

Prime Minister and her Cabinet: Profiles

Shah AMS Kibria

Minister for Finance



Shah AMS Kibria was born on 1 May 1931. He passed BA (Hons) in Economics in 1952 and MA in Economics in 1953, from the University of Dhaka obtaining first class first in both the examinations. He joined the Language Movement of February 1952 and suffered imprisonment.

He stood first in the Pakistan Central Superior Services Examination in 1954. He joined the Pakistan Foreign Service in October 1954. He received training at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston and at the British Foreign Office in London. He also received French language training in Paris.

After completing training he served between 1957 and 1970 at diplomatic missions in Calcutta, Cairo and New York; Director, Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) Secretariat in Teheran, Jakarta, Indonesia as Counsellor, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad; Pakistan Embassy, Washington DC.

He joined the Bangladesh Liberation War and left the Pakistan Embassy on 4 August 1971, organized the Bangladesh Mission in Washington and mobilized public opinion in favour of Bangladesh Liberation War.

He worked there till January 1972 when he was recalled to Dhaka to join as the Director-General for Political Affairs in the newly established Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Kibria was promoted to the rank of Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 11 March 1972 and entrusted with the task of organizing the Ministry and the Bangladesh embassies abroad. Upon completion of the task he was appointed in January 1973 as High Commissioner to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

In February 1976 he was appointed Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN at Geneva. While serving there he was elected Chairman of the Group of 77 and Chairman of the UNCTAD Committee on Shipping.

Kibria was appointed Foreign Secretary in September 1978 and served in that capacity until April 1981.

He was appointed Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, on 1 May 1981 and served in that capacity until 31 March 1992.

Kibria was appointed a member of the Advisory Council of the Bangladesh Awami League in September 1992. He was appointed Political Adviser to the President of Awami League in 1994. He was appointed Minister for Finance on 23 June 1996.

Kibria wrote a regular weekly column 'On the Record' in a local English daily. He also contributes to an English weekly in Dhaka and Bengali language daily newspapers. His hobbies are Music, Golf and Fishing. He married in 1954 and has a son and a daughter. His wife Asma Kibria, is a noted painter who held eight solo exhibitions of her paintings in Bangladesh and abroad.

Abdus Samad Azad

Minister for Foreign Affairs



Born January 15, 1926 in Bhurakhali village under Jagannathpur thana of Sunamganj district. Abdus Samad Azad passed the Matriculation examination in 1943 from Sunamganj Government High School after completing primary education from his village primary school.

His father late Mohammad Shariatullah was a distinguished social worker of the locality.

He graduated from Sylhet Muriar College in 1948. Thereafter, he pursued studies in law and history at the Dhaka University.

Samad Azad entered student politics in 1940 as President of Sunamganj Muslim Students Federation and was arrested by the British rulers. He was President of Sylhet District Muslim Students Federation from 1944 to 1948. In 1954 he was elected member of the then Provincial Assem-

bly as a nominee of the United Front. He was elected member of the Pakistan National Assembly in 1970. After Independence of Bangladesh, Samad Azad emerged victorious from two constituencies of Sunamganj in the Jatiya Sangsad election of 1973.

In 1954 the central government of Pakistan issued warrant of arrest against him and attached his property. He was arrested again in 1956 on charge of association with the police strike in the then East Pakistan. Samad Azad was arrested again in 1958 after imposition of the Martial Law by Ayub Khan. He was released in 1962. He was again arrested in 1964 while facing a communal riot.

He was taken prisoner along with the four national leaders after the killing of Bangabandhu and his family members on August 15, 1975. Afterwards, the four national leaders were killed in custody and Samad Azad was sentenced to imprisonment by a military court. But he was released from jail after five years under the pressure of political movement. He had played a significant role as a policy-maker in various movements and struggles.

He served as Acting President of the then East Pakistan Jubo League in 1953, Labour Secretary of Awami League during 1955-57, Political Advisor of the provisional government of Bangladesh at Mujibnagar during the Liberation War. He led Bangladesh government delegation to the World Peace Conference in Budapest, Hungary in 1971.

