

Story Writing Competition Entry-IV

Terror of the Sunday Night

by Chowdhury Rashidul Adnan

WHY the hell did I take this weird job? I asked myself once again. I have been asking this question to myself everytime I get some weird case. Although in the job dealing with supernatural complaints all the cases are weird.

I myself don't believe that there can be anything supernatural. So to prove myself right I have become an agent and started dealing with the supernatural complaints of my local area. I also tried to find out whether there is anything supernatural in this world. So as each case comes I think 'May be this is the case which I'm looking for' and I ask myself 'Can this case be a true supernatural one?' I find my answer when the case is solved but the last one was a real exception and it had the answer to my question.

I never suspected that case to be a supernatural one as I didn't know the true story behind the case until the last moment. But now I don't think I'll ever forget that case.

It was Monday 9:00 am and it was raining when the phone rang in my office. From the other end a woman spoke

laughs. "I asked her 'why didn't you call me earlier?' I thought it was just an imaginary figure and it was my illusion. But it is not and he is getting more ferocious day by day. The damages he had done before yesterday was quite small to be taken into account," told she hastily stated. Suddenly she gripped my hand and said, "You got to get me out of this, please! I can't face him alone again." I assured her promising that I'll probe into this matter and I'll stay at her house the next Sunday night.

The next five days I was busy, gathering information about Mrs. Jones and other things. But nothing I found could give me any clue about this case. All I knew about this phantom priest was that he had the stature of Mr. Jones. And about Mr. Jones I knew that he was killed in a cross-fire between two groups of terrorists. At last the Sunday came and I went to Mrs. Jones's house. We finished our dinner and sat in the living room. I asked about her husband and his death. Mrs. Jones seemed quite taken back but answered my questions. She also told me that,



in an alarmed voice. Hearing my reply she let out a sigh of relief and said, "My name is Mrs. Jones and I'm very frightened. Can you come to my house at 24th Oxford Street immediately. I have a problem which I can't explain on the phone. I told her to calm down and that I would be right there in fifteen minutes.

When I reached there I found it to be a big house with heavy curtains on the windows. A woman in her late forties with a pale face and frightened eyes opened the door. After knowing my identity she seemed to be calmed down a little.

The living room where I entered was in a mess. The pictures broken, sofa set in a tilted condition, curtains torn and furniture with deep marks which were perhaps made by some sharp object. We sat and Mrs. Jones described her last three terrible Sunday nights were to her.

She began her story with a morning, and seemed like she was talking from a far away place. She said, "A phantom priest comes to my house every Sunday. He started coming just after my husband had died a month ago. He usually comes around 9 pm to 10 pm. After finishing my dinner I watch TV or read books and suddenly the phantom appears at the end of the corridor with a spinning axe in his hand. He doesn't say anything just smashes everything and

priest was killed with her husband and he was a family friend.

Suddenly I felt a shiver in my body and saw the lights of the room getting dimmer and dimmer. I watched a shadowy figure with a cloak of a priest walking towards the room. He was at the end of the corridor. Mrs. Jones screamed out and went to her room. All of a sudden I found myself standing on a street, in front of a church. There were two groups of terrorist firing at each other and at the door of the church a priest and a man were talking. Suddenly a man started crossing the street running but then stopped in front of the door. He shot both the man and the priest and again started running. Then the killer stopped in front of a shop and took money from Mrs. Jones. My vision ended and I heard the priest's voice telling, "Now don't you understand why am I here?" I'm here to take revenge I saw him entering Mrs. Jones's bedroom and throwing the axe before I could stop him. I heard the shrill cry of Mrs. Jones and later found her dead.

I called the police with whom I talked about Mr. Jones death.

I went back to work where I'm waiting for my next assignment. But I tell myself well, there are surely some supernatural things in this world which aren't discovered or can't be explained by science.

The Plight of Street Children

by Shaila Huq Mitul

PROGRAMMES initiated by Government and Non-Government Organisations to deal with the problem of Street Children in Bangladesh:

MASS LITERACY:
In order to expand literacy the Government launched the mass literacy program in 1980. The program was abandoned in 1982, but was revived in 1987 through the Adult Literacy project. While Government efforts to increase mass literacy has been limited over the years, several NGOs including VERC (Village Education Resource Centre) have continued to implement the programme with considerable success.

