



My terrible #Blackout Tuesday experience

OSAMA RAHMAN

I want to go on the record and explain why I had the worst #Blackout Tuesday in history. Yes, I saw the hashtag on my socials. But no one had taken the time to explain what it really meant. From where I am standing, #Blackout Tuesday was something like my favourites -- #Blackout Thursdays and #Blackout Birthdays.

Turns out I gravely misread the channeling of the outrage. Don't get me wrong, though. I understand the most nuanced points of the latest discussion on racism. I am well-versed in the culture, even if I do say so myself. I know all about the pigs in the blue. I have heard NWA's 1988 release on this matter a total of 17 times. I consider 2Pacalypse Now one of my favourite albums. My favourite movie? Denzel Washington. Yes, exactly. Denzel Freaking Washington. Favourite Actor? Robert Downey Jr, but only in Tropic Thunder. Am I getting my point across? So, yes, while I did not quite grasp what the hashtag expected me to do -- thanks corporates for coming into the game too late -- I was thoroughly aware of the reality I was living in. And after my embarrassing faux-pas, I picked up pace. I got more engaged in the protests. Petitions, posts, song lyrics, what have you. But then, out came the Woke. You know, those who always point out how everything I am doing is wrong? Hey, if you feel about this, you must feel about this. You don't like American policies then why do you even eat ice-cream. People like that. Folks who say those things. So, now there I was, head dulled heavy from last night's misunderstanding, now being made to feel

miserable for trying to partake in something which is apparently connected to every other damn thing in the universe. Apparently, I can't use all the trending hashtags because of that one time when I posted the China Covid-19 joke. But, let's be honest, I am very "with it". Yesterday, when my friend asked me to get on Skype with him, I even came back with a witty "Everyone uses Zoom now, welcome to 20-20". I also know you can scroll on your laptop if you use three-fingers on the mouse-pad thingy. Why was I being made to feel that I was hijacking a movement for my own gains? What do I even have to gain from all this? But I was made to feel this way. At one point, I even decided to change it up and asked why we needed violent protests. I honestly felt, given the large number of moderates -- the worst of the bunch by the way -- a pacifist opinion would earn me major brownie points. Boy, was I wrong. Apparently, protests are the most effective way to bring about widespread changes. Now, bear with me, at this point I am seething. My head still hurts and I am dehydrated. So what do I do in the most cranky of all states? I take up another moral position: "WHAT ABOUT THE RMG WORKERS PROTESTS WHEN THEY BREAK CARS". And then. From 453 friends to 429.



CEO asks everyone why they can't work as hard as him

NONE-OF-YOUR-BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

We recently sat down with Tanvir Sultan, the CEO and founder of a wide range of startups and initiatives such as eyeQ, PosiTBT, bMor (Bashundhara), aMor (Amtoli), kAmor (Kakoli), Rest-o-rent, The Big Think Project, Sjitr and Okokola. "How do I define myself? I think I am a mix of a dreamer, and a workaholic," he said already, before anything could be asked. "But people often wonder how do you even mix the two? When I dream, I am working and when I work and I am dreaming because I am living my dream! Fantastic." NBC: That sure sounds like a recipe for success. What's your usual day like? Tanvir: "Actually, you know what, here, let me take your laptop. I think it's best I write my own interview. Like Gandhi said, if you want something done, do it yourself! When I start the day, the first thing I do is avoid smartphones and head straight for breakfast with the afternoon's Ditiyo Alo. When my maid brings me my coffee, I always ask her how her robotics training is going and the empty expressions in response remind me why only some are visionaries, not all. The household-help industry will absolutely be decimated by robotics and AI and yet, my bua is doing nothing about it! After my daily humbling experience, I start for work and remind myself that inspiration never stops. I have been blessed with the singular vision of innovation and thus it is my duty to spread it. I used to tell my chauffeur that he needs to learn Python and build his own



