

Law and Our Rights

ACTIVIST POWER: A New Dimension in Human Rights Enforcement Mechanism

by Abul Hasnat Monjurul Kabir

"THOUGH non government organisations or NGOs have long been around, they now are emerging as a bold new force for change.

breathes in noxious fumes. The sick dying for want of medical care. The poor are deprived of their legal and fundamental rights as they can not seek justice from the judiciary due to huge expenses and for want of proper legal aid.

appear paralysed by the enormity of the problems confronting the region. We inure ourselves to the surrounding misery. It does not twinge our conscience occasionally. But we soothe it by writing a cheque to a local charity or throwing a few coins into battered tiffin carriers.

wood, and I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference. Since the end of the Second World War and most especially since the end of the 1970s, there has been explosive emergence of local, national and international voluntary organisations working for the promotion and protection of human rights on every continent and almost every country in the world.

of the groups are increasingly keeping South Asian governments on edge. Their goals are often lofty. They want to reduce poverty, improve women's status and empower them, safeguard the environment, protect workers from abuse and consumers from fraud, expose corruption, bolster human rights and defend democracy.

cal authorities are now accountable to internationally defined standard of human rights. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been the dynamo that has driven the struggle for self determination, the struggle for democratic pluralism, and the struggle for a more just economic order.

forcement of human rights are summarised under the following nine heads: 1. Information Gathering, Evaluation and Dissemination (of Information).

Nations Commission on Human Rights has established a Working Group on Defenders with a view to drafting a declaration for the better protection of human rights organisations and advocates.

Madrasa And Some Strewn Thoughts

by Deena Munier

"The parents trust me with their children and my way of disciplining them; they pay Tk. 500-1,000 per month for that!" One of these children is the Principal's own son. If a father could do such horrible things to his own son, then what he can do to others is something not unimaginable.

"THE moulana sahib of the madrasa is the Almighty's agent. I send my son to study in his madrasa, so that he can learn Allah's scriptures and serve the moulana sahib as well.

mainly the men, of this study emphasized though they do not ignore the need of formal education. While learning Allah's Kalam is more important.

do feel the need for proper and formal education and parents prefer madrasa. Besides the formal education has some hidden costs, such as, tuition fee (although education is supposed to be free up to primary level), examination fee, cost of books, uniforms etc.

education? They have to be alive in order to go to school", is contradicting the fact that they do pay high amounts of money (sometimes Tk. 1,000-3,000 per month) to the madrasas.

How far these children are safe in these "good hands" was discovered by journalists a few months back. First it was in Jessore - horrifying details of how children are punished for small mistakes were published in the dailies.



Chained without trial: The students of the Chittagong Madrasa

There is no need to go into gory details of how the children were punished - we all have read the reports and seen the television news. How we felt is another issue all together.

in-depth investigation and come up with concrete suggestions and strategies to stop such incidents from happening again in future.

We urge the government to establish an effective system to monitor the thousands of madrasas in the country. From a survey of 300 randomly selected madrasas, from a list provided by the Madrasa Board, found that a number of madrasas do not exist.

less than reported. All these findings raised question, would government go on paying high amount of subsidies to these religious learning centres?

"We do not have enough money to feed our children, how could we even think of providing them with education? They have to be alive in order to go to school", is contradicting the fact that they do pay high amounts of money (sometimes Tk. 1,000-3,000 per month) to the madrasas.

Bangladesh. A predominantly Muslim country, Bangladesh, religiously as well as socially conservative, parents prefer sending their children to madrasas than to schools.

While scoring the problems, children focused on the education issue mainly. For many education was the "only way to reach our dreams."

wrong messages by many illiterate moulanas do not help the situation. Therefore, the very same parents who refuse to pay the extra hidden costs to education, exhaust all options and try their utmost to come up with the money to enroll their children into the madrasas.

So, as parents eagerly send their children to madrasas; the rural parents are usually very busy with their strenuous and time-consuming jobs (sharecropping, daily labour, small shop keeping etc.) and hardly have time to keep contact with their children. They feel secure and comfortable with this idea that their children at madrasas are in good hands and therefore there is no need for regular supervision.

The government also supporting madrasa education by allocating 10% of the revenue budget of the Ministry of Education.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

- Sunday 12th January (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes).
BTB
3:00 Opening Announcement
4:00 Quran Programme Summary
3:10 News in Bangla 3:15 Patriotic Songs 3:20 Recitation from the Bible 3:25 Retelcas of Drama 4:50 Marami 5:00 News in Bangla 5:25 Sports Programme 6:00pm Getimabha 6:35 Mayerder Janngo 6:50 Open University 7:00 The News 7:25 Documentary on Freedom Fighting 8:00 News in Bangla 8:25 Women in Freedom Fighting 9:00 Film Series: Akbar The Great 10:00 News in English 10:25 Those Days of Freedom Fighting 10:30 Shono Ahaban 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Monday's programme 11:40 Close down

