

"All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law" Article 27 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

A National Human Rights Commission for Bangladesh
Some Critical Thoughts before Adoption

by A.H. Monjurul Kabir

THERE are several cogent reasons for countries in the Asian and Pacific region to consider seriously the establishments of national institutions specially charged with the promotion and protection of human rights.



Containing political violence or violating the fundamental human right to demonstrate?

1. Justice VR Krishna Iyer, former judge of the Supreme Court of India, in an exclusive interview with this writer (Law and Our Rights, The Daily Star, 1 June, 1997) urged that, 'Bangladesh could do well if it establishes its proposed National Human Rights Commission through a constitutional amendment rather than by a statutory act. If the commission has a constitutional mandate, then it becomes more powerful, effective and would be free from any interference by other institutions or organs of the government.'

where necessary. The Commission should ensure that full and prompt compensation is paid and necessary measure of redress and rehabilitation is taken. The government will have to make sure that any recommendatory reports and annual reports are public documents and not dependent on being placed before parliament before they can become so.

the same judges who know nothing about human rights We need more than the mere setting up of a human rights court. But there is an issue here: how far can 5 people sitting in Dhaka reach out to people in need? In India, the NHRC has 30,000 cases in arrears already. And yet 90% of the country doesn't even know who they are.

Towards a Pro-People Commission: Still an Illusion?

National human rights institutions are being set up in many parts of the world. While the powers of these national institutions in the different countries vary, there seems to be a 'core concept' emerging. In many countries, such national institutions have not matched the expectations they generated when they were first set up.

Reactions from the Human Rights Community

The human rights community at the non-government level has been watching the process carefully since its inception. The IDHRB project has, so far, arranged a number of public programs to generate awareness and interest on the proposed national institution in different segments of civil society.

Towards a Tidy Traffic System

We all, more or less, are familiar with the infamous traffic jam of our beloved Metropolis. While travelling, one might turn out to be the victim of such heavy traffic anytime, anywhere irrespective of any vehicle.

The Metropolitan Police Ordinance, provides penalties for the following acts.

- Penalty for wrong driving and violation of traffic regulations.
Whoever, when driving a vehicle along the street, without sufficient reason fails to keep on the left side of such street and when passing any other vehicle proceeding on the same direction fails to keep on the right side of such vehicle or violates any traffic regulation made by the Police Commissioner shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred taka.
Penalty for wrong parking.
Whoever leaves or parks any vehicle in any of a street or public where parking is prohibited by the Police Commissioner shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one hundred taka.

Case Studies on Human Rights: January - June 2000

by Odhikar

WITHIN the first six months of the new century, there were instances of wide spread human rights violation through out Bangladesh. To check terrorism and human rights violation, the people of this republic was accorded with a new law, but before they could find any shelter under that law some of them were subjected to the maltreatment and abusive power of that law.



Is he old enough to be implicated under the Public Safety Act?

1999. They were taken to Motijheel Police Station where they faint for serious injury of police torture. On the next day, they were taken to the CMM court. Upon prayer of their lawyer, the court ordered the Jail authority to ensure proper medical treatment for them, whereas, the Jail authority did not comply with that order.

tained in June 1999, in a criminal case pending against him. On 12 April, 2000, he was granted bail by the District and Sessions Judge, Kushtia. On 13 April, 2000, when his bail bond was sent to the District Jailer, he was scheduled to be released from the jail custody. But, there in the Jail gate he was served with a notice of detention under the Special Powers Act for 30 days issued by the District Magistrate, Kushtia.

Table with 7 columns: Custody, Dhaka Division, Chittagong Division, Rajshahi Division, Khulna Division, Barisal Division, Sylhet Division, Total. Rows include Jail, Police, DB, and Total.

The Jaffna Civilian

Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea

AS fighting continues in Jaffna, the cries of the civilian victims of this bitter conflict are silenced. The Tamil civilian has been caught in the pincer between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Army. As of 1 June 2000, international aid workers estimate that as many as 150,000 people have left their homes in the Jaffna peninsula.

-Human Rights Features