## Will the Missing Freedom Fighters Remain Untraced?

In this month of "BIJOY" let the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina take the right step in finding those missing. She also has lost her family and she knows the pain, and may help families of these martyrs to share this joy and festivities.

ANGLADESH has plunged into festivities to commemorate its 25th Victory Day with participants of the war reminiscing their deeds. with some references to their lost comrades, in our great War of Independence in 1971.

Some were lost as they embraced martyrdom and buried in unidentified graves, while others were lost in the war without trace or picked up by the Pakistani army or their collaborators. We are writing about them, but not speaking about them as they remain "MISSING" 25 years after the birth of Bangladesh.

The United States of America continues to trace its personnel in Vietnam, while Great Britain presses on Japan to compensate its prisoners-ofwar (POWs) held during World War II. But successive governments in Dhaka have not even spoken about those missing during the war despite pursuing 'warm ties' with Pakistan.

Pakistan cannot shelve its responsibility in the genocide its troops and collaborators carried out during the Independence War or the rape of our women folk or about the whereabouts of those arrested and remains missing to date.

Many families do not have a grave to go or are still waiting for their dear ones, specially when the country is gripped by festivities in its Silver Jubilee

"I know the difficulties of finding a way. But as a strong friend and supporter of modern Japan, I believe the search, and it now is an urgent search, for a way for more substantial action needs to continue," former British Conservative foreign secretary Douglast Hurd told the House of Commons on

December 4, 1996, on compensation for the POWs.

He added that "it is not the money but the act of saying sorry that remains most important" and urged Japan to "remove the strain of dishonour"

from its reputation. In this month of Victory, I was overwhelmed to see the signature collection campaign by a student group in front of Dhaka's Fine Arts Institute demanding the trial of those Pakistanis responsible for the 1971 genocide. Otherwise, our politicians have been making this sacred month unholy by

hope Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the daughter of Bangladesh's founding father, will not have any hesitation to do so. The families of missing martyrs have never been a major political threat to any government and possibly thus the case of their loved ones have

been ignored in one case relating to a missing army officer, the International Committee of the Red Cross wrote the following letter to its family on January 16, 1975, signed by Marion Djurovic, Head of the ICRC Tracing Agency in Dhaka:



speaking in line with their political beliefs, which really does not honour the martyrs who never dreamed a divided nation and that too after 25 years of independence.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad has told the Parliament that the govern ment was alert to the matter of setting the issue of assets and liability with Pakistan. But none of the MPs asked and he did not say what the government was thinking about the missing martyrs or a trial of the perpetuators of the genocide.

Mr Hurd has reminded the members of the House of Commons about the close ties it has with Japan now and to use the opportunity for a respectable end to the issue. Can we not say the same to our government that it too can use the warm friendship with Pakistan to push it to at least apologise publicly for the 1971 genocide and help track those missing? I

Letter Reference: L-2414 "Dear Madam, Referring to your tracing request of 24.6.74 concerning your husband ... We are quoting the reply received from the National Information

Bureau of Pakistan Red

Crescent Society. According to

the ministry of defence.

Pakistan, the above officer ....

has been declared missing be-

lieved killed. We very much re-

gret to have forward you this

sad news. A second letter in 1977 from Maj. (retd) Ali Hasan Quoreshi. the then secretary general of the Bangladesh Red Cross Society said: "We would like to inform you that we have kept this case in our 'Missing Card Index' and let you know that through the Bangladesh Government an investigation is going on in the jails of India for the missing Bangladeshi nationals."

I would like to repeat that it is not an easy task. The government, according to the offi-

cial- Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) — news agency. among its Victory Day celebrations has included a programme to track down and identify the graves of freedom fighters, in other words, it includes those missing. That is a positive decision, but one would like to know it is being implemented properly as well as the final findings.

But those picked up by the Pakistani army is matter of diplomacy without fear, but with pride. Besides, why Indian jails only and not in Pakistani ones? There have been unconfirmed information to the family of this officer that some where taken to Pakistan.