- BBC
6:00am BBC World News 6:30 India Business Report 7:00 BBC World News 7:25 This Week 8:00 BBC World Headlines 8:30 India Business Report 9:00 BBC World News 10:00 BBC World Headlines 10:05 Horizon: Dodging Doomsday 11:00 BBC World News 11:25 India Business Report 12:00noon BBC World News 12:20 World Focus: Earth Report Debate - Mapping the Millennium 1:00 BBC World News 1:20 This Week 2:00 BBC World Headlines 2:05 World Focus: Assignment 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: The Clothes Show 4:00 BBC World News Headlines 4:05 World Focus: Everyman 5:00 BBC World News 5:20 Window On Europe 6:00pm BBC World Headlines 6:05 World Focus: Pole to Pole 7:00 BBC World Headlines 7:05 Breakfast with Frost 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 Time Out: The Travel Show 9:00 BBC World Headlines 9:05 Horizon: Dodging Doomsday 10:00 BBC World News 10:20 Earth Report 10:30 Time Out: Film '97 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 World Focus: Top Gear 12:00pm BBC World News 12:20 on the Record 1:00 BBC World Focus: Assignment 3:00 Europe 2:00 BBC World Headlines 2:05 World Focus: State of the World: A Nuclear Warning 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World



Launchpad vj Sophiya on Channel (V), at 4:30 pm

- 4:00 BBC World Report Inc: World Business Report/24 Hours 5:00 BBC World Report Inc: World Business Report/24 Hours
CHANNEL V
6:00am Frame by Frame 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophiya 8:00 Frame by Frame 9:00 Big Bang Weekend VJ Alessandra 11:00 BPL Oye! 12:00 Sansui Mangta Hai 12:30 First Day First Show 1:00 Rewind VJ Sophiya 2:00 Speak Easy 2:30 Videoclan Flashback 3:00 Asian Top 20 VJ Trey 5:00 The Vibe Weekend VJ Luke 6:00 The Vibe Weekend 7:00pm Fashion Police 7:30 Soul Curry 8:00 The Indian Top 10 9:00 Launch Pad VJ Samira 10:00 House Of Noise VJ Luke 11:00 Rewind VJ Sophiya 12:00am Big Bang VJ Alessandra 1:00 The Ride 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 Launch-

- pad VJ Sophiya 5:30 VJ Alessandra
STAR PLUS
6:30am TBC 7:00 Asia Sport Show 7:30 Live NBA Game Of The Week Houston @ Chicago 10:00 World Wrestling Federation Blast Off 11:30 Live Chinese Taipei Badminton Open 1997 Final From Taipei 3:30 Asian Football Show 4:30 Canadian Professional Figure Skating Championships From Corral Centre, Ottawa, Canada 6:30 Greatest Grand Slam Matches Of 1996 Seles vs Testud, Seles vs Martinex, Seles vs Graf & Sampiras vs Chang 8:30 NBA Game Of The Week Houston @ Chicago 10:30 Asia Sport Show 11:00 World Tour HL 11:30 Live National Football League, 1996-1997 NFC Championship 3:00 ISF World Tour HL 3:30 Greatest Grand Slam Matches Of 1996 Seles vs Testud, Seles vs Martinex, Seles vs Graf & Sampiras vs Chang 5:30 Sports India

- STAR MOVIES
7:30am Classic: The Diary of Anne Frank 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 9:30 Adventure: Avalanche 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 11:30 Comedy: Cocoon 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Adventure: Fantastic Voyage 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Sunday Show Time: Pee-Wee's Playhouse (PG) 4:30 Sunday Show Time: Just For Laughs 15 5:30 Sunday Family Double Feature: Asterix vs Caesar PG (Hindi Subtitles) 7:30 Sunday Family Double Feature: Once Upon A Forest G 9:00 Film '97 9:30 Gold: That Night 11:30 True Story: The Chart Of Jimmy Blacksmith 18 (Arabic Subtitles)
PTV
8:00am Tiawat Aur Tar-

