

Life sketch of Mirza Hafiz

Mirza Golam Hafiz, who was sworn in as Speaker of the Parliament, was born in Dinajpur in 1920. He did his M.A. in Economics from University of Calcutta in 1941 and B.L. from Dacca University in 1948.

Mirza Golam Hafiz took active part in politics from his boyhood. He joined All-India Muslim League Federation in 1939. He went to Dibrugarh (Assam) to participate in the anti-line movement launched by Moulana Bhashani and was imprisoned. He was Naib-Salab Suba of Muslim National Guard of the then Bengal from 1946 to 1947.

Mirza Hafiz, who was associated with the then East Pakistan Civil Liberties League as its Secretary General from 1948 to 1958, participated in the language movement in 1952 and anti-Government movement in 1954 for which he was jailed on both the occasions.

He was a member of the then East Pakistan Provincial Assembly from 1954 to 1958 and took active part in the parliamentary activities. Because of his point of order, the then Abu Hussain Sarker Government could not place budget resulting in the fall of its Government in 1958. He was the founder-member and Treasurer of Ganotartrik Dal.

An eminent lawyer, Mirza Hafiz was the Vice-President of the then East Pakistan Bar Council and twice Vice-President of the then All-Pakistan Bar Council. He also the President of the Supreme Bar Association in 1973.

Mirza Hafiz is actively associated with a number of social and law organisations. He is now President of Bangladesh-China Maitri Samity and was a member of the Dacca University Senate. He was President of Dacca Chamber of Commerce in 1976 and President of Ramna Lions Club in 1976-77.

He was a member of Bangladesh delegation to the UN session of 1975 and attended a number of law conferences held in Tokyo, Manila, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Brussels, Rome, Paris, Grenobles, Peking, Moscow and other places. He visited 57 countries of the world including China, Soviet Union, Egypt, Malaysia, North Korea and Latin American and African countries. He participated in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in London in 1958. Later in 1968, he attended the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Conference in Cairo. Recently he visited China at the head of a Bangladesh goodwill mission to that country.

Married to Dr Mrs Abeda Hafiz an ADPI in the Education Directorate. Mirza Hafiz has one son and three daughters.

SULTAN

Barrister Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury, who was sworn in on Monday as Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, was born in Choudhurypara, Halishahar, Chittagong.

He did his M.A. in Political Science from Dacca University and Bar-at-Law from Lincoln's Inn.

Barrister Chowdhury took active part in politics from his boyhood and participated in the independence movement during the British rule. He was Joint Secretary of East Pakistan Muslim Student's League. In 1946 he took part in the movement for release of Capt. Shahnawaz and others of Indian National Army (INA).

He also actively participated in the referendum of Sylhet and was associated with the Language Movement.

Mr Chowdhury, a forerunner of the democratic movement in the country, was member of the executive committee of the National Democratic Front, formed in 1962 under the leadership of late Hussein Shaheed Suhrawardy.

Barrister Chowdhury, an eminent lawyer and a eloquent orator, was a member of the convening committee of Jatiyatabadi Ganotartrik Dal.

Mr Chowdhury, a widely travelled man, was elected Member of Parliament on Bangladesh Nationalist Party ticket in the last general election.