Samad Azad was elected Member of the Jatiya Sangsad from Sunamganj-3 constituency in the general election of February 27, 1991. As the chief coordinator of the combined opposition, Samad Azad led the movement for caretaker government. He was elected member of the Jatiya Sangsad again in the June 12 election held under the caretaker government.

He is now in the charge of the Foreign Ministry in the cabinet headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He was the first Foreign Minister of the country after the independence in the Council of Ministers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Samad Azad and his wife Nurunnahar Samad are parents of four children.

Maj (retd) Rafiqul Islam BU

Minister for Home Affairs



Sector Commander of Sector-1 in the War of Liberation. Major (retd) Rafiqul Islam, Bir Uttam, was born at Naora village in Shaharshi thana under Chandpur district in September, 1943 in a respectable family. His father, Ashraf Ullah was a graduate during the British period.

In 1956 he passed his SSC exam in first division from the Annada Model High School in Brahmanbaria and passed ISC from Comilla Victoria College. He then started his Honours studies at the DU in Economics. In 1962 he actively participated in the student movement against the then Pakistani president Ayub Khan.

In 1963 he joined the Pakistan Army and was commissioned in 1963 in the Engineering Core. Later he was taken into the Artillery Core. In the beginning of 1970 he joined as the Adjutant at the Chittagong Headquarters of the East Pakistan Rifles.

In 1971, on the night of March 24, he, along with his men, neutralised the Pakistani soldiers in all the border posts of the area. On March 25, he and his men, with the help of the political leaders students and the people occupied the Chittagong city.

He was awarded the highest state award Bir Uttam, given to a living person. On 29 April 1972 he retired from the army. Then he served as the associate editor of a daily called The People's View. He was appointed Chairman of Dhaka WASA in 1977 and remained there until 1981. Later he also served as the Chairman of Handloom Board and the Chairman of BIWTC.

In 1981 he studied Management Development at the Harvard Business School in the USA. He was also the Adviser for Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism in the Caretaker Government in 1990.

In the June 12 elections, nominated by the AL he was elected MP from Chandpur 5. On June 23 he was sworn in as the Home Minister.

Zillur Rahman

Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives

Zillur Rahman was born on March 9, 1929 at Bhoiraj of the Kishoreganj district. His father, late Meher Ali Mia was

a lawyer and the Chairman of the then Mymensingh District Board.

He passed his Matriculation from KB High School Bhoiraj and Intermediate exams from the Dhaka Intermediate College. Later he obtained his MA (Hons) and LLB from the Dhaka University.

He actively participated in the Language Movement of 1952. In 1954, he became the Chairman of the Electoral Committee in Greater Mymensingh during the Juktofront elections. He was also the founder president of Kishoreganj district Awami League. In 1956 he took up the responsibility of the Awami Shechshabek Bahini. In the Sixties he was elected General Secretary of the Dhaka District Lawyers' Association. In 1970 he became the Member of the then 'Pakistan National Parishad (MLA). In 1973 and also in 1986 he was elected Member of the Parliament.

Zillur Rahman was one of the main organisers of the War of Independence. He held high position at the Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra (the radio station during the war of independence) and published a newspaper called 'Joi Bangla'.

In 1972 and '73, he was the Secretary General of the Bangladesh Awami League. He was also a secretary of the Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League in 1975.

After Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated, Zillur Rahman was imprisoned for about four years. In 1986 he was again imprisoned. In 1991, before being elected the Secretary General of the Bangladesh Awami League he was a Presidium Member of the party.



After the June 12 elections, 1996, he was sworn in as Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives.

Tofail Ahmed

Minister for Industries and Commerce

Tofail Ahmed was born in Bhola on October 22, 1943. Son of late Moulavi Azhar Ali, Tofail Ahmed passed SSC in 1960 from Bhola Government High School, BSc from BM College, Barisal in 1964 and MSc in Soil Science from Dhaka University in 1966.

