

Bangladesh Civil Administration 1971

Assignment of Portfolios

Although the government was formed on 10 April and its oath was taken on 17 April 1971, the portfolios were assigned among the ministers on 18 April. The incumbents of the government were what follow.

Supreme Cabinet

SL	Name	Designation	Note
1	President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman	President	
2	Vice President Syed Nazrul Islam	Vice President	Entrusted with the powers, functions and responsibilities of the President since the President himself was then detained in Pakistan.
3	Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad	Prime Minister	In charge of Defense, Information, Broadcasting and Communications, Economic Affairs, Planning Division, Education, Local Government, Health, Labour, Social Welfare, Establishment as well as other affairs the responsibility of which was not yet entrusted to anyone.
4	Foreign Minister Khondakar Mostaq Ahmad	Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Law and Parliamentary Affairs	
5	Finance Minister M Mansur Ali	Minister, Ministry of Finance, Industry and Commerce	
6	Home Minister AHM Qamaruzzaman	Minister, Ministry of Home, Civil Supplies, Relief and Rehabilitation, Agriculture	

Ministry/ Divisions and Secretaries

SL	Name	Designation	Note
1	Principal Secretary Ruhul Quddus	Principal Secretary (December 7, 1971)	
2	Cabinet Secretary Hossain Towfiq Imam	Cabinet Secretary	
3	General Administrator Nurul Quader Khan	General Administrator	General Administration Division was formed under the Ministry of Establishment to deal with appointment, transfer, promotion and framing of service rules. Zonal Administrative Council was formed under General Administration Division.
4	Finance Secretary Khandker Asaduzzaman	Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Industry and Commerce	
5	Home Secretary M. A. Khaleque	Home Secretary, Ministry of Home	Ministry of Home was responsible for maintaining law and order in the liberated areas. This ministry selected the uniform, badge and monogram of the Bangladesh police force. Abdul Khaleque was made the first IG of the police and was later appointed as home secretary.
6	Foreign Secretary Mahbubul Alam Chasi	Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	The number of officials in this ministry was 15. Ministry of Foreign Affairs sought to obtain support of the foreign governments and people at large for the cause of liberation of Bangladesh by establishing Bangladesh mission abroad and by sending diplomatic emissaries to various countries. With this end in view diplomatic missions were established in Kolkata, Delhi, London, Washington, New York, and Stockholm. Diplomatic delegations were sent to the UNO, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Nepal, Srilanka, Burma, Thailand and Japan for gaining their support to the liberation war.

7	Health and Welfare Secretary Dr. T. Hossain	Secretary, Ministry of Health and Welfare	Ministry of Health and Welfare worked under a Director General. Later the position of the Director General was elevated to the status of a secretary. The functions of the health department was divided into two sectors: a) to impart medical treatment to the freedom fighters under the army ie under the Ministry of Defence and b) to render medical treatment to such civilians or persons who did not participate in the liberation war directly with arms.
8	Defense Secretary Abdus Samad	Secretary, Ministry of Defense	The Ministry of Defense divided the war zone into eleven sectors and appointed a sector commander for each of the sectors. But there was no sector commander for sector No 10 or naval sector. Commandos used to fight under the command of the concerned sector commander whenever and wherever they carried out the operation in a particular sector. Besides, there were three brigades called Z force, K force and S force. Major Ziaur Rahman, Major Khaled Mosharraf and Major KM Shafiullah were the commanders of the brigades respectively.
9	Agriculture Secretary Nuruddin Ahmed	Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture	Agriculture Division worked for finding ways and means for taking measures to overcome food crisis by increasing food production in the post-war Bangladesh, introducing scientific cultivation and providing loans to farmers under easy terms in view of the wartime losses.
10	Law and Parliamentary Affairs Secretary Abdul Hannan Chowdhury	Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Law and Parliamentary Affairs	Parliamentary Affairs Division worked under the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Law and Parliamentary Affairs. The main task of this division was to solve various problems of the members of Provincial and National Assembly and to engage them in various activities.
11	Relief and Rehabilitation Secretary Jai Gobinda Bhowmik	Secretary, Ministry of Home and Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation	Relief and Rehabilitation Division was created under the supervision of the Ministry of Home and Ministry of Relief with a view to rehabilitate the refugees taking shelter in India.
12	Information and Broadcast Secretary Anwarul Huq Khan	Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcast	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting played important role to build up public opinion in favour of the liberation war. This ministry used to perform its functions through four divisions: a) Radio (swadhin bangla betar kendra), b) Films, c) Publications, d) Fine arts and design.
13	Chief Engineer Mr. Emdad Ali	Chief Engineer, Department of Engineering	

