



Women relocation drive: Rape incidents to fall to only 6 per day

PITCHFORK REPORTER

The country gears up for celebration as incidents of rape are set to fall to only six per day following a women relocation drive by the Dhaka city authorities.

Although initially heavily-criticised as a sexist plan, the city's mayor has said it is the best and ONLY plan ever conceived to protect the women in the city. "This is not segregation. It is simply separation. All modern cities in the world have had some sort of separation at one point. Of course, we are willing to talk more and understand what the problem with this plan is," he said during the launch of the relocation drive.

Dhaka has always been a city notorious for being unfriendly towards women. According to police statistics, the country saw an average of 13 rapes per day last year. These were reported incidents, with many believing the numbers to be much higher.

As part of the relocation plan, women will be transported to areas with less men, so that they do not have to endanger themselves every time they want to go out and do normal human activities.

"I do not want to move, but apparently the main idea of consent eludes almost everyone in this country. How is this a

show of support when we aren't even being asked if we agree to something like this," a super-emotional woman, who we probably interviewed at the wrong time of the month, said.

Meanwhile, a group of women protested the decision in what can only be considered a massive overreaction.

"We don't want to be relocated to any char. This is the dumbest thing I have ever heard. Why can't we just use our laws to curb the menace? Hiding a problem, isn't getting rid of the problem," one of the women protestors much-too-loudly proclaimed.

A radical protestor suggested relocating men instead of women. "There are more women in this country than men. So why not relocate the men elsewhere? They are the cause of the problem right?" the radical woman, who was so overcome with emotions she could not form coherent thoughts, said.

"I don't think we need to relocate women. It is a bit drastic," Akbar Ahmed, local simp, said, adding the better option would be to bring back chastity belts. "Chastity belts will be really helpful. By coming up with a code of what women can wear, say, do and

where they can go, we can actually nip this problem in the bud," he said.

The relocation drive was kicked off when a woman dared to visit a public university campus with her husband, where she was subsequently raped. At the time, many wondered why a woman would even go to a public university, knowing how dangerous those are for the less politically-connected.

The rape generated outrage as usual and also compelled some student politicians to come up with a list of "unrapeables" which they shall release sometime early next week.

Govt opens mandatory 'graffiti' schools for all budding artists

Dawal Security Act instituted; anti-establishment art now needs permission

F ART VANDERLEIGH

The government has opened art schools in every district of the country with a special focus on graffiti.

An education ministry circular said it would be mandatory for all graffiti artists to have a diploma from these schools before they can paint walls with messages.

"These schools are essential to control the creativity of the country's budding minds," the circular said. "To enforce the measure, a new law named the Dawal Security Act (2020) has been instituted."

"Creativity is all good, but it must be reined in," said the uncultural affairs minister, and then raised two hands to form a bad approximation of air quotes. "These 'artists' have homes, they can give their creativity free rein there.

"But when you have them drawing on city walls... That's public property. Gravy for the goose may not always be jhol for the gander."

When reminded that was not the exact saying, the minister said, "When you have as much experience in the finer things in life as I do, you can let the reins go a bit. But the same does not apply to them - they have much to experience."

The move has raised concern in



some corners that the government was trying to stifle expression in graffiti, an age-old form of dissent and challenge to the status quo.

"No, this is a beautification exercise, to teach them to colour inside the lines," said the education minister. "Have you seen some of the atrocities these people perpetrate in the name of graffiti?"

The plan for a school in every district could be a manpower

challenge, as there may not be sufficient teachers, but the authorities batted those concerns aside.

"There is an easy solution. Low-level police officials will teach them," an official of the injustice ministry said. "Graffiti students are insolent sorts. If you talk back to police, you get what's coming to you. And that will also help in the artistic process. You know, the tortured artist thing..."

Football King delivers victory speech in another unopposed election

SPORTING CORRESPONDENT

Football King Aloo-deen is sitting quietly on his chair at a function celebrating his latest victory in the top-most position of a local almost religious association.

He doesn't like to talk much. He doesn't act much either. His favourite pastime is staying sat, for hours, on his special chair. The chair is so dear to him that whenever he has to go anywhere, he takes it with him.

So he's sitting on his chair through all the words of praise that are being thrown at him by his fans and followers.

"Our leader is the chosen one, the special one, the one and only one," one sycophant says in a raised voice. "No point challenging him."

"If there was a college on election mechanism, our leader would have surely been the principal of it," says another zealot, not noticing the apparent embarrassment on Aloo-deen's face.

Aloo-deen knows deep down he has failed to meet the lofty promises he had made. Yet he gets a sadistic pleasure, realising how his failures and election victories have gone hand-in-hand.

As the speakers continue their make-believe stories of Aloo-deen's superpowers, the old man decides to take a walk down the memory lane, back to the time he first contested these polls, many moons ago.

Those were tough times, he remembers. He even chuckles a bit, thinking how easy it has become for



PHOTO: KELLY MILLER ON UNSPLASH

him to be elected these days. "Just put my name on the list and bingo."

There was this one time when he was just beginning to feel the heat, but then all of a sudden, his rival met a tragic end on the road. Aloo-deen shed a tear or two at his rival's funeral.

Another time he really thought his time would be up, but just the day before the election, his opponent disappeared without a trace. Human rights activists called it a case of 'enforced disappearance', but Aloo-deen saw divine intervention.

He may only be leading a local almost religious body, but his position entails a lot of perks -- trips to world summits at exotic venues, share of funds meant to be used for people's good and, not to mention, connections in the highest of places. He knows that the last one is worth dying for.

It is fabled that the Football King, in

his youth, had performed holy rituals more than any other living being in his land. And it is rumoured that his election victories are a form of reward from above for his holy deeds.

There are non-believers, though, who argue that the rewards do not come from any celestial abode; instead they come from within some corridors of mortal power.

Aloo-deen doesn't care though. "Haters will hate", he says.

Aloo-deen's trance is broken by a call to the dais. He wipes the smirk off his face and walks up to deliver his victory speech.

"I had a dream," he begins, as the gathering bellows, "All hail Aloo-deen."

"I had a dream the other night. I saw my chair speaking to me, pleading me not to leave him at the mercy of someone else," Aloo-deen continues.

"I woke up and thought long about it. I realised the dream was in the purest of hours and the chair wasn't a chair, it was a holy spirit egging me to go on and on and on," he says as the crowd chants, "Long lead our leader."

"I had dreams before," Aloo-deen proceeds. "But those dreams came at evil hours and evils in our midst didn't let me turn my dreams into reality."

"But I have rid those evils from amongst us. So this dream will come true and with blessings from above, we will reach our destination soon," he concludes his speech as his fans go wild, lifting Aloo-deen and his magic chair above their head.

And so it was said. And so it was.