Involved deeply in students' politics from 1960 he was the VP of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) for two terms (1967-68 and 68-69). Also he was elected VP of the then Iqbal Hall (1966-67) and the Department of Soil Science of Dhaka University (1965-66).



The political career of Tofail Ahmed is very eventful. He led All Party Students Sangram Parishad and successfully led the students' movement against Ayub Khan.

He was elected member of Pakistan National Assembly in 1970. He actively took part in the war of liberation in 1971. He was one of the four chiefs who organised the Mujib Bahini.

After the emergence of Bangladesh, he was appointed Political Secretary to Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with the rank of a Minister. He was elected member of the constituent Assembly in 1972 and Member of Parliament in 1973. He was appointed as Special Assistant to the President with the rank and status of a Minister in 1975.

Tofail was imprisoned for 34 months after 1975. Following his release from the prison he became the Organizing Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League. He was imprisoned on four occasions during Ershad regime for taking part in anti-autocratic movement.

He was elected MP in 1968. He was elected MP from two constituencies of Bhola in the general election of June 12, 1996. On June 23, 1996 he was sworn in as Minister for Industries and Commerce.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Sheikh Hasina was born on September 28, 1947 at Tungipara, under Gopalganj district.

She is the eldest daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the Nation and the first democratically elected Head of the State. Her mother was Begum Fazilatunnesa.

In 1968, Sheikh Hasina was married to eminent scientist M A Wazed Miah and they are blessed with a son and a daughter.

After her marriage, Sheikh Hasina continued her studies and she graduated from the University of Dhaka in 1973.

She was actively involved in student politics in her college and university life. Hasina was elected Chief of the Student Union of Eden Girls' College. Later she became a member of the Student League of Dhaka University and its secretary of Rokeya Hall. She was President of Eden Intermediate Girls' College Student League. She actively participated in the mass upsurge of 1969 and at the time of the Liberation War of 1971, she was imprisoned by the Pakistan Occupation Army.

On the fateful night of August 15, 1975 when some disgruntled army officers assassinated the Father of the Nation and elected Head of the State Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, his wife, three sons and all the inmates of his residence, Sheikh Hasina and her only sister Sheikh Rehana survived the carnage as they were then on a visit to West Germany.

Sheikh Hasina was unanimously elected the President of the Awami League in 1981, while she was still in exile. Ending six years in exile, she returned home on May 17, 1981.

In 1992, Sheikh Hasina was once again elected unanimously the president of the party. She converted the historic house 'Bangabandhu Bhaban' into 'Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum'. She also constituted a Trustee Board with herself as its Chairperson.

She is the author of several books including 'The Plight of the Street Children', 'The Origin of Autocracy' and 'Elimination of Poverty and Some Thoughts'. She has written a number of articles on different socio-economic and political issues. She was a founding member of Abahani Krira Chakra, a leading sports club of the country.

She has performed Hajj thrice — in 1985, 1992 and 1996.

As Party Chief, Sheikh Hasina had a ceaseless struggle against the autocratic rulers. During the Ershad regime, she was taken blind-folded to Dhaka Cantonment and was held there for 15 days in February, 1983. She was put under house arrest in February and November, 1984. Again, she was interned for three months in March, 1985. In October 1986, Sheikh Hasina addressed a massive rally in Bogra defying Martial Law regulations. On her way from Bogra to Rajshahi, she was arrested again and forcibly sent to Dhaka. During the movement, on November 10, 1987, when Hasina was leading a demonstration the police fired upon her and tried to lift her car along with her by a crane in front of the National Press Club. But they failed in the face of resistance by the people. On November 27, 1990 Hasina was again interned in Bangabandhu Bhaban following proclamation of Emergency by the Ershad regime. But she was released the same day in the face of a mass upsurge.

Sheikh Hasina survived several attempts on her life. Unidentified gunmen opened fire on her residence several times.

