'One day the cry and despair of large number of people would shake the very foundation of our society and imperil the entire democratic structure. When that happens, we shall have only ourselves to blame." -Justice V R Krishna Iyer in Veena Shethi's case.

HERE is no denying the fact that the police is the principal law enforcing agency of our country. In fact they are one of the most important factors in the rule of law. They play an important role in shaping an orderly society. The Police Act 1831 clearly demonstrates that role. A number of gruesome and barbaric deaths in police custody though substantially questions the role of police and poses serious doubt regarding their acquaintance with any notion of human rights, it does not nullify their desired role and very existence.

After a series of heinous events of custodial death, rape etc. which sparks of public condemnation of the police and undermines their image, we need to look afresh on the whole situation. The purpose is, inter alia:

i) to assess the existing situation considering real strains and strengths and other limita-

ii) to formulate a national agenda for action to make an effective police system truly worthy of the 21st century.

No doubt, the government must take some realistic and visionary steps on a long-term basis for policing the police. But at the same time some immediate steps must be taken for greater interest of the citizenry. In fact the need of the hour is an organisational culture that condemns abuse of power and misuse of force and encourage pro-people policing. The following steps should be considered on an urgent basis by the concerned authorities:

*1. To propose for abolishing the provision of Section 54 of the Code of Civil Procedure would be a utopian step. It is recognised that the power conferred under Section 54 is necessary for prevention of crimes and arrest of certain persons. What we need to do is to ensure its proper application maintaining all relevant legal safeguards. In this respects, recommendations of the Supreme Court of India in the case of D K Basu Vs State of West Bengal (1997) SCC 416 should be considered:

"We therefore, consider it appropriate to issue the following requirements to be followed in all cases of arrest or detention till legal provisions are made in that behalf as preventive measures:

(1) The police personnel carrying out the arrest and handling the interrogation of the arrestee should bear accurate, visible and clear identification and name tags with their designations. The particulars of all such police personnel who handle interrogation of the arrestee must be recorded in a register.

(2) That the police officer carrying out the arrest of the arrestee shall prepare a memo of arrest at the time of arrest and such memo shall be attested by at least one witness, who may either be a member of the family of the arrestee or a respectable person of the locality from where the arrest is made. It shall also be countersigned by the arrestee and shall contain the time and date of ar-

(3) A person who has been arrested or detained and is being held in custody in a police station or interrogation centre

Policing the Police

A Reform Agenda

by A H Monjurul Kabir

Considering various limitations faced by the police in discharging their day to day job, our expectation is not too high or imaginary. At the fag end of the 20th century we, at least hope that police will not kill any more Rubel, will not rape any more Yasmin, Sheema or Tania and will not torture any more citizen of this country. Probably these are not high expectations from our police force. At least we can not afford to pay taxes to maintain a force which will maim our fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution.

or other lock up, shall be entitled to have one triend or relative or other person known to him or having interest in his welfare being informed, as soon as practicable, that he has been arrested and is being detained at the particular place, unless the attesting witness of the memo of arrest is himself such a friend or a relative of the ar-

(4) The time, place of arrest and venue of custody of an arrestee must be notified by the police where the next friend or relative of the arrestee lives outside the district or town through the legal aid organisation in the district and the police station of the area concerned telegraphically within a period of 8 to 12 hours of the ar-

(5) The person arrested must be made aware of this right to have someone informed of his arrest or detention as soon as he is put under arrest or detained.

(6) An entry must be made in the diary at the place of detention regarding the arrest of the person which shall also disclose the name of the next friend of the person who has been informed of the arrest and the names and particulars of the police officials in whose custody the arrestee is.

(7) The arrestee should where he so requests, be also examined at the time of his arrest and major and minor injuries, if any present on his/her body, must be recorded at that time. The "inspection memo" must be signed both by the arrestee and the police officer effecting the arrest and its copy provided to the arrestee.

(8) The arrestee should be subjected to medical examination by a trained doctor every 48 hours during his detention in custody by a doctor on the penal of approved doctors appointed by the Director, Health Services of the State or Union Territory concerned. Director Health Services should prepare such a panel for all tehsils and districts as well.

(9) Copies of all the documents including the memo of arrest, referred to above, should be sent to the Illaga Magistrate for his record.

