

INGLÊS

MORE CRASH MYSTERIES

1 Russian officials finally confirmed that terrorism was the likely cause of two nearly simultaneous crashes of airliners that took off from Moscow's Domodedovo airport on Aug. 24. But to many Russians, the announcement took far too long. In the days immediately following the crashes, the government suggested they were caused by mechanical problems or contaminated fuel. Only after the Russian media reported the presence of two Chechen women (one on each flight) whose families had yet to come forward to claim them, did the Federal Security Service change tack, announcing that traces of the explosive hexogen had been found amid the wreckage of both planes. One theory: the crashes were the work of a cultlike band of militant Chechen women, known as "Black Widows" because their husbands were killed fighting Russian security forces.

2 In the past Moscow has been quick to blame Chechen rebels for mysterious explosions, with often thin evidence. But some Kremlin-watchers argue that pointing the finger at Chechnya right now could be politically dangerous for Russian President Vladimir Putin. With Kremlin-backed candidate Alu Alkhanov likely to win Chechen presidential elections on Aug. 29, the last thing Putin wants is more anti-Moscow sentiment in the region. "The elections have come under so much criticism," says Rustam Kaliyev, a Moscow-based Caucasus analyst. "Putin needs to show there's unity in the country." The Kremlin is particularly wary of offending Chechen voters, who are sensitive about being associated with terrorists, adds Kaliyev. A major new terrorist attack would also suggest that Putin has failed to achieve the stability he keeps promising in Chechnya. Two attacks would practically prove it.

-ANNA KUCHMENT and MARK HOSENBALL (NEWSWEEK)

31 b

- According to the information in the article, many Russians
- a) doubted that the two airliners could have crashed at the same time.
 - b) thought the Russian government should have declared much sooner that the two airliners probably crashed as a result of terrorism.
 - c) were at first skeptical when the Russian government confirmed that the two airliners probably crashed as a result of terrorism.
 - d) still believe the Russian government's original explanation, that technical or fuel problems probably caused the crashes.
 - e) really hoped that the two airliners crashed because of mechanical problems or contaminated fuel rather than because of terrorism.

Resolução

De acordo com a informação no artigo, muitos russos achavam que o governo russo deveria ter declarado muito antes que duas aeronaves provavelmente colidiram como resultado de terrorismo.

No texto: "But to many Russians, the announcement took far too long."

32 e

Which of the following probably best explains why the Federal Security Service finally announced that the wreckage of both airliners contained traces of hexogen?

- a) The Russian people simply refused to believe the story that the airliners had crashed accidentally.
- b) It was important to show that the crashes were not the result of Russian incompetence or carelessness.
- c) Hexogen is easy to disguise and at first was not detected by Russian investigators.
- d) The families of two Chechen women who died in the crashes refused to believe that the crashes had been accidental.
- e) The Russian media revealed that each airliner had one Chechen woman among its passengers and that their families had not claimed the bodies.

Resolução

De acordo com o texto, o Serviço de Segurança Federal finalmente anunciou que os destroços das duas aeronaves continham traços de hexôgeno, quando a mídia russa revelou que em cada aeronave havia uma mulher chechena entre seus passageiros e que suas famílias não tinham procurado por seus corpos.

No texto: "Only after the Russian media reported the presence of two Chechen women (one on each flight) whose families had yet to come forward to claim them, did the Federal Security Service change tack, announcing that traces of the explosive hexogen had been found amid the wreckage of both planes."

33 c

According to the information in the article, which of the following best describes the "Black Widows"?

- a) They are the terrorists responsible for the explosions that caused the two airliners to crash.
- b) That is the name given to women in Chechnya whose husbands have died during the conflict with Russian security forces.
- c) They are a dedicated group of Chechen women radicals whose husbands lost their lives fighting Russian security forces.
- d) They are a militant band of female Chechen suicide bombers dedicated to destabilizing the Chechen and Russian governments.
- e) They are an elite band of female Chechen Army soldiers involved in the fight against Russian security forces.

Resolução

De acordo com o texto, o grupo conhecido como "Black Widows" é formado por um grupo dedicado de mulheres radicais chechenas, cujos maridos perderam suas vidas combatendo as forças de segurança russas. No texto, linhas 15 a 17, 1º parágrafo, "One theory: the crashes were the work of a cultlike band of militant Chechen women, known as "Black Widows" because their husbands were killed fighting Russian security forces."

34 a

According to the information in the article, in what way was the Russian government's reaction to the airliner crashes unusual?

- a) This time the Russian government was reluctant to accuse Chechen terrorists of being responsible for the explosions.
- b) This time, after a detailed investigation, the Russian government really did believe that the airliner crashes were the result of technical problems.
- c) This time the Russian government allowed the media to publish uncensored proof of a Chechen plot to destroy the airliners.
- d) This time the Russian government did not attack Chechnya to avenge the explosions.
- e) This time Russia's Federal Security Service worked with the provisional Chechen government to discover the causes of the explosions.

