



Life-sketch of Prime Minister

Born in Noakhali in 1940, the newly appointed Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed while a student took active part in politics and in the democratic movement, reports BSS.

Son of late Moulana Momtazuddin Ahmed of Alia Madrasah of Dhaka and Calcutta and Professor of Dhaka University.

Mr Ahmed obtained Honours and M A in Political Science from Dhaka University and was called to the bar from Lincoln's Inn of England, according to a PTD handout in Dhaka on Sunday night.

Mr Ahmed was imprisoned during the Language Movement. He was elected General Secretary of the East Pakistan House, England, which started an open movement for independence of the then East Pakistan. During this time he edited two journals—'Asian Time' and 'Purba Bangla' from London.

Mr Moudud Ahmed joined the then East Pakistan High Court in 1963, played a leading role in organising the defence of the accused persons in the so-called Agarala Conspiracy Case and arranged to engage Sir Thomas Williams for the defence.

He took active part in the Liberation War and played a main role in publishing weekly Bangladesh, a mouth piece of Bangladesh government-in-exile. He prepared 'Bangladesh—contemporary events and documents', a book which was published by the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Bangladesh.

An eminent lawyer, Mr Ahmed resumed law practice in the Supreme Court after liberation. In March 1974 he was elected General Secretary of the 'Committee for Civil Liberties and Legal Aid' and conducted Habeas Corpus cases for the release of the political prisoners.

After the proclamation of Emergency Rule in December 1974 Mr Ahmed was imprisoned and was detained for 3 months without trial. He was taken to jail four times.

Mr Ahmed visited the Law School of the United States at the invitation of the US government in May-June 1974. He represented Bangladesh at the

Workshop on Legal Services to the Poor held at Berkeley University of California in July-August 1974. He attended the Asian Institute of Heidelberg University as a research scholar to speak and write on the constitutional development in Bangladesh. The South Asian Institute of Heidelberg has published his second book 'Bangladesh—Constitutional Quest for Autonomy'.

The book dwelt at length on the constitutional study of the autonomy movement leading to independence of Bangladesh.

He participated in the 32nd session of the United Nations General Assembly as a member of the Bangladesh delegation in 1977.

In July 1980 Mr Moudud Ahmed joined Heidelberg and Harvard Universities as a Fellow and wrote his next book 'Bangladesh: Era of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman'. The book was appreciated by the scholars both at home and abroad. His book was published jointly by the South Asian Institute of Heidelberg University of West Germany and the University Press Limited of Dhaka in 1983. The Bengali translation of the book under the title 'Bangladesh: Sheikh Mujibur Rahman-er Shasankal' was published in March this year.

Mr Ahmed was first appointed an Adviser in charge of Post, Telegraphs and Telephones to the President in December 1977 and later as Minister in the same portfolio in June next year.

Mr Moudud Ahmed was elected to the Jatiya Sangsad from Noakhali-5 constituency in 1979 General Elections and was appointed a Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the Ministry of Water Resources and Flood Control on April 15 of the same year and also elected Deputy Leader of House. He left the cabinet on January 20 1980 but played an important role as a Member of Parliament.

He joined the government as the Communications Minister on August 5, 1985. He was elected to the Jatiya Sangsad in May 1986 from two constituencies—Noakhali-5 and 6. He was appointed the Deputy Prime Minister and given the charge of Industries Ministry on July 2, same year.

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