



***AHM Kamaruzzaman: An Untold Story***

***Author: Taskin Ahmed***





# *AHM Kamaruzzaman - An Untold Story*

AHM Kamaruzzaman was a prominent political leader in Bangladesh, known for his significant role in the country's independence movement and his contributions to the establishment of the nation. Born on June 26, 1926, in the district of Rajshahi, he played a critical role during the Liberation War of 1971, eventually becoming a leading figure in the post-independence government.



He was a student of Rajshahi Collegiate School and completed his higher education at Calcutta Islamia College (now Maulana Azad College). Kamaruzzaman was active in politics from a young age, particularly involved in the struggle for Pakistan's independence from British colonial rule. He became involved with the Muslim League and later transitioned to the Awami League, a party that would become the driving force behind Bangladesh's independence movement.

Kamaruzzaman's political career began in earnest in the 1950s when he was elected to the East Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1954 as a representative of the United Front, a coalition that included the Awami League.



During the 1950s and 1960s, he worked tirelessly to promote the interests of East Pakistan, particularly advocating for regional autonomy, economic justice, and cultural recognition for the Bengali people. His commitment to these issues helped establish him as a key leader within the Awami League.



The most impactful phase of Kamaruzzaman's political life was his role in the Bangladesh Liberation War. The war, which took place between March and December of 1971, was the culmination of years of political struggle between East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and the central government of Pakistan. The Awami League, under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, had won a landslide victory in the general elections of 1970, but the central government refused to transfer power, leading to widespread unrest in East Pakistan.

As tensions escalated into full-scale war, Kamaruzzaman became a key member of the Mujibnagar Government, the provisional government of Bangladesh that was formed in exile.



This government was established in April 1971 in the town of Mujibnagar (then known as Baiddanathtola, Meherpur), and it played a crucial role in organizing the resistance against the Pakistani military.

Kamaruzzaman held the position of Minister of State for Relief and Rehabilitation in the Mujibnagar Government. In this capacity, he was responsible for overseeing the relief efforts for the millions of refugees who had fled to India during the war, as well as the rehabilitation of those affected by the conflict. His work was essential in maintaining the morale and well-being of the displaced population, as well as in securing international support for the Bengali cause.





After the victory of the Bengali forces and the creation of Bangladesh in December 1971, Kamaruzzaman continued to play a vital role in the country's new government. He was appointed as a member of the cabinet, serving as the Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation in the government led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. His work in this position was critical in helping the war-torn nation recover from the devastation of the conflict. Kamaruzzaman focused on resettling refugees, rebuilding infrastructure, and ensuring that the country's limited resources were distributed equitably.

Kamaruzzaman's contributions to the post-war reconstruction of Bangladesh were widely recognized, and he remained an influential figure in the nation's political landscape. He was also deeply committed to the ideals of secularism, socialism, and democracy, which were the guiding principles of the newly independent Bangladesh. These ideals were enshrined in the country's constitution, and Kamaruzzaman worked to ensure that they were upheld in the face of numerous challenges.





Unfortunately, Kamaruzzaman’s political career was cut short by a tragic event. On August 15, 1975, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated in a military coup, leading to a period of political instability in Bangladesh. Kamaruzzaman, along with several other prominent leaders of the Mujibnagar Government, was arrested and imprisoned. On November 3, 1975, in what is now remembered as the “Jail Killing Day,” Kamaruzzaman, along with three other leaders—Tajuddin Ahmed, Syed Nazrul Islam, and Captain Mansur Ali—was brutally assassinated inside Dhaka Central Jail.



*The cell in Dhaka Central Jail where the Jail Killings took place*

AHM Kamaruzzaman’s legacy in Bangladesh is significant. As one of the four national leaders who played an instrumental role in the creation of the country, he is remembered as a hero of the Liberation War. His contributions to the independence movement and the post-war reconstruction of Bangladesh have left an indelible mark on the nation’s history.





Kamaruzzaman is often celebrated for his dedication to the ideals of social justice, democracy, and secularism. His work in the Mujibnagar Government was critical to the success of the Bengali independence struggle, and his efforts in the post-war government helped lay the foundation for the development of Bangladesh as a sovereign state. His assassination in 1975 was a tragic loss for the country, but his legacy continues to inspire generations of Bangladeshis who are committed to the principles for which he stood.





**Reference :**

Bangladesh: A Legacy of Blood" by Anthony Mascarenhas.

(Hard copy)

The Unfinished Memoirs" by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Bangladesh National Archives

**Photographs:**

AHM Kamaruzzaman - [banglanews24.com](http://banglanews24.com)

AHM Kamaruzzaman with other leaders - [The Daily Star](http://TheDailyStar.com)

AHM Kamaruzzaman - [observerbd.com](http://observerbd.com)

AHM Kamaruzzaman - [The Daily star](http://TheDailyStar.com)

Jahanara Imam Memorial Museum - [The Daily star](http://TheDailyStar.com)

AHM Kamaruzzaman - [wikimediacommons](http://wikimediacommons.org)