Government while Major-General (Retd) Nurul Islam, Khondkar Abdul Hamid, Abdur Rahman Biswas, Mr Emran Ali Sarkar, Mr. Abdul Haque, Mr. Mansur Ali and Mr. Moidul Islam were new-comers.

The following are the short life sketches of the new Ministers:

ABDUL HAQUE

The only son of late Alhaj Md Wazed Ali, Mr Muhammad Abdul Haque, was born on November 15, 1926 at Ulashi in the district of Nadia. In 1942 he passed the Matriculation examination in the first division with Government scholarship and passed B.Sc. examination with distinction. Having passed LLB examination with distinction, he joined the Kushtia Bar in 1952.

During his student life, he was elected unopposed Vice-President and General Secretary of the Krishnanagar Government College Union and was associated with progressive and democratic movements.

In 1952, he organised the Language Movement in the district of Kushtia and became

Chairman of Kushtia District All Party State Language Committee of Action.

In 1956, he left for UK for higher studies in Law and was called to the

Bar six months before the scheduled time. In 1957, he joined the Seventh World Youth Festival held at Moscow and visited many European countries including Poland, East Germany, West Germany, Belgium and France.

In 1960, he joined the Dacca High Court. In 1962, he was elected to the National Assembly of the then Pakistan as an independent candidate and later joined NAP and became leader of the NAP parliamentary party. He was also the Whip of the Opposition People's Group in the Assembly. On his adjournment motion relating to cement crisis in the then East Pakistan, the Government was defeated on the floor of the Assembly. The writ petition he filed in the High Court challenging the illegal order passed by the Ayub Government is now a leading



elected President of the then Pakistan Eastern Railway Workers and Employees League and continued as such for five years.

Mr Haque was all along associated with peasants movement in Bangladesh and is still the Senior Vice-President of the Bangladesh Coastal Peasants Association. He was founder-member of the Committee for Civil Liberties and Legal Aid and was President of the Legal Aid Committee.

In 1977, he visited USSR and Bulgaria as member of a delegation from Bangladesh.

When JAGODAL was formed he joined the party, became one of the members of the Central Convening Committee and contributed a lot in organising the party.

He is now a member of the Central Convening Committee of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and elected to the Parliament as BNP candidate from Kushtia-4 Constituency.

A well-read man with vast political and parliamentary experience, Mr Haque is married and has one son and two daughters.

He was sworn in as Minister on 15 April 1979 and was allocated the portfolio of Land Administration and Land Reforms.

MANSUR ALI

Mr. Mansur Ali was born on September 23, 1932 in Dhairbaria village of Khulna district. After obtaining M.A. LL.B. degrees from Dacca University he joined Dacca High Court Bar. He was imprisoned for taking active part in the Language Movement.

He was the General Secretary of Khulna Bar Association from 1972 to 1975 and became the President of the Association in 1978. Mr. Mansur Ali joined Awami League in 1968 and was elected General Secretary of Khulna District Awami League. He got Awami League nomination for

contesting general elections in 1970 but he refused to accept the nomination due to differences with the Awami League leadership. He joined Jagodal in 1978 and was a Member of the Central Committee of the Party. He contested the last Parliamentary elections on ENP ticket from Khulna.

EMRAN ALI SARKAR

Mr. Emran Ali Sarkar was born in an aristocrat Muslim Family of Rajshahi district. He was a leader of the Peasants' Movement of North Bengal. During British Rule Mr. Sarkar organised the peasants and



fought for realising their just demands.

Mr. Sarkar was the Vice-Chairman of Rajshahi Municipality from 1950 to 1956. He joined the National Awami Party (Bhashani) and was elected Member of the Central Committee of the Party. He was elected Chairman of Rajshahi Municipality in 1977. Later he joined Jagodal. Mr. Sarkar then joined the ENP and became a Member of the central committee of the Party. He contested the Parliamentary polls last February from Rajshahi.