



POST-HOLIDAY VIRUS SURGE

Covid-dengue mutation named Covden-21

STAR HYPOCHONDRIAC CORRESPONDENT

After the Chapasthan government temporarily lifted the strict lockdown, having gotten assurances from Covid-22 chief Sars Covfefe that the virus would only spread on a limited scale during the eight days of openness, the country has been faced with disaster as the virus has now further mutated.

It has combined strains with the dengue virus, so now just wearing masks and social distancing will not do the trick. People will actually have to believe in the existence of the virus for it to not affect them. Aedes

mosquitoes have now been given agent status by Covid-22, and so can infect anyone with the new strain the moment it stings someone. The new strain has been named Covden-22.

This means the Covid-22 virus has mutated in this holiday, with people mingling freely and allowing the virus to have a much bigger playground, to now have two live vectors instead of relying on fickle humans alone.

This has also given rise to new bureaucratic issues in handling the virus. There has been discord in this regard between The Ministry of Health, Spiritual and Mental Well-being (recently renamed to make their jurisdiction even more vague)

and the DSCC (Dhoka Super-South City Council) and the DNCC (Dhoka Neverland City Council).

Meetings after meetings have resulted in further confusion among city dwellers. They have paid fines to the health, spiritual and mental well-being ministry for being out on the streets to observe their lockdown. Meanwhile, others who decided not to go out and stay home, were fined by DSCC and DNCC members for having plants and open puddles of water (following heavy rains resulting in inundation and waterlogging) which is a breeding ground for mosquito larvae, the other vector that spreads Covden-21 now.

The revenue generated from all these

finances have however helped the country's economy during this new wave of the virus. Added to this is the revenue from increasing sale of mosquito nets and repellents and new-age PPEs that are now lined with mesh-lining to protect humans. This has resulted in Ministry of Finance's massive involvement with the virus's effects and they are planning on collaborating with labs both in the country and abroad to understand the virus better so they can make better financial projections as well.

People of Chapasthan meanwhile remain thoroughly confused about which version of lockdown they are in right now and are finding various means to skirt the lockdown.



Bezos thanks designer for biodegradable suit specially made for commute to space

MD ONEEK GHARIB

Jeff Bezos in a press conference yesterday thanked his designer, an up-and-coming artist, for her impeccable work in designing him a biodegradable suit for his recent commute to space.

This, he said, has taken Planet Earth one step closer to sustainability. In fact, the billionaire's entire journey, paid for by Amazon customers and workers is a show of resilience by general people against the forces of nature.

"If I can do it, so can you. This is just the beginning," he told reporters after inaugurating a new programme where the billionaire plans to explore the possibility of cities under the sea.

"My journey to space was one where I had many reflective thoughts. The whole journey was taken to show people that Earth is not our only option. Yes, we have caused significant damage to it but this is not the end of the road. If one road is damaged, do we stop going further? No, we ask Amazon employees to skip their bathroom break and make another road and that is what we did here," Bezos, who is looking to collaborate with Tesla's Elon Musk to find even more sustainable solutions for space travel, told reporters.

To ensure that his journey to space was as carbon-neutral as possible, he also used steel straws to drink water, coke and all other beverages during his travel. He also only ate

grass-fed beef instead of industry-farmed livestock.

Jeff Bezos blasted into space Tuesday on his rocket company's first flight with people on board, becoming the second billionaire in just over a week to ride his own spacecraft.

"Best day ever!" Bezos said when the capsule touched down on the desert floor in remote West Texas after the 10-minute flight.

The billionaire is not all boring environment talk though. To make their 10-minute, nearly 5.5-billion dollar flight a little more fun than it already was, the crew threw skittles at each other. Because, it is important to be in touch with your inner child, after all that is how he could dream so big.

New cricket format to have last man batting, 20 players on each side

UNSPORTING CORRESPONDENT

After the success of The Hundred, the International Cricket Innovators have floated a new format of the sport called 20.

That is not to be mistaken for Twenty20 which, let's face it, has bored everyone by now. As many as 120 balls per innings was a lot to sit through, so the ICI first came up with The Hundred, which was 100 balls per innings matches.

But even that was thought to be too many, and it was the same old thing – the bowler bowled a ball and the batsman tried to hit it out of the ground.

That is when ICI came up with 20. It is simple; there are not the plethora of rules that make cricket such a crashing bore.

In the new format, there will be 20 players on each side, but only 11 will take the field when a side is bowling. The nine others will be back-up players who will have to run interference on the captain or coach's instructions.

Interference includes bullying the umpire to give a decision in their favour, but that is not the long and short of it. The nine extra players can rush onto the field to engage in physical skirmishes with the opposition if they are found to be verbally abusing one of the batsmen.

"We think it's a matter of popularity and attracting eyeballs," said an ICI official, wishing not to be named. "In football, part of the attraction is that there are fights on the ground, there is passion. None of this 'gentleman' stuff."

This format will also have last man batting. In other words, a batsman can bat even when there are no partners left.

"This increases the drama factor," the official said. "It is one against 11... sorry, 20."

"We are forever innovating. The nine extra members will also have a part to play when the side are batting. There will be a camera in the dressing room, and all 20 members will be engaged in a battle royale before to determine who goes out to bat. Entertainment all around... this is how we take cricket into the 22nd century... ooh, note to self – 22 next time."

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