

Introducing the Caretaker Government

Following are the profiles of the members of the Advisory Council of the Caretaker Government appointed on April 3, 1996.

Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed



Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed

Born in January 1932, Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed received his early education in Hill, west Dinajpur and thereafter in Calcutta. He passed his matriculation and intermediate examinations from the Mymensingh Zilla School and Dhaka College respectively. He received his B A (Hons) degree in Economics from Dhaka University. Ahmed obtained MA degree in Economics from Dhaka University and stood first in order of merit.

Ahmed was called to the bar from the Lincoln's Inn in February, 1958. He also received his M Sc degree in Economics from the London School of Economics.

Ahmed's career as a legal practitioner began with his enrollment in August 1958 in the erstwhile High Court of East Pakistan. His practice in law has been continuing since then with an expertise built in constitutional corporate and civil law. His career as one of the leading lawyers of the country is well evidenced in the numerous reports of cases in which he has

appeared over the past four decades. Among the most noteworthy of these is the case of Anwar Hossain, Bangladesh in which Ahmed appeared as the leading counsel. Considered a landmark case in the field of constitutional law. It was in this case that the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution of Bangladesh was declared 'ultra vires' to the Constitution.

Ahmed was also the Chairman of the Company Law Reform Committee and prepared the report and recommendations for reform of the Companies Act 1813.

Ahmed was Additional Attorney General and Attorney General in 1972 and 1976. He was President of the Supreme Court Bar Association for two terms, in 1978-79 and in 1989-90. He was also Member of the Bangladesh Bar Council from 1979-1982 and 1989-1992.

Ahmed represented Bangladesh in the UN General Assembly in 1978 and has attended numerous international law conferences. He has served as a member of international observer team responsible on various occasions to monitor elections in South Asian countries such as the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Along with the reports prepared for such observer missions, Ahmed had frequently written on matters of constitutional importance, which were published in the law journals, newspapers and periodicals of the country.

Ahmed is married to National Professor Dr. Sofia Ahmed. They have two children, a son and a daughter.

Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed was appointed an Adviser to the Caretaker Government on April 3, 1996 and given the charge of Ministries of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives.

Professor Muhammad Yunus



Professor Muhammad Yunus

Professor Muhammad Yunus, born in Chittagong on June 28, 1940 has an illustrious academic career. Son of a renowned businessman Haji Muhammad Dula Mia, Muhammad Yunus passed SSC in 1955 from Chittagong College School, HSC from Chittagong College in 1957, BA (Hons) in Economics from the University of Dhaka in 1960 and MA from the same University in 1961. He got PhD in Economics from Vanderbilt University, USA in 1970.

Prof Yunus started his professional career as lecturer in Chittagong College in 1963.

He worked in the capacity of a Deputy Chief in the General Economics Division of Planning Commission. He was Professor of Economics in Chittagong University and Director of the Rural Economics Programme, Chittagong from 1975 to 1989.

Prof Yunus is widely acclaimed in home and abroad as the founder of Grameen Bank. He is a member of the International

Advisory Group for the World Conference on Women in Beijing during 1993-95, the Global Commission on Women's Health 1993-95, the Advisory Council for Sustainable Economic Development since 1993 and the UN Experts Group on Women and Finance. In past he served in many committees and commissions on education, population, health, disaster prevention, banking and development programmes.

Prof. Yunus received a good number of national and international awards like Magsaysay Award in 1984, Aga Khan Awards, 1989, King Baudouin Foundation Award (92) from Belgium, Humanitarian Award from CARE, USA; Mohamed Shabdeen Award (93) from Sri Lanka; and the World Food Prize by World Food Prize Foundation (94) from US. Dr Yunus also received the President's Award (78), Central Bank Award (85) and Independence Day Award (87).

A widely travelled man, Prof Yunus visited many countries of the world including USA, UK, Canada, France, Switzerland and Belgium.

Prof Yunus is married to Professor Afrozi Yunus, Head of the Department of Physics, Jahangirnagar University. He is a father of a daughter.

