

Unlicensed buses to be turned into moving Covid-19 hospitals

STAR REPORT

Unlicensed buses around the country will soon be turned into Covid-19 hospitals, offering treatment to patients in hard-to-reach areas.

The decision came at a top-level meeting of different government agencies. Wahtaj Khaben, the minister for buses, announced the decision before the press.

"Since everyone can start a hospital nowadays, we decided to put our unlicensed buses to use. We aren't going to get licences anyway and since we can't operate till the zero-tolerance drive against illegal vehicles is on, we have decided to expand our service basket," Wahtaj said.

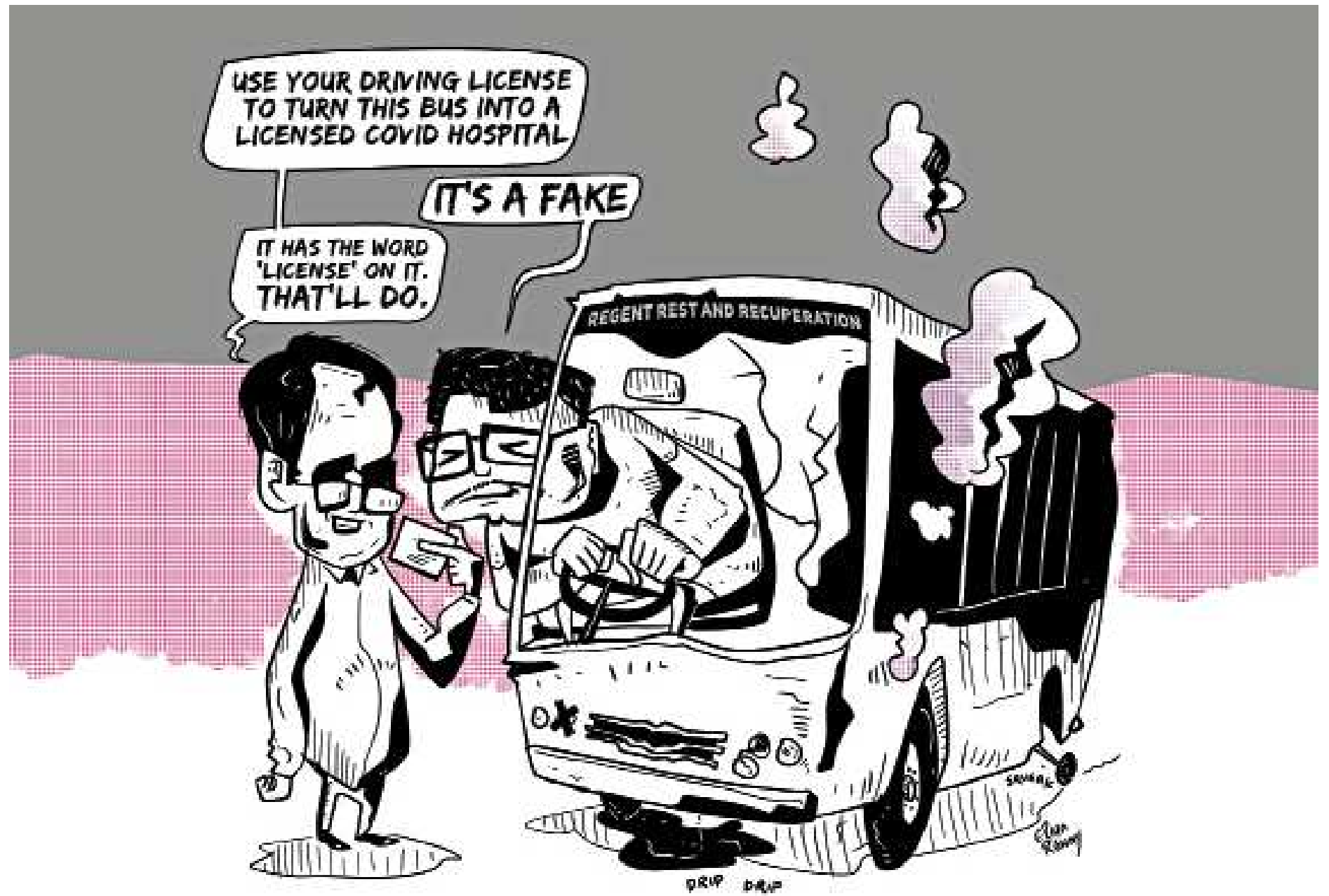
"Once we get the government permission, we will start conducting Covid-19 tests as well," he added.

Asked whether these buses would have the required paperwork, Unhealthy Minister Nahid Khaleque said the bus owners had "promised to get the needed licences soon."

"They promised they will get all the legal papers to treat patients and conduct tests," he said, adding, without being prompted, that he "had not been bribed or anything and this was strictly about promises made and underhanded deals cut."