- STAR MOVIES
1:00 Moov Usha Uthup Show 1:30 Vipul Ka Amar Prem 2:00 Money Game 2:30 Instinct Purnakeshtra 3:30 Zandu Balm Dance Mania 4:00 Anabi 5:00 Men Marzi 5:30 Yumkeenz Mast Must Show 6:00 Dear EL 6:30 Snowchem Kal Bhi Aaj Bhi 7:00 Ten Bahi Chup Meri Bhi Chup 7:30 Abhinavi 7:50 Kinetic Fride Haseen Pal 8:00 Boropus The Real Countdown 8:30 Pralful V3+ 9:00 Shatraaj 9:30 Aloo Ru Ba Ru 10:00 Stand By 10:10 Hollywood See Bollywood 10:30 Navras 11:00 Manoranjan 11:30 Kinetic Pride Haseen Pal 11:40 Karz
ZEE TV
5:30am Surtal 6:00 The News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 Suno Bhai Sadho 7:30 Maa 8:00 Mythological Hindi Film 10:30 Aap Ki Adait 11:00 Siyaram's Cine Magic 11:30 Lakme Khoobsurat 12:00 Aur Ek Minute 12:30 Bourvita Quiz Contest 1:00 Haathi Cement Aashiana 1:30 Asian Sky Shop 2:00 Dream Merchants 2:30 Hindi FezJre Film 5:00 Dhak Ghar Apna Ghar 5:30 Ghoomta Aaina 6:00 Helpline 6:30 Aditya Pradhan Mantri 7:00 Index 7:30 Insight 8:00 Casper Kya Scene Hai 8:30 Suno Suno Tring Tring 9:00 Hi Zindagi Bye Zindagi 9:30 Malekhar Hill 10:00 The Zee Horror Show 10:30 News 11:00 Suhana Safar 11:30 Philips Top Ten 12:30 Chahat Aur Natrat 1:00 Yeh Kahan Aa Gaye Hum 1:30 Raahat 2:00 Apollite Aap Ki Pasand 2:30 TMM 4:00 Dastan 4:30 Kodak Kick Kick 5:00 Jagran
EL TV
00:30 Best Of The Best 1:30 Tarane 2:30 Hit Pairs 3:30 Devotional 4:30 Ghungru 5:30 Best Of The Best 6:30 Tarane 7:30 Hit Pairs 8:30 Kandos Its My Choice 9:00 Aloo Ru-Ba-Ru 9:30 Fat Or Fit 10:00 Siyaram Kamaal Combination 10:30 Brigadier Balwant Bhawan 11:00 Sorry Meri Lorry 11:30 Liberty Public Demand 12:00 Number One 12:30 Chehre

- STAR MOVIES
8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Fun Time 9:05 TV Encyclopedia 9:25 Khat Farnaish 9:40 Sports
DD 7
9:00 Jarmadin 9:05 Geemlaya 9:30 Ganne Jaane Maana 9:30 Surer Asar 1:00 Dhitang Dhitang Bole 1:30 Movie Club Film 3:30 Geet Sangeet 4:30 Bengla Feature Film 5:30 News 7:20 Binodan 7:30 Bangla Samba 8:00 Shreoshi (Serial) 8:25 Geet Sangeet (Serial) 9:00 Drama 10:00 Dance Prog 10:30 News/Bengali Samba 11:00 Closed

- SONY ET
8:30am Jail Bir Hanuman 9:30 Gaane Jaane Maane 10:30 Dekh Tamasa Dekh 10:30 Buddha 11:00 Taj Mahal Takhta Dhin 12:00 BSA Star Ki Pasand 12:30 Pehli Mulakat 1:00 Good Shot 1:30 Pehchan 2:00 Yeh Sadi Nahi Ho Sakti 2:30 Ravan 3:30 Gaane Jaane Maana 4:00 O'Maria (Serial) 4:30 Nirlep Rasoli Show 5:00 Boogie Woogie 5:10 Cover Story - Hosti (Serial) 6:00 Jeevan Mirtyu (Serial) 7:00 Bindass Bol 8:00 Cine Classics -- Hindi Feature Film 11:00 The Young And The Restless 12:00 Ghaav 12:30 Aahaat (Serial) 1:00 Faslee (Serial) 1:30 Surf - Wheel Of Fortune 2:00 Premier

- ZEE CINEMA
6:45 Songs 8:00 Gateway of India (B/W) (Bharat Bhusan, Madhubala) 10:45 Chalo Cinema 11:15 Brahmachari (Shammi K. Rajeshwari) 2:00 Zandu Fimi Batem 2:30 Namak Haram (Amitabh B. Ramesh Khanna, Rakha) 5:15 Cinema Cinema 5:30 Hit Hai Fir Hai 6:00 Dil Ka Doctor (Anupam Kher, Smita Jaykar) 8:45 Cinema Cinema 9:00 Ikk Pe Ikk 9:30 Raju Ban Gaya Gentleman (Sharuk K. Juih C) 12:15 Filler 12:30 Mohini (Madhu, Sadeh Berry) 3:15 Chalo Cinema 3:45 Do Shatru (Shatrughn Sinha, Shamla Tagora)



James Bond by Jim Davis. IAN FLEMING'S James Bond. DRAWN BY JOHN MCLUSKY. IN ISTANBUL - BOND GOES TO THE SULTANA NIGHTCLUB... DAMN! I BROUGHT HER A PRESENT... PERHAPS THE MANAGER CAN TELL YOU WHERE SHE HAS GONE! WHERE IS IT YOU WANT TO KNOW? ZOBEBIDE? ALAS, EFFENDI! SHE IS NO LONGER PERFORMING HERE!