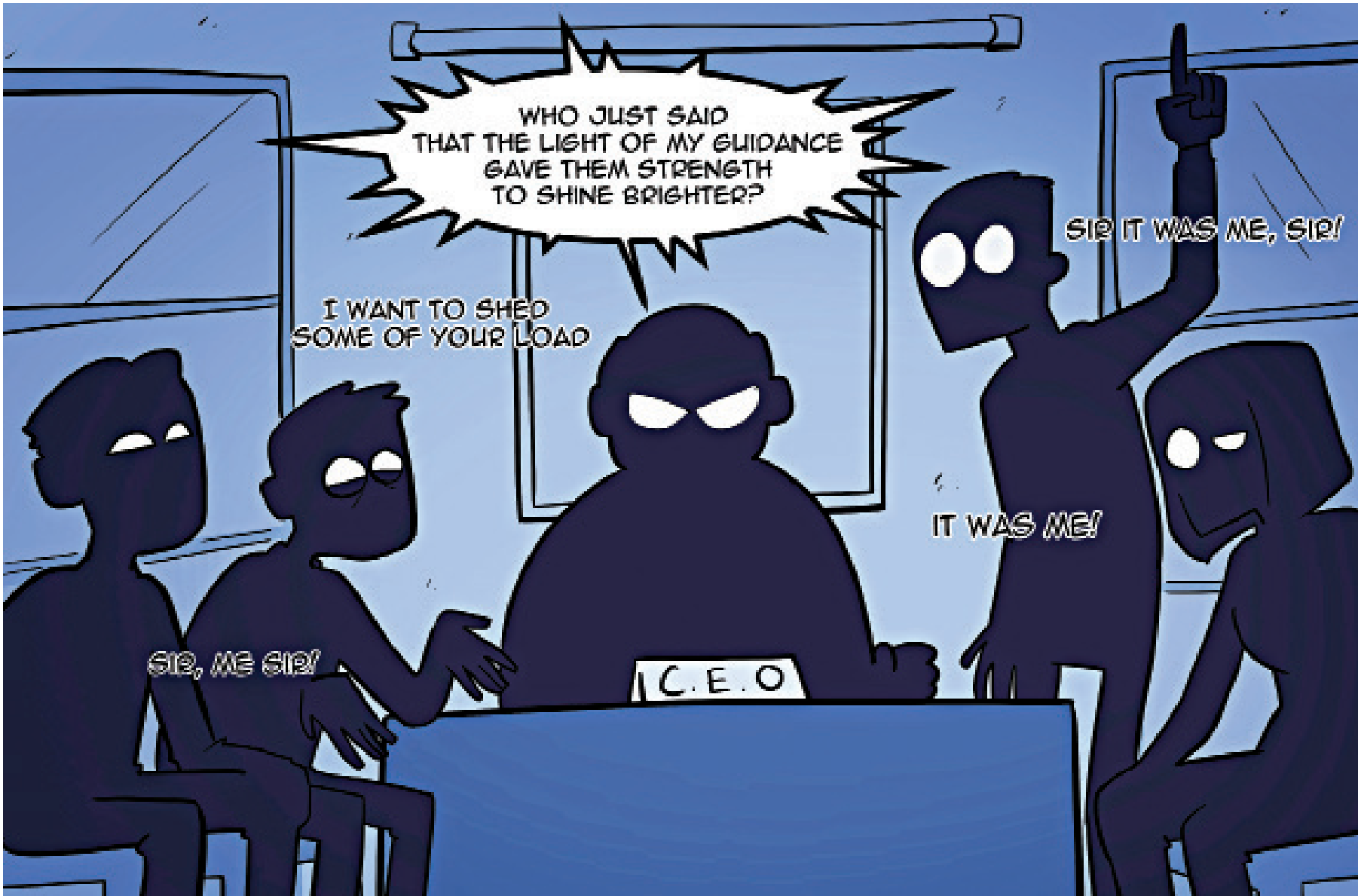




All oil used for flattery, none left for energy production

“Where are those people who were oiling their bosses for promotion, political leaders for posts, teachers for good grades and voters for votes? We desperately need them now to supply their natural oil to those power stations that produce energy.”

MAHUB ALAM MUNNA

Due to the national habit of applying generous levels of oil to slide one’s way to the top – or most often, barely middle, levels – of organisations, Chapasthan has been facing an oil crisis for the past few days.

As a result, the country has failed to produce necessary electricity to enlighten its people, which even 75 percent literacy rate has not been able to do. The massive hue and cry have become a regular activity the people of Chapasthan have been doing despite having an obvious reluctance of doing so.

