

Life-sketch of ministers

Following are the life-sketches of ministers who were sworn on Friday as members of President's new Council of Ministers, according to BSS.

Prof M.A. Matin, was born in Pabna on 1 December, 1937. He had his early education in his home town, Sirajgonj. He graduated from the Dacca Medical College in 1960.

Prof Matin left for the United Kingdom in 1963 for higher studies in ophthalmology. In 1964, he got his diploma from London, and in 1967 he obtained F.R.C.S. degree in ophthalmology from Edinburgh. He was the first Muslim from Bangladesh after Dr T Ahmed to obtain this distinction in England.

Prof Matin worked as Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the Institute of Post-Graduate Medicine and Research, Dacca. In 1972, he was promoted to the post of Professor of Ophthalmology at the same Institute and became Head of its department of Ophthalmology. In 1976, he was offered the rank and status of an Honorary Colonel and became Consultant Ophthalmologist at the Combined Military Hospital, Dacca. Prof Matin was also a consultant at the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh and Dacca Shishu (Children's) Hospital.

Prof Matin is intimately connected with many professions and social activities. He was the Secretary-General and President of Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh. He was also the President of Bangladesh Medical Services Association. He is an Honorary Fellow of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Bangladesh and is now President of the College.

He was also the Vice-Chairman of the Bangladesh Medical Research Council. He was elected as Secretary-General of the Bangladesh National Society for the Blind, a national voluntary organisation engaged in the work of prevention of blindness. Prof Matin was a Rotarian as well as an Honorary Lion.

Prof Matin attended a number of international seminars

outside the country and has got more than twenty publications at home and abroad. He is the first recipient of Ali Memorial Gold Medal for outstanding voluntary social works in ophthalmology.

He was appointed Deputy Adviser for Health and Population Control in 1978 and was later appointed Minister of State for Health and Population Control.

He was elected Member of the Parliament from Pabna-2 Constituency in 1979 general elections as BNP candidate. In the new Cabinet, Prof Matin was appointed Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism. He was appointed Minister for Health and Population Control later in the same year.

Prof Matin is married. His wife, Dr Mrs Tashmina Matin, is a gynaecologist. They have two sons and one daughter.

L. K. SIDDIQUI

Mr Abul Hasnat Lutful Kabir Siddiqui son of late Abul Mansur Luthfe Ahmad Siddiqui was born on 15 April, 1939 at village south Rahmatnagar under Sitakunda P.S. in Chittagong district. He graduated in civil engineering from the Ahsanullah Engineering College in 1961.

From 1961 to 1966, he worked with a construction firm and was involved in the construction of many important projects including Chittagong Steel Mills.

From 1966 to 1970 Mr Siddiqui worked as an expert with a UN team for low cost housing in Libya.

He was elected the Parliament from Sitakunda-Mirsarai constituency of Chittagong as a nominee of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

He is member, Chittagong Development Authority, Chittagong District Agriculture Committee, Chittagong City Metropolitan Committee and Chairman, Advisory Committee of the Chittagong Medical College Hospital. He is also member of the BNP labour consultative committee.

He represented Bangladesh in the 34th General Assembly session of the United Nations in 1980.

Mr Siddiqui is life fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh and represented the country in (a) Commonwealth Engineer Conference in London in 1973, (b) 4th General Assembly of the World Federation of Engineering Organisation, in New York in 1973 and (c) 33rd and 55th annual convention of the Institution of Engineers, India in 1973 and 1975.

He is actively associated with Dacca Shishu Hospital, Chittagong Shishu Hospital, Bangladesh National Society for the Blind, Chittagong Diabetic Association and Rotary Club of Chittagong.

ABDUR RAHMAN

Mr. Abdur Rahman Biswas was born in September, 1926 in an old respectable Muslim family at Shaistabad, Barisal.

He had his early education in Barisal Zilla School. He obtained B. A. (Hons), M. A. and LLB degree from Dacca University. He actively participated in the Language Movement.

He joined the Barisal Bar in 1955 and was enrolled as an advocate of the High Court bar in 1959. Right from the beginning, he was actively associated with various social activities. He was elected vice-chairman of Barisal Central Co-operative Bank, Chairman, Barisal Islamia Urban Co-operative Bank, Co-operative Union for several times, since 1955. He founded a large number of educational institutions including Shaistab High School, Charbaria High School, Barisal College, Barisal Law College and has been associated with all educational institutions that came into existence after 1960.

He was recognised by the then government as a "veteran social worker" published in the Dacca Gazette in 1960. He was elected member of East Pakistan Provincial Assembly in 1962 and 1965. He was Parliamentary Secretary to the then government of East Pakistan for Finance, Planning, Service and General Administration and Education for sometime. He was also chairman of the standing committee for Law and Parliamentary Affairs.

Mr. Rahman was member of the 10-member delegations of Pakistan to the UNO in 1967.

He was the important member of Pakistan Central Jute Committee. He was also a director of the then provincial Bank. He was elected President of Barisal Bar in 1974 against Awami League nominee reelected in 1976, vice-president of Jatiya Anijibi Samity.

He was elected chairman of Barisal Pourasabha in 1977, Chairman of Chairman's Association, Bakerganj. He visited U.S.A. some European and Far-Eastern countries. He joined Jatiyatabadi Ganatantrik Dal led by President Justice Abdus Sattar. He was a member of the

central committee and Convenor of Bakerganj administration district committee.

During presidential election of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman in 1978 he was the chairman of the Barisal District front. He became a member of the first BNP central committee, convenor of Barisal Sadar (S) political district committee. He was elected Member of National Parliament from Barisal in 1979. He became Juste Minister during late President Zia's tenure.

He is Chairman of Agrani Bank and also Chairman of 'estimates committee' of the Parliament.

KAMRUN NAHAR ZAFAR

Mrs. Kamrun Nahar Zafar was born at Banskhal in Chittagong on 7 September 1939. She is the daughter of late Khan Sahib Alhaj Rafiq Ahmed, a retired Conservator of Forests and the widow of late Dr. A. K. M. Abu Zafar.

Mrs Zafar was Secretary of the Chittagong Mahila Awami League from 1967 to 1972 and President of the same from 1973 to 1975. She was General Secretary of Chittagong Mahila Samity in 1958. She was also a District Commissioner of Girls Guide Association, Chittagong.

Mrs Zafar was elected member of the Jatiya Sangsad against a seat reserved for the women. She was appointed as a Deputy Minister on 15 April, 1979.

ABDUS SALAM

Prof. Abdus Salam was born on 11 January, 1942 at village Nayabil under Nalitabari P.S. of Jamalpur district.

He was educated at Taraganj High School, Nalitabari, Dacca College and Dacca University. He took his B.A. (Hons.) in Economics, M.A. and LL.B. degrees in 1962, 1963 and 1977 respectively. He served as Professor of Economics in Asheq Mahmud College, Jamalpur, and Gouripur College, Mymensingh, during 1964-70.

Prof. Abdus Salam joined politics in 1970. He was elected a Member of Parliament in the general elections of 1979 as an independent candidate and later joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). He was sworn in as Deputy Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs on 25 April, 1980. He continued in this capacity till November 27 when he was sworn in afresh as Deputy Minister, in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Prof. Abdus Salam is deeply interested in social, cultural, educational and welfare activities. He is founder of Nayabil High School, Nalitabari, and Chatkia Primary School, Nalitabari and President of Nalitabari Thana Krira-O-Sanskriti Sangstha. He is a life member of Red Cross Society.

Prof. Abdus Salam is married. The Salam's have four sons. His hobbies include sports and drama.