



Lockdown will ruin company culture, Mamun from HR warns govt

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SHOAIB AHMED SAYAM

"There's no way I'm going to let these people go back home again," Mamun from HR murmured. "What will happen to the company's synergy, dynamism and disruption, if there is no one to synergise, dynamise and disrupt at the office?

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Ever since the Omicron variant of Covid-22 arrived in Dhaka city, HR executives like Mamun have been shaking in their boots -- no, not in fear of getting infected, but of empty offices and turned-off computers, of work from home (WFH).

Exactly a year ago, when the Delta variant was wreaking havoc, when the lockdown was imposed, Mamun saw the horror. Ideation was at an all-time low, and so was he.

Unfortunately for HR, history is set to repeat itself. If another lockdown is imposed, scalability will surely sink, Mamun warned the government.

Employees were seen trying to console Mamun, but for some reason, they didn't have that look of pain on their faces.

"Oh no, another lockdown, whatever shall I do?" said Hirok Paul, one of the employees. "I guess it's time for me to pack my stuff and get ready for WFH."

"Man, I'm going to miss waking up at 7:00am, wearing a three-piece suit with a tie that chokes me all day, making small-talk with other random employees, and nodding in hour-long meetings. I was living the life," he said.

"Now I'll be home, wearing pyjamas all day, spending time with my family and ordering food. It's so depressing," he added.

Unlike Hirok, a group of employees were quite cheery about the oncoming lockdown. "We are introverts, a special breed of

individuals who introspect and ponder about the important aspects of life," said the self-aggrandising bunch. "Since we utilise so much of our energy to contemplate the world, this lockdown will bring us great bounty."

"You see, unlike the common extroverts, who have infinitely smaller brains than ours, we need time to recharge our minds, after dwelling on economics, psychology, philosophy and the like. Talking with commoners drains us," said the group, who are known for not talking much, but not today it seems.

After hearing the annoying extroverts, Mamun started to plead with them.

"O introverts, please don't abandon me! I know these are trying times, now more than ever. Let's start a brainstorming session and find an alternative to WFH, what do you say? We are all in this together, like a family. We must pivot from the new normal, I beg you!"

New Covid variant named after Novak Djokovic

UNSPORTING CORRESPONDENT

The International Institute of Naming Covid-22 Strains (IINC) yesterday succumbed to pressure from the pro-Covid lobby and named the newest variant after tennis legend Novak Djokovic.

The highly polarising pro-Covid lobby has been in existence since the Delta variant started doing the rounds last spring. They think Covid is a divine intervention to separate the weak from the strong, because just when the world thinks it has the virus beat, it comes back resurrected, as it has with the variant now known as Nole (Djokovic's nickname).

This correspondent could not find out whether Serbia's Djokovic is a member of the lobby, because Djokovic would not answer his phone. Djokovic's father said his son was detained in an Australian hotel and had no access to his cell phone. Subsequently, this correspondent lost interest.

Djokovic has said that he is against vaccination and also, at the height of the first wave in 2020 when the world was at a standstill, he held a tennis event and partied in nightclubs, which contributed to the spread of the virus.

The new variant, Nole, is uncannily able to invade the tightest of defence systems. Scientists say masks and even face shields cannot protect people from Nole.

"We thought of Nole as the name for the new variant because Djokovic is a champion who breaches the defences of the best tennis players in the world," a Covid lobby member, Phil Phlegm Cofferson, told this correspondent. "Also, he breached the most anal immigration system in the world -- which doesn't even let people out or into the country for medical reasons -- by getting into Australia unvaccinated. That is the kind of guy we want as the face of the new variant."



PHOTO: AFP

Food bloggers outnumber diners at city restaurants: Study

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

A revolutionary new study has revealed that there are more food bloggers and vloggers than actual customers in a majority of the capital's restaurants.

The recent study on Dhaka city has some eye-catching findings. The rate of growth of food bloggers is much higher than the growth of population. One out of every one and a half person(s) is a food blogger. The private researcher, whose identity we cannot disclose because he or she is suffering from food poisoning, said, "If you randomly throw a stone in Dhaka, it will surely fall on the head of a food blogger. And they will blog about it there and then, and blame a restaurant for casting the stone."

Despite being crowded, restaurant owners always seem unhappy. So, our private researcher started asking owners what the deal was.

"Since morning, I have found five customers and 20 food bloggers. Two customers had to leave without eating as the whole place was crowded with food bloggers and their film crews," one owner said.

When asked about whether the number of customers increased as every blog went live, he laughed and said, "Yeah right. The only thing that increased was the number of food bloggers. Yesterday, 10 food bloggers came and reviewed my food and today I got 20! Every blog doubled the number of food bloggers, not customers."

Food blogging has brought about a revolutionary change in the minds of our young generation. Previously, they used to take selfies and make TikTok videos wherever they would go, but now they are recording food reviews even when they are going nowhere, for instance, while having tea beside the road. This smooth transition has stunned 90 percent of people in Dhaka, of which 88 percent are food bloggers, the study found. One of the councillors of a city ward said, "There are 500,000 voters in my area, 495,000 of whom are food bloggers."

Our correspondent, whose aim in life is obviously to be a food blogger who does not know the names of foods, tried to contact food bloggers and ask whether they have anything to say regarding restaurant owners' complaint and the study's findings. One of the bloggers, Farsan the Mejho Bhai, said, "Guys, trust me, this is the best question I have ever eaten in life. You should definitely try this one."

