

Synopsis of the speech of Justice M. A. Matin at the Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka, on 30th of November 2019 DUMCS-TIB <Anti Corruption Moot Court competition 2019.

Respected Chair and gentlemen present, my language is not rich enough to express my gratitude to you all for having invited me to be here this evening to be a judge in the final round of the competition. Before I enter into the address proper, let me take you back to a class of M.C. College, Sylhet in 1960 where my respected late lamented professor Ishaque of the Department of History was supposed to give a lecture on Carthaginian War. Before starting the topic, Prof. Ishaque suddenly in a dramatic way said, "Justice Syed Ameer Ali is my student." We were at a loss as to how Prof. Ishaque could be the teacher of Justice Syed Ameer Ali? Having observed our puzzled faces, Prof. Ishaque smiled and said, "Ameer Ali was a student of Hoogley College, where I was a professor. Following my revered teacher, you, the illustrious professors of this university can legitimately say, Justice Matin is our student.

Next, I must thank the organizers and the sponsors of this mammoth event who graciously put in their energy and valuable time to make the event a success.

Now, allow me to urge upon you to lend me thy ears and bear me for a few moments.

The proposition of this competition is a product of superb legal thinking that deserves to be considered as masterpiece of legal literature. The famous statement of Summerset Mohm, the great novelist, "All we depict are but the pictures of ourselves." 'Bichitrapur' appears to be very familiar to us, the citizens of the third world. These countries, mostly born out of the movement and relentless struggle for freedom, ultimately have ended up in great tyrennies where the minimum human rights are seldom respected. The democratic values for which their fathers fought and died are

disregarded at will and with limitless impunity. There is no rule of law, but the rule of the rulers. The national wealth is accumulated in the hands of a few leaving the vast majority and multitude into poverty and unbearable penury. Absence of good governance sometimes represent a state of lawlessness and chaos reminding us of the century of 'Mastanya' that prevailed before the coming of Gopal, the first elected king of Bengal, as early as in the first half of the eighth century. It was at a time the entire Europe could not dream of a democracy and america was not even born. The Romans and and the greeks intorduced slavery and gave so called democracy only to the rich and mighty part of their city states, leaving the multitude as slaves.

Shakespear in his famous play, Hamlet, wrote:

“In the corrupted currents of this world,
Offence’s gilded hand may shove by justice
And oft. it’s seen the wicked prize itself
Buys out the law.”

In Julius Cesar, he said,

“Who so firm, that cannot be seduced? ”

Again in the same play, he said,

“Shall we now
Contaminate our fingers with base bribes
And sell the mighty space of our large honours
For so much trash as may be grasped thus?
I had rather be a dog and bay the moon
Than such a Roman”

Bur Sir Winston Churchill said,

“Corruption is the lubricant of administration”

Corruption, indeed, is the menace, is the nemesis that is stabbing us at the back. Al Quran in sura no 2 verse no188 says, "Devour not one another's possessions wrongfully, nor offer them to those who rule, so as to wrongfully and knowingly devour what is owned by others." But it is almost impossible to root out the same lock stock and barrel because,

“মঙ্গল অমঙ্গলের নিদান। অমঙ্গলকে তাড়াইয়া দিলে মঙ্গল সমেত উড়িয়া যাইবে।”

We cannot clean the state of denmark all on a sudden by dint of an Aladdin's lamp. It needs courage. And it is said, it takes courage to give a call, and it takes courage to answer a call. If you want 'a land of the free' and 'home of the brave', you must be ready to sacrifice and not shedding tears only, but must shed your blood and sweat of you brow. Nothing can be achieved without sacrifice. This land of ours demand from us sacrifice and dispassionate, motiveless struggle for achievement of the rights for which our fathers fought and died. Let this dream come true.

The quality of the skill of debating on both sides is commendable. I wish them every success in life.

Thanking you all.