He was appointed the Adviser of the Caretaker Government on March 3, 1996 and given the charge of the Ministries of Science and Technology, Primary and Mass Education Division and the Environment and Forest.

Syed Manzur Elahi



Syed Manzur Elahi

Syed Manzur Elahi was born in Calcutta on February 26, 1942. His father Late Sir Syed Nasim Ali was Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court in 1946.

Elahi obtained M A degree in Economics from Dhaka University in 1964. He served in Pakistan Tobacco Co. Ltd from 1965 to 1972.

Elahi is the founder chairman of Apex Tannery Group and Pioneer Insurance Co Ltd. He was President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Bangladesh Employers' Association. He served as Director in Export Promotion Bureau, Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Sonali Bank and Member of Executive Committee of Finished Leather Exporters Association. He widely travelled many countries of the world.

Elahi is father of one son and one daughter. His wife is a teacher of Sunbeam School in Dhaka.

Elahi has been appointed Adviser to the Caretaker Government on April 3, 1996 and took over the charge of the Ministries of Communications, Shipping, Civil Aviation and Tourism, Post and Telecommunications and Housing and Works.

Dr Najma Chowdhury



Dr Najma Chowdhury

Dr Najma Chowdhury was born on February 26, 1942 in Sylhet. She had a brilliant academic career securing first class in both BA honours and MA in Political Science from Dhaka University in 1961 and 1962 respectively. She obtained Ph.D from London University in 1972. She joined the Department of Political Science in Dhaka University in 1963 and held the post of chairperson of the same department from 1984 to 1987.

Dr Najma Chowdhury has been involved in various socio-economic activities relating to women development. She was Chairperson of Bangladesh National Preparatory Committee, Beijing NGO Forum '95 and its Steering Committee from January 1994 to January 1995. She participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in December 1995. She also took part in various other international seminars, symposia and conferences on women, education etc. She attended sessions of

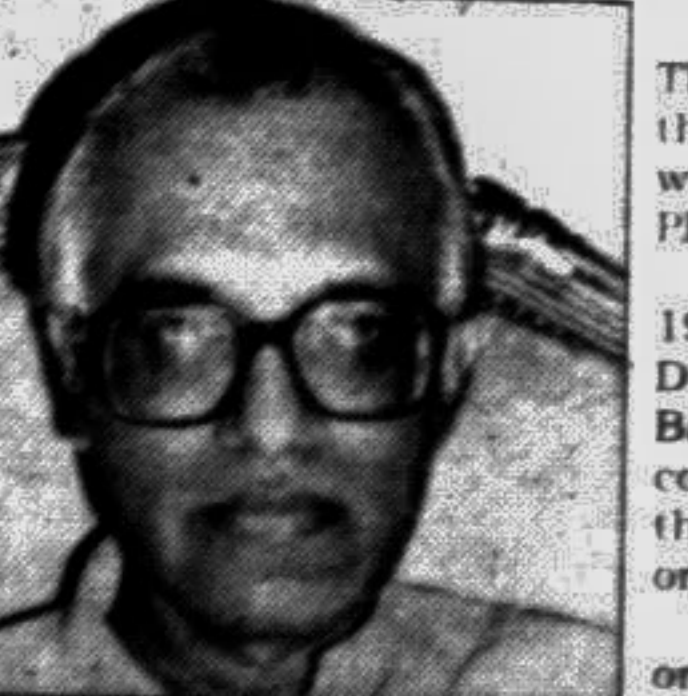
UN General Assembly in 1978 and 1986 as member of the Bangladesh delegation. She received the Victoria Schuck Award of the American Political Science Association in 1995 for her publication 'Women and Politics Worldwide', co-edited with Prof. Barbara Nelson and published by Yale University Press.

Dr Najma Chowdhury has to her credit a large number of research publications on women and gender issues. She also prepared and presented important papers on women in various national and international conferences, seminars and symposia in different times.

She is the daughter of late CI Zaman and late Amirunnessa Khatun. Her husband is Justice Maimur Reza Chowdhury of the High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court. She has two daughters.