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION:
Despite Government efforts a large number of children are not enrolled in educational institutions and a large group drop out of school. In order to provide them with some form of education, NGOs including BRAC, GRAMEEN BANK, PROSHIKA, CONCERN, CARITAS, and MCC have undertaken the Non-Formal education programme.

The most successful community supported school are those run by BRAC. They have established 2500 non-formal schools and another 2000 are in development. Particular attention is also given to the enrollment of girls in the teaching programmes.

Another international organization, the Under Privileged Children's Programme (UCEP) has made modest but noble advancements in the field of literacy with two separate programmes — the general education programme and the Technical Education Programme. The former provides children with a general education while the latter admits

students from the UCEP's general schools in order to train them in a particular field of trade. UCEP has 20 general schools in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna and a technical training school with the ca-

force in order to support and sustain their families. In order to make sure that children receive education, at least up to the primary level, the government has launched the Food for Education pro-



Happy Faces, Hiding Worries?

capacity and facilities to train 600 students in Dhaka city.

FOOD FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMME:
Most children are unable to complete school at the primary level due to poverty and family concerns. They are made to join the child labour

programme where each at school going child is provided with 15 kg of food.

This programme has been implemented in 61 districts and if it is successful, then children will be able to continue their education and utilize that in the future.

CONCLUSION:
"Millions of street children"

Part III
who live undernourished since birth, who are denied attention, education and health; who live without love.

Children who survive by expedients, by theft and violence. Children who coalesce into gangs and re-invent a family; a structure they have never known; a security that always eluded them.

Children who are used unscrupulously by others, misused, imprisoned even eliminated.

Children who see grown-ups as their enemies. Tomorrow they will be men and women.

As the big cities grow, so will the number of street children. So will depravation which begets frustration with begets violence.

The street is the common heritage of millions even before they are tainted by drugs, prostitution and crime. We seek for these children to live a life worth living.

This is dedicated to those citizens of tomorrow. Let their plight be known to all, let the conscience of humanity revolt.

Susanna Agnelli in — Street Children:
A Growing Urban Tragedy, PP 11-12.

The End
— Condensed by
Shazaad Ahmed

Story Writing Competition Entry-V

By Munjulika Rahman

ing a little at first she said she wouldn't mind. On Sunday evening I packed my bag and also took my pistol though I didn't think anything would happen. When I arrived at the house

Chowdhury saw me she quickly put the picture away. But her room looked a lot different now. It was more dark and dull. I asked Mrs Chowdhury which room I should occupy and she said I



the maid opened the door. She said Mrs Chowdhury wanted me to go straight to her room. When I went upstairs Mrs Chowdhury was sitting at her desk holding a picture of a young man who looked very much like her. When Mrs

could take any. So I took the small room beside her's. The room had a bed, a desk and a small table beside the bed, where I put my pistol. After sometime Mrs Bennitt and I had dinner together. Then I went to her room and

talked to her. She was quite friendly by this time. Meanwhile I noticed that there were two ivory elephants beside her telephone. There was something uncanny about the two ivory animals which made me notice them. Anyway I went back to my room checked my pistol and went to sleep.

At about midnight I heard a 'click' noise though I didn't see anything in the dark. After 5 minutes I heard a scream from Mrs Chowdhury's room. I reached for my pistol and it wasn't there! I grabbed my torch light and ran to Mrs Chowdhury's room.

There, what I saw was unbelievable. The phantom priest was pointing my gun at Mrs Chowdhury. She was shaking with fear and all of a sudden cried out "No, no, I'll tell." But just then the phantom shot at her. She fell back on her bed and lay still. The phantom had vanished and my gun lay on the floor.

