

Jaundice tainted journalism challenges democracy

Journalist serenades Manna, Ershad, Moeen and so on

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27th May issue of The Daily Amader Shomoy published an article of one journalist Peer Habibur Rahman which spun a gratifying response from AL politician Mahmudur Rahman Manna published in the same news paper on 31st May. As a sequel, along with few reactions, the paper went on publishing Peer's write-ups pervasive of moral decadence, factual fallacies and political anti-thesis. Please read Peer's article to assess spectre of challenges and moral crises within our journalism and how effectively they are enticing our gullible ex-revolutionaries and romantic ex-dictators, ruling Generals into new conspiracy against our democracy.

We, Mahmudur Rahman Manna and I, were contemporary campus dwellers; almost the same time he made his political trek from Hathajari to Nilkhet, I comfortably plonked myself at Palashi, then safe haven of radical think tank. He is senior to me by age and of course in leadership hierarchy as well, I was merely a foot soldier or activist dazzled by a dream to be a scientist one day to cultivate fire brand socialism in Bangladesh. Soon that dream turned into worst nightmare when I realized that I was being caught and strangled in a vicious web of conspiracy. This conspiracy slowly dragged nascent Bangladesh into it's stranglehold. From Sirajul Alam Khan (SAK) to Manna to Munir Bhai, everyone in the then leadership of JSD had a sadist cannibalistic instinct. They can not avoid their direct responsibility in killing and destruction of lives of thousands of talented workers and supporters of JSD including Col. Taher and my academic teacher and political mentor Nikhil Chandra Shaha. JSD leadership also can authentically boast for playing pioneering role in killing Mujib. They are the architect of deforking Bangladesh from the path of democracy and paving the way for martial law. They are those nexus of remorseless evils who offered early shelter and protection to armed Razakars and Al-Badars under the umbrella of Gano Bahini. I wonder how naïve and oblivious Sheikh Hasina could be by offering these rogues political shelter when they were morally and physically facing extinction.

Now Bangladesh, under the yoke of emergency rule, DGFI is running the country, military is prescribing treatment for ailing democracy, this derelict situation is providing tonic to Manna and the likes to revive their energy and hone their cannibalistic desire to set the home on fire where he was kindly offered shelter when he much needed it. Incidentally, this political shelter also happens to be the home where politician Manna was born. Now, 1/11 has opened floodgate of opportunities to Manna and these surreptitious politicians to implement their lethal political experiments on Bangalees once again. Generals are conspicuously gravitating towards power centre and the original political mentors of Manna; SAK, Zillur Rahman Khan are now deftly preparing recipe of hemlock for our sick politics. Manna perhaps got the assignment to write obituary of democracy in his flowery, emotionally charged deceptive words. Snake can get into a new skin, but it's venom remains equally poisonous.

When I talk to my friends and well wishers from right, left and centre axis of Bangladesh, I get an abysmal report about corruption. The Boa constrictor, now under the patronage of CTG and DUDAK, has grown to be a quite but huge Anaconda. This government has apparently prepared a '*level plain field*' for three players to play their dice of fortune. Military, Journalists and Businessmen have got the licence for unlimited corruption through coercion and extortion. This Government has termed famine as '*silent hunger*', may aptly term present influx of corruption as '*silent reward*' to the loyalists.

Politicians, because of their transient and vulnerable nature of hold on power, are truly the scavengers of leftovers of corruption, while army and civil bureaucrats, journalists, professionals, businessmen, even the religious Ulemas are the main beneficiaries pocketing bulk of the black fortune. They are cool, quiet and clean as if in one family. But, when a politician pockets a paltry penny, the brother in opposition will whip up a nationwide hysterical campaign until the alleged penny pincher is strip-searched publicly and doomed to oblivion. This may sound fratricidal but this is the normal way of cleansing and perfecting democracy where every move of a politician is always accountable and analyzed under microscope. In this situation, in Bangladesh, mighty Anacondas will spare no time to magnify the incident and vilify all the politicians indiscriminately as dishonest and pugnacious. Their planted agents in guise of politicians meticulously spray fuel to turn a slow burn of political differences among parties into raging inferno and thus making democracy dysfunctional. Therefore the multipronged threat to our democracy has been successfully waged within our own political system. These agents consistently cultivate descents and contradictions in our history, heritage, identity, in almost every element of the nation to make politics absolutely difficult and unaffordable for true politicians and easy game for the fakes and the sharks. Due to this weakness and fear factor, our politicians, even if briefly get chance to hang at the cliff of power, remain completely incapacitated to even blow whistle against the colony of colossus corruption and crimes. Few of the politicians, being contended with the pennies tossed at them by the Generals and bureaucrats, work as their loyal agents to destabilize democracy at opportune moment. Thus corruption and conspiracy continue unabated with impunity and without any political challenge. Post one-eleven intellectual, political and literary elation of Manna has helped evaporate my remaining faith in his political honesty, rather conspicuously identifies him as a loyal agent in disguise.

The articles of Peer Habibur Rahman is representative of sallow journalism in the present context of Bangladesh, craftily promoting killers of democracy, writing lavish eulogy for our army Generals and their sycophants and brazenly assassinating the character of our political leadership. Voluptuary, romantic tickle and political travesty are the recipe of his delicious but garish cocktail for the readers. He has unabashed gratitude for the Generals and for the political scamps born in garrison, the reason being, they perhaps provide him his fodder for livelihood and for his freakish pen. His dexterous pen is perhaps his weapon for blackmailing and for fortune-hunting as well. His sordid invitation to two political leaders for a boat cruise if they relinquish politics is the manifestation of his sick mind and his aversion towards democracy. His pen may soon help him bag the job of Goebles in a government of the Generals in Bangladesh but his intellectual sickness is virulently contagious jaundice challenging the integrity of the profession.

Articles of Peer Habibur Rahman

<http://amadershomoy.com/online/news.php?id=19563&sys=3>

<http://amadershomoy.com/online/news.php?id=22511&sys=3>

<http://amadershomoy.com/online/news.php?id=23601&sys=3>

Article of Mahmudur Rahman Manna

<http://amadershomoy.com/online/news.php?id=20389&sys=3>