

WOMAN TRAPPED

in spiral to renew passport

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SHOAB AHMED SAYAM

The following is part of an interview of a woman who is still trying to collect all 634 documents to get her new passport.

I had offered him everything I had, and it still wasn't enough. I shared every single detail of my life, and even then, he was so unsatisfied.

"Why's your face like that? Get a new picture, or no passport," he said, looking straight into my eyes. Was he implying I'm ugly or unphotogenic? It didn't matter; all that mattered was how to satiate his desires.

"Also, you need a birth certificate," he informed me.

"Yeah, it's right here," I replied.

"No, are you dumb, too? That's the old one. It's not valid anymore."

And so, I ran for the birth registration office, to prove once again that indeed, I was born.

"Where were you right before you were born?" the birth officer asked.

"In Moghbazar," I answered.

"No. You were in your mother's womb. Where was the womb?"

"In Moghbazar."

"And where exactly is this Moghbazar? Why is it called that? You need to provide a historical document of the area to get your certificate."

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"Where did you get this? Okay, never mind, nice. Now, I need your parents' birth certificates," he told me.

"They're dead."

"Oh, then get me their death certificates. Also, make sure you get attested copies of their burial documents from the graveyard."

At this point, I was hell bent on seeing this through. I got everything he asked for and more, and finally, I was reborn. With the certificate, I returned to the passport office, this time with swagger.

The officer looked at the certificate and said, "You got what I asked for, great. Your face still looks weird. Also, I'll need an attested copy of your 'akika' certificate. You do have that, right?"



Schools to be shifted to shopping malls to avoid closures

The idea has already earned massive support from all walks of life as people finally found a way to send their children back to schools.

MAHUBUB ALAM MUNNA

The country has broken records for keeping schools, colleges and universities closed for the longest time after local scientists discovered that Covid thrives and is transmitted only in educational institutions.

"If you go to a crowded shopping mall, you have only one percent chance of being infected, but if you go to school or wherever students go, you have 99 percent chance of contracting the Rona," Isaac Nalek, the lead scientist, said in the groundbreaking report.

Reports from all over the country suggest that most of the people who got seriously ill due to Covid somehow directly or indirectly got infected when they attempted to enter the premises of those institutions. Hence, schools, colleges and universities – the epicentres – were kept closed as they made the populace more vulnerable to infection than anywhere else, apparently.

"The more you open educational institutions, the higher the infection rate goes," illiteracy minister of Chapasthan briefly narrated the positive correlation between education and infection.

Since necessity is the father of invention and being a land of new inventions and discoveries, Chapasthan wasted no time in finding a solution to this unending closure.

To avoid unwanted closures, the idea of relocating educational institutes to various malls and fairs has been proposed for the authority's approval.

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Satireday caught up with the person who generated the idea, Jony.

"As several Chapasthani studies have found that Covid only lives in educational institutions and hence these institutions

have been kept closed for, like, forever, why don't we rebuild or relocate these to some malls and fairs which are absolutely virus-free?" he asked.

"If we don't do it now, our students may become TikTokers as they are in a long-distance relationship with books and education," he added.

For the first time in Chapasthani history, guardians were all on the same page. They think that this is the only way to keep educational institutions open despite mild or severe Covid surges.

"This is actually a unique idea that, we believe, will eventually help us get back our students to school in the form of shopping malls and fairs. Those virus-free areas can be the new realm of knowledge and wisdom. Thank you all who were involved in bringing this revolutionary idea," said a guardian, whose child was on the verge of becoming a TikToker.



BPL

The GOAT tourney at evoking nostalgia

KHALID HOSSAIN

Remember the time when you had to flee the streets impromptu to dodge "a stunner" right after you or one of your mates had hit a well-timed lofted shot, which triggered the arrival of a certain Stone Cold Steve Austin as the sweet sound of timbre preceded a crash?

From batter Will Jacks shattering the neighbourhood building's glass during net practice at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium to Mohammad Shahzad puffing away at the heart of Mirpur, the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) has managed to rekindle nostalgia like no other platform in recent memory.

Did Shahzad, the Afghan wicketkeeper-batter playing for Minister Group, foresee on the morning of that fateful day, as he breathed the fresh air of Dhaka while enjoying a cup of coffee, that he'd be in the news for vaping, i.e. smoking an e-cigarette, later in the day?

And that too when it had rained abruptly, leading his side's game to be abandoned as the aroma of bhuna khichuri converged from Puran Dhaka and Uttara to fill the evening air in an around the stadium? Is the Afghan even aware of the long line of cricketers in the past -- the likes of Graham Gooch, Shane Warne, Chris Gayle, Ian Botham, Michael Clark, Hardik Pandya and so on -- who made the news for publicly smoking, the act which may cause lung cancer at the cost of making the smoker appear "cool"?

As Shahzad again took a lungful of Dhaka's high quality air on the "morning" after while enjoying a fine cuppa black coffee, could he even recall that he was reprimanded by match officials the night before?

Who knows? But Shahzad better be aware that we condemn the heinous act of vaping.

THE WRITER IS A RECOVERING NOSTALGIC SINCE MAY LAST YEAR AND DOESN'T ENCOURAGE OTHERS, ESPECIALLY PROFESSIONALS, TO DIVE INTO RANDOM MEMORY LANES WITHOUT A SITTER.

