

## Metropolitan



The inaugural function of the second batch of diploma course on Library and Information Science course, 1997-98, was held at NAEM campus. Photo shows from left: Md. Harunur Rashid, deputy director ILIM, Prof. Mohiuddin Ahmed, director NAEM, Dr M A Jalil, special guest, Prof. Md Khurshid Alam, chief guest, and DG, NAEM, Mrs Suraiya Begum, Associate Prof. Library and Information Science, DU and SM Shamsuzzaman, Director ILIM.

— Star photo

## Trial of Col Taher's 'killers' demanded

By Staff Correspondent

The members of Taher Sangsads yesterday demanded trial of the 'killers' of Colonel Abu Taher, Bir Uttam, who was a sector commander during the nation's war of liberation in 1971.

They also demanded that the secret documents relating to the 'farcical' trial of Col Taher be made public.

The members made the demands yesterday while addressing a seminar titled "What is the impediment towards the trial of the killers of Colonel Taher?" Taher was hanged on July 21, 1976 following a military tribunal, which found him guilty of activities subversive of the state on July 17 the same year. The five-men tribunal was composed of three officials from the defence services and two magistrates. Present Chief Justice of the Bangladesh

Supreme Court, A T M Afzal, acted as the Public Prosecutor in the case.

Sharif Nurul Ambia, a leader of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and co-accused with Col. Taher, Abed Khan, a freelance journalist and Dr Mustaque Hossain, an office bearer of the Sangsads, addressed the seminar, while Prof Anwar Hossain chaired the session held at the Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University.

Abed Khan said that the trial of Taher was a farce. "The verdict of the case was prepared much before the trial began," he said adding that, "a coalition between Ziaur Rahman and some army officials who did not take part in the war of independence was behind the hanging of Taher."

Moreover, the speakers unanimously observed that there was no legal bar to trying the killers of Col Abu Taher.

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### Ctg Dist Bar Assoc team calls on Shahabuddin

A 16-member delegation of the Chittagong District Bar Association led by its president Abul Kalam Azad yesterday called on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

The members of the delegation apprised the President of the acute accommodation problem of the judges in the Chittagong Court building saying that a new court building should be constructed in place of the 105-year old building which might collapse at any time. They also said that the metropolitan courts should be separated with a view to disposing of civil cases timely and quickly.

President Shahabuddin advised the members of the delegation to approach the Ministry of Law for construction of a court building in Chittagong.

Russia keen to assist further in oil, gas exploration

Russia is keen to further extend its assistance and cooperation in exploration of oil, gas, and other mineral resources and power generation in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

A cultural exchange programme between the two countries will also be signed very soon to promote the bilateral relations.

This was stated by the newly appointed Russian Ambassador Eugeniy P Ivanov when he called on LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman at his secretariat office yesterday.

They exchanged views on further decentralisation of local government administration in the country.

A high-powered Russian parliamentary delegation will visit Bangladesh in October, Ivanov told Zillur Rahman.

The Russian Ambassador also expressed his government's willingness to assist Bangladesh's sports sector for its further development.

Zillur Rahman sought cooperation of Russian government in different productive sectors, mainly steady industrialisation in Bangladesh.

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### Nepalese envoy calls on FM

Lok Bahadur Shrestha, Nepalese Ambassador to Bangladesh, called on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

Shrestha handed over two letters of the Nepalese Foreign Minister to Samad Azad.

According to a press release, Bangladesh Railway has taken the decision to facilitate movement of passengers weekly holidays of both the trains.

### Teesta Ekota Express trains to operate today, tomorrow

Inter-city trains, Teesta and Ekota Express between Dhaka and Dinajpur, will operate on July 21 and 22 (Monday and Tuesday), reports BSS.

According to a press release, Bangladesh Railway has taken the decision to facilitate movement of passengers weekly holidays of both the trains.

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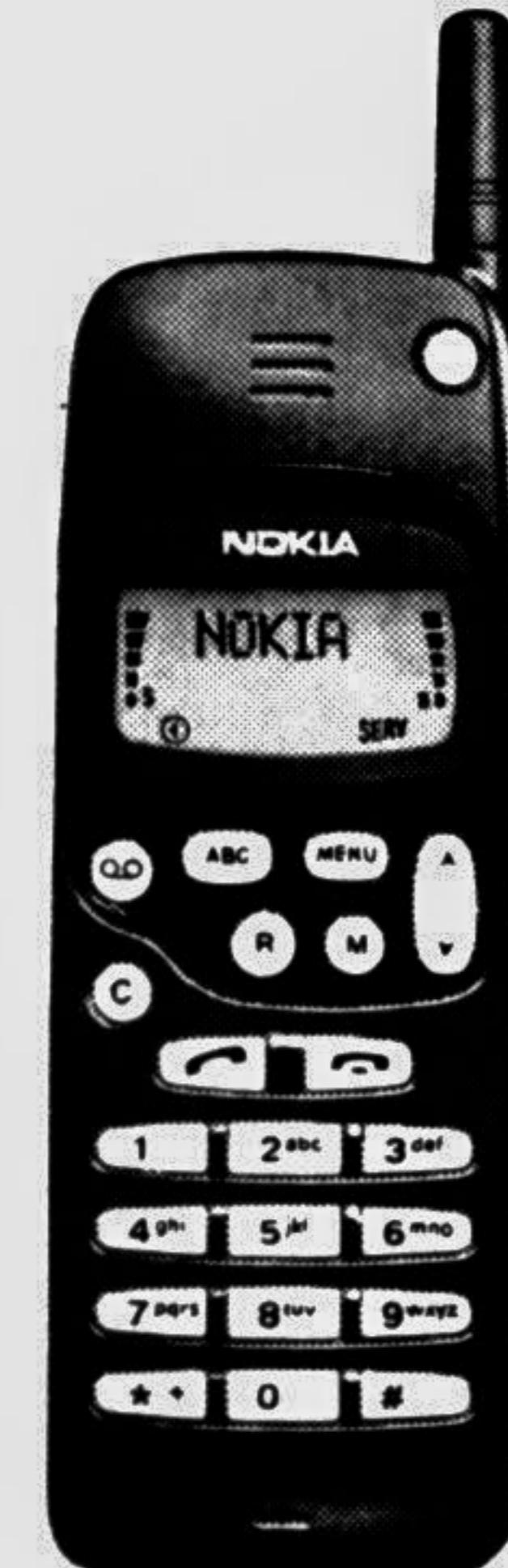
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