Besides India and Pakistan are members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). If we can cooperate in trade and other fields, why not in bringing some news to the families of these unsung heroes?

I would like to point out that the family of the army officer had not made any official communication to the Pakistani army and if the Pakistanis were not involved in the incidents involving the missing Bengalis, how could its defence ministry say "missing. believed killed?" Most of these missing people were identified and picked up on the basis of a list prepared for every town by their intelligence or agents or collaborators.

In this month of "BIJOY" let the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina take the right step in finding those missing. She also has lost her family and she knows the pain. and may help families of these martyrs to share this joy and festivities.

## INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

# Clearing Rots before Ensuring Rights

T a time when Bangladesh, for various reasons, is placed in the frontline of the world's pauper countries, "human rights" is a 'popular' thought-provoking subject here. It perhaps requires scores of scholars to define what the people's, and of the country's, rights are, let alone ensuring all the accessible rights at all levels. Surely a layperson's impression on human rights would differ from many others' both at individual and global levels.

Individually, the people of Bangladesh of both pre-and post-in-dependence periods were seldom given way by the political hierarchy to have the opportunity to know what their rights are. Globally, on the other hand, it still depends on the economically rich countries to "feed" the countries like Bangladesh with ideas of 'human rights' as to what the rights should be. In other words, the poor countries meaning the South as a whole are, in fact, yet to decide internationally what they are going to exercise as 'rights'.

That the South nations have very little political freedom at the global level is underscored by the "ways" of decision-making in the most powerful international political body existing still today - the UN Security Council - and that, too, is on the way to be reformed rather for the gains of richer countries. Despite the fact that at least one of the five veto-powered members is from the South - which has three-quarters of the entire world population the Council has in the past always sidelined the South. Well,

Although human rights, as part of living, is as old as the most ancient philosophies of the world when this civilisation was taking roots, yet it was

of course, South members do

speak, but their voices count lit-

Exercising human rights at individual level is never possible until social discriminations are reined down to a diminishing position, writes Ekram Kabir

given a modern ring in terms of practising since the end of World War II, and specially during the '90s. It was the need of the victors, namely the Allies of that war - in a spirit of abundant optimism, for the ravages of the war were not only moral outrages, they were also very real threat to international peace and stability.

But in 1945 the Allies chose a different path from the one they had trodden in 1919. Instead of imposing 'peace treaties' on the vanquished. they sought to establish a new international 'legal' order, founded on the three main principles declared in Article 1 of the UN Charter - the peaceful settlement of international disputes 'in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, and accordingly, the outlawing of aggressive wars; friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal and self-determination of peoples' and 'respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race,

sex, language or religion'. By the time of the adoption of the UN Charter, however, it had not proved possible to define in detail what these "human rights and fundamental freedoms" were. Then in order to repair this omission, the UN proceeded to draft the famous Universal Declaration of Human Rights which they adopted on 10 December 1948.

Now, after coming a long way, the post-Cold War UN is seeking to create a single, uni

fied global system. But in a variety of relationships within this unified-ness, questions loom large — what has been the impact of this global system on nations or communities, specially those who are less powerful and less prosperous? And what has been its impact on human beings and their inher-

ent rights everywhere?
Answer? Well, the existing global system which is still evolving has been proven to be unfair and unjust to the majority of the human race. The global economy, for example, is controlled and managed by a handful of elite, corporate bodies and states located in the North. They have done their homework to ensure that their interests would be protected and enhanced even if it is to the detriment of the rest. One example is consumption

levels: the North, with about one-fourth of the world population, consumes, according to available information, 70 per cent of the world's energy, 75 per cent of its metals, 85 per cent of its wood and 60 per cent of its food. Now, contrast this situation in the South - over one billion people are mired in absolute poverty, one-and-ahalf billion are deprived of primary healthcare, and about a billion adults are illiterate. What this reveals is that a huge portion of the population in the South do not enjoy the most basic economic and social rights.