(10) The arrestee may be permitted to meet his lawyer during interrogation, though not through out the interroga-

(11) A police control room should be provided at all district and state headquarters, where information regarding the arrest and the place of custody of the arrestee shall be communicated by the officer causing the arrest, within 12 hours of effecting the arrest and at the police control room it should be displayed on a conspicuous notice board."

*2. To many, the term 'police remand' is synonymous with the term 'torture." It is so due to police atrocities. In fact police remand is recognised in civilized criminal justice administration as an effective means of investigation. Like Section 54, in this case also, maintenance of existing procedural safeguards should be ensured. Repealing Section 167 of the CrPC would not be a realistic solution specially in the wake of deteriorating law and order situation. The safeguards as suggested in the case of D K Basu Vs State of West Bengal (1997) is also applianswer questions or make a statement. But unless and until such warnings and waiver are demonstrated by the prosecution at trail, no evidence obtained as a result of interrogation can be used against him. In announcing these principles. we are not unmindful of the burdens which law enforcement officials must bear, often under trying circumstances. We also fully recognize the obligation of all citizens to aid in enforcing the criminal laws. This Court while protecting individual rights, has always given ample latitude to law enforcement



cable here. In the famous case of Miranda Vs Arizona (1966) 384 US 86 SC, Chief Justice Warren aptly remarks:

"To summarize, we hold that when an individual is taken into custody or otherwise deprived of his freedom by the authorities in any significant way and is subjected to questioning. the privilege against self-incrimination is jeopardised. Procedural safeguards must be employed to protect the privilege and unless other fully effective means are adopted to notify the person of his right of silence and to assure that the exercise of the right will be scrupulously honoured, the following measures are required. He must be warned prior to questioning that he has the right to remain silent, that anything he says can be used against him in a court of law, that he has the right to the presence of an attorney, and that if he cannot afford an attorney one will be appointed for him prior to questioning if he so desires. Opportunity to exercise these rights must be afforded to him throughout the interrogation. After such warnings have been given, and such opportunity afforded him, the individual may knowingly and intelligently

waive these rights and agree to

cise of their duties. The limits we have placed on the interrogation process should not constitute an undue interference with a proper system of law enforcement...

A separate Department of Investigation must be created within the existing police administration. The personnel of this department will not do any HARTAL' or 'PROTOCOL' duty except investigating cases and complaints. The proposed department will be functional at each and every 'thana' and strategic important places like airport, bus terminal, rail station, hospital etc. Similarly a Separate Department of Prosecution in lieu of existing adhoc basis service is a must

*4. The Ministry of Home Affairs should supervise and coordinate the activities of the DB (Detective Branch), SB (Special Branch) and the CID (Criminal Investigation Department) regularly through an effective ad ministrative cell or unit. The cell sits with them regularly preferably on a weekly basis. Each and every agency should be made accountable for its any gross omission and commission before the unit or cell.

*5. In last 24 years the total number of arrested persons under the controversial Special

Powers Act 1974 is 72,000. Infact most of the applications of section 54 could be justified due to its very existence. It should be repealed without any further

•6. The proposed 'National Human Rights Commission' should be equipped with adequate power and jurisdiction to tackle any such police atrocity. Infact one of the prime agenda of the proposed body should be to monitor and supervise the activities of police regularly and to take direct and stern disciplinary action. Specially when the accused is a police, investigation should be done by

the proposed commission. •7. Protecting the rights of individuals in their contacts with authorities is fundamental to the process of governance in all civilized countries. The ombudsman system is definitely a unique guarantee against oppressive measures and misgovernance in the public administration. The creation of the office of Ombudsman on the basis of already existing the Ombudsman Act 1980 with necessary modification providing specific provision for investigating police savagery and severe malpractices has become an urgent imperative for

the government. *8. All alleged homicides and rapes committed by the police in or out of their custody should be investigated and the culprits should be tried to check the future occurrence of such gross miscarriage of justice. All unpublished reports of various investigation commissions should be made public without any more bureaucratic hesitation on the part of an elected government.

.9. The existing training manuals and curricula based on colonial dimensions of subjugation and oppression of citizens should be changed and reformed to accommodate the latest global changes and democratic values to make the law enforcers sensitized.

*10. The police should be made responsible to the civil administration at each and every administrative unit of the country changing the present improper warrant of precedence and administrative setup.

