

# How Press Institute was set up

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By A Staff Correspondent

A committee was set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on April 29, 1978 by a gazette notification for preparing a scheme to set up a Press Institute of Bangladesh for the in-service training of the journalists. During the discussion with the leaders of journalist union in November 1975 former Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator late President Ziaur Rahman agreed to take steps



**SYED MORTUZA ALI**  
1st Chairman.

for setting up an institute for the training of the news men.

As per his directive the committee was set with Mr. Obaidul Huq, Editor of the Bangladesh Observer as convener. The other members of the committee were: Mr. A.Q.M. Nuruddin, Chairman of the Department of Journalism, Dacca University, Mr. Mahbubul Alam, Joint Editor of Bangladesh Times (now Director General, External, Publicity), Mr. Fauzul Karim, News Editor of Dainik Bangla, Mr. Gias Kamal Choudhury, Secretary General of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Mr. Reazuddin Ahmed, General Secretary of Dacca Union of Journalists and Mr. Abdus Sobhan, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Member-Secretary. The committee submitted the scheme for setting up the Press Institute with the following preamble:

As a vital link between the governed and the governing between the consumers and the producers, between the regions and the centre enabling the central government to know what is the happening in the remote areas and the community to express its aspirations to the government, the national Press can function as meaningfully and effectively if the members of the Press, that is the journalists, possess a high standard of professional efficiency, and freedom of access and expression tempered with a real sense of responsibility and respect for other's fundamental rights.

not only to report surface facts but also to do the job of backgrounding and interpreting the news objectively and commenting freely. An independent, inquiring and investigating system of communication (journalism) can hardly subsist and function meaningfully unless it is at the same time responsible and, equally important, unless a clash of facts, information, ideas and judgments, from which truth will ultimately emerge, is encouraged and unless there is an absence of undue interference in and threat to the journalist's personal and professional security.

The question of a National Press Institute is pertinently raised in the context—an institute which will offer adequate facilities for in-service training and special types of research in the techniques of journalism based on courses having more general and specialised education content than is required for other disciplines. Such courses should contribute to a broadening and strengthening of a trainee's background for continued work in the press, so that he can, through detachment from his routine work, find both formal and informal opportunities to build up his knowledge of relevant subjects and at the same time, increase his understanding of the potentialities of the



**ABDUS SALAM**  
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free and responsible press.

Having been convinced of the urgency for providing such training and research facilities to serious Journalists, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, has decided to set up a National Press Institute and constituted a committee (vide gazette notification dated April 29, 1978) charged with the task of preparing a project for the purpose. Accordingly, we, the members of the committee, have the honour to submit the enclosed draft scheme prepared on the basis of a thorough and realistic examination of the normal re-

Fighting has flared up in Kampuchea close to the border with Thailand between Viet-  
namese-led forces and Khmer  
resistance groups and more  
than 120 artillery shells were  
fired at a village opposite the  
Kampuchean town of Polpot  
to Volper, killing one villager  
and wounding another who  
was wounded by another villager  
to prevent Soviet tanks from  
bombing NATO will be able  
said "With the help of the New  
waves of tanks" the agency  
ed as an ideal weapon "against  
The Neutron bomb is regard-