Now in the context of Bangladesh — which may also include most of Asia - a holistic, integrated approach would

demand an urgent and equal attention to the economic and social rights of the people, for the majority here stagger under the poverty line. In spite of some economic and social progresses achieved in various sectors, over time, a significant segment of the country's population yet does not enjoy some of the most basic economic and social rights, including the rights to adequate food, clothing and housing, work, fair wages, healthcare and educa-

Poverty is so severe that the poor have become captivated in recent forms of "slavery" like deprived labour, child labour and child prostitution, which is also one of the direct causes of the cruel exploitation of female labour in various sectors of the economy. Women's and children's rights cannot be made into a reality if the 'wealth imbalance' in the form of social or class discrimination persists in the society.

It is notable that in Bangladesh even when the absolute poverty is reduced to a certain extent, the gap between "haves" and "have-nots" appears yawing further particularly when wealth and power are exclusively concentrated in the hands of the elite. Elite-oriented and elite-dependent development of any sort, which is being virtually followed here in Bangladesh, marginalises the majority, thereby depriving them of their rights of human-

When human dignity and social justice become subjected to harassment and intimidation, it also leads, along with the other rights-related issues. to moral and environmental degradation which in turn affects adversely the economic and social rights of the present and future generations.

# Human Rights Day Marks UN Universal Declaration Adoption

UMAN Rights Day marks the anniversary of the adoption, in 1948. of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is an occasion for reflecting on the importance of the Universal Declaration and how much progress has been made in making it a reality.

Almost every country in the world now subscribes to the Universal Declaration in principle, though not always in practice. But it is important to recall that there was much disagreement in the early years after World War II about its precise content.

The United Nations Charter. adopted in 1945, set the goal of "promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms of all without distinction as to race. sex, language and religion." But how were human rights to be defined? The task was assigned to the UN Commission on Human Rights, which was established

According to historians, a key figure in the evolution of the Universal Declaration was Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of

US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She was appointed to the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1946 by her husband's successor, President Harry Truman. The delegates unanimously elected her chairperson of the commission.

Tamora Hareven, one of many biographers of Eleanor Roosevelt, writes in her book, "An American Conscience," that Roosevelt aggressively ar gued for a strong precise definition of human rights while. at the same time trying to bridge the gaps between different members and reconcile different points of view deriving from different cultures.

At the time the Universal Declaration was drafted, there were marked differences among member states concerning the rights of women, religious liberty, the point at which human life began, the extent of freedom of speech and the right to dissent, and the role of economic and social rights. Hareven adds.

But the most serious disagreements concerning the definition of human rights derived from the entirely different conceptions of freedom and by David Pitts

democracy held by Western nations and their allies and the Soviet Union and its Communist satellites.

Roosevelt argued there was no "true individual freedom in the Soviet Union because the rights of the individual were subservient to the state." This fundamental philosophical and ideological distinction framed all of the commissions' debates as the drafting of the Declaration proceeded. Roosevelt achieved her goal

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10. 1948. Of 58 members represented at the session, 48 voted in favour, none voted against. eight abstained, and two were absent. The Soviet Union and its satellites constituted the majority of the abstentions The representative of Saudi Arabia also abstained because. in his opinion, the Declaration represented too Western a view of human rights.

Speaking before the General Assembly, Roosevelt stressed the epoch-making value of the Declaration: "The Declaration may well

become the international Magna Carta of all men everywhere. We hope its proclamation by the General Assembly will be an event comparable to the proclamation of the Rights of Man by the French people in 1789, the adoption of the Bill of Rights by the people of the United States, and the adoption of comparable declarations at different times in other countries many state most force

Article I of the Universal Declaration set the tone for a broad range of political, social and economic rights that are of fered as a common standard of achievement for all nations." All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and human rights.

