

Hon. Abdul Latif Siddique

Abdul Latif Siddique was born in the village Chatihati under Kalihati Upazilla of Tangail on 18 December 1937. Abdul Ali Siddique, his father, was a Mukhtar (attorney) and mother Latifa Siddique a housewife. Begum Laila Siddique, his wife, is an ex-parliamentarian and his eldest daughter Nandini Nazreen an immigrant in Canada, while his youngest daughter Raina Farzin Preetu is an A-Level student. His only son Anik Siddique is the head of a renowned organization. Abdul Latif Siddique, the eldest son of his parents, built up his rare personality from the very early stage of his boyhood.

He had his early education in a village primary school, but like his overall life span, his educational life too was seriously hampered at different stages. Fortunately he got permission to sit for the examination under special arrangements while he was imprisoned for the so-called offence of his active involvement in student movement. Overcoming all obstacles, he eventually completed his graduation (Hons) in Bengali Language & Literature in 1967 and completed his post-graduation degree from the University of Dhaka in 1969.

Blessed with the parental affection of Bangabandhu, Abdul Latif Siddique shaped himself as a devoted disciple of the fundamental faith and ideals of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. During his imprisonment he was psychologically influenced by the company of such political leaders as Tajuddin Ahmed, Comrade Moni Singh, Rabi Nyogi, Satyen Sen, Ranesh Dasgupta, Comrade Farhad and Jiten Ghosh. He thus concentrated his mind to a wider range of study in the intellectual association of the political scholars of progressive thoughts.

In the 1960s he was put to jail more than one time and sentenced to long imprisonment as he was highly motivated in the spirit of nationalism and involved in anti-autocratic movement and in the struggle for preserving the legal rights of the backward multitude of the society. When in 1975 he protested against the Killing of Bangabandhu, the court of military-janta sentenced him to imprisonment for various terms, and thus he underwent a long term imprisonment from 1980 to 1986.

He was elected V.P of Karotia Sadat College Students' Union. For his straightforwardness and firm confidence, he was always distinctive among the workers of all levels of Bangladesh Chatra League. He was active in the movement in support of the 6-Point Program of 1966, and was prisoned until '69's students movement. As an organizer he played an unprecedented role in the liberation movement of 1971. All levels of liberation organizations and leaderships of Tangail were just the output of his direct guidelines. He was elected member of parliament in the general elections of 1970, 1973, 1996 and 2008.

Abdul Latif Siddique is now one of the Presidium members of Bangladesh Awami League. He dedicated himself to nation building and social reformation through a process of long struggle and sacrifice. His single motto of life is to go forward in the face of all types of dangers and difficulties. As a part of the post war campaign of country's reformation after

1971, he established *Alauddin Siddique Mahabidyalaya* and *Awliabad Joutho Krishikhamar Samaybai Samity Ltd* at Awliabad in Kalihati Upazilla as a response to Bangabandhu's call for building Sonar Bangla. With a view to developing the life standard of the rural masses, establishing colleges for spreading education among them and building up farms, he left the luxury of city life and went on with his untiring effort. The heinous Killing of Bangabandhu in 1975 bewildered him with an unexplainable agony, as a consequence of which his dream farm collapsed and his college of long cherished desire could barely survive.

As a reaction to his protest against the Killing of Bangabandhu, he fell victim to the wrath of the concerned self-seeking groups and consequently he was exiled in India. Although the pangs of banishment along with his broken political career wounded his heart for the time being, he reinforced his revolting spirit with the same strength and confidence by putting condolence into power. He engaged himself in the regular practice of study and afterwards he started to write columns in different newspapers and periodicals. The targeted areas of his writings are education, culture, politics, society, economics, agriculture and above all humanity. 6 volumes of his writings are so far published. His widely reflective volumes such as *Jibon Jiggasay Pitaputri* (Father and Daughter in Quest of Life), *Onisshesh Onnesha* (Endless Exploration), *Samosomoik Rajneeti 1,2* (Contemporary Politics 1,2), *Doctor Fakhruddin—Please Bolte Deen* (Doctor Fakhruddin—Please Let Me Say) have familiarized himself to his readers. Latif Siddique cherishes in his heart the dream of a progressive nation enriched in noble thoughts, and he waits to see the progressive mental make-up of the younger generation, who will nurse in their hearts, the love of the people and the land, and thus contribute to the gradual upgrading of the world civilization. He ever longs for the salvation and wellbeing of the people of Bangladesh. He ultimately believes in the non-communal, democratic culture of man. He has established *Muktijuddha O Muktachinta Kendra*, where research is going on for building up a better nation keeping in view the universal spirit of the Liberation.

After the stunning success of Awami League led grand alliance in the election of 29 December 2008, when Janonetri Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Bangabandhu, was elected Prime Minister, she included Mr Latif Siddique in the Cabinet. Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina bestowed upon him the charge of the Ministry of Textile and Jute he took his oath as Minister on the 6th of January 2009.

When *Janonetri* Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Parliament was elected Prime Minister after Awami League's victory in the Election of 5 January 2014, she re-included Mr Abdul Latif Siddique in her Cabinet. On January 12, 2014, he took his oath as Minister when the charge of Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and Ministry of Information and Communications Technology was bestowed upon him. On February 10, 2014, Honorable Prime Minister reformed Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and Ministry of Information and Communications Technology into the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology. Mr Abdul Latif Siddique was bestowed with the charge of Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology.