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Mahfuz Anam

Editor (Star Weekend)

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QUOTE GAME

Do you pride yourself on knowing the in's and out's of Bangladeshi politics? Do you pat yourself on the back for reading all the news headlines on your phone while your colleagues are busy playing CandyCrush during those particularly snoozy weekly meetings? Do you take every chance you get to one-up the apathetic boy-next-door on the state of affairs of this ever-so-happening country?

Well then, Star Weekend dares you take part in a contest that has been very unimaginatively titled the "Quote Game". There are a number of statements and you need to guess the name of the speaker. Consider yourself a "News Guru" if you get more than eight correct. The answers are given at the bottom.

1

Incidents of forced disappearance are taking place in different ways and many of them are also returning back willingly. Many have been raising voices after every incident of forced disappearance. Why it is happening and where it is taking place? Are such incidents taking place in Bangladesh only?



11

There was no culture of corruption in Bangladesh in the past. Once it used to take place in secret... it was a matter of shame. But now it happens openly.

2

Yes, we'll pass the constitutional [16th] amendment in parliament again and we'll do it continuously. Let's see how far the judiciary goes. Will they interfere with people's representatives? We appoint them as judges.

3

Enforced disappearance is something which we cannot investigate because we don't have the appropriate machineries.

4

Government is not responsible for primary question paper leak.

5

But in our country a disease has infected us and the name of that disease is 'myopic politicisation'. This is a virus and unfortunately this has infected our political culture to such a length that many of our policy makers now are hardly able to see or envision a future meant for a nation, not for a person. Due to this rotting disease, they have personified each and everything. For their narrow and parochial party interest they have established a fake and 'pseudo democracy' taking the shameful unfair advantage of our constitution—a constitution written with the blood ink of our martyrs in 1971.

6

Some partial damage to the environment needed to be accepted and compromised for the sake of the Rohingya refugees.

8

It's not load shedding, it's load sharing.

9

Dhaka city will be renamed Zia City if the BNP comes to power.

10

We are not playing against aliens. We are playing against Australia.

7

Farm chickens have infiltrated the Awami League. Local chickens have been cornered by those. Local chickens are needed, not farm chickens. Farm chickens are not good for health.

13

The Anti-Corruption Commission has no friends. It has friends in one sector... they are journalists.

14

I will not bow down to anyone, and I hope that none of my colleagues will do so.

15

My request to you all of you is that you will take bribe but take it at a tolerable level.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Which of these are true? Which one is a trick question? Don't worry, unlike some other settings, these questions weren't leaked beforehand. Answers provided at the bottom of the page.

A

Anisul Islam Mahmud, Water Resources Minister, held rats accountable for the destruction of embankments in the northern areas of Bangladesh that caused massive flash floods.

B

The current chancellor of University of Dhaka, President Abdul Hamid was a student of the Department of International Relations from the batch of 1966.

C

Bangladesh was chosen by The Economist as "Country of the Year".

D

The Mouchak-Moghbar flyover was initially made for left-hand-drive cars

E

Actor Apu Biswas said her divorce had become a national issue and as a maternal figure, PM Hasina was best-equipped to settle this.

ANSWERS

Quote Game

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while giving her valedictory speech in the parliament
- Finance Minister AMA Muhith as Supreme Court scrapped the constitutional amendment that restored parliament's power to remove apex court judges on
- Kazi Rezaul Huq, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission explained why the commission does not have any information and research on the enforced disappearances grounds of misconduct or incapacity.
- A K Jahangir Hossain, Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Primary and Mass Education, while claiming that neither the government nor the respective committee for the leak of the question paper. He said the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education does not prepare question papers of classes one to four.
- Former Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha on the 16th constitutional amendment case verdict
- Environment and Forest Minister Anwar Hossain mentioned October 25 after his visit to the Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar's Ukhya Upazila
- AI General Secretary Obaidul Quader SN Hossain said the Ministry of Power about the ongoing power outages
- Shamsuzzaman Dudu, BNP Vice Chairman at a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club
- Bangladesh Test captain Mushfiqur Rahim when asked if it was possible to win the two-match Test series against Australia
- Finance Minister AMA Muhith after inaugurating the ACC hotline service in the capital
- Former Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha at a judicial conference in Tangail
- ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmud
- Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda
- Nurul Islam Nahid, Minister of Education, said the school inspectors took bribe to let the school become a common practice even among Bangladeshi ministers.

