

In Quest of Ethics in Asian Governance

by Professor Chandra Muzaffar

The question is: can humankind create a sound ethical basis for governance if in the exercise of our temporal, transient power and authority on earth we are not prepared to submit to an eternal, transcendent power and authority that lies beyond our control?

THAT Asian leaders are conscious of the importance of ethics or moral values in the governance of their societies is to state the obvious. A number of national declarations and proclamations contain pointed references to ethical principles and moral values.

- 1. The persistence of abject poverty, elementary infant diseases and illiteracy among the masses.
2. Oppression and exploitation of the poor and powerless, the weak and vulnerable in society.
3. The spread of a materialistic culture denoted by conspicuous consumption at the elite level.
4. Corruption and greed at various strata of society but especially at the apex.
5. Lack of accountability in government and administration and the lack of transparency in commerce and industry.
6. The concentration of power within the elite stratum of society, the restriction of public participation in political decision-making and the suppression of dissent.
7. Discrimination against women, stress and strain within the family and the disintegration of the community.

8. The intensification of communal hatred, cultural chauvinism and religious bigotry.
9. Apathy towards the quest for knowledge and neglect of science and the indigenous arts.
10. The degradation of the physical environment and the rapid depletion of natural resources with little regard for the well-being of future generations.

segments of the populace. It can be argued that colonial rule with its devastating impact upon the mind and soul of Asia was perhaps an even greater obstacle to the development of the moral personality of the Asian. For it created in the Asian a deep sense of inferiority — it continues to manifest itself to this day — which led to the repudiation of one's own moral and spiritual heritage.

27 Years after Independence: Sins and Senses

by Ekram Kabir

It is essential today for every citizen, not just women, to break out of the barriers of injustice, be that in national policies, social preconceptions, or prejudices.

WISDOM has it that denying the rights of the majority and getting ready only with a few for the future is not right; and when it comes to degrading women and children, it is a sin. Yes, here we are talking about the ill-fated women and children of Bangladesh who are living in fear of being raped, and who are malnourished or undernourished.

Even after 27 years since independence, if this is the social destiny of our women, then Bangladesh society is definitely undergoing a "moral starvation". The nature of these rapes is paralysing the sane section. One's anger turns into sickness and becomes intense when members of the law enforcing personnel are seen as offenders.

Debatable cost of litigation, they cannot even think of approaching the court of law, and always deny themselves of justice. These disadvantaged women do not know that to end their abysmal ordeal, individuals and groups can initiate "public interest litigation" already originated by the court here in Bangladesh. Now, women in general have to be informed about the litigation procedures.

In our context, it's more of a trafficking mode. Even if they go through some employment agencies, they don't know where they are going, what they are going to do, how much money they are going to get for it, and for how long. As mentioned, they don't know, they end up at the brothels — from where there is no way to escape, and they end up in sex slavery. If they want to come back, they can't. Some women manage to escape and come back but they are not accepted by their community, so they have to turn to prostitution in their home country.

Garfield



by Jim Davis



James Bond

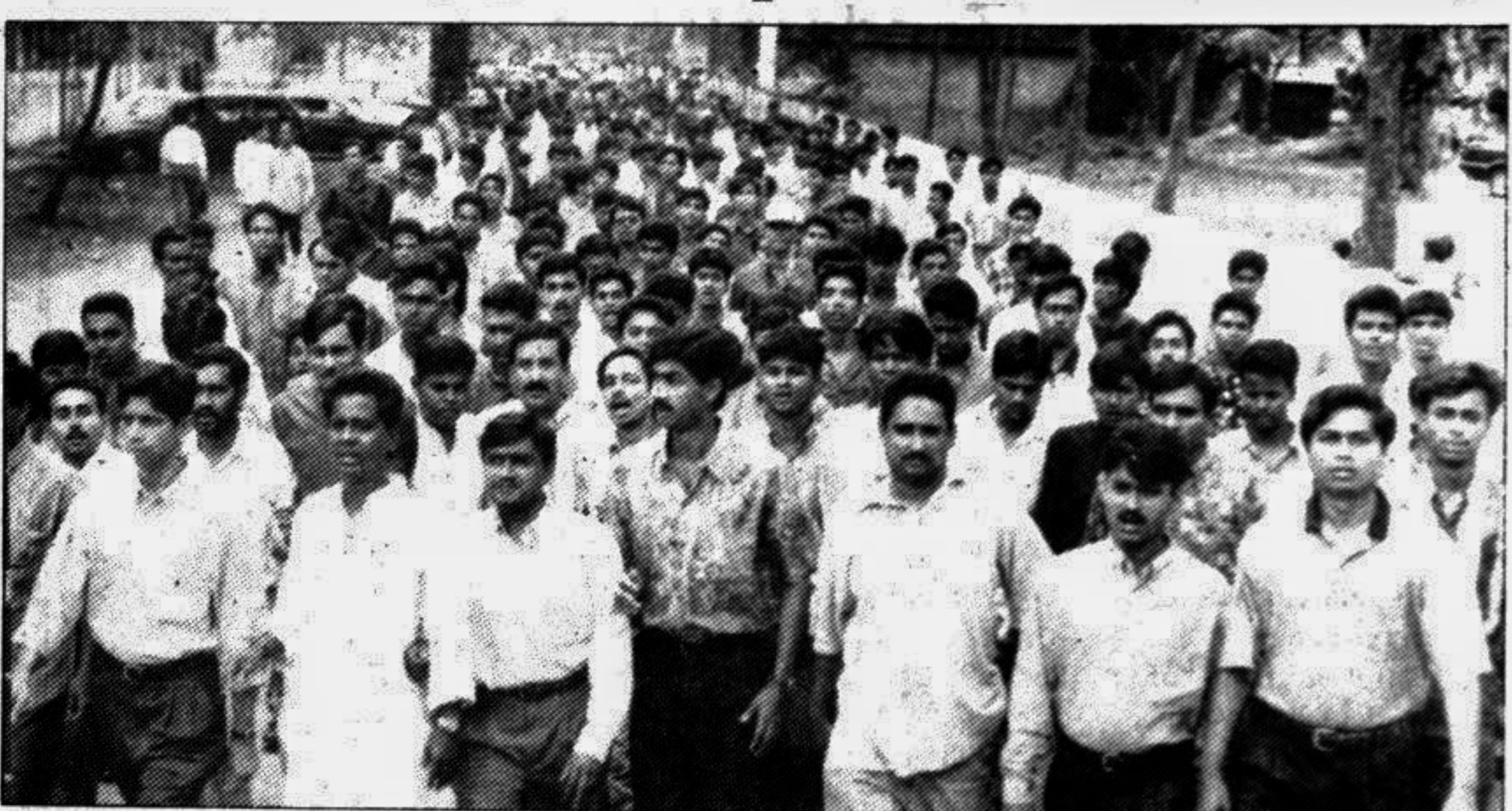


by John McLusky



This is why apart from creating avenues for interrogating power and wealth and strengthening citizens groups within a particular society, the time has come to establish a global movement to check the erosion of moral values and ethical principles in politics and government, economics and business, culture and media and indeed in every other sphere of human activity.

Metropolitan



Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the show-cause notices served by the Dhaka University authorities on its 6 central leaders.

Experts suggest at a workshop in city Use of tubewell water can help prevent groundwater arsenic contamination

Experts at a workshop yesterday proposed for options of continued use of groundwater, that provides 97 per cent of the rural population of Bangladesh with tubewell water, would be the best choice for the time being in the face of groundwater arsenic contamination. However, options for use of arsenic-free surface water and rainwater harvesting was not put aside.

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