



# 'NEW YEAR, NEW ME,' say same old people

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SHOAIB AHMED SAYAM

The people of Chapasthan, who are renowned for being oblivious to the concept of a promise, have once again prepared their New Year's resolutions.

This correspondent talked to every single person of the country to get a glimpse of what they're planning.

After repeated monumental screw-ups, the transportation sector was put in the spotlight this year. But what does it have in store for citizens in 2022?

"Our resolution is that we'll try our best to not run over students anymore," said Badrul Badshah, a bus owner, after a heavy sigh. "Everyone else is fair game though."

"Okay, we've finally learned our lesson. We should've learnt it in 2018, back when we made the same resolution, but everybody knows following through with these is really hard," said Akhlakul Ahmed Akmal, president of Chapasthan Bus Association.

"This year, we've even chalked out a plan! Using statistics, accounting and the quadratic formula, we were able to figure out the optimal point that results in the least lives lost and highest profits," he explained.

As for the waterways, launch operators are focusing on self-care this year.

"I think we should all start taking care of ourselves, because 2021 has been really hard on us. It's our responsibility to stay safe and healthy. That's why our resolution is to tell all launch passengers to bring their own fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors, and life jackets, and sprinklers..." said Md Monir, chairperson of Chapasthan Launch Gang.

Factory owners have also adopted the launch operators' resolution.

Ensuring women's rights and dignity was a challenge this year, and the year before that, and the year before that... But are better days coming?

"I promise, I won't call women late at night and degrade them," said Murad Ghapla, the

former state minister for monitoring free speech. "At least for this year."

"But trust me, that woman is no saint. Do you think only I was at fault? It takes two to tango! Hey, listen to me! Where are you going?" Turag was crying out, as this correspondent was leaving the room.

Meanwhile, Chapasthan's law enforcers have made a huge resolution.

"No extra-judicial killings this year," said Swift Step Squad Commander Amanul Aman. "Unless it's really, really necessary. Y'know, like when they say mean things about us."

The biggest resolution made this year was by the majority population of Chapasthan. They have delved into the minority issue and have come up with possible solutions.

"I think it's finally time for us to be respectful and tolerant towards the other people living on our lands," said Mizanur Alam, a member of the majority. "We should let them live their lives in peace, as long as they follow what we tell them. Or else."

## Man who planned to be millionaire in 2021 borrows money for date in 2022

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

Bapparaj, a Chapasthan man who was supposed to be a multi-millionaire by 2021, ended the year by borrowing money from his friends to go on a date in 2022.

The multi-millionaire plan was initiated in 2015, but Bapparaj is still taking money from friends without repaying previous debts.

"How much do I owe you? Just a few thousand, anything else? Just let me become a millionaire by the end of 2022. Your money will be repaid with compound interest along with a profit bonus equal to the principal amount," Bapparaj said when one of his friends asked for his money back.

Bapparaj's master plan was taken on the first day of 2015 as a new year's resolution.

At first, the target year to become a multimillionaire was 2019, but later, just like every project of Chapasthan, it was extended to 2021 as he failed accounting twice in a row, leading to Bapparaj taking longer to complete his graduation.

When a friend asked how he expected to be a millionaire when he was failing accounting, Bapparaj reacted angrily.

"How dare you? Haven't you read the biography of Steve Jobs and 50 others who failed to pass in exams



but ended up being billionaires? How did I get into the web of such pessimistic friends? Ridiculous!

"Okay, now give me Tk 1,000 and put it on my tab. I have a date next week which cannot be cancelled," saying this, he went to the "Shirir Nicher Birir Dokan" after taking a Tk 20 note from the pocket of one of his friends' shirts hanging from a hanger.

After finally admitting to himself that 2021 had not gone as planned, Bapparaj extended the millionaire project till the end of 2022.

"Hey sweetie, I have a breathtaking plan for 2022. I have planned to reduce our total yearly date by 50 percent, smoking by 40 percent and get together party by 60 percent. I can become a millionaire by the end of the year. You just need to prepare yourself to be called the 'millionaire's girlfriend'. Hello? Hello? Hello!"

The line got disconnected because Bapparaj's credit had run out. However, our man took a hundred-taka note from another friend to recharge the balance so that he could be connected to his girlfriend again and describe his master plan.

## LIFTING CITIZENS ABOVE THE TRAFFIC WITH UTHAO



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

The government will launch ride-carrying service Uthao from today as part of its initiative to reduce the capital's chronic traffic congestion. For this, they will roll out 5,000 flatbed trucks to carry cars on Dhoka streets. Road transport and fridges minister Omega Bader explained the three-pronged benefit of the move: "We always hear that there are too many private cars on the roads. With Uthao, there will be less cars on the roads; instead they will be on the backs of trucks with expired fitness permits. That way, we will reduce traffic jams, right? Secondly, people will get more done because they are not driving or instructing their drivers to change lanes. Thirdly, it will be a boost for truck owners and therefore for our economic wellbeing... Happy New Year folks, and you are welcome."