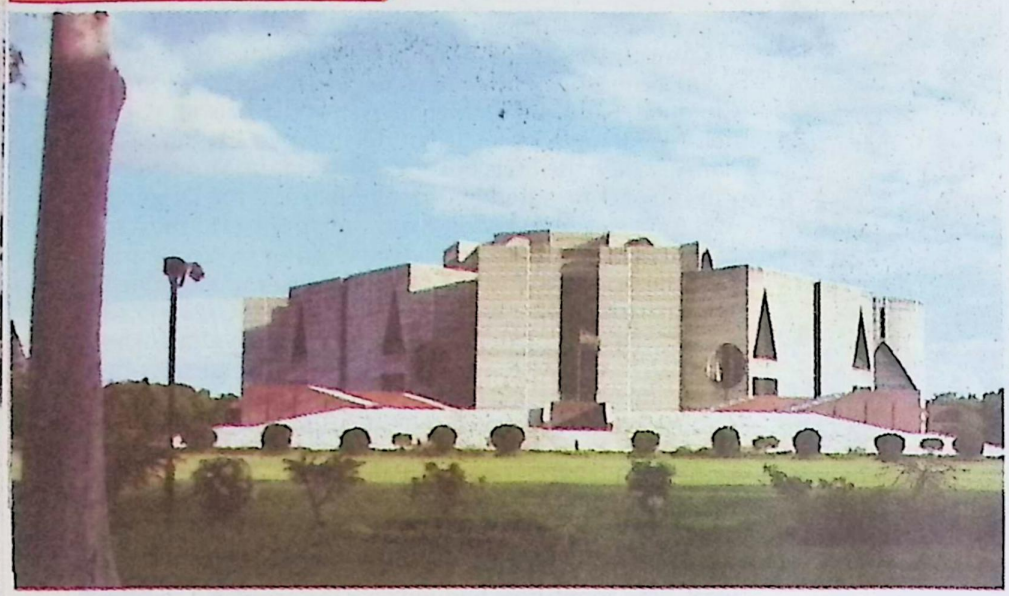
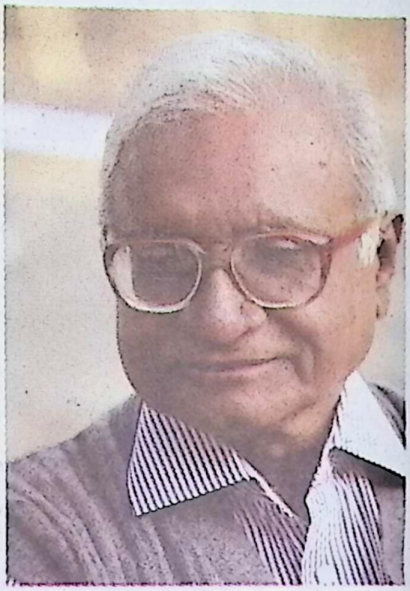
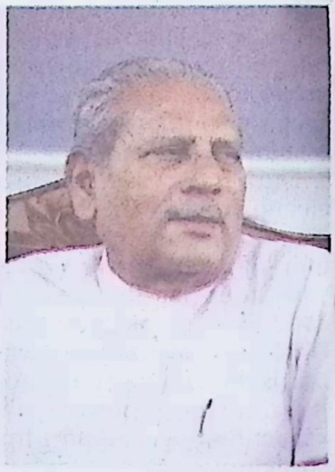




Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury



Begum Matia Chowdhury

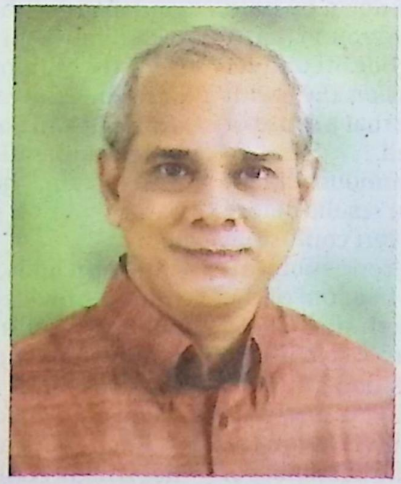


MK Anwar

The Ministry of Information has set a guideline for the state-run BTV and Bangladesh Betar regarding election coverage.

"In fact, it's not a neutral role that BTV plays but an 'abstract role' during the election and the rest of the time it's used as the instrument for propaganda by the government, though both of the leading political parties promised to ensure autonomy of these organisations after the fall of the rule of former President Ershad in 1990," says media analyst Muhammad Jahangir.

"Whoever is in power-- any political party or non partisan caretaker government-- wants a controlled media. Unless BTV and Bangladesh Betar are awarded autonomy they will never function properly," he adds.



Muhammad Jahangir

In fact, media personalities and civil society members have demanded fresh recruitment in the state-run organisations for better news coverage. Even the Information Secretary admits that BTV and Bangladesh Betar are facing a crisis of talented hands, since no recruitment has been carried out for over two decades and many talented persons have left the organisations.

But, the ministry will not interfere with any newspaper or TV channel during the upcoming election unless they print or broadcast any reports that go against the interest of sovereignty of the country or instigate ethnic or communal violence. He does not even bother much if any private channel or newspaper takes a stand for a particular political party even if there is every possibility