



What do ghosts in Bangladesh eat?

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LUBNAN KHALEESI

"Shukhe thakle, bhoote kilay"

Contrary to popular interpretations, what these famous words - so ingrained in Bangladeshi culture - mean is that whenever someone feels too happy, they are possessed by ghosts who wish to lay waste to the last vestige of joy.

Bangladeshi folklore is rich with tales of haunting apparitions, but not all of them conspire to make the lives of citizens difficult.

There are, however, the more infamous ones, whose sole purpose is to ruin the party - even though they disguise their intentions well.

One of these ghosts is *Insaaf*, which is believed to be a jinn. The spirit roams the lands, looking for people who speak ill of the dead or hurt someone's sentiments by saying the wrong thing.

Even truth seekers are not spared the *Insaaf*'s wrath. Poke your nose into business that isn't yours and *Insaaf* will hunt you down. Unlike other ghosts, *Insaaf* feeds off

fear as opposed to sweets, a popular snack among the supernatural. The more *Insaaf* can spread, the bigger it can grow.

Insaaf, along with its counterparts, are usually found hidden in the dark corners of corridors of power.

Then, there's *Petu*. *Petu*, unlike *Insaaf*, doesn't go after people. It, instead, loves to eat rice - a staple in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh consumed 36.7 million tonnes of rice in 2021-22 and this year production is set to increase modestly to 37 million tonnes.

Even though production outpaces consumption, it has never calmed market worries over supply shortage and subsequent increase in rice price.

This isn't some scheme to line the pockets of rice mill owners, some of whom also happen to run the food side of the government, but it is down to the *Petu*.

Petu often disguises as a rat and eats rice while they are kept in the silos, depriving the people of their primary food source.

Their hunger doesn't stop there. While the government's zero-tolerance policy towards corruption is working, according

to the relevant ministry's own figures, the country lost a staggering TK 24,735 crore from the economy last year.

Although the powers that be chalk it down to graft, most people well-versed in Bangladeshi history know it was the *Petu*, who has developed quite a taste for paper as well over the decade.

They also love having a nibble at unused construction material, but ya'll knew this.

They live near puddles, having adapted to a loss in water bodies. Subsequently, they are more vengeful now, but contrary to popular belief, they care little for fish, opting to give those away to curry favour with more powerful entities. They are, however, always fishing for compliments in their small puddles.

Going back to basics, the *Insaaf* is extraordinary because it has also reduced the populations of other Bengal ghosts such as *Parishmoni*.

And there you are, the most important ghosts of Bengal.

Lubnan Khaleesi knows all good men like Malcolm X and Bobby Hutton died for nothing.

'Kohli's verdict should be respected', says umpire

UNSPORTING CORRESPONDENT

A match official from the Elitest Panel of the Unified Cricket Council (UCC) Umpires has opined that Virat Kohli's opinion holds more water than any umpires' in the world, and it should be given due consideration when the India superstar signals a decision.

Kohli's umpiring had gotten on Bangladesh's nerves, with Shakib Al Hasan confronting him after he had signalled for a no-ball. But the referee believes Shakib overstepped.

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Kohli also drew the ire of the Bangladesh team for his "fake fielding", feigning that he was throwing the ball to one end while actually never touching the ball and allowing it to continue to the other end.

But the umpire believed that it should not be dwelled on.

"I don't know all the rules of cricket. It's impossible for anyone to know everything. But this kind of rule probably does not exist. It's like Lionel Messi feinting his body. We will consider reviewing the rule if Kohli raises an objection. Until then, there is no need to make a drama."

A fake fielding offence is supposed to be penalised in the form of five runs awarded to the batting team.

Bangladesh lost the match by five runs.



Elon Musk selling sarees on Twitter

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

After spending \$44 billion on the acquisition of Twitter, Elon Musk was fearful about his potential fall from the spot of world's richest person.

"If I don't take prompt initiatives to get my investment back, I will surely lose my position to Bezos, Zuckerberg and 100 other envious figures," Elon Musk thought to himself.

At night, right after dinner, while he was secretly using Zuckerberg's Facebook, a live video drew his attention. A woman from Bangladesh was selling sarees on live video, claiming to be a unique item produced in her own workshop, although the traders in New Market say otherwise.

The video captured Musk's imagination and he decided to sell sarees when he saw millions of people were commenting and asking the price.

"If that lady could get millions of buyers, I would definitely get billions of buyers and eventually get my investment back," he thought.

He was really baffled that the woman that the woman was telling everyone to inbox her for the price in reply to "Aapu, dam koto?" and "Price plz". He, however, started the business although he couldn't solve the puzzle of "price in inbox".

During the inauguration ceremony of the Twitter-based business, Elon Musk took a pause and texted Jeff Bezos and Mark Zuckerberg: "Catch me if you can, dudes."

On the first day, Musk struggled while trying on sarees. Since he is a famous figure, his live video got billions of people's attention and everyone was asking him for the price. He told them to inbox him.

Apart from those asking for prices, some, mostly from Bangladesh, were leaving various comments that confused Musk even further.

"Sundarban er khati modhu nite chaila call korun 017*****", "Ekta puraton cycle bikri korte chai. Keu nite chaila inbox korun", "Ekta gf lagbe amar. Meyera knock dao", "ICC=BCCI", etc. were some of the comments the meaning behind which Elon Musk's team was looking for.

Later, a Satireday correspondent heard of an allegation against Elon Musk. In a secret conversation in inbox, Elon Musk asked a potential buyer to pay 30 percent in advance before he shipped the saree for delivery. After the man made the payment, Elon Musk blocked him instead of delivering the saree.

This correspondent has learnt that Elon Musk learned a lot from Bangladeshi traders.

