



LIFE SKETCH: A. M. NURUL ISLAM (ANU)

Civil Service Career

A M Nurul Islam (Anu) worked in various capacities of the District and Civil Administration under the governments of Pakistan (1963-1971) and Bangladesh (1972-1975). During Bangladesh's liberation war in 1971, despite being under the then East Pakistan government, he played a pivotal role from within the administration, helping the exiled Mujibnagar government. He was given the assignment to bring Bangabhaban to order after the surrender of the Pakistan army on December 16, 1971, fix the damaged infrastructure, and mobilize Bangabhaban's staff before the arrival of the exiled leaders of the first government of Bangladesh from Mujibnagar. Following the installation of the first government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Anu was inducted into the administration as the joint secretary to President Abu Sayeed Chowdhury in 1972. Soon, he was transferred to the Prime Minister's Office and appointed as the private secretary to Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (1972-1973). In 1973, Anu was attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and assigned to the High Commission of Bangladesh in Washington, D.C., as its Economic and Trade Counselor.

Islam continued his career as a diplomat till August 15, 1975, when he resigned in protest of the assassination of President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and declined to join the following governments of Khondaker Mostaq Ahmad and Ziaur Rahman.

In 2010, the Mother Teresa Research Council awarded Anu the Mother Teresa Gold Medal for his outstanding contributions to shaping Bangladesh's civil administration.



Political Career

Being a dedicated civil servant, Anu remained apolitical until 1975, when he resigned from government service. His resignation marked the beginning of a new chapter as he joined the

Bangladesh Awami League and played a pivotal role in establishing the party's U.S. chapter in 1982. In 1989, his exemplary leadership was recognized as he was elected president of the U.S. Awami League in the presence of Sheikh Hasina, the president of the Bangladesh Awami League. Islam's commitment and dedication to the party were evident as he served as the president of the U.S. Awami League from 1989 to 2002.



Private Sector

Anu left the High Commission of Bangladesh and founded Transcontinental IMEX Plc., where he served as president for more than two decades. Upon his return to Bangladesh, he joined the banking sector and held director positions in National Bank Limited and Bank Asia Limited. In 2009, Anu was appointed as the vice chairman of Bank Asia Limited, where he remained until his death in 2017. Additionally, Anu served as a financial advisor for Opex Group from 2013 until his demise.

Anu also played a key role in launching the Bengali newspaper Daily Shokaler Khobor (Bengali: দৈনিক সকালের খবর), becoming the daily's first editor.