*11. Politicization of the police force must stop without any further flourishment. The government should realize that such heinous attempt does not attribute any benefit to it. Let the police grow in a professional manner free from all sorts of interferences by the ruling party. Placing loyals at the top will not pay any more. Policing the police in a neutral manner should be one of the prime agenda of the days to

*12. Provisions relating to burden of proof in the century old Evidence Act 1872 should be amended to cope with the present situation. Specially in case of injury, death etc. committed by police, the court should presume that the injury of fatal blow was caused by the police personnel having custody of the person during that period.

Considering various limitations faced by the police in discharging their day to day job. our expectation is not too high or imaginary. At the fag end of the 20th century we, at least hope that police will not kill any more Rubel, will not rape any more Yasmin, Sheema or Tania and will not torture any more citizen of this country. Probably these are not high expectations from our police force. At least we can not afford to pay taxes to maintain a force which will main our fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution.

Towards Legal Aid Legislation

by Abdullah-Al-Faruque

TN recent years, the concept of legal aid has emerged as a A paradigm within democratic set up to provide justice to substantial segments of the people. Indeed, the concept is inextricably linked with equality before law which, inevitably, pre-supposes equal opportunity of the people to approach the court on equal footing. This cardinal principle of "equality before law" which every modern welfare state seeks to achieve, perhaps, provides compelling argument behind the rationale that state should take all the steps to ensure equal justice to all. It is axiomatic that injustice or inequality occurs when the legal system fails to provides its benefit to large segment of people due to their poverty and ignorance. In this context, the importance of legal aid has assumed greater significance to bring social equilibrium in the prevailing inequalities and in-justices. To dispense with this responsibility, many developed and developing countries adopted legislative measures. like other welfare legislation but we have not yet such piece of legislation of this kind to furnish concrete legal basis of le-

The reasons for a comprehensive legal aid legislation may be articulated in the following way:

1. The constitutional provision of social justice must be underlying assumptions in the administration of justice. To combat poverty, injustice, inequality and social disabilities by pursuing just and proper policies backed by welfare and positive legislation and thus to realise social justice becomes the most important weapon in democratic society. A legal aid legislation becomes imperative to enable the poor to enjoy the benefits of the constitutional and other legal rights conferred on them. This will facilitate easy access to courts, governmental agencies and institutions on the basis of equality and ensure fair treatment in ju-

dicial proceedings. 2. Some measure of legal aid and assistance are given to the poor by lawyers and NGOs on purely voluntary basis. But these are available with limited measures and suffer from an air of charity. But in democracy equal representation before the law must be claimed as a matter of right. It is not charity or favour or generosity from the side of the government. This

stitution states that "All citizens are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of law". A supporting and suitable legislation can give its true meaning.

3. The existing provision on legal aid can only be found in the procedural laws which makes legal aid only a procedural matter, not substantive one. Moreover, analysis of these provision will make it clear that these arrangements are in adequate in the context of growing demand of legal aid. The code of civil procedure of 1908 allows a person to institute a civil suit without court fee as a "pauper". A person to be considered as a pauper has to over come complicated procedura hurdles. The code provides following criteria to determine

test of pauperism: a. Regarding the payment of prescribed court fee, a person is pauper when he is not possessed of sufficient means to pay such fee. The expression "sufficient means" is difficult to be comprehended by any single criteria. the application for permission to sue as a pauper may be rejected by the court merely on the technical grounds i.e. where it is not framed and presented in the manner prescribed rules. Thus procedure to determine who is or is not a pauper under the order is too rigid and formal; in fact it gives rise to a proceeding resulting in technicalities and delay.

b. Where no court fee is prescribed, a person is pauper when he is not entitled to property worth one hundred taka other than his necessary wear-

Today legal aid movement becomes a worldwide phenomena. Though adoption of legislation in many countries, traditional concept of legal aid has undergone massive changes in their scope and ambit. In its broad connotation, it embraces legal advice, awareness, legal mobilisation, public interest litigation, law reform and variety of strategic and preventive services instead of assisting individual as case-by-case basis.

ing-apparel and the subject matter of the suit. To consider one hundred taka as a yardstick to measure poverty becomes obsolete in the present context. Moreover, the expression "pauper" is not harmony with the present modern attitude and indeed, is negative one to provide relief to the poor.

c. The plaintiff has to pay the court fees if he succeeds in the suit

d. except court fee, the plaintiff has to pay the lawyer's fees process fees and other incidental costs of litigation. Considering this insuffi-

cient measure of legal aid, the government has already suggested amendments to increase the amount of Tk 100 to Tk 10,000 to test pauperism. But in view of the above facts, this proposed amendment can. hardly, bring any substantial change in the existing arthe present needs of the society.

