

People who 'managed' crucial vaccine despite not meeting criteria still proud of themselves

OSAMA RAHMAN

Of all the people who inundated the country's social media feed with pictures of them getting vaccinated, more than half had not met the criteria, data from a public health watchdog shows.

Many of those vaccinated were not above the government-required age of 40 or above to qualify for the vaccines. They, however, secured the vaccine by qualifying as "front line" workers, despite their front line being grocery shops and parties.

"My father owns a number of businesses and I was bitten by the travel bug very early in life. Knowing that I was at high risk of being exposed to the virus during my travels, and also exposing others, I did my entire community a service by getting the vaccine," Kauser Haque, 28, said to this correspondent.

Kauser had recently uploaded a photo of him getting the vaccine to his Facebook page and received 112 reactions, the most he has gotten this year.

"Vaccine pictures, in terms of likes, are on par with pictures of your newly-born baby. A lot of my father's employees also commented on the picture, reminding me of what a great thing I had done for society by getting vaccinated," he said.

Fahad Alam, a journalist at a top newspaper, also got the vaccine, even though he is 14 years old. "I work from home a lot, but I am still a journalist. Every week, I have to write a fictional story for my tens of readers. If I don't need the vaccine, I don't know who does," he said.

Many who have jumped the line, as the country's folks are prone to, have pointed out that those that may qualify for the vaccine aren't really getting those.

Sunehra Tagore, a thespian apparently, said she was tired of having to wear masks all the time and it was really hampering her artistic spirit. "Many of the people in our country don't even know how to use the app for getting registered for the vaccine. So, should I wait around for them to finally learn? Or should I get mine? I know people who could help me get mine, so I did it," she said.

At the moment, there really is no shame in getting the crucial vaccine by twisting the semantics a bit. There are plenty of vaccines to go around, the health ministry says. And its free too, so why not.

Studies show that the vaccinated and unvaccinated may soon go on to form two more opposition forces in an already divided country. And the former group will always have more clout.

"If you can bend the rules to benefit society and your family, like I have, then please go ahead. All the best," Fahad said.



A DIFFERENT KIND OF ALL-ROUNDERS

Bangladeshi cricketers turn to photography after failing on the pitch

Instagram the new T20s, one cricketer says

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

Earlier this month, several unidentified rumours were circulating about a bunch of Bangladeshi cricketers having travelled to a foreign country to learn the basics of photography.

Fans didn't believe this unbelievable decision of cricketers and were wondering why their stars were paying more attention to photography than cricket.

The simple answer was, they got more likes to their pictures than amassing a comparable number of wins or runs on the pitch.

Without using words though, the cricketers didn't take much time to clear the question and continued to fail spectacularly on the pitch.

Many now think that the fans should be happy knowing that the cricketers are doing what they are supposed to do -- photography, a field of great potential.

It's indeed a great news for the country that its cricketers are exploring their clandestine talents instead of confining themselves to a specific thing, which they clearly aren't the best at.

It's also a great example of self-dependency, showing that a cricketer won't have a problem in earning his livelihood even if he, somehow, was kicked out of the team for not being able to perform.

If a cushy job at the board isn't forthcoming and they aren't eloquent enough for commentary or analysis positions, then picking up the camera can be the next best thing.

Asked about their constant failure in overseas matches, a cricketer who styles himself somewhat of an amateur photographer and has 'Photographer' in his Facebook bio, said, "You media people are always after us. Don't misguide people with misleading headlines. You should keep in mind that we didn't come here to play cricket. Our main concern is to learn photography from highly experienced photographers which you have already seen on social media. Every overseas tournament is an opportunity to meet those world-famous photographers. Don't lie, didn't you notice the improvement in my photography? If not, please visit my profile, don't visit the cricketing website and instead rate my photography."

Asked about how they turned themselves to photographers, one of the wannabe photographers stated, "You won't find a single person who didn't learn the line 'Failure is the pillar of success' in his childhood. Yes, there is



our never-ending failure in foreign grounds. Why should someone try something which he fails time after time? This constant failure on the pitch is our pillar of new hope. So, we are trying to change and turn to a new form which the country has never witnessed before; from cricketer to photographer!"

However, mixed reactions, mostly positive, were seen among the fans. "Finally, our

cricketers are doing something exceptional! We were tired of losing matches and couldn't get rid of the cycle of losing matches. Now, we won't have to feel this monotonous feeling. Thank God! We are no longer to lose anything. We took the initiative of changing our Facebook group name from 'Cricketer Fans of Bangladesh' to 'Photography Fans of Bangladesh', " a delighted fan said.

US court to give 'Bad day' pass to Caucasian mass shooters

INGRET BEIMAN

The top court in the famously free and notoriously democratic United States of America, the greatest country in the world, is ready to go a step further to endear itself to its most prized kind of citizens.

The top US court is all set to give the "Bad day" pass to those who have engaged in the American time pass of mass shooting, provided the accused meets certain criteria.

"We have finalised the 'Bad day' pass and hope that it will be a tremendous game changer which will make our citizens more secure and our justice system more robust," Justice Robertson said at a press conference earlier yesterday.

Asked about the criteria, he said the accused would need to be able to a history of mental illnesses, prove that the raging income inequality in the country had actually impacted them and finally that they were white.

"It is not racist, I think. Historically, most perpetrators of mass shooting are white males, with many of them being young, spunky but misguided school-going children. The other race groups also engage in popping off a few gun shots here and there, but they

are usually motivated by drugs, gang-affiliations or terrorism," he said.

"While we are here, can we also do away with white shooters equal mental illness and brown shooters equal terrorism? That is such a tired, old and divisive joke. We really expect people to go after the fruit on higher branches and be more original," he added.

Pointing out that the law came after a white man was charged with killing eight women, of which most were Asian, it was asked whether the killings were racially motivated.

"Don't make this out to be a hate crime. America has no place for racism. We have never had a history of racism. Ours is one of the most welcoming country in the world and we celebrate diversity like nobody else. We are the greatest country in the world," Robertson said.

When an Asian reporter insisted there seemed to be an element of racism in the new law, Robertson insisted there wasn't and that he was the least racist person you can ever meet and even had many black friends.

"There is nothing racist about this law. It is, in fact, necessary. Here, you can live by our rules or you can go back to your own country," he said.