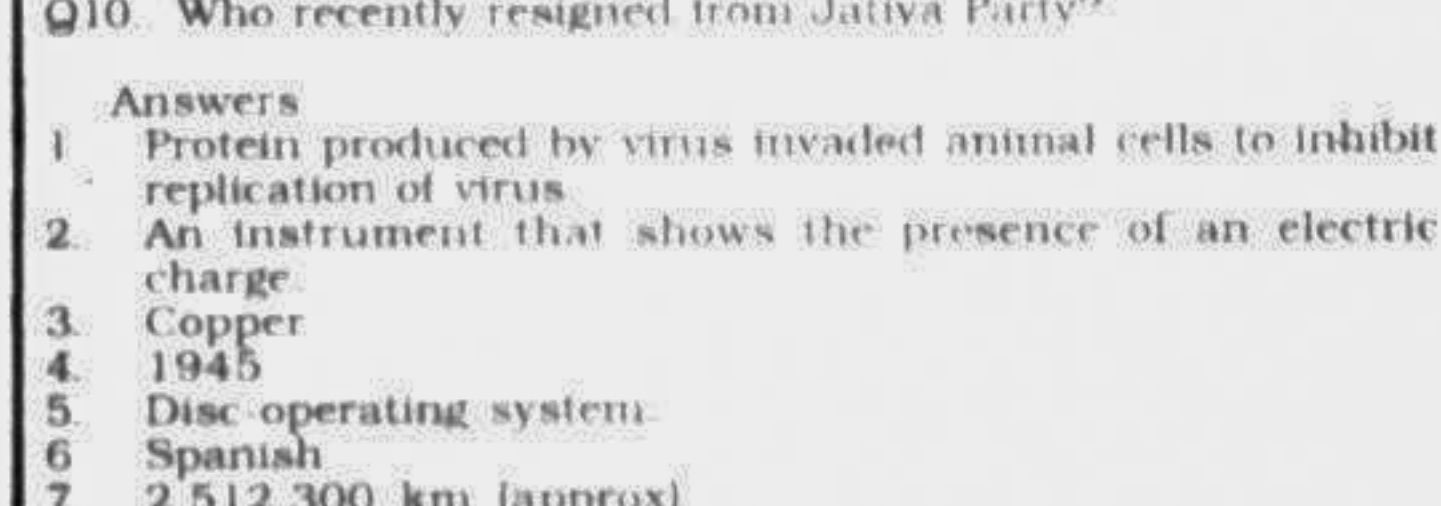
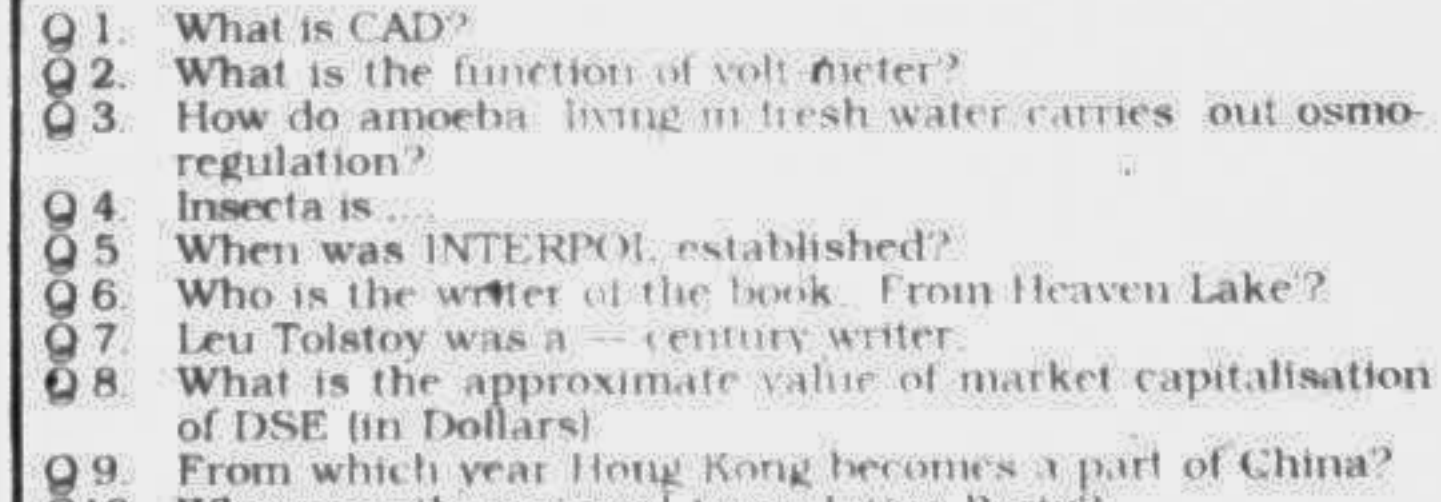
