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Life-sketch of S A Bari AT

The following is the sketch of Mr S A Bari AT, who was sworn in as Deputy Prime Minister on Aug. 23, 1979.

Mr S A Bari AT, third son of late Alhaj Mohammad Tamur, was born in 1927 in Dinajpur. His father was an educationist and a pious Muslim.

An outstanding revolutionary student leader, Mr. Bari played a leading role in 1952 Language Movement and suffered imprisonment for over a year for violating section 144. Immediately after release, he participated in the Dacca University elections and was elected the Vice-President of Dacca Central Student's Union for the year 1953-54.

A pioneer of progressive students' movement in the then East Pakistan, Mr. Bari formed the East Pakistan Students' Union and served as its founder Secretary for a long time. He was the Convenor of the Bandung Students' Conference and East Pakistan Branch of International Students' Union Conference. He also formed the Inter-College Students' Organisation comprising all the colleges of the then East Pakistan.

In 1954, he was again arrested and jailed for his protest against the promulgation of 92-A. In 1969 he joined the historic mass movement and actively participated in mobilising and organising public opinion against the then Government.

Later, Mr. Bari joined the National Awami Party of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani and played a leading role in all progressive movements for realising the demands of the toiling masses under the leadership of Maulana Bhashani. During the Farakka Long March, Mr. Bari was assigned the responsibility of organising the whole of northern region to make the 'March' a success.

After the death of Maulana Bhashani, he became the Secretary-General of the party.

During the liberation war, he organised the Dinajpur Sangram Parishad and built up a strong resistance throughout the whole of northern districts. He was in charge of Dalingar on Muktibahini Camp and relief operation in India.

After the liberation he joined the Jatiyatabadi Front and became a member of its Steering Committee. In June, 1978, he joined the Council of Ministers and assumed the charge of the Ministry of Manpower Development and Social Welfare.

In 1979, he participated in the General Elections as a nominee of the Jatiyatabadi Dal and was elected as member of the Jatiya Parishad from Dinajpur B.

A pioneer of leftist movement in the subcontinent, Mr. Bari opposed colonialism and imperialism from the beginning of his political career.

Mr. Bari started his career as a lawyer in Dinajpur in 1961. He was Secretary of Dinajpur District Lawyers Association and the founder Secretary of Dinajpur Law College.

He travelled extensively the Middle East countries and many other places in Asia, Africa and Europe.

He was sworn-in as Deputy Prime Minister on 23 August 1979 and retained the portfolio of the Ministry of Manpower Development and Social Welfare.