In the wake of the most bar barous war in history, the world had finally adopted a set of principles, which it was hoped, would set humanity on a new course - to hold all nations to account for their actions. both internally and externally As a resolution of the Gen-

eral Assembly of the United

Nations, the Universal Declaration, however, had no force of law. Assembly resolutions are recommendations to states, not binding obligations. But as Jack Donnelly and Rhoda Howard stress in the "International Handbook of Human Rights." over the years "the Universal Declaration has come to be something more than a mere recommendation."

The Declaration inspired a number of regional human rights conventions in Europe, Latin America and Africa, and influenced the drafting of many of the constitutions of the new independent states that emerged onto the world stage as colonialism receded during the 1950s and 1960s.

On Human Rights Day, each year, world takes note not only of the work of international institutions like the commission. that were set up to help make the Universal Declaration a reality, but also of the countless numbers of individuals and or ganisations around the world that also strive for its full reali sation for all mankind.



## The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

### Tuesday 10th December (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes.)

## BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement Al-Quran Programme Summary 2.10 News in Bangla 3:15 Patnotic songs 3:20 Recitation from the Geeta 3:25 The Album Show 3:50 Cartoon film 4:15 Unmesh 4:50 Coach 5:07 News in Bangla 5:22 Sangeeta 6:00pm National Television Debate Competition 6:50 Open University 7:00 The News 7:25 Silver Jubilee of Freedom Fighter-A Documentary 8:00 News in Bangla 8:25 Silver Jubilee of Freedom Fighting-Mu thagar Govt 9:00 Drama Serial: 10:00 The News 10:25 Those day of Freedom Fighting 10:30 sur Lahane 11:35 Wednesday's programme summary 11:40 Close down

## BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:10 Newsnight 7:00 BBC Newsroom inc. World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 10:00 BBC World Headlines 10:05 World Focus: Panorama 10:45 The Panel 11:00 BBC Newsday 2:00 BBC World News 2:15 World Focus: Panorama 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out:

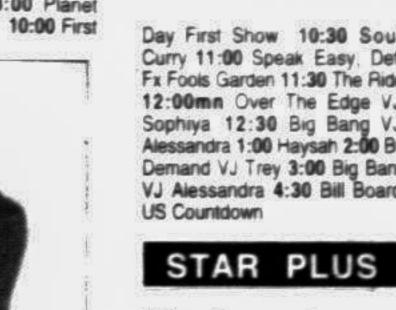
The Ride, guest Alanis Morissette on Channel V

Newsdesk 6:00pm BBC World News 6:15 World Focus The Money Programme 7:00 BdC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC Newshour Asia & Pacific 8:30 Time Out Earth Report 9:00 BBC World Nev:s 9:15 World Focus Panorama 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out Top Gear 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 Time Out Film '96 12:00mn The World Today 2:00 BBC World Headlines 2:05 World Focus Panorama 2:45 The Panel 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out The Clothes Show 4:00 BBC World Report inc World Business Report/24 Hours 5:00 BBC World Report inc World Business Report/24

Tomorrow's World 4:00 BBC

## CHANNEL V

6:30am The Ticket 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophiya 8:00 Frame by Frame 9:00 Jump Start VJ Alessandra 10:30 Frame by Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00 Rewind VJ Sophiya 1:00 By Demand VJ Trev 2:00 Frame by Frame 2:30 First Day First Show 3:00 The Indian Top 10 4:00 Planet Ruby 4:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 5:30 Rewind VJ Sophiya 7:00 By Demand VJ Trey 8:00 Planet Ruby 9:00 The Vibe 10:00 First



6:00am Home and Away 6:30 The Sullivans 7:00 Aerobics Cz 6:00pm Kate 4 Allie 6:30 Yan

Baywatch on Star Plus at 1 mm

Curry 11:00 Speak Easy, Def Fx Fools Garden 11:30 The Ride 12:00mm Over The Edge VJ Sophiya 12:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 1:00 Haysah 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 Bill Board

Style 7:30 Star News 8:00 Sky News 8:30 Star News 9:00 Sky News 9:30 Aerobics Oz Style 10:00 Yan Can Cook 10:30 For Your Entertainment 11:00 Kate & Allie 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 Tra X Files 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:00 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Khandaan 3:30 Imtihan 4:00 Home and Away 4:30 Lost in Space 5:30 Adventures Of Black Beauty

