



99% of Bangladeshis could get 'exposed' before the end of 2023: researchers

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MAHIBUB ALAM MUNNA

Bangladesh holds the record for having the highest number of people, per square kilometre, to have been exposed on social media at least once in their lives.

It has reached such a stage that if you throw a stone in the air in Bangladesh it will definitely hit someone who has, at least once in life, been exposed on social media by another person. New data shows that a person in Bangladesh is exposed every 30 seconds.

Scientists and researchers, who were also exposed in this manner at least once, predicted that 99 percent of the total population may suffer this fate by December 31, 2023. This just shows that whoever and wherever you are, if you are a Bangladeshi, you have 99% chance to be exposed on social media, if not today, then surely tomorrow.

This Satireday correspondent tried to contact some of the most popular "exposees" to get some insights.

"An honest and religious guy like me can never be exposed. All the things you heard

and saw were just some rumours, spread and funded by my haters," said Sellman, country's leading "exposee" who loves selling stories on social media.

"I don't know what people think about being exposed, but I am telling you honestly that I just love to be exposed. May blessing rain down on whoever exposes me," Masafteer, one of the most promising 'exposees' of recent times, said in a statement that seemed to be more genuine than people's candid-captioned photos.

"I cannot even ask someone to have coffee with me. Whenever I ask a girl something on messenger, it becomes viral. I wish my short films could go viral this way," Patihash, a prominent director who has a duck farm, said with rage visible on his face.

Turning our focus away from high profile cases like the above three, ordinary people are puzzled and clueless about what to do with the exposefest. According to a confidential source, weddings have been halted and postponed after boyfriends or girlfriends

were found guilty of being exposed, proved by irrefutable screenshots. Everyone was left utterly bamboozled when a boy, named Tausif from Basabo, took with him a questionnaire when first meeting his prospective better half. One of the questions was: "Have you been ever exposed on social media?"

On the other hand, a woman named Namjanina from Basaochinina married a man who was exposed by different women on social media. When asked why she chose someone like him, she said, "Well, in future, you will not find a single person in Bangladesh who has not been exposed in his or her life. Being exposed is not an embarrassment anymore, it's an inherent characteristic."

Later, this correspondent was exposed on social media for asking people these personal questions. This just proves that researchers are absolutely right about the future of Bangladeshi people. To avoid such a situation, the remaining one percent are reportedly preparing for their IELTS exam with a view to flying to Canada.

APL's fun has no bounds

THE CLUELESSPONDENT

The advent of the T20 format and the corresponding boom of franchise-based leagues across the world has kept fans entertained, but no other tournament has provided what country's Alternate Premier League (APL) brought to the table.

While consistent high-scoring games and glamour of the franchises are what mainly attract the followers of T20 leagues, the APL takes a divergent route that focuses solely on the unpredictability factor which, according to its organisers, is what fans crave the most.

From having the ADRS (Alternate Decision Review System) that uses alternate cricket rules, like ruling the batter out even when the ball pitches outside the leg stump, entertainment-hungry audiences are kept on the edge of their seats in a myriad of ways.

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"When the non-alternate cricket ball is used, it makes sense to declare a leg before decision when 50 percent of it pitches in line with the leg stump considering how a spherical object comes in contact with the pitch. A blob, however, acts differently as it lands flat. Consult with a physicist if you don't believe me," Bikolpo explained.

Alternate rules aside, there has been plenty to offer this season in accordance with APL's tradition. Teams came up with new names yet again, for instance, London-of-the-East added Hikers to its ever-changing list of last names after being previously known as Blunder, Hipsters, Dwarf Stars, and Elites, while Capital Dominatrix – from being known as Sinister, Cartoon, POW, Anarchists, in that order – chipped in with alternate grammar lessons as their motto "Lets Dominates" was seen printed on the back of their training kits.

Moreover, The Waterbenders franchise added more to APL's cauldron of fun and confusion by having different captains in every game.

Asked what's more in store in APL, Bikolpo said, "If I tell you, it wouldn't be fun, would it? Nobody likes spoilers, or do they?"



PHOTO: COLLECTED REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

City residents blast 'Buk ta faitta jaay' amid political clash

AFIZAN HADIAR

Political clashes ahead of elections is not new for Paltown residents. Sometimes law enforcers, in their attempt to do "crowd control" take part in the fray.

Citizens are the worst sufferers when party supporters engage in the havoc that passes for "demonstrations" these days. "We just can't seem to catch a break. It's always democracy this and democracy that, and no one seems to be remotely concerned about the effect it's having on us, especially the children," said Profulla Sheethjen.

"When I bought my son a cricket bat for the first time, I thought he'd have dreams to be the next best cricketer in the country. But the other day, I found my son and some kids in the locality playing a game of 'smack the

opposition'. I was mortified," said Champa Yassmin, a Paltown resident.

"Violence like this can never be justified. But what are we to do? Nowadays, we tell ourselves that at least they are not burning down buses anymore. But deep down we're aware that this is just our Stockholm syndrome talking," said Amirul Politik, a service holder.

This correspondent talked to a Paltown aunty, Parvin Khunshuti, who is known to keep tabs on everyone in the area.

"So many of our residents have left the area, unable to keep up with the chaos. The ones who had money moved to the north, while the less fortunate ones had to stay back in Paltown," she said, rolling her eyes.

"I'm sick of it. I can't even listen to a spicy

fighting match between the new couple that moved in next to us. It's been so hard to gather juicy gossip in these conditions," she added.

However, in the latest turn of events a group of activists came up with an inventive solution.

Paltown Samobay Kalyan Samiti sat with Paltown residents to hear their concerns. After much debate and discussion they all agreed to one solution: item songs.

"My fellow residents of Paltown. We've suffered, we've endured. But enough is enough. We won't take part in any of the violence, however we can disrupt the movement in a different manner – a non-violent protest through music!" said Matobbor Miah, head of the organisation.

"Next Sunday, when the political parties clash again, we will blast the most iconic pop song this country has had the privilege of hearing, by a name that is loved by all – Mumtaz!" he said. "Just think about it... it's a song about heartbreaking betrayal, but also about taking back the power. It's a classic representation of our political landscape."

And so, when Sunday came along, Paltown residents were prepared with their speakers ready. As soon as the teargases went off, the resident's tapped on their respective play buttons.

Suddenly, the thick, wide ranged vocals of Mumtaz engulfed the whole area as the lines "Bondhu Jokhon Bou Loiya, Amar Barir Shamne Diya, Rongo Kore Haitta Jay ... Faitta Jay, Buuk ta Faitta Jay" took over

the atmosphere.

The clash on the ground paused as the political muscle from both sides got confused. They dropped their bats, took off their helmets, swept by the masterful lyrics of Mumtaz, as she describes the ways in which her heart was stomped on by her lover.

"They dated for three years and he just forgot about her! Men are trash!" said a law enforcer wiping his tears.

Some political activists were seen apologising to the victims they beat up, helping them get up. Others hugged it out, wiping off each other's tears. A few others called their moms and wives.

It seemed that Mumtaz's iconic song saved the day, yet again.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN