



COVID-19 VACCINE

'You-first' policy shows country's generosity

OSAMA RAHMAN

The recent declaration by the unhealthy minister of the country that no VIPs, VVIPs or even VVVIPs would take the much-wanted vaccines first has spread a sense of camaraderie throughout the country.

Opposition leaders, who usually parrot anti-government sentiments, applauded the minister's words, but encouraged him to take the vaccine first. "You, the current leaders of the country, should get inoculations first. Lead by example," Hafiz Mollah, president of the Cap Ar Daari Samity, said.

The unhealthy minister, however,

maintained that the first dosages would be reserved for frontline workers. This has also raised another issue as no one in the country currently considers themselves 'frontliners'.

Tipu Sultan, a police officer, said he was not a front line worker. "I am a sidelines kinda guy. I stand beside the road and harass young looking people when they are out late at night. I don't need this vaccine," he said.

Fatema Begum, a nurse at the Covid-19 unit of a government hospital, also had the same thing to say. "I too am a sidelines worker. Plus, I work exclusively with Covid-19 patients, meaning I have to be immune, right?

Herd immunity and all?"

The one thing that the countrymen all agree on is that it is time to stick together and make sure others, who are more at-risk get vaccinated first. No one, however, knows yet for sure who the "others" are.

"I think we should first vaccinate all the VVIPs," TV commentator Aziz Ahmed opined during a recent show. "They are the lifeblood of the economy. Without them, the wheels would stop turning and our country will grind to a halt," he said.

Others say it's best to vaccinate those who brought the vaccines to the country. The government, meanwhile, believes it's best to vaccinate the opposition

party members first. "We need a healthy opposition for a functioning democracy to thrive," a government spokesperson said during a conference before the inauguration of the inoculation drive.

Contacted for his opinion (because why not), Khalid Hussain, CEO of Jomikobja, the biggest conglomerate in the country, said it would be best to vaccinate the workers first. "The poor, oh sorry, I meant workers, of the country need to be vaccinated first. They are the actual lifeblood of the economy. Without breaking their backs, we would have no economy to begin with," he said.

Then his phone started buzzing and he engaged in a prompt conversation

where he told the person on the other end to get his jet ready as he was going abroad for an unrelated vaccine shot. "It's for measles. I am not just going to get a more proven vaccine shot when my countrymen are being treated like lab rats or something," he said.

For now, only eight people have been vaccinated in the entire country as thousands join together in the most socialist display this country has ever come across. Who will be number 9? Only time will tell. Unless of course, people are forced to take the shots, which is not as out there an idea as seems now.



PHOTO: UNSPLASH

Driving school to offer more than driving courses

AHMED ADIB

Durodorshi Driving School has recently introduced an optional extended curriculum in their course. It caters to aspiring and current family private-car drivers who are sometimes expected to do tasks like buying groceries, overseeing construction work, assisting in painting the interior of the house, etc.

Although no driver job description mentions these, it is only expected. Durodorshi's management said that family private-car drivers who learned to just drive and maintain the car were being tasked with doing many other things.

And that trend analysis shows that drivers looking for similar employment in coming years should

also adopt skills like fixing the AC, converting files from PDF to Excel, etc.

Two fresh batches have already completed the extended curriculum from Durodorshi, and are now trying to unionise for higher pay. This, however, is being discouraged. Along with asking the drivers not to disclose their salaries to each other.

"You are paid to drive. But you must do other things as well. This shows initiative and people love initiative," Durodorshi's Head Teacher Kaifur Khan said. "But more initiative doesn't mean more pay. It means the same pay, but an extra pat on the back every now and then."

Mr Coolshan, a very insecure high society person, slammed union talks in a pre-dawn talk show. He

said that fresh university graduates are also facing a similar challenge in entry-level jobs that demand skills not taught in class. But instead of causing mayhem over it, university graduates protest peacefully online via memes. So the drivers should learn to do the same instead of thinking of dangerous things like unions, he said.

After this comment, several digital media agencies have been pitching to Durodorshi to manage their memes. We contacted one such agency, "Needless in a Haystack", who said their creative director Pet Banataratari and his team were close to sealing a deal with Durodorshi, with their marketing tag: "I'm a hard-braker, meme-maker, life-taker, don't you mess around with me!"

'I cannot speak', Paddy Bridge admits in a press conference

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

People, especially politicians, think that a bridge, that costs a huge sum of money, should be able to speak for itself.

The logic is simple. If we can talk to a robot, which costs much less than a bridge, we should definitely be able to talk to Paddy Bridge, one of the costliest projects of the country. The logic itself is logical.

Hence, people are constantly talking to the bridge and asking it various questions. "What's your experience?", "Babu, khaicho?", and "Are you single?" are some of the top-asked questions.

But can such a huge investment like Paddy Bridge, remain silent? Apart from being huge, didn't children save their tiffin-money to build it? And is it not literally built on the heads of thousands of humans, as the rumour goes?

Although some people have claimed to have spoken to the bridge, this hasn't yet been proven. And finally all those talks of the town have compelled Paddy Bridge

to clear the controversy of whether it can speak or not.

During a recent press conference, Paddy Bridge and the millions of its stupid spans, finally killed the silence. Before many media personnel, Paddy loudly said, "My dear journalist friends, today I am here to talk about a very serious matter. There's a lie going around the town that I can speak. I heard that some dunces claimed that they talked to me. I, with a very clear and loud voice, can assure you that I cannot really speak. Those who claimed that they had talked to me are actually lying. I am saying it again-I cannot speak. You may record my words. Thank you, all."

This stunning declaration left media personnel, well, stunned. And the matter was put to bed, same as the matter of how we really managed to finance such an ambitious project when every bank loves saying how much money they lose each year. Now that the matter is settled, it's time to look for another hot issue.



This is not the bridge we are talking about.

PHOTO: STAR