Asked how the ministry could allow more unlicensed hospitals to function after the latest crisis, Nahid said, "This is Bangladesh, Imao. I am an unhealthy minister but I also have no qualifications for this job."

Meanwhile, the decision to turn the buses was met with a lot of derision from citizens. "The authorities are unimaginably stupid," Altaf Ahmed, a restaurateur by profession, said.



Ecommerce Mishap Awards to be launched

Note: This is a press release. We hate press releases.

SHUVONKOR SHUVO

Awards are motivating factors for everyone and companies in Bangladesh are constantly making awards which they win to give themselves some sort of validation. We already have some flagship awards events to acknowledge excellence in different sectors of the country. Some examples are the business awards, export awards and of course, our favourite, the women's award, which is an award given to women for doing the exact same things as a man does, except she does it as a woman.

Realising the massive rise in the eCommerce business, this time a new flagship award has been launched by PCAES, said a press release. This award is called 'Local Ecommerce Mishap Award', and it is proudly brought to you by the Pissed-off Customers Association of Ecommerce Sites (PCAES).

The General Secretary, who we aren't even going to name because the press release forgot to mention it, said that due to the lockdown situation, the use of Ecommerce sites has "increased exponentially" in recent times.

People are buying their daily necessities



from eCommerce sites, as most of the retail shops are still closed. And many Ecommerce sites have successfully annoyed their customers with their service failure every day.

Starting from fake products to delivering a package after a month, or even delivering a completely different product as if you are ordering mystery effing boxes, eCommerce sites in this country are going out of their

way to suck.

To recognise these companies fully, the award programme will have different categories. The wrong product delivery award will go to the site with the least accuracy of delivering the right product.

For instance, once a customer ordered a facewash product and was given an onion paste instead. Customer service said it was a kind of organic product. After using it, the customer realised that what that meant was the product organically sucked. Reaching out to customer service again, the customer was told he had actually been delivered the wrong product and new one would come soon. It, of course, never did.

Another award by PCAES will be given for counterfeit or low-quality products. This will go not to the eCommerce sites, but to their excellent suppliers whose continuous success in failure will not go unrecognised. An e-commerce site owner said some suppliers are so good that you can even give them a picture of what you want and they will make sure that your product is nothing like that. Some suppliers even use their creativity to develop knockoff products.

Another exciting category is the "Take this instead". This award will go to the site which consistently calls customers after three to

four days and says, "we actually do not have the product you ordered" and then gives you entirely unrelated options to choose from. They also compel the customers to choose the bad option, because there's no money-back guarantee. These sites are so dedicated to being the worst that they never take the inventory down even if the last stock replenished a decade ago. One founder said that there actually was a virtual museum of products promoting arts and culture of being really bad at what one does.

Misbah, the organiser of the awards, said it all came about they realised that because of the huge number of orders businesses no longer do quality check and mess up all the time.

When asked why this happened, a top official of a leading eCommerce site said, "We receive a lot of order, literally a lot of. It is not possible to do quality check because of the immense love we receive from our buyers."

"Just believe in us, we are expert in mishaps, that is our unique selling proposition."

The 'Local Ecommerce Mishap Awards' is expected to be very popularly and there has been a deluge of submissions.

9 rules for the Covid-fair Cattle Market

The following is a public service announcement which contains the rules and regulations that people have to follow in the cattle market. Violators of any of the rules will obviously be hanged.

1. Do not touch the cows. You are not an expert. You may think you are but you feeling up the cow will not give you an idea of the price and nor will it make anyone think that you know what you are doing.
2. Do not take off your mask while negotiating. Contrary to popular belief, the mask does not muffle the sound of your voice in any negligible way. Do not wear the mask on your stupid chin and just wear it properly. Also, cover your nose with it.
3. Do not mill around. You know your budget. You know exactly how much you are willing to spend. There is no point waiting around till a cattle trader finally crumbles under your intense negotiating prowess.
4. Stop embracing acquaintances you meet. Do not even shake their hands. Avoid eye contact if possible.
5. All cows must have masks on. Yes, it sucks, we know. You can no longer count their teeth.
6. Why don't you guys just try ordering online? You know we can't test too many. You know our hospitals aren't that equipped. Just stay indoors. Enjoy the holiday.
7. Sanitising your hand after touching everything around you in the Cow Haat isn't the best practice. Why can't you just stop touching things?
8. Don't spit. We also asked masks not be taken off, but you guys will probably find a way to spit. Also, why do you guys muster up all that strength to draw out that phlegm deep inside, which wasn't even bothering you, only to spit it out.
9. Do you honestly need another rule?

BEEF



Rickshaw-pullers wade through a waterlogged street in Dhaka. The situation is not because of poor drainage system, but is one of the latest ways to ensure cleanliness of the people and protect them from Covid-19.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

READERS CORNER