Similarly, in criminal cases, under section 340 (1) of Code of Criminal Procedure, the accused should be at liberty to be defended by a pleader at his choice. But the section does not confer a right on the accused to be provided with a lawyer by the state or court. The only duty cast on the magistrate is to afford him the necessary opportunity. In cases involving murder charges, the courts sometimes provide legal counsel but this cannot be claimed by the accused as a right, and any way this practice does not apply to a large number of cases not involving capital punishment.

4. In the absence of adequate legal services, principles of natural justice can not be exercised meaningfully. The principle that no one shall be condemned unheard depends upon adequate and proper legal representation and hearing. The opportunity of being heard is not available to a large section of society in our country on account of poverty and ignorance. Adequate legal services can remedy this situation.

Guidelines of the proposed Legal Aid legislation

•(a) In modern time, idea of legal aid is no longer limited to

narrow sense of rendering legal assistance to a person of limited means in courts in criminal and civil matters. Today the concept of legal services has been given a broader interpretation to include exemption of court fees, lawyers fee, other court expenditure incidental to the visible expenses of litigation which should be available from the required stages of investigation to last stage viz-execution or appeals. Any legislation of legal aid must encompass this broad meaning.

*(b) Both direct and indirect aspects of legal aid should be recognised in legal aid legislation. Directly a legal aid should be given to resolve legal dispute in individual case by proper assistance and representation.

*(c) Public interest litigation should be recognised by the legal aid legislation as an instrument to vindicate social and economic rights in its wider perspective. Legal aid authority may be vested with appropriate power to institute or defend suits on behalf of the public generally or direct or authorise any legal aid organisation for the protection of the interests of consumers or of socially, educationally and economically disadvantaged section of society. relief against environmental pollution and other purposes affecting the interest of the public.

*(d) The Act should provide provision for compensation to be paid by the state in case of indiscriminate arrests, framing of false charges and harassment of the ordinary citizens by the police.

Structural issues

Policy formulation: The

proposed legislation snall lay down policies and principles for making legal aid services effective, frame the most effective and economical schemes for the purpose of making legal services available, provide provision for the legal aid fund which shall be utilised by the appropriate allocations between the national and local level legal aid authority, encourage the settlement of dispute by way of conciliation and mediation, undertake and promote research in the field of legal services, take appropriate measure for specialising legal literacy and legal awareness amongst the people and in particular to educated weaker sections of the society about the rights benefits and privileges guaranteed by social welfare legislation and other enactment as well as administrative programme and measures.

The eligibility criteria

In providing legal aid. statues of legal aid lay down certain criteria of eligibility for the persons seeking it, and in this regard, two test are, generally, recognised: prima facie and means test. Prima facie test applies to certain classes of persons because of their particular social placement or the economic deprivations. This class of people, generally, includes a victim of trafficking in human being, destitute women and children, mentally ill or otherwise disabled, victims of both natural and man-made disaster, industrial workers, persons in custody including safe cus-Today legal aid movement

becomes a worldwide phenomena. Though adoption of legislation in many countries, traditional concept of legal aid has undergone massive changes in their scope and ambit. In its broad connotation, it embraces legal advice, awareness, legal mobilisation, public interest litigation, law reform and variety of strategic and preventive services instead of assisting individual as case-by-case ba-

.The writer is an Advocate and Researcher, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust

