Zero Tolerance for Anti-democratic forces

The anti-democratic forces are at it again. Following a relative lull in the National Women's Development Policy (NWDP) 2008 controversy, which was clearly politically motivated and had no basis at all, other troublemakers are fanning the embers. Last week, leaders of Islamic Law Implementation Committee (ILIC) threatened to paralyse the country if the government does not scrap what they termed as 'anti-Islamic provisions' in the Policy. Fazlul Huq Amini, leader of a faction of the Islami Oikya Jote and his cronies have declared a three-point programme including a rally at city's Paltan maidan on July 18 to press for their demand.

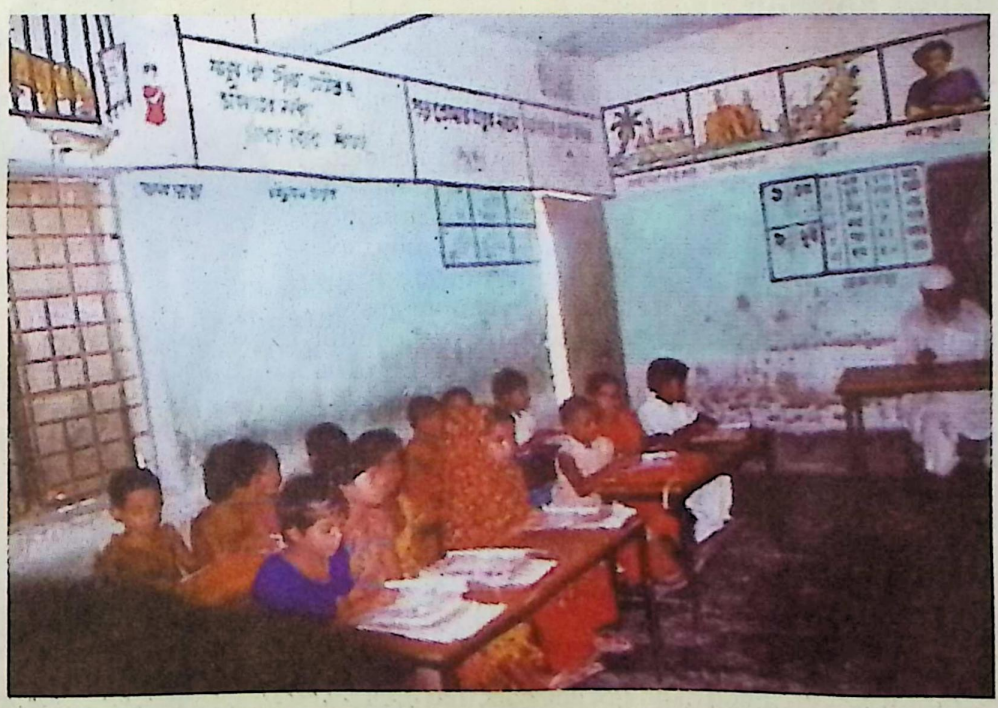
At a conference in Dhaka, he told members of the ILLC from all over the country that the caretaker government would not survive if they implement the policy. He even had the nerve to call on the armed forces to withdraw its support from the government, saying that the present government couldn't last if the armed forces withdrew their support. It is strange that someone can make such inflammatory comments and get away with it while a State of Emergency is in force. Amini then went on saying that those who support NGOs were kafers (infidels). Even the advisers have been termed non-Muslim for endorsing the NWDP.

If this is just one of those gimmicks, which is going to fizzle out until a new one comes along to replace it, we can remain calm. But all too often such complacency and misplaced tolerance has led to irrevocable harm. These attempts to undermine the movement to build a just, progressive nation have to be stopped at all cost.

School runs with doors, windows closed

A Smoky Classroom

It won't be long, before the children at the Samannopur Primary School, if not eventually die of suffocation, will at least be prone to several dangerous diseases. Thanks to a brickfield located about 30 feet away from the school in the Santhia upazila, the school has been forced to run with all it's doors and windows closed from the inside. In between lessons, children are heard coughing. The rooms eventually get filled with smoke causing the children's eyes to burn.



After several complaints made to the authorities, Siddik Ali, the owner of the brickfield said that he had gone through all the necessary legal processes and the law had permitted him to run his brickfield at the present location. It is a wonder how the law sometimes overlooks the fact that such factories and industries are to be located away from the residential areas like towns. Set up in the year 2004, the Mollah Brick Field is simply a stone's throw from the school compound, a mere road dividing the two.