



Government employees donate 25% of salary for city's decorations

OSAMA RAHMAN

Red lights. Green light. Then blue lights. And some yellow lights. It doesn't matter when the colours stop representing what they are meant to because we don't have enough of those colours. The fact is, the lights must go and they will because of the forced generosity of a few.

Government employees in Chapasthan's capital of Dhoka have decided to donate 25% of their monthly salary to help fund the city's decorations.

Whether the move was voluntary or not, however, has not been officially stated.

Citizens are visibly excited for the uplift with many sharing pictures of those buildings already sporting the lights.

"We just love the string lights of the same colour every year. Nothing says the country is doing great more than string lights. Think about it; everyone complains of the blackouts outside the city and sometimes in the city, but to know we can waste so much energy on making our buildings look cool brings me a lot of relief," Shaheen Islam, a citizen, said.

"It is a sign that we are indeed a country with a lot of electricity, which is great," Shaheen said while constantly looking over

his shoulder.

Aftab Akhter, the minister of corruption, said, "Government employees already make a lot of money under the table. So for them to give up some of their official income is not a big deal."

Pointed out that some employees may not be making any income on the side, Aftab burst out laughing.

The city, meanwhile, is ready to wear a festive look whether anyone likes it or not. "We are not giving most of our citizens basic amenities. Some don't even have running water. We don't even have any rent control policies in place. The least we can do is give

them the same boring lighting schemes on different public government buildings," a spokesperson for the Happy Citizen Standing Body said.

Contacted, a government employee on the condition of anonymity, said she was indeed very proud to be able to donate the money. "We didn't actually donate anything. They cut our wages during the Covid-19 pandemic and still haven't changed that. The buildings look nice, sure," she said.

Samiha Alam, another government officer, said she too was happy with the donations. "We. Love. The. Government. Long. Live. The. Government," she said.

Anti-social enterprise issues half-baked apology for refusing Gaur a job at dairy farm

SHUDH MIAH

Pillage a Village, one of the country's largest dairy farms, yesterday expressed regret over the "unfortunate" experience of a Gaur who was refused a job at their dairy farm, over what the Gaur claimed was "blatant speciesism."

"The negative interview experience faced by a prospective candidate at one of our interview boards -- which doesn't even deal with our tea estates -- is unfortunate and does not comply with our values," a spokesperson for the dairy farm said.

When asked what they meant by their "values", the spokesperson said, "Empowerment. Justice. Profits."

"We have contacted the Gaur and expressed our regret," they said, after a video of the interviewee sharing her experience went viral on social media.

In a viral video, a Gaur, a bovine considered to be at a vulnerable stage and only found in a few pockets of the country's few pockets of forested areas, alleged that Pillage a Village's interview board had refused to hire her because she did not agree to lose her muscles and make her appearance that befitting a timid cow.

"I can produce up to one and one-and-a-half litres of milk a day. My milk is considered to be nutritionally superior than cow or goat milk," the Gaur said.

"As a vulnerable species, much like students in our country who have to work hard to pay through school, I wanted the job to help my family. I even requested them for any other position where I could fit, but they said no, that I had too many muscles," said the Gaur.

The video went viral on social media soon, drawing calls to boycott the anti-social enterprise.

"As an equal opportunity employer, Pillage



PHOTO: MIKE SUAREZ ON UNSPLASH

Cows in the dairy industry suffer their entire lives. Treated like commodities, they are forcefully impregnated every year. The only respite comes at the end of their cruel life.

a Village upholds cow dignity and inclusion rights for all, regardless of species," the spokesperson for Pillage a Village said.

"Muscles are never considered in our recruitment decision, until this particular case. In our team, comprising more than 50,000 cows, we have bovines from all over the world, but not a gaur," they added.

When asked what the statement meant and if they were going to hire the Gaur or not, the spokesperson said, "We will ensure that our interview boards are conducted to reflect our values and will also hold sensitivity training for our staffers."

When asked again whether the Gaur will be hired and whether this obvious

case of discrimination will be stopped, the spokesperson said that any Gaur who feels they had been improperly judged during an interview can contact the organisation's human resources department via email.

When asked once again whether the Gaur will be hired, or whether such a policy of not hiring Gaurs was actually in place, the spokesperson said, "We want our conduct to reflect our core values of empowerment, justice and profits."

When this exasperated journalist asked the spokesperson to reply either in the negative or positive, the spokesperson immediately said the word "positive".

No more answers were forthcoming.

MAN WITHOUT MASK MAD AT UNMASKED MAN FOR SNEEZING

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

In the early days of the corona outbreak, it was a herculean task to find a single person without a mask. Many creditors failed to collect money as they couldn't identify their debtors through the masks. But with the passage of time and the availability of vaccines, things have changed.

Now, it is a herculean task to find a masked person.

Meanwhile, the number of Covid-19 patients is increasing, but it's not a big deal. A mere 5,62,000 patients were recorded and thousands are being recorded every day. But people know the truth: no mask, no corona.

Abul, an unmasked hero (who thinks fighting corona without a mask is a

heroic task), lost his cool with another unmasked man for sneezing at him while buying groceries. "You uneducated-unconscious stupid cannot wear a mask, but still sneeze on others? If you don't have money to buy a mask, let me buy you mask and then sneeze however much you want," Abul raged as his spittle flew through the air.

People were stunned at the incident. "Let me ask you a question, son of Bill Gates. Where's your mask? If you have that much money, buy a mask for yourself or let me launch a fundraiser to buy you a mask," the second person retorted with equal rage.

This heated, unmasked conversation drew the attention of many people.

A group of aware and obviously unmasked people suggested them not to shout in such a crowded place without masks as it could risk others' lives. One of them said loudly, "Listen very carefully. We are going through a very tough time. We should be more careful about health precautions, suggested by our country. We shouldn't hold unnecessary gatherings everywhere and always forget to wear mask every time."

From this crowd, a semi-woke and proudly unmasked person asked the lecturer where his mask had been. The lecturer replied, "I am a well-known conscious citizen. All my masks were outdated. So I came to the grocery to buy a new mask." Soon the crowd departed, but the lesson was clear: Wear a mask and if unmasked, don't draw attention to yourself.