Resolução

De acordo com as informações encontradas no artigo, a reação do governo russo em relação ao acidente aéreo pode ser considerada pouco comum, pois dessa vez ele pareceu relutante em acusar os terroristas chechenos de serem responsáveis pelas explosões.

No texto, linhas 1 a 6, 2º parágrafo: "In the past Moscow has been quick to blame Chechen rebels for mysterious explosions, with often thin evidence. But some Kremlin-watchers argue that pointing the finger at Chechnya right now could be politically dangerous for Russian President Vladimir Putin."

35 d

You can infer from the information in the article that Chechnya

- a) may soon be involved in a civil war.
- b) is achieving, with Russia's help, real stability and is also beginning to enjoy a prosperous economy and solid democratic institutions.
- c) is trying to find a way to reconcile three conflicting issues: democracy, Islamic fundamentalism, and dependence on Russian military and financial aid.
- d) is beginning to have a certain stability and a better relationship with Russia, though both appear very fragile at the moment.
- e) will never achieve real stability and independence if Russia withdraws its military and financial support.

Resolução

Infere-se do texto que a Chechênia está começando a apresentar uma certa estabilidade e um relacionamento melhor com a Rússia, embora ambas apresentem fragilidade atualmente.

AMPHIBIAN ALERT!

1 Some frogs' skin is covered with a cocktail of protective toxins as a defense against predators, and many of these toxins are remarkably potent in the human body. Scientists study frog toxins for use in human medicine to treat such ailments as heart disease, depression, skin and colon cancers, and Alzheimer's. The phantasmal poison frog from Ecuador and Peru, for example, secretes a painkiller called epi-batidine that is 200 times more powerful than morphine — and non-addictive. Chemists are working to perfect a less toxic version of the drug.

2 Frogs are perhaps the world's most adaptable denizens. There are more than 4,000 species of them, and they live on every continent except Antarctica. But over the past 50 years, scientists have recorded precipitous declines in frog populations, with some species vanishing completely. Frogs are delicate creatures, and are often the first casualties when pollution or human activity affects a habitat, making them important barometers of environmental change and giving an early warning for endangered ecosystems. Many frogs are also useful in other fields of scientific study: their transparent eggs offer embryologists a chance to watch single cells grow into wriggling tadpoles, and scientists have also used frogs to study muscle function, perform pregnancy tests, and experiment with cloning—the first frog was cloned 30 years before Dolly the sheep.

(NATURAL HISTORY)

36 d

According to the information in the article,

- a) only by producing and secreting lethal poisons can frogs defend themselves against predators.
- b) the poison that covers the skin of frogs can kill both small animals and humans.
- c) some frog toxins cure ailments such as colon cancer and Alzheimer's disease.
- d) some scientists believe that frog poisons may be useful in treating human health problems.
- e) some scientists hope they can discover a way to make humans immune to the most powerful frog toxins.

Resolução

De acordo com o texto, alguns cientistas acreditam que os venenos do sapo podem ser úteis no tratamento de problemas de saúde humana.

No texto: "Scientists study frog toxins for use in human medicine to treat such ailments as heart disease, depression, skin and colon cancers, and Alzheimer's."

37 c

According to the information in the article, the phantasmal poison frog

- a) secretes a poison that is 200 times more lethal than morphine.
- b) defends itself by secreting a poison that paralyzes attackers.
- c) secretes epibatidine, which deadens pain but is also poisonous.
- d) secretes epibatidine, which is much more powerful than morphine and creates only a slight addiction.
- e) secretes a poison that is harmless when applied in small doses to humans.

Resolução

De acordo com o texto, essa espécie de sapo produz um analgésico chamado epibatidine que é 200 vezes mais poderoso que a morfina e não vicia. No texto: "The phantasmal poison frog from Ecuador and Peru, for example, secretes a painkiller called epibatidine that is 200 times more powerful than morphine — and non-addictive."

38 a

Which of the following is supported by information in the article?

- a) It is possible that frogs have the greatest ability of any creature to live in different environments.
- b) There are more species of frogs than that of any other animal in the world.
- c) Frogs once inhabited Antarctica, but over the past 50 years have become extinct there.
- d) Scientists believe that the decline of the world's frog population is irreversible.
- e) Pollution and environmental changes have been making frog venom a less effective defense against predators.

Resolução

A informação do artigo apóia a idéia de que é possível que os sapos tenham maior habilidade do qualquer outra criatura de viver em ambientes diferentes. No texto: "Frogs are perhaps the world's most adaptable denizens."

39 a

In paragraph 2, "them" in "...making them important barometers of environmental change..." most likely refers to which of the following?

- a) frogs in general
- b) frogs that are especially susceptible to external stimuli
- c) extinct frog species
- d) human activities
- e) different kinds of habitat

Resolução

*Frogs are delicate creatures, and are often the first casualties when pollution or human activity affects a habitat, making **them** important barometers of environmental change and giving an early warning for endangered ecosystems.*

40 e

Which of the following statements is most supported by information in the article?

