

Dr. Kamal Hossain - Biographical Sketch

Dr. Kamal Hossain is a notable Bangladeshi politician, statesman, and lawyer. He is credited as being one of the principal authors of the Constitution of Bangladesh. He was awarded a Bachelor of Jurisprudence degree with honors from the University of Oxford in 1957 and a Bachelor of Civil Law from the same institution in 1958. In 1964 he was awarded a Doctorate in International Law. He was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn, London. Dr. Hossain was arrested during the Bangladesh Liberation War in April 1971 by the Pakistani Government and kept in custody in West Pakistan. He was released together with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman when both of them left Pakistan for London.

After East Pakistan earned its independence and became Bangladesh, Dr. Hossain served in the Government of Bangladesh under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the Minister of Law (1972-1973), Minister of Foreign Affairs (1973-1975), and Minister of Petroleum and Minerals (1974-1975). One of his earliest tasks as Minister of Law was the drafting of the Constitution of Bangladesh, which was completed in 1972.

Dr. Hossain was a member of the Awami League in the early 1990s, when he formed his own political party, Gano Forum (People's Forum). He has stood for election in several General Elections.

Dr. Hossain is renowned worldwide as a jurist. He is a leading advocate in Bangladesh who has conducted a number of landmark cases and published in various law journals. He has a longstanding association with the United Nations and is a current member of the UN Compensation Commission. He has appeared in several international arbitrations, both as a lawyer and an arbitrator. He acted as an arbitrator in the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal. He has also acted as an observer in various elections around the world.