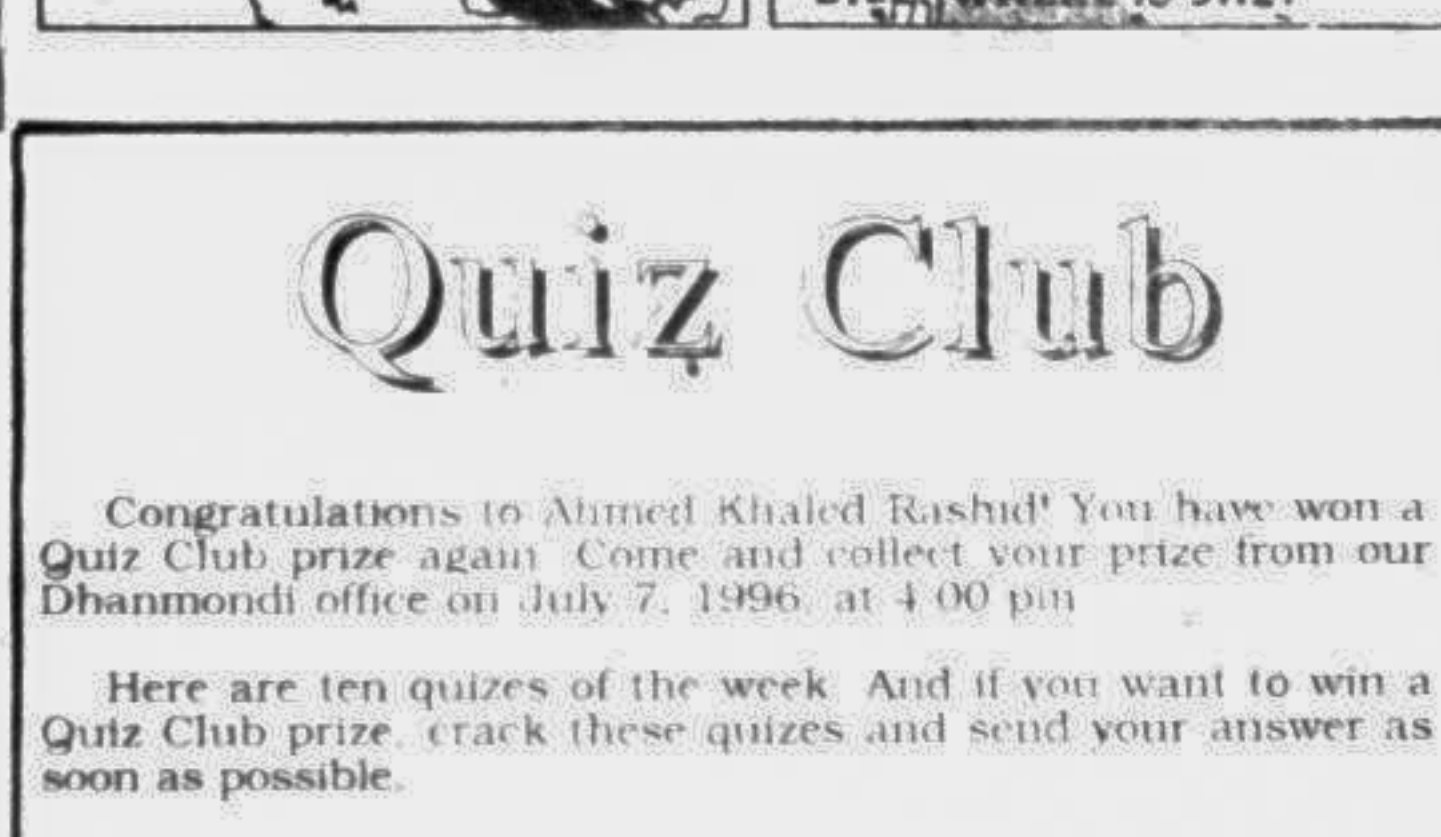
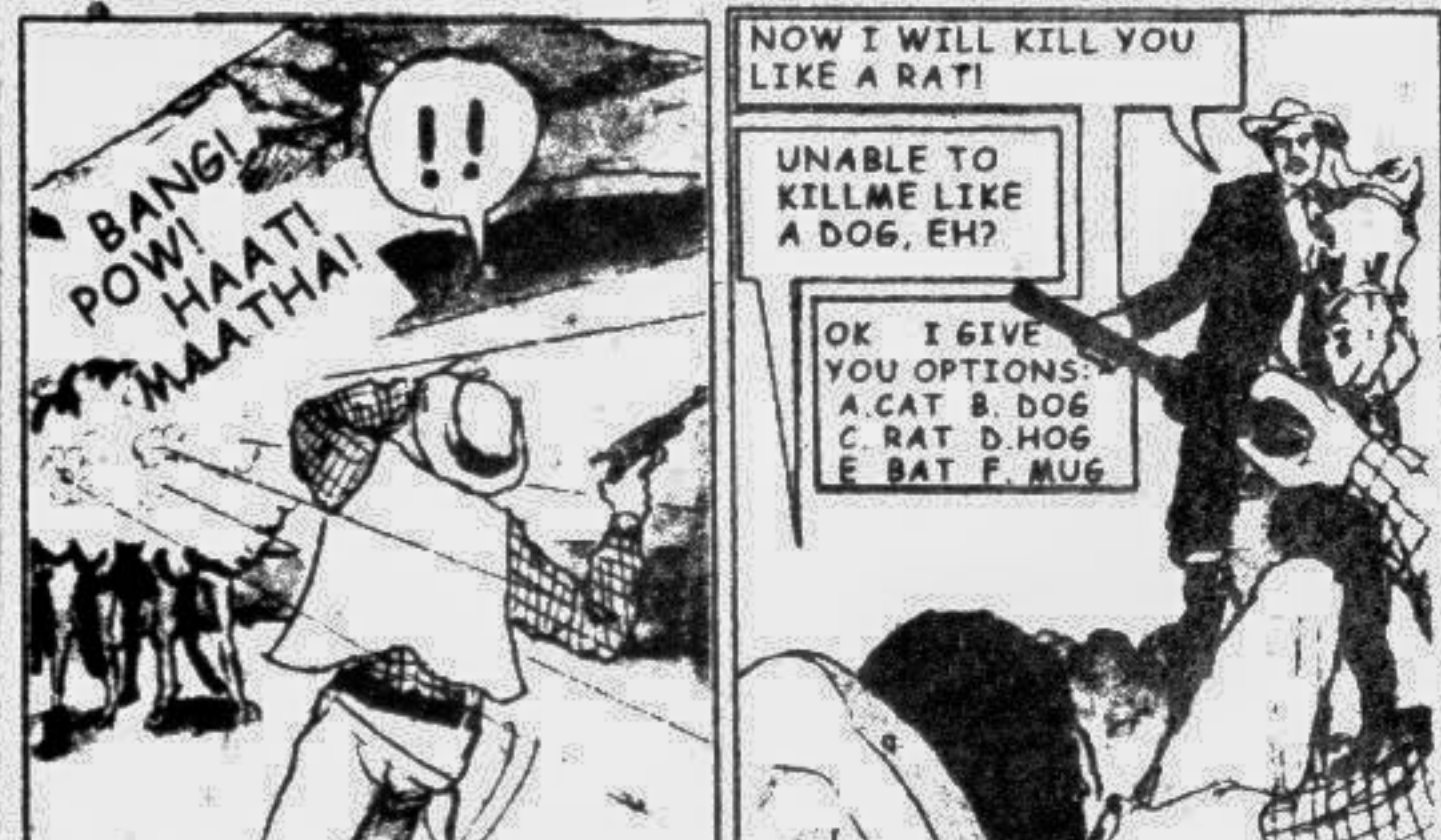
I rushed to the phone and as I hurriedly pressed the buttons for the hospital one of the ivory elephants fell on the ground and broke.

