



Homeless man in capital arrested for violating stay-at-home measures



LUBNAN KHALEESI

Zakir Hossain, 32, and his daughter Sheuly, 5, were arrested last night for defying the very strictly imposed stay-at-home regulations.

During the arrest, Zakir was perplexed and spent a good 10 minutes explaining to the law enforcers how he was at home. "This is my home. I stay on this very pavement," he said, pointing to a few sacks rumbled together, possibly to make a bed for him and his daughter.

The law enforcers, however, did not agree with what Zakir had to say. "Even if he is at home, if this can even be legally defined

"We are trying to get these people off the streets of the capital and send them back to where they came from," a law enforcer said on condition of anonymity.

as such, this entire area is also a beggar-free zone and there is a Tk 20,000 fine if you are caught begging here," a police official told this correspondent.

The latest stay-at-home rules have come as a big blow to some five million city dwellers who are homeless. With government measures yet to benefit many of these people, possible because they are not very urban-centric, homeless people are now on the run.

In the latest sting operation, where law enforcers pretended to be doling out relief,

they had managed to keep out of the grabs of influential locals, some 5,000 homeless people were rounded up. They had come to get the relief, but once they failed to produce any documentation of their residential address, they were instantly detained.

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A quandary does arise with this plan as many of the homeless people tell similar stories of how their homes were devoured by rising sea levels. Every year, Bangladesh loses thousands of hectares of land which are swallowed by water bodies which snake throughout the delta.

"We are looking into this. We are hoping by fining some of the rivers, the problem can be solved," an absolute idiot of a water body official said in this regard.

For now though, the homeless are hiding, often in plain sight. In many railway stations around the capital, people with no permanent homes can be seen, bidding time till luck fortunes them once more.

"It isn't all bad. I got my daughter a job in a nearby house. I would get to see her before the breakout of this virus," a mask-less Shamima Begum says.

And so the fate of five million is now up in the air.

Someone should start a readymade garment factory which hires them, a minister had quipped earlier this week.

Lubnan Khaleesi munches on snacks non-stop and is constantly worried about one day reaching into her snack shelf only to find nothing in there.

Nation building Covid-22 style: Separate the rich from the poor

SAKEB SUBHAN

Countries around the world have decided to take a leaf out of Emotionation's book after a recent study showed how the then under-developed country used the Covid-22 crisis to become an economic powerhouse in 15 years.

Emotionation's main problem was over-population and too many people below the poverty line. When Covid-22 hit, the authorities had first announced a shutdown, but people were still milling around trying to buy essentials. That is when inspiration struck.

Around 20 days into the shutdown, the government announced a curfew from 6:00pm to 6:00am.

"You see, we were killing two birds with one stone," the study by dystopia.com quoted the then health minister's daughter as saying. "It was only the poor who would have to go out to kitchen markets, and come into constant contact with others.

"And because they now had only a 12-hour window to get all their



shopping done, the crowding would be much more concentrated than usual. Meanwhile, the rich people could go to superstores in their cars."

When asked how they could get

away with it in times where people actually made a fuss about equality, she said it was of course packaged differently then.

"In 2022, our scientists said that

Covid-22 could not survive in bright sunlight and was only viable after sunset," she said. "There was one guy who said that we should go the other way and keep shops open 24/7, so that there would be less crowding and also an increase in employment. He obviously didn't get it. What he did get right after coming up with the idea, however, was a bad case of Covid-22, and he unfortunately died."

The upshot of it all was that community transmission went wild in the lower classes, and Emotionation's population decreased significantly. The financially mighty inherited the land and its abundant resources.

"They have sacrificed for us, and there is a memorial made of gold in the city centre. They will not be forgotten," the health minister's daughter said before boarding her Lamborghini Fascia.

After the study was published, scientists all over the world are working on a highly transmissible virus in order to replicate Emotionation's nation building.



'Stop trying to clothe the animals' Rights activists fume as people give animals weird relief

STAR FASHION CORRESPONDENT

After news of animals going hungry amid the GENERAL HOLIDAY (ENJOY YO'SELF), citizens scrambled to ensure birds, dogs and cats had enough to ride out the storm. No insects were taken into consideration of course, because people hate insects.

In the flurry of relief activities, and the photo sessions which go along with them, some conscious citizens started packing the relief materials with a bunch of unnecessary but glamorous things.

Dogs and cats were being given cute sweaters and crowns were given top hats. Another crowd was also given a monocle for some reason. That was, however, acceptable because the crowd actually looked very dapper.

Animal rights activists, who are always on the edge like all other rights activists, then came down hard on people being irresponsible with relief.

"They are lining animals up,

giving them no space. Dogs are chasing cats, cats are chasing birds. And no one even cares about the little mongooses," Dukkhi Singh, an apparent animal rights activists because of her pro-animal Facebook posts, said.

"Also what on earth are animals going to do with soap? They do not even have access to clean, running water," she added in disgust.

While most people gave the cute stuff a pass, this was not the case for other more cosmetic additions to the relief packet.

A huge point of contention was the packaged food. No one was sure how the animals were even going to open those.

A political leader volunteered to help with proper distribution of the goods, but his offer was instantly rejected because everyone knows what politicians do with relief material.

In the meantime, an online petition has been signed by 1,000 people who have put forth what should constitute as appropriate relief packets. We have not bothered to read it though.



PHOTO: STAR

Fishy business in fish market

People in one of the areas worst-affected by the latest virus gather together to buy fish, because why not. Some also sport their face masks at a useless but very stylish angle, giving the sunglasses on the back collar of the shirts a run for its money. Law enforcers try to caution people to maintain physical distance, but who would have thought shoe-horning technical terms into people's everyday vocabularies would not work in the absence of much better awareness programmes.

PHOTO: STAR