Sheikh Hasina stood against military rule from the day she returned to the country. Her one and half decade-long struggle against military rule was crowned with success when the last military dictator surrendered power in 1990.

In a public meeting in Dhaka on November 6, 1990 Sheikh Hasina announced the constitutional formula for the peaceful transfer of power through Articles 51 and 56 of the Constitution. But it was a matter of great disappointment that her party did not get a majority of the seats in the Parliament in the election in 1991 though it polled more popular votes than any other party.

As Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina always made forceful pleas to uphold the people's interest and the cause of democracy.

Witnessing what happened during by-election under the rule of the BNP she decided to wage a struggle for creating a permanent system which would ensure free and fair elections. She demanded resignation of the BNP government and constitution of a non-party caretaker government to conduct the polls. After a long struggle her dream turned into reality in 1996.

Then Prime Minister Khaleda Zia had to resign and a non-party caretaker government was formed on March 30, 1996.

The achievement of a neutral caretaker government is seen by political observers as a great contribution of Sheikh Hasina to the cause of democracy which may be followed in other Third World countries in the future. About her political objective Sheikh Hasina made it clear time and again that she would continue her struggle until the poor masses achieve their economic emancipation. She says 'The minority rich section of the people must stop exploiting the vast majority.'

ASHK Sadek

Minister for Education, Primary and Mass Education and Science and Technology

ASHK Sadek was born on April 30, 1934 in a renowned Muslim family in Jessore. His father, late Yahia Sadek was a Joint-Commissioner under the united Bengal government.

ASHK Sadek passed his BA with Honours in Economics in 1954 and MA in 1955. He also obtained his MA from the Williams College in the USA. He received training from the Cambridge University, UK and also from Institute of Development Economics in Karachi, Pakistan.

Sadek joined the Civil Service of Pakistan in 1956. In 1970-71 he was awarded fellowship from the Nuffield Foundation in UK. From 1959 to 1961 he was the Sub-divisional Officer (SDO) of Nilphamari and Narayanganj. Between 1966-67 he was the District Commissioner of Comilla and from 1969 to 1970 he was the Secretary of the then Governor of East Pakistan.

Sadek also served as the Secretary of the first Prime Minister of the Independent Bangladesh, late Tajuddin Ahmed. He was the Principal Secretary of the President in 1972. During his services he was the Director of NIPA (National Institute of Public Administration), Secretary of the Industries Ministry, Secretary of the Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ministry and the Secretary of the Defense Ministry.

From 1974 to 1978 he was the Administrative Consultant for UNIDO in Kuala Lumpur. Sadek went into voluntary retirement from government service on March 25, 1988.

After his retirement he joined Awami League and became one of the advisers of the party's chief.

In the 12 June general elections Sadek was elected MP from the Keshobpur seat (Jessore-6). It is noteworthy that for the first time an Awami League candidate was elected from this parliamentary seat.

He was sworn in as the Minister for Education, Primary and Mass Education and Science and Technology on June 23.

Begum Motia Chowdhury

Minister for Agriculture, Food, and Disaster Management and Relief



Begum Motia Chowdhury was born on June 30, 1942 at Nazipur of Pirozpur District. Her father late Mohiuddin Ahmed Chowdhury was a police officer.

Motia Chowdhury played a significant role in anti-Ayub movement and the movement protesting Education Commission in 1962. She was Vice-President of Dhaka Eden Girls College Students Union in 1963. She was also general secretary of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) in 1964-65.

Motia Chowdhury, then popularly known as 'Agni-Kanaya', was the president of the then East Pakistan students union in 1965-66. She was jailed several times between 1967 and 1969 for organising anti-Ayub Movement.

She played a very important role in the war of liberation in 1971.

After the emergence of Bangladesh, Motia Chowdhury became the organising secretary of the National Awami Party. She joined Awami League in 1979.

Motia Chowdhury was a front line leader during the anti-Zia movement from 1976 to 1981. She played very active role in anti-Ershad movement from 1983 to 1990, and was detained as many as eight times.

