



## Probe body finds women sitting improperly on bikes behind rising road accidents

STAR CRASHPONDENT

After admitting his failure in bringing discipline to the roads, last year Road Transport Minister of Chapasthan Omaigo Bader said a task force would be formed to handle the matter.

Morality-e-Chapasthan also banded together with the ministry and offered their services in forming a probe body to uncover the mystery behind growing road accidents. The men were free of their other moral duties as places of reverence were closed for six

months due to the pandemic.

After months of closure, the findings and progress of both the task force and the probe body have finally been shared with the media.

Turns out the problem was a simple one to begin with.

"Women who refuse to sit properly on motorbikes are the reason behind growing road accidents," said convener of Morality-e-Chapasthan Al Taal-e-Matal Safey.

"It's simple, if they spread their legs and sit

inappropriately, the men get distracted and it causes chaos on the streets," he added.

The findings were received with much hullabaloo as men shared their own distress at finding women not only sitting "improperly" on bikes but some also riding their own bikes.

"This is a sign of end of times. When a woman wears jeans, it causes earthquakes. When she eats an apple, we are kicked out of heaven. When they speak up, good men lose

their jobs," Minister Omaigo Bader said in agreement with Safey.

"See, we think women are essentially carrying the weight of the world on their shoulders and they need to act responsibly, now that they have decided to hit the streets," he added.

This was followed by a round of deafening applause leading the way for the task force to share some guidelines on "How women should sit properly on bikes?"

Since it is inappropriate for women to spread their legs, the task force members suggest a variety of positions women can take up on bikes. They also believe practicing these moves will enhance mobility and balance for women, this improving their health. Win-win.

In other news, Bangladeshi women biker group is collaborating with Dhaka University to install plush chairs on their motorbikes, eliminating the need to man-spread.

## We aren't going abroad to learn how to cook kichuri, you idiots: food minister slams journos

SENSATIONAL CORRESPONDENT

The Food Minister yesterday came down hard on journalists who had criticised a proposed trip of 500 food officials to go to America to learn how to make kichuri, a delicacy in the more, let's just say yucky parts of the country.

"We aren't going to America to just learn how to make Kichuri. We are going there to understand food management and gather experiences in making kichuri without onions and spices," Food Minister Mohanuzzaman said.

"You journalists need a good beating. Stop making mountains out of molehills. This trip is a learning experience for us all," he said.

Another point of contention has been the Tk 5 crore bill which the trip will cost, but the minister downplayed it, saying "experience is priceless. For everything else there is a credit card."

"Do you know how much onions cost? If we don't spend this Tk 5 crore, we will eventually have to spend Tk 100 crore just because our people are so crazy about onion. It's all they can ever talk about," the exasperated minister said.

The minister also expressed



unhappiness at journalists for always reporting facts without thinking about the spirit of the country. "You are just damaging the spirit of the country. Yes, we spend money going abroad learning how to dig ponds and how to cook kichuri without spices. So what? How else are we supposed to learn? The culinary arts in the country is barely art. We have no option but to go to America, where my wife has always wanted to go," he said.

The minister also said that going to

America was just a proposal. They were also mulling going to Canada instead. "We don't know how well Canadians make kichuri but what we do know is that we all have homes there so it will cost less for us to stay there," he added.

The minister finally warned journalists and said it was time to do positive news. "Stop being idiots. Just write good things. You can make the people happy in this noble profession, so just do that. Or get clapped."

## Satire retired in the country, no joke

WOODEN CORRESPONDENT

Any and every form of satire in Chapasthan has been stopped, and not because of a government edict or court ruling, but because blossoming satire publications had to devote majority page space to explain the word satire alone.

The situation arose after people began taking each and every headline seriously, even though said headline was under a satire banner. Things reached a head when, after the publication of an article which, in an effort to lampoon advertising tendencies, talked about a body spray that cancelled gravity, hundreds were injured jumping off their balconies.

All satire publications then decided to dedicate some column space to explain that satire articles were a light-hearted take on events, and at times social and political commentary.

But that did not do the trick. On social media site Facepalm, readers kept lambasting every article. "How can such a serious publication make such obvious errors? Hell will freeze over before Messi comes to Chapasthan to play," scream-typed one

particular reader after spending a whole day in front of the gates of Faka FC.

There were also instances when some readers actually pointed out that it was satire and not to be taken seriously, but they were shouted down by the vocal majority, the refrain being that it was "irresponsible journalism".

So, slowly, each satire piece had a companion article next to it -- often longer than the satire itself -- explaining line by line what the satire meant. But even that came to no avail, because no one read the companion pieces.

Experts put this sad state of affairs down to two factors -- a humour deficiency (when the humour comes from someone else) and Headlineitis.

"Headlineitis is a new phenomenon," said Ratul Batul, an expert on everything. "In today's world, people don't have time to read articles; they just read headlines and draw their information from there. You can tell because within the first few lines of the article you will know it's satire -- fictional country names, etc.

"But Chapasthanis do have time to write 300-word Facepalm comments after reading the headlines," added Ratul Batul.

Laden Roman, an editor of a prominent satire publication, subscribed to the Headlineitis theory but disagreed with Chapasthanis having humour deficiency. "It is a strange thing, which I think is unique to Chapasthan. Sometimes you can't tell the difference between satire and real news. A few days ago I read that a group of government servants were planning on a lavish foreign tour to learn how to make kichuri. How is that not satire? Then, I read that transport minister said that Covid-22 loses all power inside public buses..."

"Oh, that was satire? See what I mean? I don't even know why I started this. Obviously, I don't know what I am doing," he said exasperatedly, before spraying himself with Zero Gravity and flying out the window.

This article was satire.

