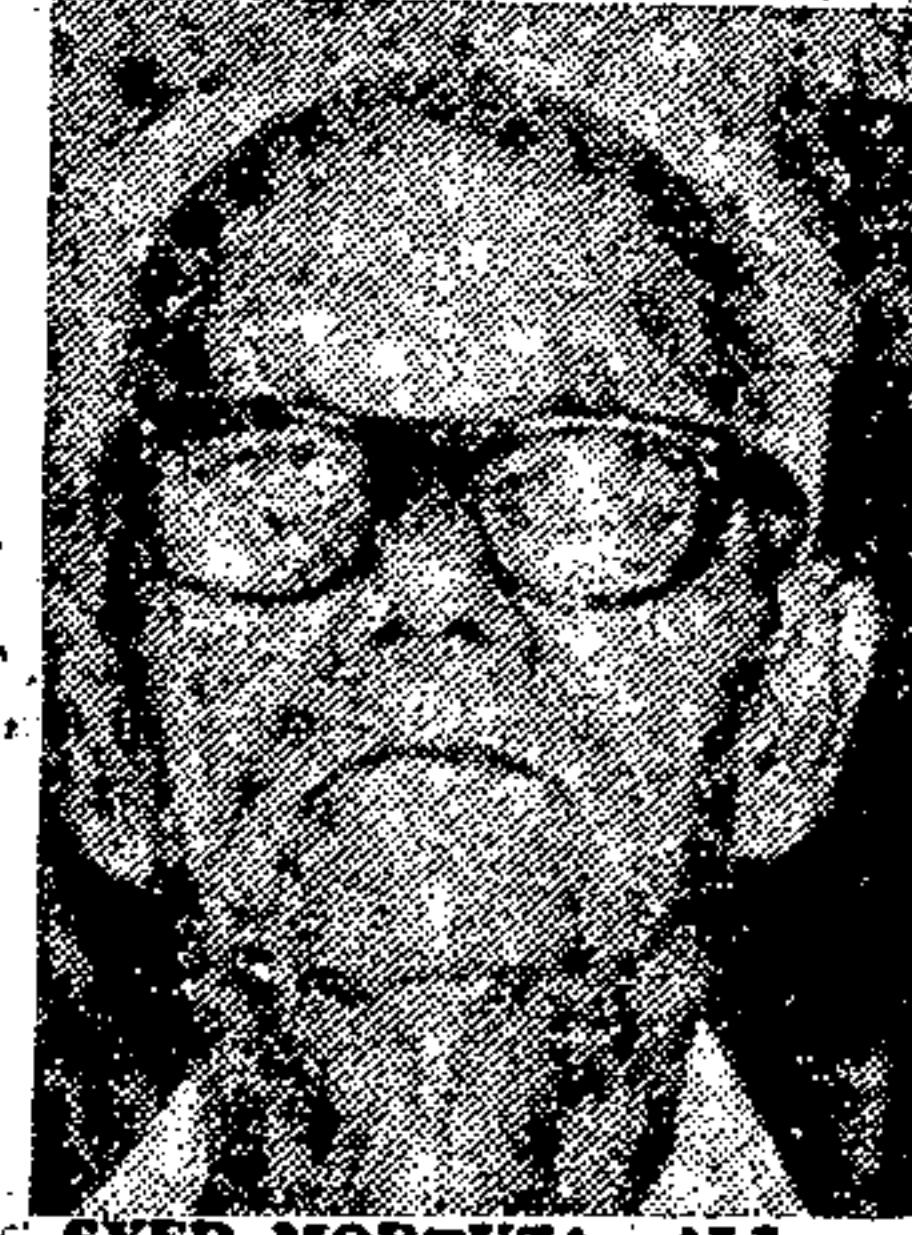


How Press Institute was set up

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 Chowdhury, 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 awakening 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.

The Neutron bomb is regarded as an ideal weapon "against waves of tides". The agency to prevent Soviet tanks from

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



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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-

and wounded another who do Viper, killing one villager Kamrupchen town of Pottipet day hit a village opposite the than 120 artillery shells resists fierce battles and more names led forces and Khamer with Thailand between Viet-Kamphuchea close to the border. Fighting has flared up in