Motia Chowdhury was elected Member of Parliament in 1991 from Sherpur (Nakla-Nalitabar).

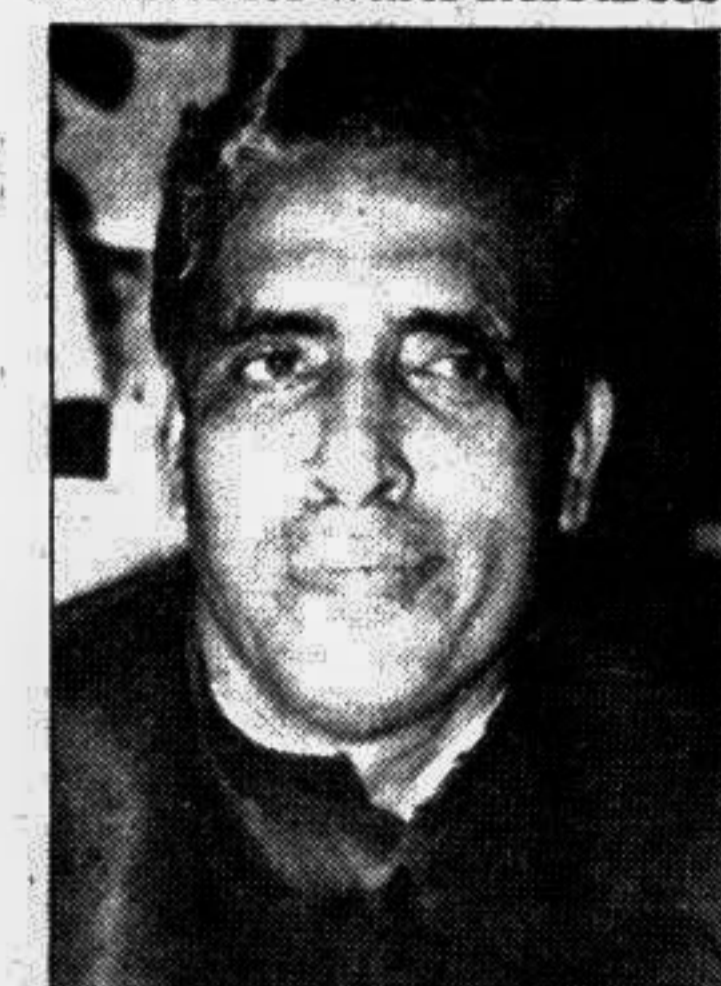
She played a vital role during movement for caretaker government from 1994 to 1996.

Motia Chowdhury was elected MP in the general elections of June 12, 1996 on Awami League ticket. She was later sworn in as Minister for Agriculture, Food and Disaster Management & Relief.

Her spouse Bazur Rahman is Editor-in-charge of a National Bengali Daily.

Abdur Razzaque

Minister for Water Resources



Abdur Razzaque was born in 1942 at Damoidda village under Shariatpur district. His father's name is late Al-Haj Imam Uddin.

He passed his MA with BA Honours in Political Science from DU and later passed LLB. In 1963 he was elected the GS of the Student Sangsad of Fazlul Haque Hall. He was twice the General Secretary of the Bangladesh Chhatra League.

From 1969 until 1975 he was the head of the Awami Shechshabek Bahini and the Organising Secretary of Awami League from 1972 to 1975. In the War of Liberation he played an important role as an organiser and headed the Mujib Bahini.

In 1975 he was the Secretary of the Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League. In 1978 and in 1981 he was elected the General Secretary of the Bangladesh Awami League. At present he is a presidium member of the Bangladesh Awami League. In 1970, he became the Member of the Provincial Council and in 1973 became MP. In 1991 he was elected MP from Madaripur-2 and Shariatpur-3 seats. In the 12 June Parliamentary elections he secured two seats — Shariatpur 1 and 3. In 1994 he was elected Vice Chairman of the United Nations Peace Council. Abdur Razzaque took over the office of the Minister for Water Resources on June 23.