Custodial Torture: Some Legal Guidelines

USTODIAL death, rape and torture are now larmingly increasing day by day. In every day when people look over the newspaper carrying reports of torture, assault, rape, and death in custody of police or other governmental agencies is indeed depressing. Such activities are, however, not limited to custodial violence but are also common amongst individuals in our society. This is the general picture of our present days. It is to be found that the fundamental rights of human beings are routinely denied by way of illegal arrest, detention, harassment, consignment which have resulted in torture, rape and death by the custodians who are supposed to protect the fundamental rights of the citizen. Not only the individual of the concerned authority violates human rights, sometime the system itself is an instrument to violate human rights. In some cases, law and its implementation is also violative of the fundamental rights. As for example — The provision of imposition of barfetters within the prison is prescribed in the Jail Code which is against the

concept of human right as well as also the fundamental rights. Our constitution provides the safeguards and provisions of protection of fundamental rights. Article-35 (5) of the Constitution provides, "No person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or treatment. "So, infact nothing should be required to protect the fundamental and human rights of a human being. The question, however, is whether this constitutional provision of fundamental rights is being followed? Article 33 (1) of the constitution provides "no person who is arrested shall be detained in custody without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds for such arrest, nor shall he be denied the right to consult and

be defended by a legal practitioner of his choice." Article 33 (2) further provides "Every person who is arrested and detained in custody shall be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of twentyfour hours of such arrest, excluding the time necessary for the journey from the place of arrest to the court of the magistrate, and no such person shall be detained in custody beyond the said period without the authority of a magistrate." This is with the spirit that police should be stopped from torturing people even though he is a serious criminal. But it is found that the Intelligence branch and the police force both dis-obey this instruction of the Supra Law of the country. Inspite of all these safe-

guards and protection custodial death and torture has grossly increased. If we look at a glance to the monthly survey of ODHIKAR on custodial death published in The Daily Star on the 2nd August... we can easily assess what a terrible situation of human rights we are passing The recent incident of custo-

dial death of — Rubel — which has shocked each and every citizen as well as the international community that a boy standing beside the road was arrested by the arbitrary power of the police and succumbed to death for their inhuman and cruel torture. The authority have not yet satisfied the people why he was arrested. A large number of people are being arrested daily arbitrarily but our courts are silent to this exercise. Moreover they are issuing remand orders which as we no is abused by the police in the

name of investigation. Our Courts are also over looking the situation of custodial torture. The Magistrates' and the Judges know the situation, they are well conversant with the external and internal behaviours of the police author-

by Md. Asaduzzaman ity. Forgetting the fundamental rights of a citizen, the Courts are ordering the remand to police for the sake of so called interrogation and investigation. In most of the remand cases, police prayed for 2nd or 3rd time remand in which the accused are seriously tortured. After initial remand, the remanded accused is not produced before the Magistrate due to hiding the torture though it is required by law, and again magistrate are giving remand order without examining the health or physical condition of the accused Knowing the practical situation, courts are ignoring one's right to protect from any form of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. This is of course the high time to speak against the police-remand where human dignity and fundamental rights are denfed. Our courts should be more careful about this. Before passing a remand order the accused should have checked his health fitness and after the remand again the same thing should be done. The courts should always remember that they have been empowered to do justice not to run the ad-

ministration. In an Indian Supreme Court case (NANDINI SATPATHY Vs. P L. DANL) Justice Krishna Iyer observed (AIR 1978 SC-1025), "The spirit and sense of Art. 22 (1) is that it is fundamental to the rule of law that the services of a lawyer shall be available for consultation to any accused person under circumstances of near - custodial interrogation. Moreover, the observance of the right against self-incrimination is best promoted by conceding to the accused the right to consult a legal practitioner of

his choice. Lawyer's presence is a Constitutional Claim in some circumstances in our country, in the context of Art. 20 (3), is an assurance of awareness and ob-

servance of the right to silence. The Miranda decision [(1966] 384 Vs 436) has insisted that if an accused person asks for lawyer's assistance, at the stage of interrogation, it shall be granted before commencing or continuing with the questioning all that we mean is that if any accused person expresses the wish to have his lawyer by his side when his examination goes on, this facility shall not be denied - we realise that the presence of a lawyer is asking for the moon in many cases until a public defender system becomes ubiquitous."

