



Citizens visibly shaken by 'VISIBLE, 2021'



SHOAIB AHMED SAYAM

On January 1, 2021, Chapasthan transformed into a "utopia". Weeks have passed, but Chapasthanis are still struggling to face reality.

"I-I can't handle this much development," said Kabir Hossain, founder of a local development NGO, which vanished while he was partying on the 31st with the establishment's funds. "I was a changemaker. Now, there is no change to make. My organisation unfounded itself."

The government has issued a gazette notification on the decision to

change the country's name to "Digital Chapasthan". What seems like a sudden development was declared by the glorious government a decade ago, under its "Visible 2021" manifesto.

"Ha-ha, we told you! In your face!" said Roads and Highways Minister Omaigo Buader, while making funny faces in front of reporters. "What are you going to criticise now, losers?"

Meanwhile, BMP held a press conference, where Shamshuddin was visibly distraught. "Um, oh wow. So, like, it's a conspiracy, right?" he asked, whispering "what do we do now?"

under his breath.

United Nations was like "damn" in a recent statement, congratulating Digital Chapasthan for its miraculous transformation. All of UN's organs withdrew from the country in absence of issues to tackle.

Start-ups and the 6,294 organisations that give them awards are also starting to dematerialise. With nothing to innovate, the up-and-comers are now down-and-goners.

Annan Karim, CEO of now defunct ChickenExpress, the service that only delivered fried chicken, was seen pacing

and murmuring motivational quotes.

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure. But answer me, how can I learn when the government's amazing social and financial safety-nets prevent me from failing? My life is over," he lamented.

Internet Minister Goshtokha Chochar has somehow transferred his consciousness into the internet, leaving behind his mortal body.

He can now monitor every citizen's online activity in real-time. Whenever someone violates the digital guidelines,

Goshtokha's face appears on the computer screen, with Soldier Boy's "youuuu" blaring out the speakers.

"This is what digitisation looks like," the minister said. "We are now prepared for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and the fifth, and the sixth. But development is not over."

"Visible 2041" is still ahead of us, and under that plan, all citizens will be digitised like me. We will become something akin to a primordial soup with a single consciousness, with no opposing thoughts. Glory to Digital Chapasthan," he added.

