

53RD DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF TOFAZZAL HOSSAIN MANIK MIA

The testimony of Manik Mia



Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher.

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AFTER the death of journalist Tofazzal Hossain, popularly known as Manik Mia, politician, journalist and litterateur Abul Mansur Ahmad wrote in a commemorative article titled “Jati Je Manik Harailo,” “It didn’t take us long to understand (what a gem we had lost); the countrymen understood it much later.” Unfortunately, now it seems the countrymen have forgotten Manik Mia as well as the valuable lessons he left for this amnesiac nation.

This article is an exercise of thinking Manik Mia’s thoughts—especially those on the dangers of autocracy, disenfranchisement of common people, and overdependence on bureaucracy—that hold relevance for today’s Bangladesh more than ever.

Manik Mia’s commitment to journalism and passion for freedom and democracy is reflected amply in his numerous columns published under the pseudonym *Mosafir* (traveller) in the *Daily Ittefaq*. But I want to discuss his less appreciated, semi-autobiographical work *Pakistani Rajnitiir Beesh Bochhor* (Twenty Years of Pakistan Politics).

In the preface of the book, Manik Mia wrote, “As a journalist, I am well aware of the political trend of the country. As a concerned citizen, I have some responsibilities to my country and nation... I am well aware of my limitations. Still, I believe analysis of both the positives and negatives and the faults of past politics might help us to resolve our current crisis and identify the future course of action.” We should read Manik Mia’s thoughts in the same spirit.

A brief background of the book might be relevant here. Manik Mia was arrested on June 16, 1966. He had just recovered from a heart attack. The government shut down his newspaper, the *Daily Ittefaq*, and seized *The New Nation* Press. During his imprisonment, he planned to write on

Pakistan’s political history with an analysis of the autocratic trend of the country’s politics. Due to poor health and mental stress, he couldn’t start it then, but he was determined to finish the task. After he was released from Dhaka Police Hospital on March 2, 1967, he started working on it. Within two months—from August 28 to October 27, 1967—he prepared a draft



VISUAL: STAR

“naked and unbridled power creates such egoism in the human mind that it destroys common sense, morality, and even fear of God. When all state power is concentrated in the hands of a single person, there is never a shortage of flatterers in the hope of gaining his favour. They gather around the powerful person and, instead of informing him about the real situation of

person, are either politically orphan or enemy of the people.”

Manik Mia also warned of overdependence on bureaucracy. He mentioned, as an example, the first finance minister of Pakistan, Ghulam Muhammad, a bureaucrat recruited to the finance ministry by the first prime minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan. Although the newborn Pakistan was entangled in multiple crises—such as the lack of industrial development, two million refugees in excess of evacuees from Pakistan, disruption of the banking and insurance structure, and disproportionately heavy burden of defence expenditure—Ghulam Muhammad used to present surplus budget just to impress the countrymen and foreign audiences. The consequence of such overdependence on bureaucrats, Manik Mia testified, was that they gradually captured the state power and destroyed the democratic polity of Pakistan as well as the chance of building a pro-people socioeconomic policy structure.

Ghulam Muhammad became the third governor-general of Pakistan. His footsteps were followed by other civil and military bureaucrats like Chaudhry Muhammad Ali, Iskander Mirza, Ayub Khan, and Yahya Khan.

“The joy of independence made us oblivious to the fact that bureaucrats, however efficient they may be, have very little knowledge and experience about the problems of common people,” opined Manik Mia. He emphasised that in an independent state, only the people’s representatives have the right to prepare economic and social plans, and the bureaucrats’ duty is to implement those.

The book *Pakistani Rajnitiir Beesh Bochhor* contains many such gems of insight. I must say, the best legacy Manik Mia left for us is the testimony of his time. He lived the foundational years of Pakistan, the legacy of which Bangladesh, although now an independent country, can hardly ignore. If we take account of the last 50 years of Bangladesh’s history, we can’t deny the fact that there have been many repetitions of the same mistakes pointed out by Manik Mia. If we fail to learn from these mistakes, we will continue to live in the proverbial farce that Karl Marx warned of, and that is worse than tragedy.

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the country, the grievances of the people of the country, and the right attitude and thoughts needed to address those grievances, they keep him in the dark by repeating ‘everything is fine’” (Pg 23).

He identified that autocrats are guided by a common philosophy: “*Après moi, le déluge*” (this nihilistic expression of indifference to whatever happens after one is gone is attributed to King Louis XV of France). Manik Mia lamented that, although the autocrats are ousted at some point, the general people have to bear the consequences of autocratic rule for a long time.