One Latin maxim "inemo tenetur se ipsum tenetur" means a man cannot represent himself as guilty. This is law, this is the inherent spirit of law which is for human dignity and fundamental rights. To take remand and interrogate some one for making confessional evidence against him should not be al-

Justice Kuldip Singh in DR

Basu Vs. State of West Bengal

(AIR (SC) 610 1997) observed on custodial death that, "Any form of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment would fall within the inhibition of Article 21 of the Constitution, whether it occurs during investigation, interrogation or otherwise. If the functionaries of the Government become law breakers. it is bound to bread contempt for law and would encourage lawlessness and every man would have the tendency to become law unto himself thereby leading to anarchanism. No civilized nation can permit that to happen. Does a citizen shed off his fundamental right to life, the moment a policeman arrest him? Can the right to life of a citizen be put in abeyance on his arrest? These questions touch the spinal cord of human rights jurisprudence. The answer, indeed, has to be an emphatic 'No'. The precious right

guaranteed by Article 21 of the constitution of India can not be denied to convicts, under trials, detenus and other prisoners in custody except according to the procedure established by law by placing such reasonable restrictions as are permitted by law." In this case the Indian Supreme Court has issued to be followed in all cases of arrest or detention till legal provisions are made in that behalf as preventive measure: 1. The police personnel car-

rying out the arrest and handing the interrogation of the arrestee should be bear accurate. visible and clear identification and name tags with their designations. The particulars of all such police personnel who handle interrogation of the arrestee must be recorded in a register. 2. That the police officer car-

rying out the arrest of the arrestee shall prepare a memo of arrest at the time of arrest and such memo shall be attested by at least one witness. Who may be either a member of the family of the arrestee or a respectable person of the locality from where the arrest is made. It shall also be counter signed by the arrestee and shall con-

tain the time and date of arrest. 3. A person who has been arrested or detained and is being held in custody in a police station or interrogation centre or other lock-up, shall be entitled to have one friend or relative or other person known to him or having interest in his welfare being informed, as soon as practicable, that he has been arrested and is being detained at the particular place, unless the attesting witness of the memo of arrest is himself such a friend or a relative of the ar-

restee. 4. The time, place of arrest and venue of custody of an arrestee must be notified by the police where the next friend or relative of the arrestee lives outside the district or town through the Legal Aid Organi-

sation in the District and the police station of the area concerned telegraphically within a period of 8 to 12 hours after the

5. The person arrested must be made aware of this right to have someone informed of his arrest or detention as soon as he is put under arrest or is de-6. An entry must be made in

the diary at the place of detention regarding the arrest of the person which shall also disclose the name of the next friend of the person who has been informed of the arrest and the names and particulars of the police officials in whose custody the arrestee is.

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the arrestee. 8. The arrestee should be subjected to medical examination by a trained doctor every 48 hours during his detention in custody by a doctor on the panel of approved doctors appointed by Director, Health Services of the concerned State or Union Territory Director, Health Services should prepare such a panel for all Tehsils and Districts as well.

Concerned segments of civil society, the government, the law makers and the law enforcing agencies are required to follow the directions made by the some leading cases of Indian Supreme Court by which we may have redress from such a suffering and lackings of moralities and values.

The writer is an executive member of ODHIKAR, a Coalition for Human Rights and member of AIN O SALISH KENDRA.

WATCH LAW

Producers of salt and regulatory bodies asked to ensure proper iodine content in edible salt

RANGLADESH Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) has served legal notice upon Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Planning, Secretary, Ministry of Food and Secretary. Ministry of Industries and 12 companies for marketing of spurious edible salt.

BLAST has found that iodized salt marketed by many companies do not meet the specification of lodine Deficiency Diseases Prevention Act 1989. These companies are selling iodized edible salt which contains either excess or less than the amount of iodine prescribed by the lodine Deficiency Diseases Prevention Act 1989.

The deficiency of iodine in human body causes such diseases as goiter, mental retardation, and physical sub-normality. For adequate production of hormone by the thyroid glands, iodine in specified quantity is necessary. The consumption of excess amount of iodine with table salt as well as below the amount prescribed by the Act is harmful to health. Iodine deficiency is widespread through out Bangladesh. Iodine deficiency is common in children all over Bangladesh which leads to slow growth and other abnormal physical development.

In the notice on behalf BLAST and Consumer Association of Bangladesh (CAB) attention was drawn to the report of Institute of Food Science and Technology of BSCIR. The Institute had tested 12 random samples of salt produced by different companies. It found iodine content in the tested salt to be either in excess or less than the amount prescribed by the lodine Deficiency Diseases Prevention Act 1989. The notice has called upon the authorities to take action against unregistered companies who are selling iodized salt. It also called to take action against companies whose production of iodized salt do not comply with the statutory requirement.