“Had I not oiled my boss frequently, I wouldn’t have to face this recent power blackout,” Telbaba, a jobholder, repented.

“We had plenty of oil to produce electricity, but instead of using that in power stations, we used those on people, who only recycled the oil and flattered their bosses,” he said, displaying his newfound honesty in a place of his mind that was previously occupied by blubber.

It has always been a famous



Representational image of oil being wasted.

PHOTO: AFP

unsolved mystery of the world that, despite having been blessed with the most sycophants per capita, a rare (but very common in Chapsathan) type of human who can produce oil naturally, Chapasthan – a country that looks like the Eiffel Tower from the sky – isn’t a member of OPEC.

Scientists, both social and antisocial types, worked on the problem for years but only

recently did they realise that all the oil people produce here is spent on their superiors for personal benefits instead of exporting to foreign countries, or to inject into the power grid.

“Where are those people who were oiling their bosses for promotion, political leaders for posts, teachers for good grades and voters for votes? We desperately need them now to supply their natural oil to those

power stations that produce energy,” Jaya Ahsan, failing to study for her upcoming HSC exams due to frequent load-shedding, asked.

Other career oilers felt cheated. “I read years ago that for there to be electricity, we have to inject oil into the power grid. That is when I saw my boss wearing chequered clothes, and I thought that was the power grid ... Now people are telling me that there is a national grid,” a man from Chapasthan’s port city said.

Meanwhile, those superiors, who have been oiled for years, are suffering from severe insecurity. As the news went viral that the country is running out of oil, their daily lives were disrupted. Unknown sources said they have faced a nearly 70 percent fall in flattery in just a week and the rate is booming every day. “I am a leader and no one oils me now like before. If things go like this, I will leave this country soon and settle in an oil-rich country,” Pathok Bhattacharya, a student leader expressed his feelings in despair.



THUG LIFE 6-WHEEL EDITION

After rickshaws were banned on Pachmoshjid Road, rickshaw-pullers have come up with an interesting way to bypass the law. They are now transporting their vehicles on vans. But law enforcers are quick to take action as well and are fining these poor rickshaw-pullers, proving that late-stage capitalism is out to kill us.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

The shoe garland maker’s manual

CHAP AL MALA

With the climate as it is nowadays, means of meting out justice is few and far between.

We have all lost faith in law enforcement nowadays, because now they take people into custody and “interrogate” them. What does that even mean?

Anyway, like always, it is up to us, the people, to mete out justice and swiftly. None of this namby pamby stuff about due process or torture in custody, away from the eyes of the world.

That is why we, at Rokto Gorom Jubok, have put together a simple, easy-to-follow guide on making the traditional garland of shoes.

FIRST, ITS BENEFITS

Derived from the garland brides and grooms put around each others’ necks to mark their holy union, the garland of shoes is, in many ways, a mark of respect. The person who has to wear it will be married to humiliation and vow never again to do whatever he or she did to warrant the garland.

It is non-violent. At least the act of putting it on is not a violent one. If the recipient resists, then one can use some forms of creative coercion, but that is neither encouraged nor discouraged.

Lastly, it is a community and communal activity. Anyone can join in. That creates fellow feeling among perpetr... ahem... participants.

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NOW, THE HOW

Everyone must wear shoes. On this matter there can be no debate. We further recommend that sandals are best suited for the job as it is easier to thread a connecting wire/cloth/lace through to make a magnificent footwear necklace.

Most people are encouraged to carry smartphones in order to be able to monitor Facebook statuses, comments and likes. Smartphones are also helpful in gathering a crowd to do the deed, because none of us are carrying multiple shoes. Which leads us to...

A shoe garland party must be of at least four people, otherwise the garland doesn’t look pretty as the footwear is not spaced out sufficiently.

If one of the party is wearing a belt, that is perfect, because the neyar that holds up one of the others’ panjabis will come in handy when tying the shoes together. But we also need the neyar volunteer to be able to hold his panjabi up, and that’s where the belt comes in. Pro tip: think ahead.

Once the attac ... ahem ... ceremony is complete, the participants will suddenly find themselves without shoes. That is when the value of planning ahead is illustrated. Always conduct the ceremony near a mosque during prayer times.

One final pro trip. To save time and effort, drag around the newly garlanded with you while you are checking FB for more statuses. If you find a new targe... ahem... recipient, just take the garland off the old and put it around the neck of the new. If you need new thread, check to see if the old recipient, who is by now wholly compliant, is wearing a panjabi. If so, you are in luck.



PHOTO: STS