

অধিব... 09 DEC 1996

Madrasa

Contd. from page 1

an iron weighing about 5 kg. "The inhuman punishment is for 24 hours and sometimes, I heard, it continues for months," Ataul said.

Mohammad Sakhwati, 14, hailing from Mohakhali in Dhaka, informed that a student had to pay Tk 800 to Tk 1,200 a month as meal charge.

"During the admission, I was assured of getting developed diet every week," he said, "but in the last six weeks, we have not been allowed even a single piece of meat."

"If we bring allegation, we have to suffer such punishment," said Sakhwati.

According to section 2 (KA) of the madrasa's own regulation, the students or the guardians will not be able to protest against any punishment to be meted out by the authorities.

**Madrasa
or a jail**

CHITTAGONG, Dec. 8: Police today rescued 21 students of a madrasa who were chained as punishment and arrested its principal and a teacher for perpetrating barbaric torture on the youngsters, reports UNB.

Kotwali police conducted an operation at Tasbidul Quran Mohissunnah Madrasa at rail station colony and found the students in fetters this afternoon, two days ahead of Human Rights Day.

Hundreds of people from different parts of the port city thronged the Kotwali police station to witness the barbaric act.

The Principal, Maulana Saleh Ahmed, and teacher Mohammad Wallullah were kept in police custody while the rescued students taken to safe custody.

Local people said they were shocked to hear cries and shouts of the students every day and at one stage they informed police to rescue the boys.

Even the son of the Principal, Abdullah Al Mamun, a student of class seven of the madrasa, were among the 21 students who were put in fetters with an iron weighing about 5 kg.

"I did not complete my lessons and for this I had been given punishment of fetters for last one month," said the 11-year-old Ataul Haq, hailing from Fotika of Hathajari thana.

His father, Mufti Ahmedul Haq, got him admitted into the madrasa only one and half months back.

The 11-year boy, who was looking very tired and nervous at the police station, said a student of the madrasa used to be given punishment with the fetters and during the punishment he also had to carry

Contd. on page 8 col. 4