



## Transfer is the greatest punishment: ICJ declares

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

The International Court of Jokes (ICJ) has recently declared that a transfer is one of the worst punishments and is a fitting form of 'capital' punishment for many government officials.

"We have been observing some mostly crime-prone countries' punishment system for the past few years and found that Chapasthan has a unique style of punishment. They only transfer officials no matter the crime. They transfer criminals from one place to another as a form of punishment and this has worked incredibly," a judge for ICJ said.

"Transfers are also humanising. It offers criminals a chance at rehabilitation," he said, adding, "So, we decided to declare

'transfer' as the greatest punishment in the world."

Referring to the event as an achievement, the Jokes Minister of Chapasthan said in a press release, "When the great emperor Napoleon Bonaparte was caught and defeated, he wasn't killed or hanged. He was simply transferred to the Saint Helena Island. You know what? We learn from history and this declaration is the acknowledgement of our learning."

"We have observed that death penalty or jail for few years cannot reduce the increasing number of crimes. So, we decided to do something exceptional. That's how transfers came into action and look at how Bangladesh is now a middle-crime only country," he said.

The country's people, especially law enforcers, have been partying since news of ICJ's declaration broke. One person said the punishment was a fitting one. "Let's say I have shot too many 'drug' peddlers in one location or took too much bribe. Instead of losing my life over it, I can now get a change of scenery which may really help me get in the right head space," Aminul Alam, a law person, said. "I have a plan to visit the remote hilly areas this month. I heard blood-thirsty officials are a favourite there. I might just beat a passerby for this, lmao," he said.

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## 'Homelessness a great excuse to work harder'

Barapukuria coal miners and Amazon workers say at discussion on boosting productivity

OSAMA RAHMAN

Is it better to stay in a toilet for seven months with four others or is it better to work 10-hour shifts with no toilet breaks?

This and other productivity-enhancing tools were discussed in the first ever Symposium of Very Poor People Workers, participated in by coal miners from Dinajpur's Barapukuria and Amazon workers from Alabama.

Both sets of workers discussed the various systems put in place by their esteemed organisations to boost their productivity.

"Our employer, the richest man in the world, wants us to have his mentality. He ensures that we break our backs in 10-hour workdays with only two 30-minute breaks. We usually stay on our feet and have to show initiative throughout the time period and groom our own selves to be leaders," Frank Smith, an Amazon worker, said at the discussion.

"We had to stay in a toilet for seven months. Because of the pandemic, our employers are very concerned about our safety, so after we took our Covid tests, we were locked in our work area for seven months," Afzal Hossain, a coal worker, said.

Sohan Fakir, the minister for underpaid workers, during his keynote

speech, said happy workers were productive workers and productive workers made the most money.

"I remember the seven months of captivity for the coal miners. Nothing builds team work than being locked in a place, without friends or family, for seven months. This decision by your authorities deserves to be celebrated," Sohan said, calling for international recognition for the initiative.

Jamil Rahman, a labour union leader, stressed on the importance of the many gaslighting techniques employers use to make their workers work harder. "A good employer will always find faults in what you do. They will hound you till the imposter syndrome sets in. Till you question whether you actually even worked hard after a grueling 10-hour day," he said.

Jamil cited a study by a professor for the Work and Organization Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which showed that the behaviours that 'imposters' exhibit in an attempt to compensate for their self-doubt can actually make them good at their jobs.

"By nurturing the feelings of inadequacy and worthlessness, imposters can actually outperform their non-imposter peers

in interpersonal skills," he said, urging employers to ensure job satisfaction doesn't reach the levels of getting too comfortable.

"I am ashamed to ask for higher wages because my boss always tells me I can do better. She never says how, but just that they can see I can do an extra few hours for free to show that I have initiative," Hasan Ameen, another coal miner said, adding that now he works three hours free and hopes to get that promised promotion soon.

Katherine Blight, an Amazon employee, said their organisation has a great system in place to see exactly how much workers are working. "We have a wonderful dehumanizing system, which tracks exactly how much time we spend scanning items and how much time we don't. Slacking off at work usually means you are fired and with no pension or insurance, we can't afford that. Knowing homelessness is two missed pay cheques away works as an amazing incentive for us," she said during her speech.

Her coal miner counterparts agreed with this sentiment, saying their government's move to not have any rent control in place also served as encouragement to keep grinding.



Fresh recruits on their first day at work. Pseudobulbar affect (PBA), or emotional incontinence, is a type of emotional disturbance. For example, a patient may laugh in response to sad news.

PHOTO: SITHAMSHU MANOJ ON UNSPLASH

## Covid-19 times return to coincide with end of Country's grand celebrations

UNHEALTHY CORRESPONDENT

The infamous Covid-19 virus, which gained notoriety for being the sexiest and most talked about modern day infection, demonstrated its kindness by waiting for The Country to finishing celebrating the greatest festival ever seen.

"I waited for almost a month to celebrate the tenacious spirit of this country and its great leaders. This celebration, for me, felt very personal. It was like a celebration of one whole family," it said.

"Of course, seeing all the sad faces of people who took to the road and stayed in their vehicles for hours...such dedication. It dawned upon me how emotional they were about this day. It really made me question my intentions. So, I decided to wait and let everyone enjoy, while those with an agenda rained plaudits on the grand days," the virus further said.

When asked about its future intentions, Covid said the show must go on. "My family from many corners have just arrived. We, too, must have our celebrations now. The show must go on."

This correspondent reached out to the country's unhealthy minister

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to ask if they were worried about the second, third or fourth coming of the virus. "No worries," he said, adding, "People should really wear masks and quarantine. This isn't a game of follow the leader. Not everyone is as privileged so people should take responsibility for their own health," he snapped.

Asked if more vaccines were coming, he said, "No worries. I am sure we will get the vaccines." Asked if there was a concrete plan in place, he said, "Sure".

The county has recently seen a spike in the number of infections - the highest it has been since the outbreak.

Ministers say it is down to people not paying attention to the health measures no one was implementing and had nothing to do with an influx of numerous foreigners, their entourages and the ruling party's assurance that the virus was no longer a concern. The state insists that it is up to the people to protect themselves. "We have discussed the matter with Covid-19, but it says it has to come back now. And well, looks like the citizens, excluding us top officials, really invited all the trouble," an official under the condition of anonymity said.