

PROFILE OF MR. JUSTICE MD. TAFAZZUL ISLAM

Former Chief Justice of Bangladesh

Mr. Justice Tafazzul Islam was enrolled as an advocate of the High Court of East Pakistan in 1969. Later, in 1980, he became an advocate in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

During the period he was an advocate, Mr. Justice Islam had been actively associated with the teaching profession. He was an Adjunct Faculty in the City Law College, teaching Transfer of Property Act and Equity & Trust. He also taught Corporate Law at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University, and was an Examiner in Law in Dhaka University. As a Member of the Corporate Law Commission of Bangladesh, he actively participated in the drafting of the Banks Companies Act 1991 and the Companies Act 1994.

He was elevated to the Bench in 1994, as a Judge of the High Court Division, and then to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in 2003. In 2009, he was appointed as the Chief Justice of Bangladesh.

While a Judge of the High Court Division, he also held the offices of Chairman of the Enrolment Committee of the Bangladesh Bar Council, from 2004 to 2008, and of the Chairman of the Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission during 2008-9.

He was the principal author of several landmark judgments, laying the foundations for the development of laws and setting significant precedents. These include the judgments on repeal of the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of Bangladesh, upholding the judgment of the High Court Division sentencing the killers of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, enlarging the powers of the High Court Division under the Companies Act 1994 in protecting the interests of minority shareholders, and reversing the decision of the High Court Division to allow the construction of markets in violation of the provisions of environmental laws.

Mr. Justice Islam graduated with a B.A. (Honours) in History from the Dhaka University, continuing to complete his Master's degree in the same subject and then his LL.B. Having obtained his basic law degree in Bangladesh, he moved to the UK for further education, and was called to the Bar of England and Wales from the Hon'ble Society of Lincoln's Inn in 1967.