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Rubana Huq

Politics of the apparent truths

February 11, 2012



The country seems to be breeding the spoilt, the blind and the insane.

The latest report from the BSF has identified Yakub Ali, who is only 25, of Keragachi village, and Abdul Hamid, 30, of Sharsha of Jessore as criminals. The two, suspected to be “smugglers” have been shot by the BSF. Out of the other five arrested are all under-age and yet have been handed over by the BSF to the Indian police force. So, now...the BSF is demanding punishment for the illegal immigrants and the “apparent” smugglers from Bangladesh! Oh...ok!

“Apparently” the commercial banks have responded to a Bangladesh Bank call to regulate loans to buy luxury and ‘less necessary’ products to keep inflation under check. Oh, really? Who are the ones who really need loans to buy homes and cars? Isn’t it the middle-class trying to keep up with the consumerism promoted by the elite? Why does the central bank not watch over the rich and the spoilt? Is it because that at more than 1 million US dollars each, the six franchises of BPL: Barisal Burners a.k.a Alif Group, Chittagong Kings a.k.a SQ sports, Dhaka Gladiators a.k.a. Europa Group, Khulna Royal Bengals a.k.a Orion group, Duroto Rajshahi a.k.a Digital Auto Care and Sylhet Royals a.k.a Walton Group, in spite of the latest match-fixing rumors, have “apparently” placed Bangladesh cricket in the map of the “rich” world of cricket? Oh...ok!

A particular barrister-cum-politician has just come out with the latest formula of sharing power between the two leading parties for five years stating clearly that a transition is not healthy. Therefore, the country “apparently” needs these two parties to rule for 5 years each. The Barrister has also stated that this system will not have any requirement for elections. Democracy is to be run without elections, as “apparently” the only right of power belongs to either of the parties and no other party or person will qualify to lead the people of Bangladesh. The cooperative power-sharing theory will “apparently” lead to a peaceful transition in the country! Oh...ok!

I just finished watching a particular minister going from one bridge to another, from one road to another, abusing the irresponsible officials and calling a few over the phone, threatening to sack them if he senses any further callousness from their part. The entire television crew moved along with him, recording him in action. Mr. Obaidur Quader, the outspoken minister seems to be resorting to “camera politics”. In which country of the world have we watched this unique technique of reproducing political reality in real time? “Apparently”, people need to be informed about every move he makes in order to make his position and stand very clear. It is, once again, “apparently” the best approach to transparency! Oh...ok!

A particular sitting minister of the Government of Bangladesh, who after a nine-year-old was crushed under the wheels of a bus in Dhaka, has commented about how “pointless” it is to protest against and blame the government for deaths in road mishaps as according to him: “An accident is an accident”. The same minister has also offended limits of international diplomacy and has casually said: “If any major terrorist attack happens in Bangladesh, it would be rooted in London.” It was again the same minister who downplayed the border killings by the Indian BSF and said that these incidents happened



all the time and “apparently” there were more important issues to be considered by the government other than these killings! Really? Oh...ok!

At this point, might I humbly remind that once upon a time, creatures like a certain large-antlered elk became extinct as its great rack kept on getting tangled in forest branches. Evolutionary biologists termed it as a “biological suicide.”

And, the elks fell.

Similarly, the beauty of its magnificent tail causes the fall of the peacocks. As per their evolutionary biology, a peacock’s tail has grown more flamboyant over the centuries as well-feathered peacocks have had more mating opportunities and sexual preferences as a marker of healthy male. But with time, this tail cost a lot to the peacocks; it had been expensive and had needed nutrients to grow. Therefore, eventually the peacock population began to decline, even as the tails kept getting longer.

Why do we have BPL peacocks in the land? Can we afford our BPL tail? Why do we have “camera” ministers in here? Can we afford a media drama? Why do we have insane politicians preaching insane political strategies of power sharing being discussed in the open? Why do we have such a subservient attitude towards a murderous border? Why do we subject ourselves to blindness that is gripping the nation?

Even if the regular citizens are treated as bats, let the people remind the state actors that even bats can also see lower wavelengths of light and that people may also use neurons in their brains to sense direction. If the people are deprived of their sight, the pattern of falls around the globe will soon engulf the system and the people too will fall prey to multiple plots that may not be from within them, but from beyond. Democracy won’t matter then. Nothing will...

Therefore, the answer lies in defying puppetry, defying tails, defying dramas, defying set plots, and defying portrayals.

This country was not born for “apparent” truths; this country wasn’t meant for complicit, naïve acceptance of prompted dialogues; this country isn’t to be split and shared amongst the two. This country was born with a promise to free our children from the clutches of corporate and political greed. So be it.

