

The nine-to-five grind too much even for the Taliban?

REPORTERS WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

After decades of fighting them, it appears that the West had the answer to defeating the Taliban in Afghanistan right in front of their eyes – leave the country and let them have a go at running it.

Leaving the wilderness, where death loomed around every corner (or so they would have us believe), and adopting the daily routine that the rest of us live with would seem a no-brainer.

But a young Taliban fighter found that to be untrue after the harsh realities of adulthood hit him really hard.

"In our ministry, there's little work for me to do. Therefore, I spend most of my time on Twitter. We're connected to speedy Wi-fi. Many including me, are addicted to the internet, especially Twitter," said the young man for real (you can look it up).

The man also lamented his city's traffic and said he found it difficult to spend such long hours stuck in one place.

"What I dislike about Kabul is its traffic and what I fear is its thieves. I



PHOTO: REUTERS

(TOP) High Taliban officials bored to death as they sit in a conference meeting, dreaming of the time when (BOTTOM) they could roam free and live large.

keep my pistol on my person all the time after two of our comrades were robbed," he said, adding that there was a time when they were the ones who robbed people, but now that they are leaders of the country, they are finding it hard to

just go around robbing people. Since everything is their property, it would just mean stealing from themselves.

It seems that a life in the rugged plains and staying hidden from security forces did not arm the

militant group with any real-life skills such as maintaining a 9-5 job.

"These days, you have to go to the office before 8:00am and stay till 4:00pm. If you don't go, you're considered absent, and [the wage for] that day is cut from your salary," said another disgruntled, disillusioned young Taliban man.

The man is also full of existential dread and is wondering how he will ever get through this job and what the organisation would do now that their goal of ruling the nation has already been achieved.

Keep ruling? Keep at the 9-5 grind?

Ban women from universities? Oh...

"The Taliban used to be free of restrictions but now we sit in one place, behind a desk and a computer 24 hours a day, seven days a week," he added.

**All the quotes are taken from a real-life account and if you do not believe us, please look it up. This story is not a dig at the 9-5 work culture but an account of how everyone is a bumbling fool and no one really knows how to manage modern life's pressures and challenges, not least the Taliban.*



INFLATION ROUNDUP

5-second rule is now the 10-second rule: mother

"The kids used to bring up something they called the 'five-second rule' whenever they dropped some food on the floor, or when their youngest sister, just two years old, dropped her food. They would then scoop it up and eat it, claiming that they had picked it up within five seconds, and that the dirt did not have enough time to attach itself to the morsel."

ABUL HIKED

A mother in the capital has introduced a new rule in her household, instructing her three young children to eat off the floor whenever possible.

"The kids used to bring up something they called the 'five-second rule' whenever they dropped some food on the floor, or when their youngest sister, just two years old, dropped her food. They would then scoop it up and eat it, claiming that they had picked it up within five seconds, and that the dirt on the floor did not have enough time to attach itself to the morsel," said Adiba Begum, a homemaker.

She said she had a tough time telling the children to stop following this western pop culture trend that was really meant as a joke and had little basis in science.

"But that was till eight or nine months ago. When they picked food up off the floor I took it out of their hands, as any parent would do, and threw it away."

But then the prices started rising, and then they kept increasing, and then they just wouldn't stop increasing.

"That's when I revisited the five-second rule, and I dug further into it," she said.

"Turns out, there was some scientific basis to the rule after



all. You see, the food has to settle on the ground after it is dropped. At first it bounces up, crumbs fly everywhere, then it comes to a stop. It is only then that the dirt and grime on the floor can attach itself.

"What's more, I did a bit of research on my own. I studied science in school, and now I know that instead of 5 seconds, food is safe to pick up off the floor up to 10 seconds after it's dropped. This is a fortunate discovery as it means less wastage, and that is a valuable thing in this throwaway culture of ours."

"What? No, it really has nothing to do with saving money amid rising prices. We live very comfortably. There is food

everywhere," Adiba said, her voice going up three pitches.

Adiba said she told her children of the new development, but for some reason, now the children are suspicious and won't eat food off the floor even if it had been lying there for less than five seconds.

'COOKING AT HOME SAME AS ORDERING IN!'

Elsewhere, in a shocking development, a man (our effort to break gender stereotypes)

was crushed after discovering that cooking at home would put the same strain on his wallet as ordering in.

"As a bachelor hishabe, I had been using vouchers and ordering from shops near my home since I started living on my own," said Akramul Huda, a private service holder in the capital's Mirpur area.

"Soon I found that I could barely make it to the end of the month eating in this manner, even if it was once a day," he said.

"So, I took the initiative to learn some cooking on YouTube, and thinking my financial problems would be solved, went out to buy two weeks' worth of ingredients. Imagine my devastation when, after buying everything on my list, I realised that the total came to the same amount if I had ordered the food over the next two weeks," Akramul said.

Star Satireday has learnt that following this development, restaurants around the capital have started raising their prices.



PHOTO: FREEPIK.COM

The lord of water and sewers

ANUPAM DEBASHIS ROY

You may have heard of Poseidon, lord of the seas. But have you heard of Taqsem Khan, the lord of Dhaka's water and sewers?

If not, you should have – the man has created his own empire over the past 13 years, even though he was appointed for only two years under contract.

He also has his Dukes. Two engineers have been repeatedly kept in appointment even after their official resignation. The water bills, in the meantime, have gone up almost every year.

The sewerage goes into the rivers. The whole system is just maniacal. And meanwhile, Dhaka residents are getting affected by diarrhoea, cholera and other water-borne diseases because of the water the MD is providing.

So dedicated is he to his job, that he is running a government agency with as much care as if it were his own company.

If that is the case, why not pay for the hospital bills of all these patients. After all, you are making millions.

Please scan the QR code to see the latest instalment of the Star Satire Show, where we ask these questions and try to get to the bottom of what makes this lord of water and sewers tick.

