



Mob, desperate for old normal, assaults doomsday scientists

ALARMIST CORRESPONDENT

A group of scientists were beaten up by a holiday mob in Dhaka soon after they made a public service announcement in the city's biggest shopping mall.

The thrust of the scientists' message had to do with the Covid-22 vaccination drive and what people had started doing in the immediate aftermath of being inoculated.

The mob that had gathered in front of the podium thinking that it was a raffle draw, started hurling brickbats

when one of the scientists said everyone should continue wearing masks as the new normal is here to stay.

"The positivity rate had started going down even before the vaccination drive, because there was a wide prevalence of people wearing masks and avoiding crowded spaces -- which is still the best way to curb the spread of the disease," said one of the three scientists now in hospital.

"But soon after the vaccine drive began, people who were administered the shots started abandoning the masks and going to parties. Studies

have shown that it takes at least three weeks for the vaccines to start taking effect, so there is no reason to go out willy nilly without masks or hygiene measures," the second scientist said. "Even after that period, it is best to still wear masks."

"Okay, that is all good, but when does the raffle draw start. And what are the prizes?" shouted a voice from among the crowd.

The third scientist, a fool who could not read the worsening agitation in the audience, said, "So if you people are not wearing masks and think you are

magically immune, the inoculation will be of no use. The new normal is here to stay."

That set the mob off and they stormed the podium. Some who were wielding vaccination cards, lifted up the face shields of the scientists and coughed into their faces.

"I think it is an assault on our national pride to say the vaccination drive will be useless," said one angry mob member. "We have been doing much better than other more developed countries."

When this correspondent said

that even the prime minister of the country -- who has been credited for the vaccination success -- said people should continue wearing masks post vaccination, the mob member said, "Yes, the PM was right and we are grateful for returning to the old normal."

He then gave this correspondent a big hug, screaming "old normal baby!!".

When the mob member saw the alarm on this correspondent's face, he said, "Relax man, I was vaccinated just today."

Broke millennials wage social media war at queue to buy cheap onions

STAR CURRY REPORT

A group of snazzily dressed millennials, most working in creative content making and other such artsy fields, yesterday clashed on social media platform 'Brainbook' over the long queue to purchase government allotted cheap onions.

The clash, that ensued for hours, initially started over the slow-moving line and desperation of young millennials to get home with their prized onions. No one was physically injured in the clash.

This correspondent got in touch with a few of them over the incident in search of insights and what led these bright youth with so much potential down this path. "Look man, many of us wanted to live our own life

on our own terms, like in the west. So, we moved out of our homes. Most of us that you saw at the line for cheap onions are the very children who fought against the system. We rose up for social justice. We did not become corporate sell-outs and yes we have jobs, we get promotions but no raise," said Mamman K Salam.

The story is more or less the same across the board. With some more prodding, this correspondent found out that the group of millennials standing in that line were mostly youths who decided to question the system, who chose careers that are considered off-the-beaten track, who were the ones who made all those memes about the great

onion scarcity, and have now ended up victim to the very system. They moved out of their homes, in search of independence, to escape boomer ideals or traumas of the past and soon fell victim to a very boomer system.

Desperate, many of these young people who needed jobs, settled for cushy titles but poor salaries. "Well, at least we were getting exposure."

Shahnila, a brilliant young writer, is now deeply frustrated with the way things have transpired for her. She could have it all, instead she worked for up and coming [for years] content creation page where her salary remained stagnant for years but the mantlepiece showing her designation kept changing, each more glorious than the

previous. "What am I supposed to do with these designations, when I do not even have money to buy onions for a good curry?"

Some more probing took us to the reason behind this clash.

"The guys at the onion sale refused me service. They each kept saying I was very well dressed and when I showed them my ID card, they snickered and said why would an assistant to the regional manager need to buy onions at a sale," said Farship Meou, assistant to the regional manager. More to follow...

This correspondent had to abruptly end her reporting as she too was in line for the onions and after much pleading, managed to buy a whole kilogramme.



The current state of affairs.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Traffic sergeants go on strike, threaten to leave it up to traffic lights

HONK-HONK CORRESPONDENT

Traffic Sergeants Anonymous (TSA) have announced in a press release that they have had enough of the lawless traffic situation in Chapasthan and will now leave the situation up to traffic lights.

"We stand out in the rain, in the heat, in the Covid-22 and we sweat, freeze and suffer mental breakdowns, but does anyone listen to us?" asked the release, signed anonymously by long-suffering traffic sergeants, who formed the self-help body called TSA years back.

"Motorists, cyclists, rickshaw-pullers, pedestrians do not listen to us. Instead, 30 percent of us suffer hearing impairments because of the constant honking. When we wave them through after asking them to sit through three green lights, drivers of private cars curse at us, using unspeakable words

and insulting our families. 70 percent of us with working ears have to endure such insults.

"So, from now on, we will stand by at our posts, and just let things be.

"The city fathers have put up traffic lights with fancy countdowns... let's see how traffic control can go on if we take a back seat. Let's see how you're going to keep motorcycles off the pavements," the press release, which reached unprecedented levels of indignation, concluded.

Asked, a random motorist said, "I regularly run through red lights. When traffic police stops me, I just say that I thought he waved me through like he often does when the light is red."

Traffic experts however said the TSA's move will not affect the traffic situation in Chapasthan one way or the other.

