



# Life-sketch of Khan A Sabur

Born on October 10, 1908 in Khulna, Khan Abdus Sabur had a chequered political career spread over five decades says BSS.

Son of late Nazmul Hussein Khan, a prominent lawyer, Khan A. Sabur Matriculated from Khulna Zilla School in the First Division in 1929, passed I.Sc. from Calcutta Presidency College in 1931 and graduated in 1933 from City College of Calcutta University.

As a politician Khan Sabur combined in him the qualities of an outstanding parliamentarian, a forceful public speaker and exceptional ability to lead and organise.

Khan Sabur, who during his eventful political career saw many ups and downs, led the Muslim League to win 14 parliamentary seats in the 1979 general elections making it the second biggest opposition party in the Jatiya Sangsad after Awami League, (Hasina).

At the age of 71, Khan Sabur made a record getting himself elected from three constituencies of Khulna in the 1979 general elections.

A forceful public speaker, he could keep his audience spell-bound with his fluent Bengali, English and Urdu speeches.

In the annals of parliamentary debates also Khan Sabur left his indelible mark-both from the Opposition and the Treasury Benches during his 36 years of parliamentary life since he was first elected to Bengal Provincial Legislative Assembly in 1946.

Flashes of his extraordinary leadership and organising abilities were seen in 1947 when Khulna was duly-retained with Pakistan under the partition decision and again in the parliamentary polls of February 1975 when the Islamic parties grouping together under his stewardship bagged 20 seats of the Jatiya Sangsad.

He formally entered politics joining the Krishak Praja Party in 1937. Later in the same year he joined All India Muslim League.

## YOUTH LEADER

But, much before that Khan Sabur showed his political mettle as a prominent youth and student leader fighting for freedom from British colonialism. He was elected Joint Secretary of Bengal Provincial Muslim League in 1936.

Khan Sabur came in close contact with the Sher-e-Bangla who was intimately connected with his (Sabur's) family Khan

educational institutions and was involved in social welfare activities.

After Pakistan came into being, he was elected Publicity Secretary of the then East Pakistan Muslim League in 1948.

Contesting in the Provincial Legislative Assembly election of 1954 Khan Sabur lost to his elder brother late Barrister Abdul Ghani Khan who was a Jukta Front nominee.

In 1962 Khan Sabur was elected to the then National Assembly of Pakistan and joined the Cabinet of President Ayub Khan as the Central Minister for Communications.

He was elected the Leader of the House after the death of Muhammad Ali of Bogra. He remained the Leader of the House for seven years till the end of the Ayub regime in the mass-movement of 1969. He also contested the 1970 National Assembly election but lost to Awami League candidate.

As the Communications Minister of Pakistan Sabur was instrumental in modernising the telecommunication system and it was under his initiative that the Telephone Shilpa Sanstha at Tongi and the Khulna Cable Factory were set up and major part of satellite ground station at Betbunia in Chittagong was completed.

After emergence of Bangladesh, Khan Sabur was arrested in 1972 for collaboration and release next year under general amnesty. No specific charges were framed against him at any time nor was he produced before a court of law for collaboration.

He was re-arrested shortly afterwards for what he said 'flimsy grounds' when he had demanded restoration of political rights and property of Muslim Leaguers, and released a few months later.

Bangladesh Muslim League was formed in 1976 under the leadership of Khan Sabur, following lifting of ban on political parties including on those with religion as the ideology. Khan Sabur was elected its President.

The late Premier Chou En lai of People's China was a personal friend of Khan Sabur. He met Chairman Mao Tse tung, President Liu Shao chi and Marshal Chen Yi. He had close connection with the late Shah of Iran. He had met President Truman of USA and Premier Hisako Sato of Japan.

It was during Khan Sabur's tenure as the Communication Minister of Pakistan that direct dialling between Dacca and Kathmandu was introduced.

A widely travelled Khan Sabur visited most of the countries of the world including USA, USSR, China, UK, Italy, Japan, Burma, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Regarding gardening, poultry farming and shooting were among his hobbies.

## Sabur Khan passes away

By A Staff Reporter

Veteran political leader of the country Khan Abdus Sabur expired a couple of minutes before midday on Monday at Cardio-Vascular Institute, Suhrawardy Hospital. He was 74.

A bachelor, Khan A. Sabur, President of Bangladesh Muslim League, was admitted to Cardio-Vascular Institute, Suhrawardy Hospital, on January 18 following acute heart trouble with bronchial asthma.

His condition remained serious ever since.

The body of the late leader was taken to his Dhanmandi residence from the hospital in the afternoon. According to Muslim League source the body will be flown to his home town Khulna this (Tuesday) morning where Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at Circuit House Maidan after Zohr prayer.

The body will be brought  
Contd. on page 3 col. 3

Youngsters killed in Manila  
nema stampede

by flash floods from a two-  
four downpour. The normally  
bed of the Leitchard river  
turned into a raging torrent  
after the storm dumped about  
inches (6 cms) of rain.  
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