Professor Chowdhury was appointed the adviser to the Caretaker Government on April 3, 1996. She was given the charge of Ministries of Labour and Manpower, Social Welfare, Women and Children's Affairs.

Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud



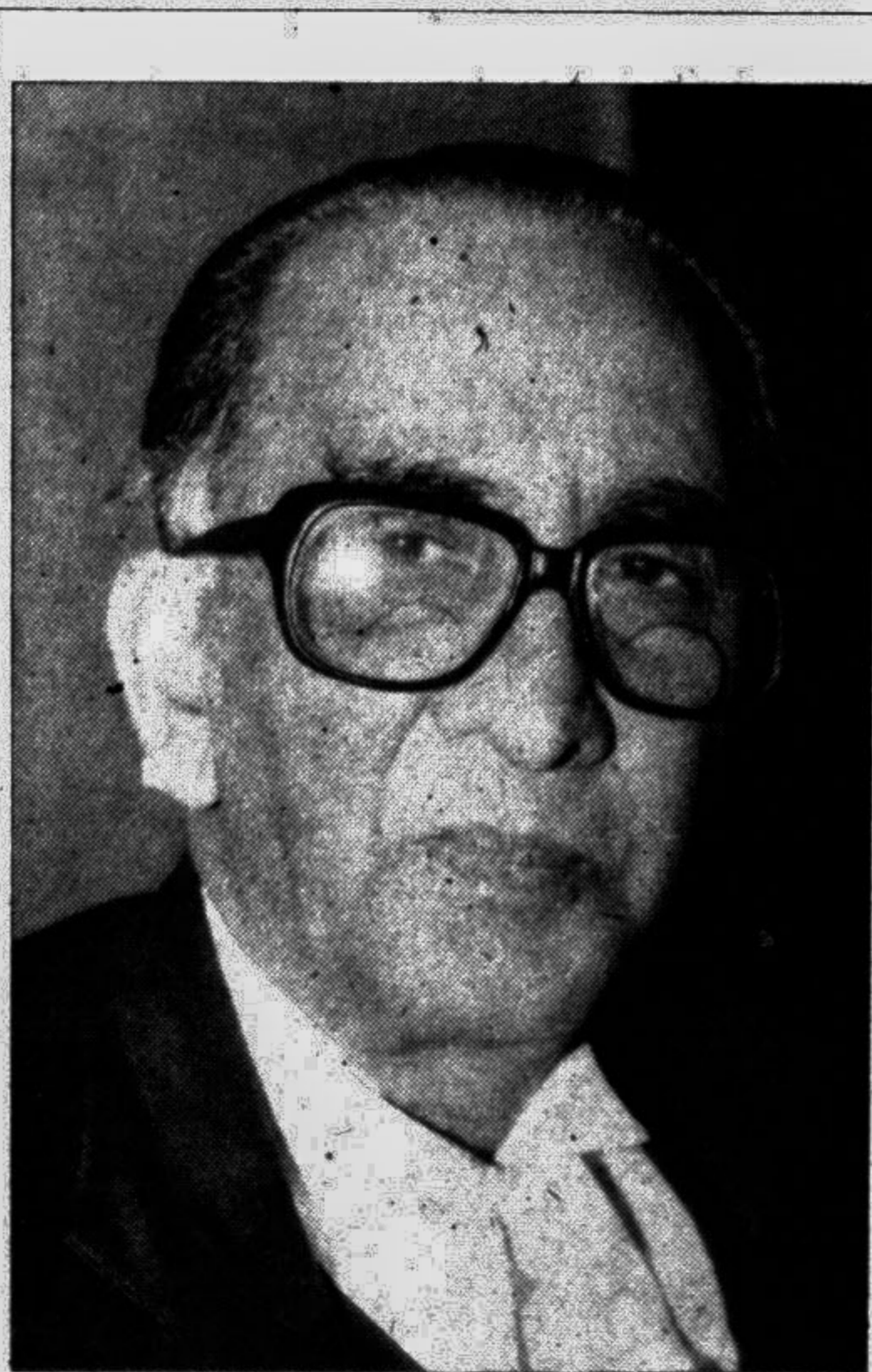
Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud

Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud was born in Noakhali in 1948. Throughout his student life, he stood first in order of merit in all the examinations from the Secondary to the Master's level and was awarded several gold medals and other prizes. He obtained PhD in Economics from Cambridge University in 1978.

