



AROUND THE COUNTRY Bite-sized news to fit your attention span

The Italian Miracle

A returnee from Italy performed a miracle yesterday! He was under self-quarantine at his home in a district town, yet he injured himself in a road accident.

Please, no photos

A photojournalist entered a quarantine centre to take pictures of coronavirus-infected suspects. Having accomplished this dangerous mission, he was sent to savour this success over the next 14 days in self-quarantine at his home. Now he takes pictures of himself as he "works from home."

A pronunciation issue

"Mask" recently became one of the most widely-used words in the world, ever since the coronavirus started to wreak havoc. An entire village in Bangladesh was divided not over whether or not to use the facial protection gear, but over the pronunciation of the word "mask". One group said it was "m-a-s-k" and the other said it was "m-u-s-k". As an intense argument could not settle the matter, they tried to fight it out, where 50 ended up injured in that fierce clash. Still, the disagreement prevailed.

Oops!

An unlucky man failed to recognise his mask-clad father-in-law as he approached the latter for a source of fire to feed his bad nicotine habit. Humiliation, not help, followed.

Let's go see the infected

The news really travelled fast that a Bangladeshi, who returned from Italy with cold and fever, was kept under

home-isolation in Nobinagar. Over 500 people showed up just to have a look at the suspected coronavirus patient. Police struggled for hours to maintain law and order. Some had even gone in for a touch so they can build immunity fast. The rest is history.

Who do you believe in?

There was huge debate in Rajbari about whether coronavirus has a religion-bias or not. The debate soon turned into a brawl, costing one life. Yet,

coronavirus's affiliations remained a mystery.

From heroes to?

Suspected of being infected with coronavirus, a young man fled from hospital in Barishal to escape the confinement of quarantine. As the news spread, four local youths quickly chased him down, nabbed him successfully and got him admitted to hospital. Who would not go head over heels with the four? So, people, no less than 200 in number, carried the four heroes over their shoulders and marched the entire locality to celebrate the heroics.



Turkmenistan bans Covid-22

Man attempts to make moving roads happen (It's not going to happen)



OSAMA R KALAM, TACTLESS CORRESPONDENT

Turkmenistan yesterday imposed a ban on Covid-22, declaring the virus would never be allowed in the country anymore.

In far-reaching measures, the government of Turkmenistan also decided to put a gag order on anyone speaking about the "so-called virus".

Plainclothes policemen have begun patrolling the streets in hopes

of eavesdropping on coffee shop revolutionaries who dare to discuss the banned disease among themselves.

Furthermore, all mention of the word has been erased from all forms of communication, including on television channels, radios and newspapers. An attempt was also made to trademark the name and cleanse it from the internet entirely, but since this wasn't America, that move did not pan out so well.

TRANSIT-ORIENTED CORRESPONDENT

A frustrated Kabu Mia was seen leaving Dhoka West City Corporation's building last week. He attempted to storm out of there, but was carrying a canvas bag and a plastic wood model of his new invention.

Kabu Mia's tiny frame could barely support the heavy, complicated model of Moving Roads, so he had to stop at every door and patiently wait for someone to open it for him.

Although his exit wasn't the cinematic fit of rage he had hoped it'd be, we could understand his general vibe using an infrared vibe-check machine.

His frustration is justified, though -- the city of Dhoka is still bearing the scars of a failed skycar project. The high-power magnetic beams that would support the skycar network stand abandoned. All essential projects related to city development had to be scrapped after the economy crashed in 2020, the year of the covid-22 outbreak.

Meanwhile, the traffic situation in the city has only gotten worse, with abandoned beams taking up entire lanes. Vehicles move so little in the city that road accidents are rare; people die just by sitting in traffic for eternity.

One evening while returning from work, Kabu had a near-death experience. He was stuck in traffic for nine days with his co-worker Orange, who only speaks in *Oniket Prantor* lyrics.

Those 216 hours changed him as a man. The tortuous experience inspired him to leave his job as a social media manager, and dedicate his life to fixing the city's traffic jam by improving its public transport system.

"People often question my qualifications, but I have been an active member of Neourbanist Memes for Transit-oriented Teens (Numtots) on Facebook for the past seven years, so I'm much more knowledgeable than Abul Kander, minister of roads and watches," he claimed, trying to maintain a serious

expression while balancing Moving Roads using all four limbs.

"The idea is to stop people in their tracks, and get the tracks moving instead, you know," explains Kabu.

"How, and why?" I ask.[1]

"The roads move and you stand on it. It gets you where you have to go," he says.

Kabu has designed, what is essentially, an elevated expressway balanced on two giant

"Mayor Fatul told me over phone that he'll give me 73,000 bitcoins to fund this project, but today his assistant didn't even let me enter his office! She said he always makes promises he can't keep so I should leave!" said a disappointed Kabu.

Kabu invited the country's sovereign to visit his upcoming moving roadshow. "I have called Mr Kander many times to discuss this project but he refuses to talk to experts. I hope the



roller-skates. The skates are controlled by the invisible hand.

He's confident the city authorities will fund this project.

Asked why he cannot come up with a way to improve the existing public transportation system instead of putting wheels on roads, Kabu Mia said, "That system is too corrupt for me, man.

sovereign is smarter than this," he said.

Epilogue

When Kabu Mia was eight years-old, he watched the movie *Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham*. Although he attributes his revolutionary idea to the epiphany he had after spending eight hours with Orange, his real inspiration came from the song *Suraj Hua Maddham*'s lyrics. You'll know.