Autonomous Bodies

SL	Name of Autonomous Body	Assigned Officials	Note
1	Planning Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chairman, Mozaffar Ahmed Chowdhury 2. Member, Khan Sarwar Morshed 3. Member, Musharaf Hossen 4. Member, S.R. Bosh 5. Member, Anisuzzaman 	
2	Board of Trade and Commerce	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Director, M.R. Siddiqui M.N.A. 2. Member, Khandker Asaduzzaman (Secretary, Finance Ministry) 3. Member, Sadat Hossain (P.S Finance minister) 	
3	Board of Control, Youth and Reception Camps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chairman, Professor M. Yusuf Ali 2. Director (Administration), Nurul Islam Chowdhury, M.N.A. 3. Director (Syllabus and Activities), Abu Yusuf 4. Deputy Director (Supply), Mirza Abu Monsur, M.P.A 5. Deputy Director (Transportation), Bojlor Rahman 6. Deputy Director (Administration), Mr. Faruque, M.P.A 	
4	Relief and Rehabilitation Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chairman, A.H.M. Kamruzzaman 2. Relief Commissioner, Mr. J.G. Bhowmik 3. Deputy Secretary, Mamunur Rashid C.S.P 	
5	Evacuee Welfare Board		It was run under Home Ministry Affairs
6	Zonal Administrative Council		Zonal Administrative Council was formed under General Administration Division. On 2 June, Bangladesh was divided into five administrative units, called Zonal Administrative Council, governed by elected legislators. On an order (GA/810/345) issued by the Prime Minister on 27 July the number of zonal councils was increased to 9 and their functions were formalized. On another order (GA/7366/500), issued on 18 September, the number was increased to eleven.

Description of Zones

SL	Zone	Headquarter	Jurisdiction	Chairman
1	South-East Zone - I	Sabrum	1. Chittagong 2. Chittagong Hill Tracts 3. Feni sub-division of Noakhali District	Nurul Islam Chowdhury
2	South-East Zone - II	Agartala	1. Dacca 2. Comilla 3. Noakhali district except Feni sub-division	Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury
3	East Zone	Dharmanagar	1. Habiganj and Moulvibazar sub-divisions of Sylhet district.	Col. M A Rab
4	North-East Zone - I	Dawki	1. Sadar and Sunamganj sub-divisions of Sylhet district	Dewan Farid Gazi
5	North-East Zone - II	Tura	1. Mymensingh. 2. Tangail.	Shamsur Rahman Khan
6	North Zone	Coochbehar	1. Rangpur	Motiur Rahman
7	West Zone - I	Balurghat	1. Dinajpur 2. Bogra	Abdur Rahim
8	West Zone - II	Maldah	1. Rajshahi	Ashraful Islam
9	South-West Zone - I	Krishnanagar	1. Pabna 2. Kushtia	Abdur Rauf Chowdhury
10	South-West Zone - II	Bangaon	1. Faridpur 2. Jessore	Fani Bhushan Majumdar
11	South Zone	Barasat	1. Barishal 2. Patuakhali	M A Momen

NB: The following officers were appointed to each zone by the government:

1. Zonal Health Officer.
2. Zonal Education Officer.
3. Zonal Relief Officer.
4. Zonal Engineer.
5. Zonal Police Officer.
6. Zonal Information Officer.
7. Zonal Accounts Officer.

Diplomacy

On 15 April, before the Mujibnagar Cabinet took oath, Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad secretly met Hossain Ali, the Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan, in Kolkata. Tajuddin persuaded Ali, along with his Bengali staff, to switch allegiance to the Bangladesh government the day after the cabinet took their oaths. As promised, Ali and 70 employees at the Deputy High Commission swore allegiance to the Bangladesh Government, turning the Pakistan High Commission on 9 Circus Avenue into the Bangladesh Mission in Kolkata for good. The mission came to house part of the government's offices, most importantly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

SL	Name	Designation	Jurisdiction
1	Ambassador Humayun Rashid Choudhury	Ambassador-at-Large	New Delhi
2	Ambassador Abul Maal Abdul Muhith	Ambassador-at-Large	Washington, D.C.
3	Special Envoy Rehman Sobhan	Special Envoy	Washington, D.C.
4	Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury	Chief Overseas Representative	London
5	Ambassador A. F. M. Abul Fateh	Ambassador-at-Large	Calcutta
6	Deputy High Commissioner M. Hosen Ali	Deputy High Commissioner	Calcutta
7	Vice consul A. H. Mahmud Ali	Vice consul	New York
8	Secretary M. Rezaul Karim	First Secretary	London

Source

1. Bangladesher Swadhinata Juddha: Dalilpatra, Dhaka, 1982; ht Imam, Bangladesh Sarkar 1971, 2004; Nurul Kader, Ekattor Amar, 1999;
2. Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Muktiyuddhe Mujibnagar, 1985; BB Biswas, Ekattore Mujibnagar, 2000; Mohammad Faiquzzaman, Mujibnagar Sarkar o Bangladesher Muktiyuddha, Dhaka, 2008.