



Zunaid Ahmed Palak, MP

State Minister, ICT Division

Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology

Zunaid Ahmed Palak was born on 17 May 1980 in Singra Upazila under Natore district. Late Faiz Uddin Ahmed and Ms. Zamila Ahmed are his parents. His father was an active political activist being inspired by the ideology of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Being a General Secretary of the Singra Upazila unit of Bangladesh Awami League, he played an important role as one of the organizers of the great war of independence in the Chalan Beel area. Zunaid Ahmed Palak passed the SSC examination from the Singra Damdama Pilot School and College in 1995 securing first division with star marks and letter marks in five papers and HSC examination from the Rajshahi Govt. College in 1997 securing first division with letter marks in two papers. He obtained a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree in Political Science and LLB from the National University of Bangladesh. Later on, he successfully completed a Capstone Course from the National Defense College (NDC) in Dhaka. Then, he started his career as a professional lawyer in the Natore District Judge's Court and now he is a member of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association. He was very conspicuous in different co-curricular activities, like debate, recitation, songs, and sports. He obtained several prestigious awards in different seasonal competitions held at the district and divisional levels. He was simultaneously an organizer of and participator to different sports events. When he was a student of class VI, he established the "Durdom" (indomitable) club that turned into a center of sports and socio-cultural activities of children from his locality. He was greatly inspired by the scouting movement of Robert Baden-Powell during his school life. He participated in the 1st Asia Pacific Jamboree held in Mouchak, Gazipur in 1994 as a team leader. After passing the HSC exam, he avoided the temptation to get admission to a famous institution. With a view to stand by his community, he got admitted to a local college and involved in politics by joining Bangladesh Student League, a forum with a very rich tradition in students' movement and politics. He was elected VP of the Gol-e-Afroze Govt. College Students' Union at the age of 18 years. At the end of his academic career, he joined Bangladesh Awami League, a party that led the nation for its independence. He got the nomination from Bangladesh Awami League for the national election held in 2008 and was elected by a huge margin at the age of 28 years. He was the youngest Member of the Parliament (MP) in the ninth parliament. He played an active role as a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on ICT Ministry and he was also a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Private Members' Bill during the ninth parliament. Besides, he was a Co-convener of the All-Party Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change. He became a member of the Executive Committee of the central Awami League in 2012 at the age of 32 years. In the national election held on 5 January 2014, he contested in a participatory election and elected Member of Parliament for a second consecutive term with overwhelming support from the people of his constituency. Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina included him in her Cabinet and he was sworn in as a Minister of State on 12 January 2014 at the age of

33 years and 8 months. He is the youngest member of the Cabinet. In the national election held on 20 December 2018, he contested in a participatory election for 3rd time and elected as Member of Parliament once again. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina re-appointed him as the state minister in her cabinet for ICT Division.

He was nominated as “Young Global Leader” in 2016 by the World Economic Forum and World's 100 Most Influential People in Digital Government 2018 by Apolitical.

He is happily married to Arifa Jesmin (Konika), who did her Master of Science in Psychology and is a lecturer by profession. They are blessed with three sons: Apurbo Zunaid, Arjan Zunaid, and Anirban Zunaid. He participated in the UN General Assembly and visited several countries across the globe as part of different official visits, summits, seminars, workshops and training programs. All sorts of modern technologies, especially ICT, law & governance, environment, music, and arts are among his fields of interest.

Position Held:

- Minister of State for Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh since January 2014;
- Member of Parliament (National Assembly of Bangladesh) since January 2009;
- Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on ICT Ministry and Private Members' Bill from 2009 to 2013;
- President of Bangladesh Carom Federation since 2009 and Vice-President of International Carom Federation since 2011;
- Co-Chair of Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change from 2009 to 2013.

Achievement:

- Nominated Young Global Leader in 2016 by the World Economic Forum.
- Became Minister of State at the age of 33 years making him the youngest minister in the history of Bangladesh. During his tenure, more than 18,000 government offices across the country were brought under a dedicated high-speed intranet, one of the world's largest web portal consisting of 25,000 government websites established, Bangladesh won ICT's Sustainable Development Award and WSIS plus 10 Award from ITU and Public Service Excellence Award from WITSA.
- Elected Member of Parliament (MP) at the age of 28 years and became the youngest MP in the Ninth Parliament and re-elected in 2014. Minister Palak is very active in the Parliament to have an accountable government.
- Secured National Award on Environment in 2010 handed over by the Prime Minister in recognition of his role in the large scale tree plantation movement.
- Nominated as World's 100 Most Influential People in Digital Government 2018 by Apolitical.

Education:

- Obtained Master of Science in Political Science and LLB (Bachelor of Law) from the National University of Bangladesh.
- Completed a Capstone Course from National Defense College, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Profession:

- Minister Palak is a Lawyer by profession and enrolled as an Advocate in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

Online & Social Media Accounts:

- Facebook: <https://facebook.com/zapalak> (Has more than two million fans in FB)
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/@zapalak>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/zapalak>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/palakmp>
- Instagram: <https://instagram.com/palak.mp>
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