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Documentation of Independence War-a national pride

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"Few of the nations in the world have got such a vast record of documents relating to the War of Liberation," said Dr. K. M. Mohsin, Director of the Project for Writing and Printing History of Bangladesh War of Independence. "It is our national pride."

Dr. Mohsin stated the fact while referring to the documents collected for writing history of independence war of 1971.

The proposal of writing history of liberation war was under consideration of Bangla Academy since the nation was born. The proposal was officially recognised at a cabinet meeting in 1977 during the regime of late President Ziaur Rahman. The project was undertaken by the Ministry of Information and its works begun in 1978 with late Hasan Hafizur Rahman as Director. An eight-member authentication committee was also formed to determine the validity of the documents collected.

Dr. Mosizullah Kabir, Professor of History, Dhaka University was appointed Chairman of the Committee which include Dr. A. F. Salahuddin Ahmed, Professor of History, Dhaka University, Dr. Anisuzzaman, Professor of Bengali Literature, Chittagong University, Dr. Salar Ali Akand, Director, Institute for Bangladesh Studies at Rajshahi University, Dr. Enamul Haque, Director, Dhaka Museum, Dr. Shamsul Huda Associate Professor of Political Science, Dhaka University, Dr. K. M. Karim, Director, National Archives and Library and Dr. K. M. Mohsin, Professor of History, Dhaka University.

Dr. Mohsin, a member of

the Authentication Committee was recently appointed Director of the Project after the death of Hasan Hafizur Rahman.

There may be some misunderstanding regarding the nature of work and responsibilities of the project," said Dr. Mohsin. He said that this was not a project for writing history of War of Independence, but for collecting, compiling, and printing the documents relating to the War

K. M. Mohsin said that the original documents in English and Bengali are being published in the original form and those in Urdu have been translated.

The compilation was divided into 16 volumes. First three volumes of the documents include the background materials from 1905 upto 1971. The next four volumes include the activities of Mujibnagar government in the field of administration, the

The twelfth and thirteenth volumes deal with the reaction of other countries and United Nations while the fourteenth one includes the world opinion regarding our Liberation War.

Important personalities relating to the war were also interviewed for the compilation work of fifteenth volume. The Sixteenth one would be an index volume.

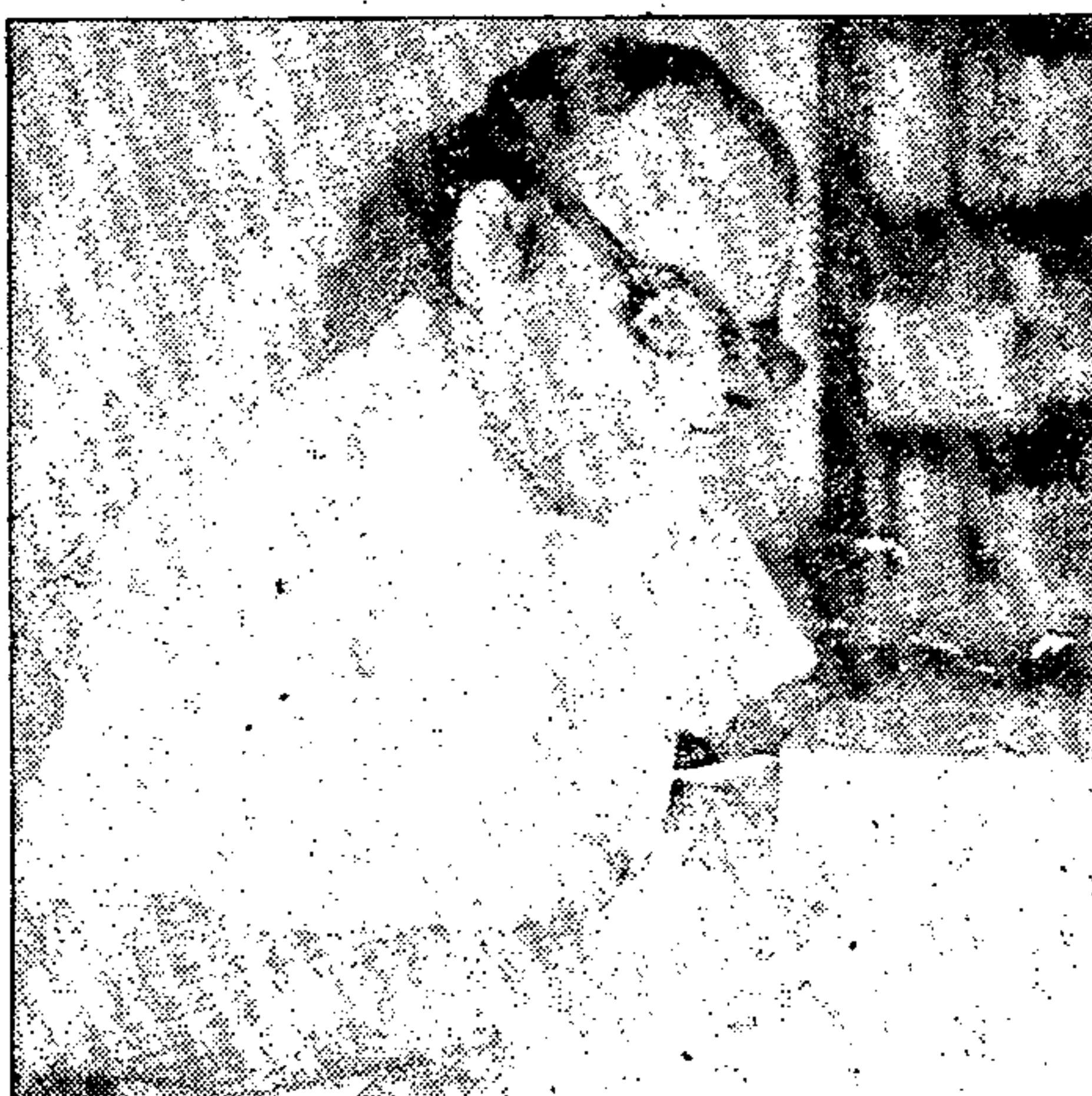
The authorities also plans to publish a 17th volume which would include those will come later on.

The organisations that already expressed their willingness to preserve the documents include Dhaka University Library, Central Library and National Archives. However, the establishment of an Institute for Historical Research where students would do higher education in history from home and abroad has been suggested.

About the probability of getting newer documents, Dr. Mohsin said, important documents relating to the war might still be lying with the members of the public despite repeated appeal through press for submitting those for compilation of the history.

Eight volumes of history of Bangladeshi war of independence will soon appear in the market. Out of eight volumes printing and binding of seven volumes have already been completed and the eighth is under process of binding to be completed within short time.

Dr. K. M. Mohsin told the Times that the prices of the books would be kept within the limit of the commonman's buying capacity.



Dr. K. M. Mohsin

of Independence in 1971.

The documents collected by the Committee included photographs, papers, leaflets, handouts of both the occupation regime and the Mujibnagar government, Press releases of political parties, paper cuttings from the foreign press, etc.

Regarding the documents Dr.

people in exile, and mass media including the radio. Another three volumes include the army struggle. One of the volumes deal with the documents of Pakistani government and activities of anti-liberation forces. Another one deals with the records of mass killing and refugees.