Mohammad Nasim

Minister for Telecommunications.

Mohammad Nasim is the son of late M. Mansoor Ali, who was one of the closest associates of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Mansoor Ali was the Finance Minister of the Mujibnagar Government and the third Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

His paternal home is at Kazipur of Sirajgonj. Born April 2, 1948, Nasim passed intermediate from Pabna Edward College, BA from Jagannath College. He was a student of MA in political science in Dhaka University.

Nasim entered students' politics at his very early youth and organised Chhatra League in Pabna and Sirajgonj.

In 1971, he actively took part in the War of Liberation. He was the Presidium-member and Youth Secretary of Bangladesh Awami Jubo League during 1972-75. He went underground from August 15.

Rob passed I. Com in 1961 and B. Com in 1964 from Noakhali Chomuhani College. He was a student of MA in Bengali Department in DU till 1972.

He was the first Vice-President of Dhaka University Central Student Union (DUCSU) elected through direct voting in 1970. As a leader of the Central Students' Action Committee and DUCSU VP, he hoisted first the National Flag of Bangladesh at DU 'Battala' on March 2, 1971. He is one of the designers of the National Flag. He is also one of those who selected the National Anthem of Bangladesh.

ASM Abdur Rob was one of the organisers of the war of liberation in 1971. He was an instructor in Kalshe and Dehradun (India) training camps of the freedom fighters. He was in charge of the Eastern Sector of BLF (Bengal Liberation Force).

He was one of the founders of JSD (Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal) and the first General Secretary of the Party.

He was sentenced to 10 years RI in 1976 and spent seven years in jail.

Rob became a Member of the Parliament in 1988 for the first time. He became Leader of the Opposition of the fourth Parliament.

In 1991 he was again arrested and was released after 16 months.

He was again elected MP in June 12, 1996 polls and later sworn in as Minister for Shipping.

Anwar Hossain Manju

Minister for Communications

Anwar Hossain Manju was born on 9 February, 1944 at Bhandaria under Pirozpur district.

The second son of the founder of the Daily Ittefaq, late Tofazzel Hossain Manik Mia, Anwar Hossain Manju obtained Honours in Geography from DU and MS in International Relations from the Georgetown University, Washington DC as a special student.

He started his career as a journalist in 1969 with the Daily Ittefaq and since 1972 he has been working as its editor.

General Secretary of the Jatiya Party since 1995, Anwar Hossain was the Minister for Energy Power and Mineral Resources between 1985 to 1988 and Minister for Communications between March 1988 to 1990. In the June 12 Parliamentary elections he secured two seats — Pirozpur-2 and Jalokathi-1. From the Pirozpur-2 seat he was also elected MP in 1986, 1988 and in 1991.

Anwar Hossain was elected



vice president of the students' union of the Fazlul Haque Hall in 1967 and general secretary of the union in 1966. In 1980 he was elected Chairman of the Jatiya Press Club.

He was administered oath as a Minister on June 23 this year and was given the responsibility of the office of the Minister for Communications.

ASM Abdur Rob

Minister for Shipping



A S M Abdur Rob was born on January 2, 1945 at village Charbadam of Ramgati thana of Laxmipur district.

His father late Alhaj Ali Azam participated in the Second World War as a member of the British-Indian Army.

Rob's political career begins with the participation in the student movement in 1958.

He took an active role in 1964 in the Presidential Election of Pakistan in favour of Miss Fatema Jinnah for which 33 cases were filed against him.

Warrant of arrest was issued against him during Six-Point Movement in 1966. He is one of the formulators of historic eleven-point students demand. He played a heroic role in the mass upsurge of 1969.

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Profiles of Noor Uddin Khan, Minister for Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources, and Salahuddin Yusuf, Minister for Health and Family Welfare were not available for printing.

Source — Press Information Department