



#JOURNALISMISDEAD

Government offers information streaming service Proper Gander for only 300 BDT per month

Rojina Law passed

OSAMA RAHMAN

The government yesterday declared that not all citizens had the right to information, but they could get it by paying a modest amount.

The decision was made after a law had been passed earlier criminalising journalism.

"Journalism is dead. By pursuing click-bait and offensive stories -- many of which hurt our very, very religious sentiments in this secular state -- journalists have killed their profession

themselves and turned rogue. You can no longer trust them with information," Disinformation Minister Abdul Kamal said at a press conference.

He expressed shock at how the plan of giving private corporations an information oligopoly had backfired. "While you cannot trust private corporations, you can surely trust the government. That is why we are now collating and analysing information and disseminating it among our people," he said.

For only Tk 300, anyone can now become a member of the government's information streaming site called "Proper Gander".

"All information will be given here in a simple and accessible manner. We are following the footsteps of the likes of The New York Times, Xinhua News Agency and Völkischer Beobachter," he said.

Meanwhile, last week's The Rojina Law was finally passed in parliament. According to the Rojina Law, no person

shall seek to ask questions to important government officials. Furthermore, those found in possession of a pen, notepad or recorder will be punished by a maximum of five years in prison.

Commentators had called upon the government to revise the law given its vague wording. Legal expert Jakir Hossain told this NOT A NEWSPAPER that the law was too open for interpretation. "It says anyone carrying any paraphernalia through which government workers could be recorded

in any form will be punished. While it says pen, notepad, etc., it could also mean just about anything else," Jakir said.

Contacted, the law minister lied like all other ministers and said, "These are remnants of British colonial laws."

When pointed out that British laws existed in the subcontinent to subjugate the natives and had no use for democratically-elected servants of the people, the law minister said, "Imao" and hung up.



PHOTO: SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Unmasked roundtable at a round table in Hotel Just-In on Eid home-goers spreading Covid-22

VIRAL CORRESPONDENT

People going home in droves during Eid in Chapasthan was the main reason Covid-22 will spread throughout the country, the capital city's elite said at a roundtable at Hotel Just-in yesterday.

"You know, at the end of the day, it is a matter of education," said Simin Cashapa, a CEO of the local arm of a multinational company. "It is a little unfair that while we the educated are taking all the precautions, others are in a mad rush to go home. Why? Can't they just stay put like us?"

A businessman (who refuses to be known as a businessperson) named Bhaskar Kotipoti, ordered a crème Brulee and looked back around the table.

"Seriously, the government should take some action against the homegoing hordes. They should all be quarantined together, in a big boat out in the middle of the river," he said as he checked his watch, a Rolex, and bellowed at the waiter to bring his food in fast.

"Geez, I can't even tell which one our

waiter is... they're all wearing masks," he muttered.

"You know, that's not a bad idea... in fact, it would be pretty easy. They're already boarding ferries in the thousands... just take them out to the middle of the river and throw away the key," said Raga Meghmolla, a banker.

Then they all looked at each other, 10 bejewelled, hairsprayed, perfumed, jamdanied and suited crème de la crème of Dhoka society, and laughed heartily.

"That was a good one. But you know, it's not that bad an idea," said Tanmatra Rubaiyyat, a beauty salon owner who was responsible for half of the hairdos around the table. "It may have to come to that, the rest of us shouldn't suffer because of them."

"Like I said, it's so uneducated. Why can't they just stay where they are for Eid. I mean, it's not just Covid-22, a number of them have died being trampled in the rush to get on ferries and buses," Simin said.

"Well, maybe it's just that their living conditions in Dhoka are so bad that



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

they feel like taking the risk to go home and get some fresh air," said the only member of the group, an eleventh, who was wearing a mask. "And it's not like we are exactly staying put -- we are here sitting close together and not wearing

masks. Well, I am for now, till the food arrives.

"Also, people staying back have been going en masse to shopping malls for Eid shopping -- not exactly social distancing, is it? And at least the

thousands on ferries are in the open air, and not indoors where Covid is more contagious."

The 10 others were now looking at this 11th with mouths agape, visible because none were wearing masks.

"Well, we have all been vaccinated," said Ayanta Amarabati, a restaurant owner.

"I haven't been," said Bhaskar.

Simin smiled a crore taka smile and said, "It doesn't matter. We are careful because we are educated... they are not."

Meghmolla then looked at the masked woman and asked, "Wait a second. Who the hell are you?"

"I am the journalist here to cover the roundtable," she said.

"This isn't a roundtable... this is dinner!" shouted Bhaskar. "Who let this woman in? And why has she been taking pictures? Waiter!! Manager!! Call the guards!"

The above account was mailed in from the kitchen of the hotel, where our viral correspondent is still detained