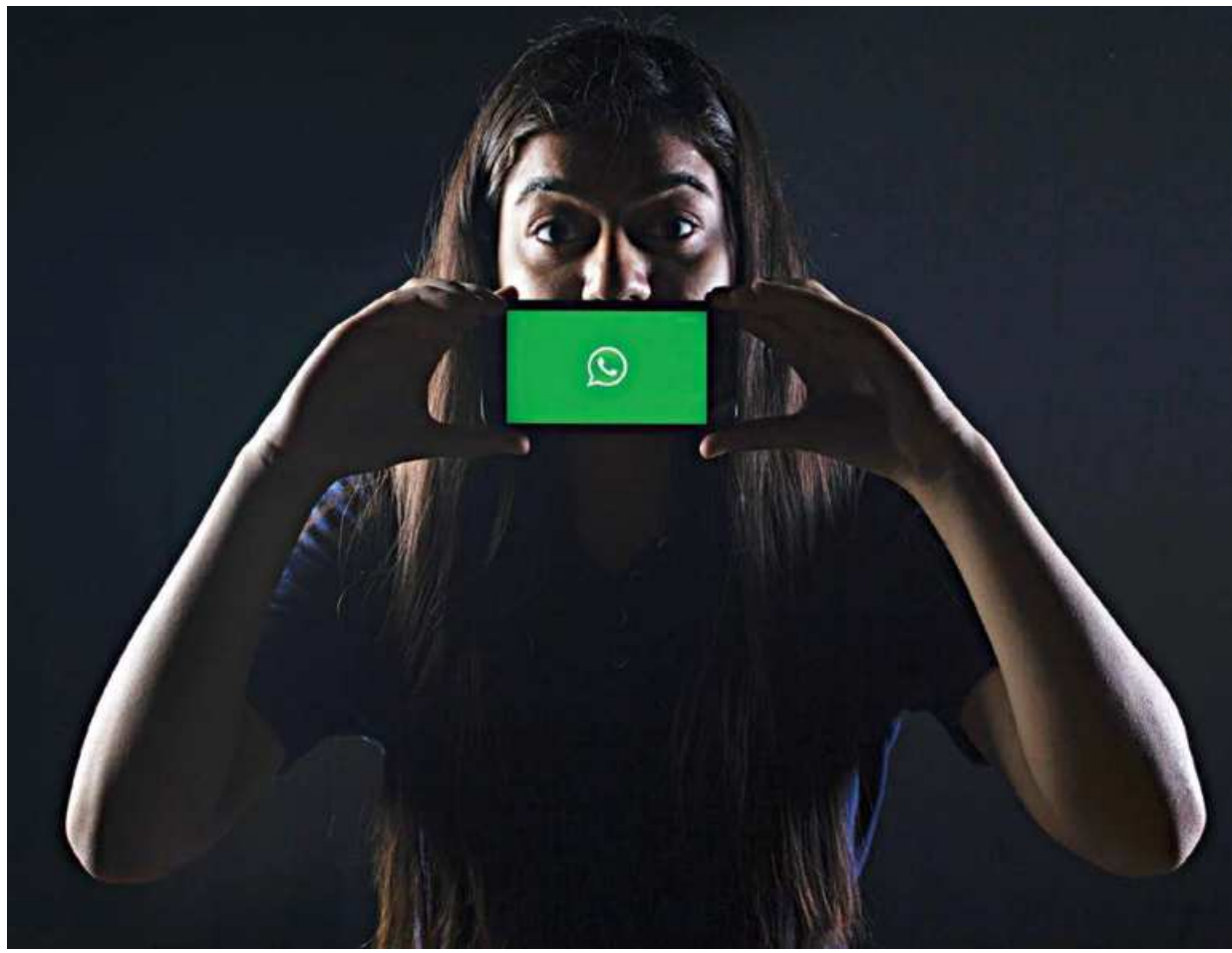


PHOTO: RACHIT TANK

"A MOVIE, A SMILE, A FRIEND AND A GOOD SLEEP"

WhatsApp group discovers cure for crippling anxiety

OSAMA RAHMAN

WhatsApp groups comprising pandemic doctors -- or people who used their free time to research important causes using choice keywords -- recently announced a surefire way of curing anxiety in the country.

"Bangladesh has an anxiety problem. This is an open secret and everyone knows this. But thankfully, we have stumbled upon the cure," Simran aunty, the creator of the WhatsApp group "Family Bondage" said.

"Zarif bhai yesterday sent a video by a Nasa doctor who clearly explained what steps to do to cure anxiety. Anxiety is not actually a disease; it is a mind state," she said, explaining that one of the first things someone with anxiety should do is breathe. "You

need to breathe, count your breaths, inhale through mouth to fill up your belly and then exhale through nose."

Of course that was Step-1 of a rigorous programme that the group had come up with.

"The next thing you need to do is find a good, funny movie to watch. Funny movies, like for example Dostana, will make you feel better and forget about this pretend disease that the new generation seems to claim to have," Simran aunty said, adding the next step involved smiling or laughing a lot. "Read some jokes. They can really help with this thing that you think you have."

Other steps include eating a hearty meal and then getting a good night's sleep. "Just spend some money. Eat expensive food, go on a holiday abroad, get plastic surgery. Basically, if

you want to get rid of this fake thing, get rich and pretty. I doubt any other advice will be as helpful," she said.

Contacted, Zarif bhai said he firmly stood by what the Nasa doctor had said. "He wore a shirt with a Nasa logo emblazoned on the top pocket. He spoke English well, but with an accent like ours. And he had a stethoscope around his neck. I don't know what else you need in terms of reliability," he said. "I have sent the video to my son and daughter, who constantly complain about this made-up anxiety thing. I don't even know what it is, but the Nasa doctor said it is all about the mind. And if you can make your mind feel better, by following the steps we have chalked out, then anxiety can go back to being a thing no one really cares about," he said.

Men's rights NGO releases list of activities men can do in public

STARMAN CORRESPONDENT

In yet another twist in the tale of growing demands by men and men's rights activists to recognise the dwindling rights of men, the group has now released a long, winding list of things men can in fact do in public without any shame or worry.

A press conference in this regard was held at the Erectors House in Bonani area of the capital where the list was revealed on a piece of long paper riddled with cigarette burns, coffee stains and all other things considered manly.

Below is a list of some of the activities men can do in public:

-To counter the growing calls of women wanting to breastfeed in public, men will also now be allowed to bottle feed their babies in public.

- Additionally, they may scratch their pot-bellies in public and urinate in public.

-To counter the growing trend of women smoking in public, men can not only continue to smoke and spit in public, they can also cat-call and wolf-whistle at women who smoke.

However, the cat-calls must be made using the newly-approved lexicon of unwanted flirting.

-Men can also sport dirty finger nails without being made to feel bad about it.

-Men can demonstrate toxic traits from the approved list of toxic traits in public.

-Men can actually close doors whenever they want now. Too many men have spent hours holding doors open to women who have clearly told them they don't want to be their girlfriend, but still always take advantage of open doors.

-Men can make sexist jokes amongst themselves in public, provided they spend the next minute discussing how problematic the jokes are and it was made just to see who was really sexist.

Unfortunately, my paper is out of space to accommodate more from the list of activities men can do without shame to address the growing imbalance and gap in the traditional way of life, leading to modern women ruining the fine balance of life.