[Rubana Huq](#), Managing Director, Mohammadi Group

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12 Responses to “Politics of the apparent truths”



Rezaur Rahman on February 18, 2012 at 12:54 pm

A good piece of writing by a person who is not a regular journalist. It is mostly about the shortcomings of politicians. In the coming years Asian countries will be getting more powerful, economically, politically and militarily. Many of the big Asian countries are not very keen about democracy, hence democratic norms in Bangladesh will also be constrained. Anyway, democracy does not contribute much in the economic growth of Bangladesh or China.

[Reply](#)



Ali on February 14, 2012 at 11:53 am

Appreciate your balanced effort in projection of happenings.

But we are to look at and live with the peacock’s beautiful tail while the body and substance is fast depleting; apparently, ’cause everything is relative to realities on the ground.

Where are those wise, sublime, learned people with conviction, and a true willingness to leave behind a legacy, whom we even today recall and wish they were here as guides and mentors?

Election is our only obsession from day one, over which so much time and energy is being invested. Our priorities are seriously WRONG, unless someone takes responsibility to lead.



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russel on February 13, 2012 at 2:43 pm

well written piece. Thanks for your bold expression! good job.

[Reply](#)

Moshiur Rahman on February 12, 2012 at 7:28 pm

The minister suggested a bi-party democracy. I think democracy is NOT the solution at all. Democracy is in fact dictatorship in disguise. If we have a look at most democratic countries including the proponents of democracy, we shall reach at such a conclusion. What is needed for the peace and contentment of general mass is "khilafat" and no other government system. People will realize it but after merciless oppression of democracy.

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Imam U ahmed on February 12, 2012 at 5:01 pm

Thank you Ma'm. But you were 'unkind' to the Barrister-cum-politician.

His formula although sounds insane, is a ground reality that has been very much existing. He has just attempted to give it a "Legal cover up". If anyone carefully examines last 20 years' politics in our country, he will realise that truth is stranger than fiction.

[Reply](#)

Ezajur Rahman on February 12, 2012 at 4:56 pm

Dear Rubana,

Thank you. In our country apparent truths are manufactured and marketed by the political establishment. The electorate lives the real truths everyday but is helpless – so far – against the hegemony of apparent truths. The real weakness of the political establishment can be seen in its reluctance to confront proponents of real truth. It is our job to take the fight to them. The real truth is known, it is undefeatable and needs only an effective delivery system. We should all stand up to the hegemony of apparent truths. If enough of us stand up, we will prevail.

Thank you for a rousing article.

Ezajur Rahman

[Reply](#)

Ezajur Rahman on February 13, 2012 at 1:55 pm

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Thank you for a rousing article.

Ezajur Rahman

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H.Iqbal on February 12, 2012 at 3:57 pm

Rubana's eloquent write up containing fitting analogies about our complacent ministers was indeed an interesting reading.

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[Agrodut Kumar Mondal](#) on February 11, 2012 at 11:18 pm

I just finished watching a particular minister going from one bridge to another, from one road to another, abusing the irresponsible officials and calling a few over the phone, threatening to sack them if he senses any further callousness from their part. The entire television crew moved along with him, recording him in action. Mr. Obaidur Quader, the outspoken minister seems to be resorting to "camera politics". In which country of the world have we watched this unique technique of reproducing political reality in real time? "Apparently", people need to be informed about every move he makes in order to make his position and stand very clear. It is, once again, "apparently" the best approach to transparency!

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[Mozammel Haque](#) on February 11, 2012 at 1:22 pm

Rubana Haque,

I read your views eagerly and enjoyed reading.

And I am surprised to see people like you are still in Bangladesh to think positively.

You have mentined five issues apparently-like BSF killings,BPL sponsoring,camera trip of a minister,two paties to rule and other many issues denying border issues.

To me these are the achievements of freedom of opinions and press.

These show a good beginning.Now we need a better beginning.But to think of the best is the end of the beginning.

So I want this"better beginning" to continue.Whatever is the beginning all these perpetuate for perfection.

But one thing I assure and believe that perfection is never gained and there is a continuous dynamic activities to gain perfection and this becomes a goal for an individual,a family,a society,a nation and above all the creation within the time limit before the last day.

I beg to remind you there is a natural law of truths which we see in events around us to happen.

What happened in Chittagong in the last few days showed intolerance and every faith teaches the quality of tolerance to its maximum range and any people with any faith does not show this in character will perish away.Amen

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akhtar Shah on February 11, 2012 at 12:21 pm

Well vented! Huq wrath indeed(no pun intended & not trivilising).

[Reply](#)



Golam Arshad on February 11, 2012 at 8:10 am

Rubana: This piece made my day! You have responded and I quote:"Therefore, the answer lies in defying puppetry, defying tails, defying dramas, defying set plots, and defying portrayals."The conclusion ended in hope, and I quote: "This country was born with a promise to free our children from the clutches of corporate and political greed. So be it.And I echo in endorsement.. So be it! Good job and well done!!

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