He joined the Economics Department of Dhaka University in 1969 and became a Professor in 1984 and the Chairman of the Department in 1994. He is currently the President of the Bangladesh Economic Association. He led many task forces and committees of the government from time to time and has been on the governing bodies of a number of research and development organisations.

He has worked in various capacities in many international organisations and foreign universities. He has numerous research publications in a wide range of topics related to economic development and planning.

Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud was appointed the Adviser to the Caretaker Government on April 3, 1996 and was given the charge of the Ministries of Finance and Planning.



Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman

Following is the life sketch of the Chief Adviser Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman.

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, the eldest son of Moulvi Zahiruddin Biswas and Gul Habiba, was born on May 1, 1930 in his maternal grand father's home in the village Dayarampur of Jingipur, sub-division, Murshidabad.

He was educated in Calcutta, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Oxford and London. He passed matriculation (1945) and IA (1947) in first division. He stood first in the first class in his honours (1950) and MA in History (1951). He studied Modern History in Worcester College Oxford (1956-1959) and was called to the English bar in 1959 from the Society of Lincoln's Inn, London.

He taught history and law in the University of Dhaka and the University of Rajshahi for about 5 years.

He was the Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1961 and Reader in History in 1964 at the Rajshahi University.

He was enrolled as an advocate of the High Court in 1964 and of the Supreme Court in 1969.

He was Assistant Advocate General for same time in 1969.

He was elected Vice-President, High Court Bar Association in 1972 and member of Bangladesh Bar Council the same year.

He was elevated to the bench as a judge of the High Court Division on May 8, 1976 and to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on December 26, 1985. He was appointed Chief Justice on February 1, 1995 and retired on April 30, 1995.

He acted as the Chief Justice from December 6, 1990 to October 9, 1991 in place of Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, who was then the acting President.

Publications: Taking a cue from Glanville Williams book learning the law he introduced himself to the bar by writing a short commentary on the law of requisition (1966). Excepting conference lectures and papers his other writings, all in Bangla, have little to do with law.

Justice Rahman wrote or compiled four books on Rabindranath Tagore, Matribhashar Sapakshay Rabindranath (Tagore for mother tongue) (2nd edition 1995), Rabindra Prabhendhy Songya O Parthakyabichar (Definitions and Differentiations in Tagore's and Eassays) 2nd edition (1995), Rabindra Rachanar Rabindra Byakhya (Tagore on Tagore) 1996, and Rabindrabakkay Art, Sangeet O Sahitya (Tagore on Art, Music and Literature) 1986.

His introduction of the history of Bangladesh, Gangaridhi Theke Bangladesh, (from Gangaridhi to Bangladesh) has run for the third print. His Jathashabda (right word) is the first saurus in Bangla.

His compilation, the Quaransutra (2nd edition 1930), a reference again and first of its kind in Bangla, arranged alphabetically, on different subjects mentioned in the.

He received Bangla Academy Literary Award and is a fellow of the Academy.

He is a member of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh and the Institute of Law and International Affairs.

He attended a number of conference and colloquium on law and human rights in Sao Paulo, Kuala Lumpur, Burlington, Vermont, Athens, Georgia, Wye Woods Maryland, USA Oxford, UK and New Delhi.

He represented the Chief Justice of Bangladesh in the 4th conference of the Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific in Perth, Australia (1991) and the fourth Commonwealth Chief Justices Conference in Abuza, Nigeria (1992). He visited a number of the superior corps in the USA and UK.

He is married to Islama Rahman and they have three daughters.

Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury

Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury was born on April 15, 1942 in Sylhet town. He received his BSC degree in civil engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 1963.