Internet 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Small Wonder 8:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 9:00 Meri Awaz Suno 9:30 Star News 10:00 Some Mothers Do Ave Em 10:30 Beverly Hills 90210 11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00mn Santa Barbara 1:00 Baywatch 2:00 Dynasty 3:00 Quincy 4:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:00 Barnaby Jones

## STAR SPORTS

6:00am ITTF Pro Tour Yugoslav Open Doubles Final 7:90 1996 Omega Tour Tugu Pratama PGA Champ H/Ls 8:00 1996 Asian Cup Championships C1 Japan Vs C3 Uzbekistan Venue Al-Ain 10:00 1996 Asian Cup Championships C4 Syria vs C2 China PR Venue Al-Ain 12:00 Million Dollar Golf Day 3 Highlights From Sun City, South Africa 2:00 Pro

Beach Kuala Lumpur 3:00 Asia. Sport Show 3:30 Dubai Rugby Seven's 4:30 1996 Omega Tour The Royal Classic Day 3 6 30 Sports India 20 7 00 Squash Super Series World Open 8:00 Live 1996 Asian Cup Champs UAE vs Indonesia 9:00 LIVE 1996 Asian Cup Championships 3 Kuwait vs A4 Korea Republic 10:00 LIVE 1996 Asian Cup Championships 3 Kuwait vs A4 Korea Republic Vernue Abu-Dhaby 11:00 Million Dollar Golf Final Day Highlights From Sun City South Africa 1:00 That Kickboxing Highlights 2:00 ITU Triathlon World Cup 3:00 The Asian Football Show 4:00 Squash Super Series World Open 5:00 Pro Beach Kuala

## STAR MOVIES

7:30am Western Django 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 Adventure Capricron 1 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Film Club A Tale Of Two Cities 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Family The Care Bears G (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Musical Star PG (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Documentary. The Directors Robert Wise 7:30 Cornedy Made for Each Other PG (Hindi Subtitles) 9:00 Hollywood 1 On 1 9:30 Action: Eye Of the Eagle II 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Comedy: Folks 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 1:30 Film Club. The Terminator 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 3:30 After Dark Backstreet Justice 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 5:30 Western Borderline 15 (Arabic Subtitles)

## ZEE TV

5:30 Suno Bhai Sadho 6:00 The News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 ZED 8:30 Hum Honge Kaamyab 9:00 Insight 9:30 Gaane Anjaane 10:00 17 Shirley Road/Jaanbaaz 10:30 Graviera Ki Urrieed 11:00 Close Up Antakshri 11:30 Nirma Aaha 12:00 Commander 12:30 Mr Minioo 1:00 ZED 1:30 Asian Sky Shop 2:00 Tara 2:30 Raghaat 3:30 Dhara Zaike Ka Safar 4:00 Haathi Cement Aashiana 4:30 Aur Ek Minute 5:00 ZED 5:30 Cartoons 6:00 Positive Health Show 6:30 Through The Gears 7:00 Gaans

Aniazne 7:30 The Hindi News 7 45 Paahaat 8:15 Jhalak 8:30 Hum Paanch 9:00 Sallaab 9:30 Tara 10:00 Hasratein 10:30 The News 11:00 Jaal 11:30 Dastaan 12 00 Daraar 12:30 TVS Sa Re Ga Ma 1 30 Raanat 2:00 Love Stones 2:30 TMM 4:00 Surtaal 4:30 Hum Zameen 5:00 Jagran

## EL TV

Deke Dekho 2:30 Helen Special 03:30 Dharmendra Special 04:30 Jeetendra Special 5:30 Murntaz Special 6:30 Dil Deke Dekho 7:30 Helen Special 8:30 Dharmendra Special 9:30 Jeetendra Special 10:30 Moov Usha Uthup Show 11:00 Zandu Balm Dance Mania 11:30 Newstine 12:00 Men Marzi