After half an hour the ambulance was there. This half an hour I stayed down and waited for the ambulance. I was afraid I might be accused of shooting Mrs Chowdhury. But the doctor said she only had a minor heart attack. But I had seen the phantom shoot her. I checked my pistol and all the bullets were there.

What was more shocking came after a few days later when Mrs Chowdhury confessed of killing her husband. He had refused to give the money to bribe a judge so that the judge would let his son go free although he had committed a murder. When the son was executed Mrs Chowdhury pushed her husband when he was walking on the roof. People thought he had killed himself for his son.

I don't know what happened to Mrs Chowdhury after that. When her house was being locked I went to see her room and there were two ivory elephants just the same and not broken.

There are some things which don't have any explanation. And I guess, it's better the way it is.



Quotable Quotes

Compiled by Khaled-Bin-Husain (Tony)

1. The story of life is an untold version, written bit by bit as time follows.
2. Life always ends with an essence of something being undone.
3. We are playing the game called life. The best player is one who makes the right move at the right time.
4. Life is like a broken window through which tempest as well as the sunshine can enter.
5. Life is a framework of our deeds. It is said to be concrete when we are honest and true. It is said to be a glass piece when we are dishonest and untrue.
6. Life is a moulding and blending of our own craftsmanship.
7. Life always becomes a runners up in a race with time.

Black Sabbath

by Kazi K Arafat

Formed in Birmingham, England, in 1968, the four-man powerhouse known as Black Sabbath pioneered a bone-crushing rock/roll assault that laid the foundations for the heavy metal revolution and swept popular music in the 70s and 80s. The band's blistering ensemble playing and evocative lyric blend of machism and mysticism set a standard for countless bands to follow. With numbers like 'Paranoid', 'Lord of this World', 'Sabbath Bloody Sabbath', 'After Forever', 'Children of the Grave', 'War Pigs', and 'N.I.B.' (to name just a few) idolized by bands like Sepultura, Megadeth, Corrosion of Conformity, Bruce Dickinson, Godspeed, Biohazard, White Zombie, Faith No More and Ugly Kid Joe, who along with

others (including Ozzy Osbourne, Therapy? Ministry, etc) recorded these hits last year in a tribute 'Nativity in Black' to the greatest metal band there ever was Black Sabbath. Which goes on to show that even now they're still the gods of the gods. Even bands like Pantera and Metallica are fervent admirers of Sabbath, and the tribute 'Masters of Misery' shows what the death-metal bands think.

The classic Black Sabbath line-up was of course the original quartet formed by Ozzy Osbourne, Tony Tommi, Geezer Butler, and Bill Ward which produces six historical albums 'Black Sabbath', 'Paranoid', 'Master of Reality', 'Sabbath V.I.I.', 'Sabbath Bloody Sabbath', and 'Never

say Die'. Initially known as 'Earth', these guys were schoolmates from a working class neighbourhood who were to captivate the world with their high-energy blend of blues and rock. In '68 they changed their moniker for one that reflected their penchant for moody, dark-hued music and supernatural themes.

Their first album was released in '70, self-titled, and until 1977, the lineup remained the same. After vocalist Ozzy Osbourne left the band for a solo career, Ronnie James Dio, previously of EIF, Rainbow, etc joined the band and together they cut three albums — Heaven and Hell, Mob Rules, and a life record, Life Evil. After Dio quit, there was a myriad procession of singers among whom were Ian Gillan previously of Deep Purple and

with whom Sabbath did 'Born Again' and Tony Martin. Tony Iommi was the only one left, since Bill Ward had snorted away an entire estate and had become a street person. Geezer Butler had retired, though somewhere during the years that followed, he played for Ozzy Osbourne. In 1992 Dio returned to the band to cut an album, Dehumanizer with drummer Vinny Appice, bassist Geezer Butler and guitarist Tony Iommi. After that, the frontman for the band was Tony Martin again with the albums 'Cross Purposes' and 'Forbidden' being released in '94 and '95.

Even though the Black Sabbath of today is just a flaccid waste, skeptics need only to listen to one of their classics to become believers.

Quiz Club

Congratulations to Ahmed Khaled Rashid! You have won a Quiz Club prize again. Come and collect your prize from our Dhanmondi office on July 7, 1996, at 4:00 pm.

Here are ten quizzes of the week. And if you want to win a Quiz Club prize, crack these quizzes and send your answer as soon as possible.

- Q1. What is CAD?
- Q2. What is the function of volt-meter?
- Q3. How do amoeba living in fresh water carries out osmoregulation?
- Q4. Insecta is...
- Q5. When was INTERPOL established?
- Q6. Who is the writer of the book, From Heaven Lake?
- Q7. Leu Tolstoy was a — century writer.
- Q8. What is the approximate value of market capitalisation of DSE (in Dollars)?
- Q9. From which year Hong Kong becomes a part of China?
- Q10. Who recently resigned from Jatiya Party?

- Answers
1. Protein produced by virus invaded animal cells to inhibit replication of virus.
 2. An instrument that shows the presence of an electric charge.
 3. Copper.
 4. 1945.
 5. Disc operating system.
 6. Spanish.
 7. 2,512,300 km (approx).
 8. Vaclav Havel.
 9. Leu Tolstoy.
 10. 19th June 1996.