

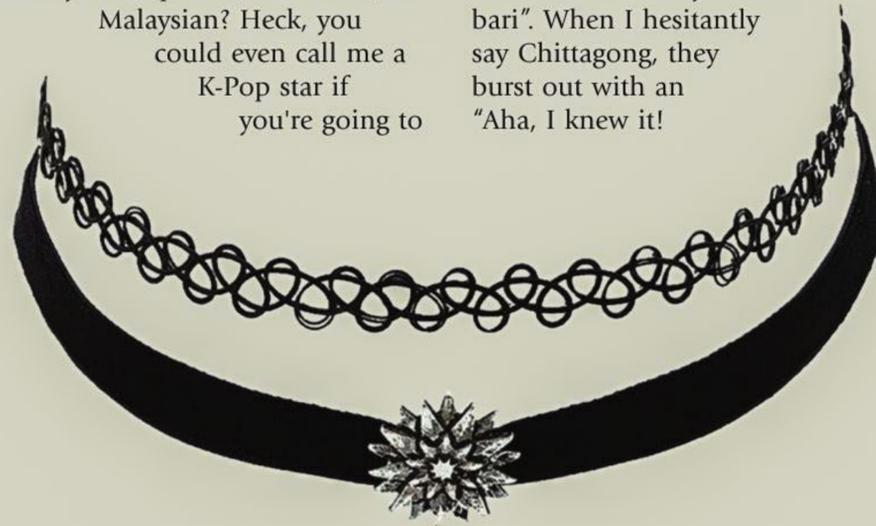
LABELS ARE FOR JARS

AFNAN AHMED CRYSTAL

"Hey, look. That girl's wearing a choker; she must be *easy*," croons 19 year old Bokri, a student of a reputed school. Yes, you read that right. It's not just guys anymore, even educated girls like Bokri assume with sheer confidence that all girls wearing chokers are "easy". When asked why she feels this way, she ponders for a good few seconds, shakes her head sideways, and finally replies "Just cause", with a blank look on her face. Stereotyping is ingrained in our very being, even if it means forming an utterly false impression of someone at first glance. Admit it, we've all judged others at some point. But some stereotypes are so bewilderingly ridiculous that you can't help but facepalm vehemently.

CALLING ALL SMALL-EYED PEOPLE "CHINESE": If I had a taka for

every time I've been called "Chinese"... I'd still be broke but that's not the point. Why not Japanese, or Korean, or Malaysian? Heck, you could even call me a K-Pop star if you're going to



randomly assume my identity based on my eye size. Sometimes, when I give these idiots the disappointing answer

of not being of Chinese descent, they go on to ask the whereabouts of my "desher bari". When I hesitantly say Chittagong, they burst out with an "Aha, I knew it!"

Your parents must be from the Hill Tracts," with this smug, complacent grin on their faces. These remarks say

more about them than my small eyes.

A GIRL'S MORALS ARE LOOSE IF THEY DO THESE: Wearing lots of makeup, wearing jeans, wearing shirts, wearing skirts, wearing hair down etc etc etc. You can't win at this.

YOU'RE SKINNY, SO YOU MUST BE DIETING ALL DAY: For the millionth time, IT'S JUST FAST METABOLISM. I do eat all day. And no, I'm not judging you; not for being fat any way.

ANY AND ALL REGIONAL STEREOTYPES: Apparently, women whose *desher bari* is Comilla are *kutni* and so on. Remember how your parents' noses wrinkle every time you mention Noakhali or Barisal (unless they are from those districts, of course)? Yeah, that.

LAUNCH: THE GREATEST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION EVER

FATIUL HUQ SUJOY

You know what angers me more than corruption and ignorance that's slowly killing the human race? People disregarding launches being superior to every other transport built by man. Maybe it's because of an international conspiracy or because people just don't care. Regardless, let me dedicate this article to proving the greatness of launches.

First of all, launch journeys are super chill. Launches usually take off around 8-9 p.m. but you can board any time after noon. You cosy up in your cabin. Each cabin has a TV where you can watch your favourite West Bengal movie or Mosharraf Karim TV drama. Or you can wander the launch with all the other ten-year-olds. After dinner you can stargaze, engage in midnight-special deep conversations, or sleep. And before you know it you'll wake up to total darkness as the

guards knock on your door, because it's 4 a.m. and you've reached your destination.

Let's talk about the cabins some more. They're perfect for every condition. For the mortally dangerous heat of summer, you have the classic wall fans that can go (in most launches) up to a whopping level 3. And for the mild cold of winter they provide you with kombols that most people don't use, not because they look unhygienic and are probably filled with bed bugs but because the cabins are too congested for it to actually get cold.

Launches go the extra mile to fulfil your culinary satisfaction. Unlike in some transports (looking at you inter-city buses), you don't need to wait hours for a 20-minutes (questionable) slot to freshen up, order food and hurriedly eat for a 6-8 hours journey. Not only can you bring your own food and eat with the comfort of your home (with slight turbu-

lence) you can also buy snacks from their canteen or order dinner that includes the top tier fishes. And of course, there's tea and coffee whenever you like.

Launch journeys are great if you're with friends. It serves to compensate for all those botched sleepover plans. It's not bad with your family either. All those family times you missed because you locked yourself in your room, well you're gonna get it all now.

Launch is also the transport for the capitalists as it systematically divides groups with different income ranges. If you're rich, you don't have to worry about filthy peasants and comfortably sleep in your cabin. If you can't afford a cabin you don't have to worry about those posh rich kids spewing privilege all over the place and just chill on the deck.

The greatness of launch surpasses just the journey. Launches are a significant part of the identity of the people of

Barishal and other southern districts people tend to forget about. Strip away launches and what other stereotype does it leave you with, other than their accent, to make fun of them? None. My point exactly.

By now, I'm quite certain almost all of you are convinced of the superiority of launches, especially over ground vehicles. Just in case you're not, did I mention traffic jams? No, because there aren't any. But what about aeroplanes? How can launches surpass the vehicle that enables man the miracle of flight? Let me just insert an "urteToMoshaoPare.jpg" meme before dropping the mic.

Fatiul Huq Sujoy is a tired soul (mostly because of his frail body) who's patiently waiting for Hagrid to appear and tell him, "Ye're a saiyan, lord commander." Suggest him places to travel and food-ventures to take at fb.com/SyedSujoy.