IAN FLEMING'S

Quartz Peoples Club 7:30 Number One 8:00 Filmi Chaat 8:10 Kinetic Pride Haseen Pal 8:30 Yumkeenz Mast Must 00:30 Mumtaz Sepcial 01:30 Dil Show 9:00 Hit Thi Hit Hai 9:30 Purushkshetra 10:30 Stand-by 10:40 Talaash 11:00 Mooy Usha Uthup Show 11:30 Chalo Cinema 12:00 Kinetic Pride

PTV

12:30 Atco Ru-Ba Ru 1 00

Fat Or Fit 2:00 Rajesh Khanna

Special 3:00 Karz 3:30 Yeh

Dun ya Gazab Ki 4:00 Siyaram

Kamaal Kombination 4:30

Uppanyas 5:00 Kinetic It's My

Choice 5:30 Jeevan Ke Rang

6:30 Khushiyan 7:00 D'Signer

Snowchem Kal Bhi Aai Bhi 1:30

8:00 am Tilawat Aur Tarjuma-

### Haseen Pai 12:40 Akanksha Khabarnama 11:20 VCD Top Ten Pakistani Video James Bond

Khabrain 8:45 Beauty Care 8:50 Fun Kadha 9:10 Dhanak & Health Tips 10:05 Har Taan Close down Hely Deepak 10:30 English Film Home Improvement 10:55 Milli

Anita (Serial) 12:00 Sports Hour 12:55pm Quran e Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 The Science Show 2:00 Yeh Jahan (Music video) 2:25 Animated Classiscs 3:15 Geography & Sammar School 4:20 Mitti Sona 5:00 Allah Huma Labbaik 5:25 Qabhi Mein Soochta Hoen (Drama Serial) 6:25 Alou Courses 7:00 Dhanak 7:45 English News 8:15 UN Quiz 8:45 Jab (Drama Serial) 9:00 Break for Headline News 10:00

/Hamd/flaat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30

Naghma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10

Coundown) 12:30 Dr. Quin. Medicine Women (Jean Saymor) 1:35 Khas Khas Khabrain/

## DD 7

10:30 Janmadin 10:35 Classical Music 11:00 Ghare Baire 12:30 Monorama Cabin (Serial) 1:00 Janani (Serial) 1:30 Trishna 2:00 Batayan 2:30 Prachir (Senal) 3:00 Bhangan (Serial) 3:30 Bigapti 5:05 Science Prog-Bigan Prasange 5:30 Employment News 6:00 Palli Katha 6:30 Teen Kanya 7:00 Pallisamai (Serial) 7:30 Bangla Sambad 7:55 Dinindan 8:00 Bukul Katha 8:30 Darpan 9:00 Janani (Serial) 9:30 Monorama Cabin (Serial) 10:00 Bengali Movie Club Film Show Doie Bon 1:00 Closed

Dream Of Jeannie 10:30 Surf Wheel Of Fortune 11:00 Pehchan 12:30 Kismat 1:00 Zamin Asman 1:30 Jai Bir Hanuman 2:30 Cine Matinec-Hindi Feature Film 4:30 Jai Bir Hanuman 5:00 10 Civil Lines 5:30 The Three Stooges 6:00 Mere Message Meri Geel 6:30 Dennis The Menace 7:00 Premier 7:30 | Dream of Jeannie 8:00 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 8:30 Cine Prime-Hindi Feature Film 11:00 The Young And The Restless 12:00 Taj Mahal Taki Dhina Din 12:30 Jeevan Mirtu 1:00 Sunday Ki Sunday 1:30 Surf-Wheel Of Fourtune 2:00 Premier 2:30 Closed

SONY ET

6:30am Gaane Jaane Maane

9:00 The Three Stooges 9:30

Dennis The Menace 10:00

DRAWN BY JOHN MCLUSKY



## Tom and Jerry

IN TANGIER-JAMES

NAMED FARONE ...

BOND MAKES TELEPHONE

