

**MASS \* MEDIA \* LAWS  
AND \* REGULATIONS  
IN BANGLADESH**



**Compiled by  
Abu Nasr Md Gaziul Hoque**

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## FOREWORD

The people of Bangladesh enjoy constitutional guarantee to freedom of thought and conscience. But when it is a question of an act or a report of what we think or feel, 'reasonable restrictions' are imposed. The riddle had always been about *who* defines what is reasonable. The judiciary will interpret this, but the flexibility of using or abusing the laws in favour of the ruler of the roost is always there. And it is more so as the establishment has the technical privilege to execute any law even unlawfully for some time, till a verdict comes determining who is right and who is wrong. The time lost as well as the consequences left cannot be reverted. In the process, the innocent is subjected to atrocities.

There are laws. There are black laws. When in opposition, black laws must go. When in position, black laws must prevail. It is really annoying to see that with a very low level of literacy and the concomitant low level of democratic culture, suspicion always haunts us. The innumerable cases and verdicts could hardly elevate the legal system of the country to any desired altar. Hence, the need of the hour is to acquaint those who matter most in the society with various laws and regulations pertaining to whatever freedom we enjoy in respect of expressing what we think and feel in the form of word of mouth or ink on paper. This book will surely tell us more about laws relating to journalism so that, as citizens or journalists, we know what we are doing or what we should do.

I have all good words at my command for the compiler.

M. Tawhidul Anwar, PhD  
AMIC Representative for Bangladesh

## INTRODUCTION

Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre is to be congratulated for their decision to work for a legal text book *Mass Media Laws and Regulations in Bangladesh* and also for affording me the opportunity to work on it. I also must be thankful to Mr A.B.M. Musa, Past AMIC Representative for Bangladesh who persuaded me to accept the work of compilation of the media laws and regulations in Bangladesh. The study of law relating to press has become very much necessary for the people of a democratic country and also for the people of a country longing for democracy.

Freedom of press is a fundamental right guaranteed under the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The people of Bangladesh, nay, the people of the whole subcontinent had to go a long way for the freedom of press along with the struggle for liberation. Now it is very much noticeable that the media laws in Bangladesh are growing and changing so fast that one can sarcastically say that by the end of the century, like the 'population explosion', it would be difficult to follow the changes and amendments of the laws relating to press for a person who is not keen about the subject. So, for me, compiling all the laws relating to press and other media was very difficult and I have no hesitation to admit that had I not been amply helped by Syed Ghulam Mostafa, Advocate, Bangladesh Supreme Court, and the two compilers, Advocate Mr Shamsuddin Babul and devoted journalist Mr Jahangir Hussain, it would have been impossible for me to complete the work.

I must express my gratitude to Mr Gazi Shamsur Rahman, Past Chairman, Bangladesh Press Council, who was kind enough to take the trouble to go through the manuscript and give me his valuable suggestions. I also thank Dr M. Tawhidul Anwar, AMIC Representative for Bangladesh, for writing the Foreword of the book.

Abu Nasr Md Gaziul Hoque



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PART A

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