ride-sharing app but I stopped after he brought a live python into my car saying he's ride-sharing with the snake according to my advice. Another lesson in life for me that's already on my Facebook cover photo -- not everyone envisions the vision that's visible to your visage. Yes, I wrote that quote and it might just be the title of my next book which is a collection of my Facebook statuses. It's only when I enter my office that I feel a little less inspired. Don't get me wrong, inspiration is a part of my JD [job description] but I can't help but feel a little sad when I see my colleagues miss out on that last 10% that makes the difference. I did not become their CEO by just counting the hours from nine to five; I had to work day and night to prepare the business plan for months! No one was paying me a salary for that. All that sweat and labour finally made sense when

my father agreed to loan me my seed fund. But then again, I remind myself that not everyone has had the opportunity to experience a successful pitch in their lives. Hard work and dedication are the only two ingredients that bring success. Even though I have achieved so much through sweat and tears, I always keep wondering why I can't inspire my employees to work as hard as I do? In fact, last year when I asked a manager the very same question, they retorted back with why they should work extra when they don't own the company? Just think how preposterous the question is! Was my company worth anything when I started out? Anyone can start a company but they have to be worth something in the first place. If you don't have the hard work and dedication, how can you even have a successful company? When I started out, no one was paying me! I had to earn all of this myself through hard work only to hear from a manager that they should be handed what they want without the dedication and labour. Imagine the gall of saying that to an investor who owns a chain of readymade garments factories. My father would not invest a single penny if someone asked flat out like that! Finally, I'd like to stress upon charisma. Inspiration cannot happen without charisma. That's why I always make it a point to speak at events all around the city. At least once a month, no matter where it is. It could be the Intern Summit at Note South University or it could be my cousin's baby shower. What's important is that you change your profile picture every month to a new picture of you with a microphone in hand or on a podium. That way everyone knows that you are important enough to speak to an audience. I will end the article with a message to my young followers: don't be bogged down by inconsequential things such as your results, your relationship situation or unimportant matters such as your businesses turning any profit. The route to becoming a self-made man is one that is often lonely where no one will help you. What's important is that you carry the fire to inspire others into action. If you work, you only work one person's work. However, if you inspire a hundred people, that means you are working through a hundred people! That is the secret to the CEO success Bill Gates, Jack Ma and Guy Fieri won't tell you."

Funds from mask fines to be used to build new bridge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The amount generated from the fines on people not wearing masks in public will be used to build the Grand Bridge, the largest bridge in Southeast Asia. The bridge will connect the capital of the country to the Coral Reef Islands, boosting the island's economy, but not really. "This bridge has been a dream of my cousin sister," the grand leader of the country said via teleconference. "This bridge shows how amazing our country is. It's also what the people want the most. This bridge will be the brightest spot in our development story," the grand leader said. The source of money from the bridge, however, is the controversial mask fine. Citizens who go out in public without masks on are fined Tk 5,000. Failure to pay the amount means one will have to work for a year in the construction of the Grand Bridge. Earlier, the mask fines were clandestinely kept in so-called police welfare fund. But the latest uproar over transparency in police forces around the



world forced the government to formalise the fines. As the country's people still refuse to listen to most things, the fines on maskless citizens has sky-rocketed. While the government blames the people for the spike, critics point out that the mask fine has been followed by a slew of others, which have gone under the radar as they targeted a less vocal segment of the population. Apart from the fines on violating quarantine and not wearing a masks, the government also imposed heavy fines on spitting, urinating, gargling, spitting out betel leaf (which got its own category), three people sitting on a rickshaw, holding hands while walking, kissing, staying out late, not focusing on studies and getting less than GPA 5 in exams. Some citizens also point out to something more sinister happening below the surface. We will now use a quote to justify the previous statement. "The taking away of the welfare fund is nothing but optics. This is the same force that has been engaged in crossfires on a massive scale during the shutdown. They have targeted many drug dealers. I have found five of their phones switched off and there's another who charges twice what he used to. Something has disrupted the market and if the whispers are true, then it's the crossfires," Salman Rahman, a resident expert on black market matters, said. For now though, the public seems to have been placated by news of the Grand Bridge. Many, who had been repulsed by the idea of travelling on a ferry to reach the Coral Island, can now finally reach what promises to be a dream destination. All is well.