He joined the civil engineering department of BUET the same year as lecturer. He went to England in 1964 under a scholarship to receive higher education and obtained "advanced structural engineering" degree from Southampton University in 1965. From 1965 to 1968 he researched on multi-storey buildings technology and obtained his Ph.D from the same university.

Prof Reza was appointed professor of BUET in 1976. He was chairman of civil engineering department during 1978-79 and 1981-82. He was also faculty dean during 1983-85. He was the director of BUET computer centre from 1982 to 1992.

He joined as visiting associate professor at Surrey University in UK under a commonwealth academic staff fellowship in 1974. He has published over 50 articles in different international journals on multi-storey building, low cost housing, anti-earthquake designs, and master-plan on cyclone shelter construction.

He is a fellow of Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) and Institute of Civil Engineers, UK. He was also the president of IEB during 1992-93. He is a member of the panel of experts of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project.

He worked as the team leader of multipurpose cyclone shelter construction programme and formulated a masterplan on cyclone shelters.

Prof Reza is a widely travelled man. He was appointed the adviser to the caretaker government on April 3 and his current portfolio is Power, energy and mineral resources ministry and water resources ministry.



Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury

Shegufta Bakht Chaudhuri

Born in Habiganj in 1931, Shegufta Bakht Chaudhuri (S B Chaudhuri) obtained his honours degree in Economics from Dhaka University. Later, he obtained MPA degree from Harvard University, USA. Chaudhuri joined the Central Superior Services in 1955 and served in various capacities, including Chief Controller of Imports and Exports in erstwhile Pakistan. After Liberation, he served as Director General, Export Promotion Bureau, Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce Secretary, Petroleum and Mineral Resources Division, Secretary, Internal Resources Division and Chairman, National Board of Revenue. He was appointed Governor of Bangladesh Bank in 1987 and remained there until completion of his tenure in December 1992.

After retirement, Chaudhuri became associated with The Daily Star newspaper as a columnist and wrote a regular weekly article under the by-line "ALONG MY WAY" for more than two years. He has also worked as Adviser, The City Bank, Dhaka.

Chaudhuri has widely travelled and represented Bangladesh in international organisation, such as UNCTAD, GATT, ITC, ESCAP, IMF, etc.

He is married with two children.

S B Chaudhuri was appointed the Adviser to the Caretaker Government on April 3, 1996 and given the charge of the Ministries of Industries, Jute, Textiles and Commerce.



Shegufta Bakht Chaudhuri

AZM Nasiruddin

A Z M Nasiruddin was born in Chittagong in 1938. He passed matriculation examination from Habilashdwp High School and was placed in first division in 1954, passed I A from Chittagong College in 1956 and secured 14th position in order of merit. He studied history in the University of Dhaka. He passed honours examination securing the first position in the first class in 1959 and received Master's degree in 1960, topping the list in the second class. He started career as a lecturer of history in the University of Dhaka in 1960 and joined Civil Service of Pakistan as the SDO of Bhoala in 1965.

During his career he worked in various capacities in different ministries and departments of the government and retired as a Secretary to the Government in 1995. He was Secretary of Fisheries and Livestock, Land, Information and Jute. Before joining as an Advisor of the Caretaker Government he was the Managing Director of the Grameen Matshya Foundation.

Nasiruddin was given the charge of Ministries of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Livestock and Disaster Management and Relief and Land.



AZM Nasiruddin

Professor Md Shamsul Huq

Professor Md Shamsul Huq was born on June 1 in 1926 in a respectable Muslim family of Pashapur village under Laksam Thana of Comilla district. His father Munshi Hossain-uddin was an Islamic thinker.

Professor Shamsul Huq passed matriculation examinations with letter in five subjects and star marks from Comilla Zilla School in 1944 and I Sc in first division from Calcutta Presidency College in 1946. He secured the top position both in B Sc and M Sc examinations held under the University of Dhaka in 1949 and 1950 respectively. He did M Sc from McGill University of Montreal, Canada in 1958 and obtained PhD in Physics from the Leeds University of U K in 1965.

