

Much Ado about the US Report: A Response from Human Rights Activists

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If institutions such as the press, the judiciary and the parliament are allowed to function in freedom, they may become effective checks on probable transgressions by state and non-state actors. And toward these ends human rights activists need to assess the rights and wrongs of state actions and policies.

THIS year the US has published its report on human rights in Bangladesh with unusual fanfare. This has aroused stormy denials by the GoB and partisan cheers and boos from members of the civil society...

criticism. The US record on human rights leaves much to be desired in the way it has caused deprivation for many families and young children in Iraq...

not provide effective evidence. Confusing contemporary incidents with events from earlier years are misleading. It is problematic to lump together all violations from 1994 and 1997...

records of newspapers, and other business houses is the norm in any modern society. Although we have become accustomed to tax evasions and loan defaults by the very powerful...

lied in a "cover up" response rather than trying to correct its lapses. Was it necessary for the Foreign Secretary to defend the continued use of SPA merely because the PM made no commitment to repeal it...

to use their powers of detention with total impunity. It is often said in their defense that the human rights of the police need to be protected as well...

because of public consciousness. In the joint declaration made by all parties engaged in the struggle against Ershad's autocratic rule on November 19, 1990...

which judges rights and wrongs by which side commits wrongs. Democracy cannot merely be relegated to five-yearly electoral matches between powerful contenders...

ENERGY LAW

A Solid Base for Investors

The growth in population and recent indications of economic growth have spurred the Bangladesh Government to adopt policies to develop its industrial and agricultural sectors further...

Petroleum Act, 1974 ("the Act") came into force on August 22, 1974. Section 4 of the Act specifies that the government may enter into a petroleum agreement...

work programme, the contractor has the option to terminate the contract upon payment of liquidated damages for unfulfilled minimum work obligations...

monthly information to Petrobangla in order to determine a fair market value which could be accepted or rejected within an agreed time period...

Section 2 (d) defines a "petroleum agreement" as a production sharing agreement or any other agreement or contract relating to any petroleum operation...

Guarantees: The contract provides for a bank guarantee for an amount to be negotiated between the parties relating to an initial exploration period as well as any extensions thereafter...

1. E&P profits: Where any person carries on or is deemed under an agreement with the government to be carrying on any business which consists of or includes exploration and production of petroleum...

Overall, the Act provides a flexible framework for production sharing in that it empowers the government to enter into different forms of contractual arrangements. In general, companies favour such a system...

Allocations: There are provisions in the contract for sliding scale cost recovery as well as for production sharing. However, under the contract the contractor is limited to recovering all operating expenses incurred after the first commercial production...

(a) Expenditure incurred on searching for or on discovering and testing a petroleum deposit. A portion of such loss in any year may be either: i. set off against income from the same business or under any head of income...

ECA 1995: The Environment Conservation Act, 1995 requires that a clearance must be obtained from the appropriate agency by filing an application in the prescribed form...

Natural Gas: The contract contains innovative terms for natural gas, providing for a right to export natural marketable gas (i.e. volumes of natural gas produced, less natural gas used for petroleum operations...

(c) After commencement of commercial production all expenditure incurred in relation to petroleum and exploration is allowed as a deduction provided: i. that expenditure on assets with respect to which depreciation is allowable is not deductible...

PSC Review of the 1997 Model Contract: The contract provides for an initial exploration period of three years from the effective date with the right to an extension of the exploration period for up to two successive periods of two contract years...

Relinquishments: Such provisions are intended to protect the state party against an oil company effectively holding on to an area without carrying out an exploration programme. Such provisions are structured so as to provide for progressive relinquishment in successive phases...

Pipelines: The contract provides that following the declaration of a commercial discovery the contractor will have a right to construct and operate one or more pipelines from the contract area to one or more points in Bangladesh for the purpose of transporting petroleum...

Work obligations: Article 6.9 of the contract allows the contractor, following a review by the Joint Review Committee (which includes representatives of Petrobangla and the contractor) of the work programme and budget prepared by the contractor...

Valuation of petroleum: The contract provides for the valuation of oil to be decided on the basis of the price a buyer would pay a seller under a long-term contract for the sale of the given product on an arm's length basis...

Fees and bonuses: In terms of fees, the contract stipulates that the contractor will have to pay Petrobangla annually, during the contract term, a contract service fee and which is to be negotiated between the parties. This is recoverable as an operating cost.

Cable operators rally against ESPN: Bangladesh Cable Operators Unity Council yesterday held a rally to demand that the provider of the ESPN sports channel cuts the minimum payable connection to 300 instead of 1000 lines...

Students of Mastermind presenting a dance programme on the occasion of the school's graduation ceremony and annual function, held at RAOWA Club in the city recently.

Garfield

by Jim Davis



Tom and Jerry

By Hanna-Barbera



Metropolitan

Vision-2000 to be launched today

Fifty per cent of the murders committed in Bangladesh are blamed on husband's violence against their wife, reports UNB. This was stated at a press conference in the city yesterday by Dr Attiya Inayatullah, president of International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)...

