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Police hardline lockdown backfires as jails fill up with the poor

LUBNAN KHALEESI

The poor are at it again.

This time, despite the strictest lockdown measures in the history of time for those on bikes, the laziest among us continue to risk their, and more importantly our, lives by refusing to stay home and starve.

With the Police Force recently declaring that anyone who is out with a valid reason would be arrested, law enforcers are now finding it difficult to cram in all the newly-minted prisoners into already crammed prisons.

"I swear, I have had it with these people. They don't even know the law and they don't even care about following it for some inexplicable reason," a police officer said.

Police say the temporary lifting of lockdown will not help matters, because after eight days there will be stricter restrictions, which would see even more poor imprisoned because they won't just

starve. But there is a silver lining... more on that later.

While so many of the downtrodden huddled together could breed more viruses, thankfully the poor have what we like to call herd immunity. The cattle-evoking term is also scientifically proven.

In fact, one test by an esteemed organisation found that slum dwellers had more antibodies than their more affluent neighbours. Years of surviving on scraps and living in unhygienic conditions, something that should be declared illegal, has given them some sort of super human strength.

"I earn my daily bread. Hard to fathom for you lot since you go broke after the 15th but still retain a healthy line of credit which adds up to next month and you are caught in your own vicious cycle. We, on the other hand, have to earn per day. If I don't earn a day, my kids go hungry," said a poor

person in a profession you scare your children with.

Interestingly, this poor -- also known as G in idiotic elite communities -- unknowingly evoked what Henry Shue, an American philosopher, had long been banging on about.

Shue wrote, "Because actual deprivation of [subsistence] can be so very serious -- potentially incapacitating, crippling, or fatal, even the threatened deprivation of [it] can be a powerful weapon against anyone whose security or subsistence is not in fact socially guaranteed."

Shue argued that subsistence rights, along with security rights and liberty rights, should serve as the foundation for every other right. Deprivation of one will lead to others being void.

While Shue is obviously right and knows more than us, does the subsistence argument even hold true when the government has generously

doled out cash to the few among the poor who have a Bkash account?

When demanded to know what they did with the generous stipend of Tk 2,600 given JUST LAST YEAR, one man obviously did not have a good reply. Drugs, for sure.

And the poor's lazy attitude towards life has also seen 10 lakh solvent people eat into loans meant for them under the My House, My Farm project. In fact, a lot of relief material meant for the poor went instead to ruling party members because they were proactive. They wanted it and went and got it.

As if the lazy were not being a nuisance outside our gated communities, apparently some have begun infiltrating even our safest spaces.

"It actually came into my garden the other day. I had the door to the balcony open. I was sitting and having breakfast when it just barged in and started asking me to help.

"My breakfast was ruined. Do you know how jarring that is? Like, I understand it would rather get a handout, but respect the privacy of my home," said one middle-class bourgeoisie, the buffer between the rich and the revolution.

"I later shared this horror with my friends. We have all decided to crowd-fund and gather some supplies but you know they'd sell all that for money," he said.

BRIGHT ORANGE LINING
Meanwhile, sweatshop owners have volunteered to deal with the rising number of prisoners.

"We can take some of them. Put them to some use. If we put them to work, then they will be contained in one place and since they can't up and quit as they are prisoners, they will also learn valuable skills which will be automated very soon," Jemaïma Begum, owner of a sweatshop, said.

Ministry of Avoiding Responsibility surprised to be held responsible

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

The political sphere of Chapasthan has recently been in turmoil because other ministries have started blaming the Ministry of Avoiding Responsibility.

Chapasthan has recently been facing a crisis on many fronts: health, finances, social welfare, disaster management, relief.

The finance ministry said it was not responsible for implementing the budget and not responsible for economic recovery.

"As the economy is in a disastrous state, it's surely something for the disaster management ministry," the finance minister said.

Similarly, the health minister said the health crisis is not their problem. He said it is a problem with people, and the culture of lack of education among the populace. You guessed it -- the health problem is down to the culture and education ministries.

During a cabinet meeting, the ministers decided that everything that was wrong in Chapasthan was the fault of the Ministry of Avoiding Responsibility. It was a convenient scapegoat because avoiding responsibility ministry officials have not



attended the cabinet meeting in the living memory of those attending the meeting -- and that is a long living memory.

The rest of the cabinet agreed that the Ministry of Avoiding Responsibility was supposed to help the rest of the cabinet avoid its responsibilities, as was obvious from its name.

"It is vital that each ministry plays its part; no wonder we are in such a

disastrous state," the home minister said.

Contacted in this regard at his residence, the avoiding minister was furious.

"What do you expect from us? Don't you see the name of our ministry?" the minister shouted from his balcony.

"The people of this country never cease to amaze me. I heard that me and my ministry were held liable for spreading

something. How could you hold us liable for doing something while we actually do nothing?"

He then waxed lyrical about the wisdom of his ministry's existence. "For the first time in my life, I saw a true and pragmatic ministry. We have many more ministries in our country but do they really do what they are supposed to do? This ministry is different; it does exactly what it was meant to do."

Operating such a ministry isn't a piece of cake, he said.

"I have learned lesson from all aspects of my life. Once I used to avoid my girlfriend's calls and now I avoid my wife's call. Once I avoided my school's lessons and now I avoid my life lessons. Once I avoided what my teachers said and now, I avoid what people say. To be like me, you must avoid everything except the habit of avoiding, refusing and lying."

After that, the minister avoided further questions.

Meanwhile, political experts said the cabinet meeting should really have blamed the Ministry of Shifting Blame, but that would have been difficult because their officials never miss a meeting.

Covid to spread at limited scale for the next week

VIRAL CORRESPONDENT

In a break from tradition, and in order to uphold the hosts' traditions, Covid-22 will be spreading in a limited capacity, a press release said yesterday.

The release said that Covid-22 had communicated this to the government before it lifted the lockdown.

"We want to allow people to go about their holidays," Covid chief Sars Covfefe said in the release.

The paranoid among the coronavirus community thought that it would be a body blow to their ambitions for world domination, but Sars Covfefe was having none of that.

"Look, this country has proven time and again that it is one of great comebacks," Covfefe said. "And even we need a break; going viral is not soft work; there is a lot of travelling and jumping from nose to nose involved."

"I am sure we can afford a week of limited scaling," Covfefe said. "That involves us riding on public transport at half capacity, and only visiting shopping malls during business hours."

"And our community are worried about nothing really; it's not as if the lockdown mattered anyway."

"And even when lockdown resumes we can be sure that plenty of people will be meeting each other to show off their holiday threads and passing around the holiday food."

"We're here to stay."