Professor M Shamsul Huq started his teaching career as a Lecturer in Physics in the University of Dhaka in 1952. Before joining as Vice Chancellor of the University of Dhaka in 1983, he worked with credit in various capacities as Lecturer, Reader, Chairman, Director and Researcher in different Faculties of Science in the Universities of Dhaka and Chittagong during his long teaching career of 30 years.

He held the office of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka till 1986. Professor Shamsul Huq assumed the office of Chairman of the Bangladesh University Grants Commission in 1991 and continued till 1996.

Professor Shamsul Huq had, to his credit, a good number of publications which include three books, twenty five research papers and fifty general articles. These publications earned him laurels from home and abroad. He has taken initiative to establish a University at Lalmai in Comilla to run on new system.

He is married and has two sons and a daughter.

Professor M Shamsul Huq was sworn appointed as the Adviser to the caretaker government on April 3, 1996. He was given the charge of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.



Professor Md Shamsul Huq

Dr Abdur Rahman Khan

Major General (Retd) Dr Abdur Rahman Khan was born in 1928 in Shinepukur village under Dohar thana of Dhaka district. He received his MBBS degree in 1951 from Calcutta medical college.

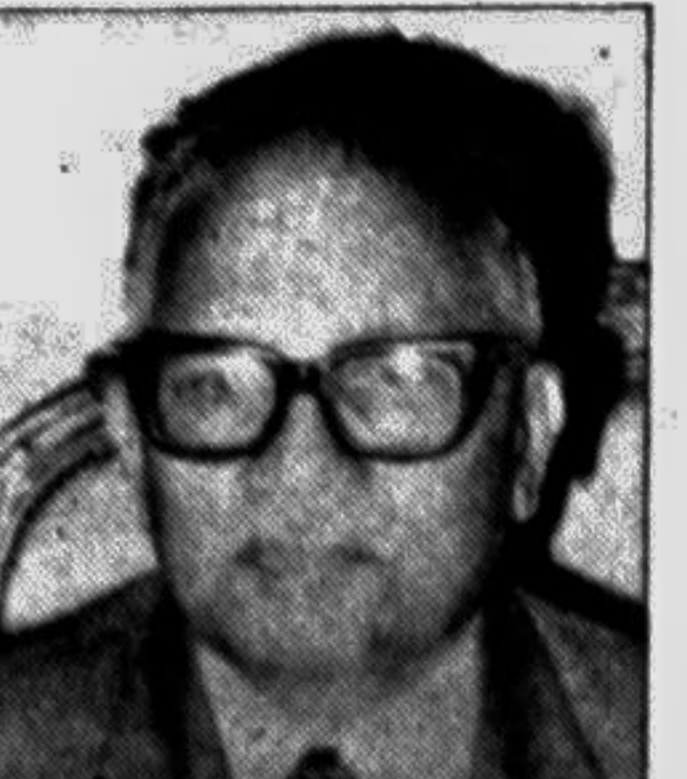
In the same year he joined Army's Medical Corps. Khan, then a Major General, joined the Armed Forces Medical Service as the Director General in 1962. After retiring from the army in 1965 he joined BARDEM as Director General and Chief Consultant. Since 1993 he has been serving as the Chief Consultant of BARDEM.

In 1964 Khan received his MRCP degree from London and Glasgow. In 1984 he received FRCP and FCPS degrees (Medicine) from London. For a few years Khan served as the Chairman of Glaxo Company in Bangladesh.

Khan is a life-member and former Chairman of Red Crescent Society. He is a founder member of the National Heart Foundation and Kidney Foundation and President of Bangladesh Endocrine Society. He founded a college named Padma in his home village and was engaged in many other development works and social services.

General Khan is married. He is a father of two sons and a daughter.

General Khan was appointed adviser to the Caretaker Government on April 3, 1996 and his current portfolio is Health and Family Planning and Religion Ministries.



Dr Abdur Rahman Khan