'Women working in informal sectors get minimum wages'

Women working in various informal sectors, mainly embroidery and tailoring, in an effort to survive put in maximum labour for minimum of wages, reports UNB. A recent study has revealed that 41 per cent of women workers get less than Tk 11 per day by spending on an average five hours in the informal sector...

Launch Labour Assoc calls off programme

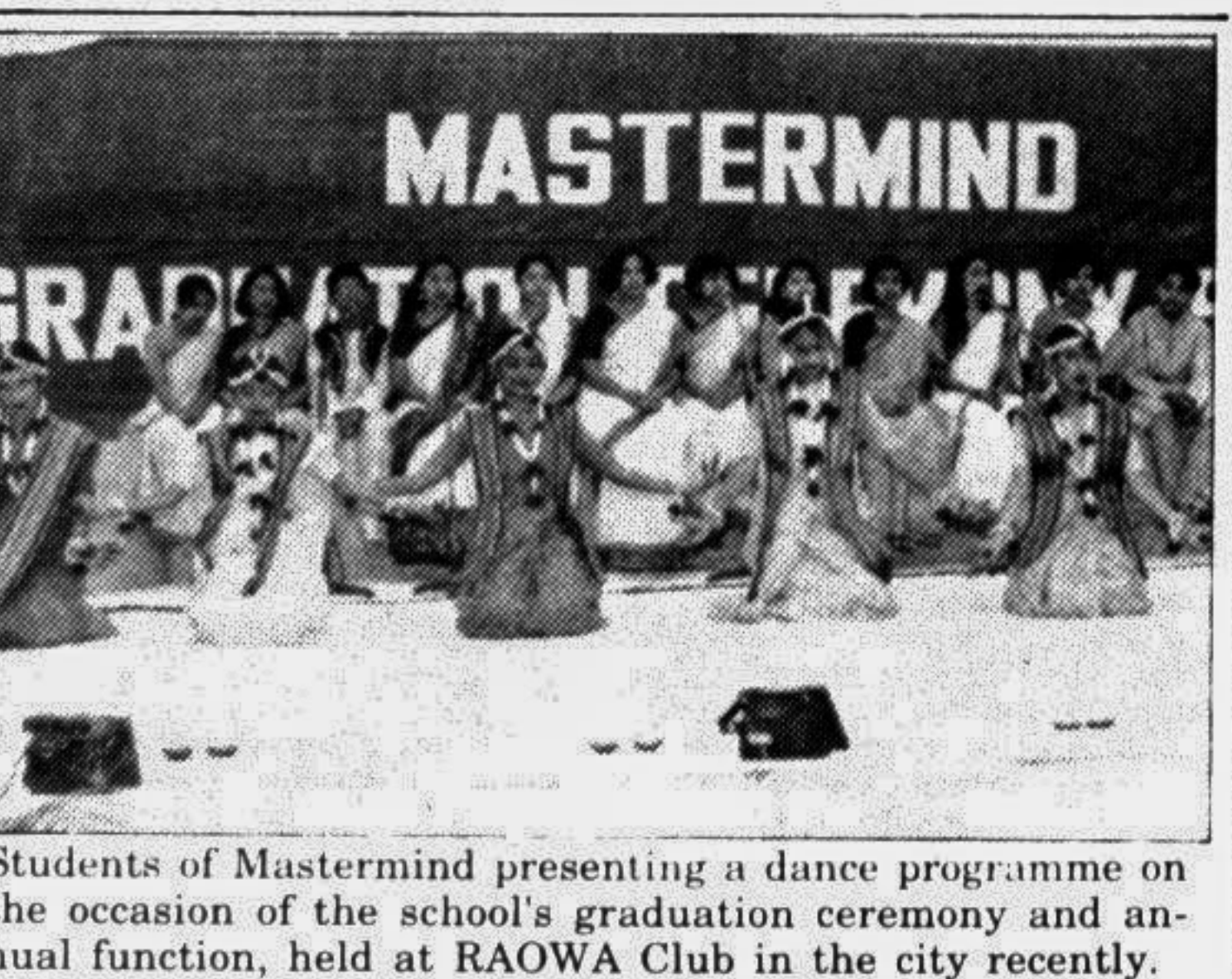
The Bangladesh Launch Labour Association yesterday called off their work stoppage programme, reports BSS. The decision was announced following a fruitful discussion between the Labour and Manpower Minister Mohammad Abdul Mannan and the leaders of the association held at the secretariat...

Anniversary of Principal Abul Quasem's death

The seventh anniversary of death of Principal Abul Quasem, one of the architects of the historic Language Movement, will be observed today, reports UNB. Principal Abul Quasem received various awards, including Ekushey Padak (1987), Bangla Academy Award (1982) and Independence Award (1993)...

First class first

M Jasim Uddin has stood first class first with record marks in the MSc (Thesis Group) final examination in 1994 (held in 1997) under the Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka. He also stood first class first in BSc (Hons) Examination in 1993 (held in 1995) from the same department...



Cable operators rally against ESPN

Bangladesh Cable Operators Unity Council yesterday held a rally to demand that the provider of the ESPN sports channel cuts the minimum payable connection to 300 instead of 1000 lines, reports UNB. The council has been in dispute with ESPN provider Translink since it increased the minimum lines to 600 and then to current 1000 recently, said a press release yesterday.