corporate giants because of the funding they provide the newspapers through advertisements.

This view was further supported by another member of the audience who stated that there is no solidarity amongst newspapers themselves, for if one newspaper makes a stand by not publishing something, the others will run the item. This in turn will lead to reallocation of funds.

Moving away from such a heated issue, **Mayeen (Panos)** reasserted that journalists lack social responsibilities. They tend to write on issues which they think the readers want to read. They do not raise their voices for the plight of the poor masses of this country and quotedhere the example of the rickshaw pullers of the city made redundant after the World Bank's demands.

It was at this point that Khaled wondered what the ultimate outcome of publishing negative reports on something lead to. Here he gave the example of his reporting about the previous government's law minister's dual role in a matter. It had no effect on the minister or his career. Rather he was invited to grace the special guest's seat to award some reporters at a prize giving ceremony.

Munni Saha however, did not completely agree with this. She calmly stated that journalists often let their frustrations come into play. She as a journalist didn't think that they have not accomplished anything so far. She thinks that journalists enjoyed a golden time from October 28, 2006 to January 11, 2007, a time they may never experience again; a time when they were free and had managed to create media awareness among their audience.

Things started to sizzle a bit when Khaled Mohiuddin answered back saying that everything had been planned beforehand and journalists were merely fed the information. They had no credit in the whole thing except for helping to install the state of emergency.

Speaking on the issue of government control over Internet news, Khaled Mohiuddin added that such tendencies have already begun, quoting the example of the recent news in connection with the return of AL leader Sheikh Hasina from abroad. This was on their site from 5 pm to 9:30 pm, after which bdnews24.com was forced to bring it down after the incessant 26 calls from the authorities.

Tipu Sultan too, emphasized that the authorities have taken a resolution to block blogs and internets whenever they think the occasion would demand.

Afsan Chowdhury's interruption at this point stated that in spite of a lot of sophistication instilled in today's media, things are the same as before. Journalists have been beaten up and tortured since 1973 by every government. But then, it was his profession -- a profession that comprised certain risks and rewards. "My space is that of a citizen. I am more involved in media analysis. I am proud of the fact that the BBC has higher reporting standards, and it has given news that others have not. This is because it is an independent body."

Giving vent to his opinions he said that journalists have nowadays become the ultimate elites. They have more invitations than any ordinary man. He laughingly commented that it was only as a journalist that

Why is no journalist interested in social reporting? The answer is quite simple: Within Bangladesh there are several states, and journalists do not live in the state where the people live.



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