

All Ministers and MPs since the time of Ershad should be brought to book

By

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There are countless accusations of amassing huge wealth through corrupt and illegal means against many Ministers and MPs since the time when Ershad had come to power in early 1980s. All such accusations against such people from that time on through the AL-rule to the last BNP-led government need to be thoroughly investigated by the current CG, which should go through the entire list of all the cabinet members and MPs since the Ershad era, if not before. The Ershad government for nine long years is considered to be the first major period of large scale scandalous corruption with many ministers having made themselves filthy rich under the table, followed by the first relatively clean and fair BNP government, then by the dark and corrupt rule of AL, which failed to wipe out and clear the equally bad record of the first post-independence Awami government, and finally the immediate past, overwhelmingly corrupt rule of BNP under the incriminating and pugnacious influence of certain nasty elements in the party whose ugly and damaging domination must have been intentionally overlooked or ignored by the top in the BNP leadership. The wholesale and indescribably widespread corruption of those elements is thus responsible for ruining the image of the once powerful and promising BNP.

All MPs from all parties since Ershad must be brought to account. Many of them, incompetent and immature as they were in making and understanding laws and as such unfit to legislate or sit in the legislature of the country, were otherwise past masters in perpetrating evil in utterly raw, crude and coarse manner. Many of them did nothing—absolutely nothing—in the way of development and welfare for their constituencies and must have pocketed all the assistance in cash or kind they may have received from the government for such a purpose. Moreover, it is a common allegation that many of them were involved in malpractices of various kinds and turned a blind eye and deaf ear to the interest of the nation and that of their constituencies.

Following such a dark and bleak and blank and barren and insipid and vapid and uninspiring record of our “honorable” Ministers and MPs, I want to ask Mr Mostafa Kamal of the immediate past BNP, (Late) Mustafizur Rahman of AL, Advocate AKM Shamsul Huda of BNP and later Ershad’s JP and all others who represented the coastal island of Sandwip (Chittagong-3, I guess) in the past what they did for Sandwip or Sandwipis during their term of representation in the parliament, what was their achievement or contribution to the welfare and development of Sandwip and how many times they thought of the plights and problems of the people of Sandwip who gave them the chance of embellishing their otherwise dull and empty and uneventful, in some cases morally repugnant, life. The answer is, I’m sure, “Absolutely nothing, never.” They are of course no different from the rest of the flock—immoral, insensitive, selfish, hypocritical, deceiving.

As punitive measures all ministers and MPs since the time of Ershad found guilty of doing disservice to the country and the constituency and stealing public money should be asked to do hard community service for free for a period of time and should not be allowed to decorate themselves by being called ex- Ministers or ex-MPs to get extra social attention.