Manik Mia also severely criticised the culture of hero worship in politics. Referring to Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he said, “There is no doubt about the political wisdom, leadership quality, and character strengths of Jinnah *saheb*, but those who ignore the contribution of common people to the independence movement and overemphasise the leadership of a single

Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Wastage Treatment Plant Company Ltd. (DTIEWTPCL) (A Public Limited Company) Tannery Industrial Estate, Dhaka (TIED) Horindhora, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka	
Invitation for Tenders (National)	
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH	
1	Ministry/Division Ministry of Industries
2	Agency Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Wastage Treatment Plant Company Ltd. (DTIEWTPCL)
3	Procuring Entity Name Managing Director, DTIEWTPCL
4	Procuring Entity Code N/A
5	Procuring Entity District Dhaka
6	Invitation for Supply of Tannery effluent treatment chemicals
7	Invitation Ref No & Date DTIEWTPCL/Chem/101/2021-22/      Date:
KEY INFORMATION	
8	Procurement Method Open Tendering Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
9	Budget and Source of Funds GOB through Tannery Industrial Estate, Dhaka (4 <sup>th</sup> revision) project
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
10	Tender Package No. (i) DTIEWTPCL/Chem-03/22 (ii) DTIEWTPCL/Chem-04/22
11	Tender Package Name Procurement of Tannery effluent treatment chemicals
12	Tender Publication Date 01/06/2022
13	Tender Last Selling Date 14/06/2022
14	Tender Closing Date and Time 15/06/2022 at 12.10 PM
15	Tender Opening Date and Time 15/06/2022 at 03.00 PM
16	Name & Address of the office(s) Address
	- Selling Tender Document (Principal) Office of the Managing Director, DTIEWTPCL, TIED, Horindhora, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka
	- Selling Tender Document (Others) Office of the Chairman, BSCIC & Chairman, DTIEWTPCL, 398, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208
	- Receiving Tender Document i) Office of the Managing Director, DTIEWTPCL, TIED, Horindhora, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka ii) Office of the Chairman, BSCIC & Chairman, DTIEWTPCL, 398, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208
	- Opening Tender Document Office of the Managing Director, DTIEWTPCL, TIED, Horindhora, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
17	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer
	i) Tender security in the form of Bank draft/ pay order
	ii) Trade license updated for 2021-2022 fiscal year
	iii) TIN & Tax paid certificate for 2020-2021 year
	iv) VAT registration certificate with 13 digit BIN
	v) Bank solvency certificate and Bank statement for last six months.
	vi) Minimum amount of liquid capital shall be Tk. 100.00 lac for package (i) DTIEWTPCL/Chem-03/22 and Tk. 95.00 lac for package (ii) DTIEWTPCL/Chem-04/22
	vii) Manufacturers authorization certificate for each chemicals

			viii) One successfully completion certificate at least to the tune of Tk. 90.00 lac for package (i) DTIEWTPCL/ Chem-03/22 and Tk. 85.00 lac for package (ii) DTIEWTPCL/Chem-04/22 from any Govt./ Semi Govt./ Autonomous body/ Limited company (Public/ Private) in last 2 years for supply of similar goods	
			ix) Registration/ enlistment to any Govt./ Semi-govt. organization/ Autonomous body/ Association as chemicals supplier/producer.	
			x) Other details as per tender schedule	
18	Brief Description of Goods		a) Supply of Caustic soda for package (i) DTIEWTPCL/Chem-03/22 b) Supply of Ferrous sulphate, PAM (Anionic & Cationic), Potash Alum, Tri Sodium Phosphate (TSP) and Poly Aluminum Chloride (PAC) for package (ii) DTIEWTPCL/ Chem-04/22 as per specifications in the tender document	
19	Brief Description of Related Services		All services related to Supply of chemicals upto CETP warehouse at TIED, Horindhora, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka including transportation, loading, unloading, testing etc.	
20	Price of Tender Document (Tk)		Tk. 2000/- (two thousand) only in cash (non-refundable) for each package with application on letter head pad	
21	Package & Lot No	Identification of Package	Location	Completion Time in week/ month
	(i)DTIEWTPCL/ Chem-03/22	Procurement of Tannery effluent treatment chemicals (Caustic Soda)	Office of the Managing Director, DTIEWTPCL, TIED, Horindhora, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka	50% of total chemicals should be supplied within 2 weeks and rest part within 6 weeks from the date of issuance of purchase order at CETP ware house, TIED, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka
	(ii)DTIEWTPCL/ Chem-04/22	Procurement of Tannery effluent treatment chemicals (Ferrous sulphate, PAM, Potash Alum, TSP, PAC)	- Do -	- Do -
22	Name of Official Inviting Tender		Mustak Ahmed	
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender		Managing Director	
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender		Office of the Managing Director, DTIEWTPCL, TIED, Horindhora, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka	
25	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender		Cell : 01718-275990 e-mail : dtiewtpcl@gmail.com	

- N.B. :**
- (a) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject in part or whole of any or all tenders without explanation or annul the tender proceedings.
  - (b) The purchase quantity may vary from the schedule. The quantity will be fixed during contract signing.
  - (c) Bidder must enclose original schedule which is duly filled in unit rate, total price both in figures and words. Any overwriting, correction and scratch or ineligibility will be rejected.
  - (d) A bidder may drop both packages if the bidder has aggregated capability to be responsive as a whole.
  - (e) If the date of selling, receiving and opening of tender is hindered under any unavoidable circumstances the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.

Mustak Ahmed  
Managing Director  
DTIEWTPCL