True or false?

- True. He said, "I won't say there won't be a looking for public interest. We won't be able to stop it. Rats are attracted to these households and create holes on the dams. A small hole in a dam could damage an embankment badly."
- False. He did not meet the academic requirements to sit for the entrance exam. "What a game of the Almighty that I am the chancellor of the university where I could not get admitted! Even I was not given the admission form," he said during his speech at the 50th convocation of University of Dhaka.
- False. Bangladesh was a close contender for its role in taking in the Rohingya refugees, but lost to France because it "crushed civil liberties and allowed Islamists free rein to intimidate".
- True. The design was made by a consultant from the United States. Transport experts point out that the flyover does not have adequate right-turns.
- True. Apu Biswas sought the PM's intervention to save her marriage with actor Shakib Khan.

EDUCATION

The rise of the nefarious whistleblowing group QiPileaks has the country of Bangladesh both alarmed and happy.

Unlike other countries, the Bangladeshi government breathed a sigh of relief when they realised that they too had whistleblowers! However, instead of leaking important documents that show how corrupt individuals or agencies in leadership positions are, these leaks had to do with the question papers of classes two to four.

And why not? Kids need whistleblowers too! And no million-dollar technology from Singapore should try or is able to stop that.

"Why will only young adults benefit from leaked question papers? We shall ensure that no child is left behind," stated a message posted on the Facebook page of QiPileaks, the notorious Pakistani question paper whistleblower.

"For years, I have had to study really hard to fully prepare for a career as a police officer. But now, I can purchase question papers before exams and concentrate on how to please my superiors instead and then purchase my promotions!" said Shaheen Shah, a 12-year-old boy who regularly peruses the Facebook group QipiLeaks where papers are allegedly leaked from.

"This is bad and good. It is bad because students are no longer motivated to learn. But it is good because it teaches children from an early age that if you have the money, you can get the job, the position and the title that you want, minus the hard work," Muntahar, the Head of the Committee on Mass and Primary Education said.

"It is also nothing new. They were leaking papers back when I was sitting for my matriculation exams in 1965. It's how I passed the exam, LOL," he said. "But Qipileaks may be a bigger problem if they start releasing other things like the educational backgrounds of our ministers who never academically specialised in their current fields," he said.

The selling of question papers, apparently a phenomena that has been happening since before independence, has certainly grown in recent years.

"How do you think so many of our students get GPA 5? Better teachers and educational materials? Have you even read our question paper," Sultana Khatun Mohila, a teacher at a primary school asked. She pointed out that the latest question paper developed had silly questions like "Why did the individuals kill?"

"These questions aren't just grammatically wrong. They force critical

QiPileaks claims it leaked question papers

OSAMA RAHMAN



thinking because when you have no idea what a question asks, then you have to think. It's helpful if you want a future career in governance," she added.

Explaining how, she explained that sometimes contractors who build roads need to make more money than a project can allow. The dilemma is how to use taxpayer money to pay them repeatedly for the same job without actually doing the job properly. "That's when we came up with the ingenious idea of building roads only during the rainy season so that they break easily. Also, it's why the same road is dug up for water pipes, gas pipes and just because, not once, but multiple times, over the same week," she said.

Top government officials, though, were not all too happy about the leaks. "These leaks are directly coming from Pakistan or the teachers. Or maybe Pakistani teachers," an official said, requesting to not be named because he was actually Voldemort.

Teachers, however, vehemently refuted the allegations and blamed the printers. When queried, printers blamed the examiners. The examiners blamed the parents and students who promptly blamed Facebook.

Mark Zuckerberg could not be reached for comment, and thankfully too, because if he heard how easy land-grabbing was in Bangladesh, he would leave Hawaiians alone.

"This is a new breed of whistleblowers and they will be brought to book. We are forming a committee to look into this matter and we promise stern action against QiPileaks," Muntahar said.

Osama Rahman is a Sub-editor at The Daily Star.