- a) The absence of frogs in Antarctica shows that they are unable to survive in very cold climates.
- b) That there are now more than 4,000 frog species in the world is proof that frogs are robust animals able to resist abrupt environmental changes.
- c) As frogs are delicate animals, any drastic increase in pollution will wipe out the world's frog population.
- d) Industrial activity, not environmental change, is the reason that the world's frog population has declined.
- e) By monitoring frog population levels, scientists can quickly identify threatened ecological systems.

Resolução

Monitorar os níveis de população de sapos possibilita aos cientistas rapidamente identificar os sistemas ecológicos ameaçados de extinção.

No texto: "Frogs are delicate creatures, and are often the first casualties when pollution or human activity affects a habitat, making them important barometers of environmental change and giving an early warning for endangered ecosystems."

41 c

Which of the following best explains an advantage of using frogs' eggs in scientific study?

- a) They are the only single-cell embryos that can be found among the eggs of amphibian species.
- b) As the growth from frog's egg to tadpole occurs quickly, scientists can study muscle function during a relatively short period.
- c) Their transparency gives scientists an opportunity to observe them as they develop into tadpoles.
- d) Their transparency gives scientists an opportunity to check their reaction to environmental change.
- e) Their transparency facilitates cloning.

Resolução

Uma das vantagens de se usar ovos de sapos em estudo científico é que sua transparência dá aos cientistas uma oportunidade de observá-los enquanto se desenvolvem em girinos.

No texto: "...their transparent eggs offer embryologists a chance to watch single cells grow into wriggling tadpoles..."

SILENT DEATH

1 Mamoru Takuma got what he wanted: an early death. Three years ago, Mr Takuma shocked Japan when he rampaged through a primary school in Osaka prefecture, entering classrooms and stabbing as many children as he could grab. He killed eight pupils, wounded 15 other people, including two teachers, and apparently never showed a flicker of remorse. After receiving a death sentence just over a year ago, Mr Takuma, who had a history of mental illness, asked to be executed as soon as possible. Unusually, on September 14th, his wish was fulfilled: Japan tends to leave prisoners on death row for years, and in some cases decades. But, in other respects, the sudden execution of Mr Takuma was typical of Japan's murky system of capital punishment.

2 The lives, and deaths, of Japan's condemned men and women are shrouded in mystery. Without warning, the justice ministry simply announces that an execution has taken place. It does not reveal the convict's name. But it does inform his or her immediate family, which is how it emerged that Mr Takuma was one of the two men executed this week.

3 Neither would have had long to prepare for death. A death-row prisoner is informed that his time is up on the morning of the execution. Often without so much as a farewell phone call to his family, he is then hanged. Forum 90, a collection of Japanese groups opposed to capital punishment, has been especially critical of Japan's sudden methods, which it says force prisoners "to live each and every day in dread of the day the execution will be carried out."

4 Nominally, at least, Japan's criminal justice system stresses the virtues of atonement and remorse. But the precariousness of life on death row hardly seems designed to help condemned prisoners come to terms with their crimes. And if they did come to terms with them, they would struggle to express much remorse. Prisoners awaiting execution are denied most visitors, and their mail is heavily censored.

5 Most Japanese neither know nor seem to care much about how capital punishment is administered. So public opinion seems unlikely to change from its current state of passive approval of the practice. According to a 1999 survey, nearly 80% of those polled approved of it. Forum 90 protests that the survey question was awkwardly phrased. But even in response to a different question that the human rights groups preferred, 57% of Japanese were still perfectly happy to "keep the current system in the future".

(THE ECONOMIST)

42 a

According to the information in the article, what was strange about Mamoru Takuma's execution?

- a) Japanese officials usually wait a very long time before executing condemned prisoners, but they executed Mamoru Takuma in a relatively short time.
- b) Though Mamoru Takuma was arrested at the scene of the crime and confessed to the murders, he was never actually convicted in court.
- c) Japanese officials made a point of using Mamoru Takuma's execution to win continued support for the death penalty.
- d) Instead of receiving a lethal injection or being put in the electric chair, Mamoru Takuma was hanged.
- e) Because Mamoru Takuma was mentally ill, he should have received life in prison instead of the death penalty.

Resolução

A execução de Mamoru Takuma foi estranha: as autoridades japonesas geralmente esperam muito tempo antes de executarem os prisioneiros condenados, no entanto, eles o executaram num tempo relativamente curto.

No texto: "Unusually, on September 14th, his wish was fulfilled: Japan tends to leave prisoners on death row for years, and in some cases decades."

43 e

You can infer from the information in the article that Forum 90

- a) is the only organization in Japan actively opposed to capital punishment.
- b) wants to correct but not abolish Japan's capital punishment system.
- c) designed and conducted Japan's most recent capital punishment survey.
- d) believes that most Japanese voters are secretly opposed to capital punishment but are reluctant to express their opinion.
- e) believes that Japan's method of capital punishment, in which the prisoner is given little warning before his execution, constitutes a kind of psychological torture.

Resolução

Podemos deduzir do artigo que o Forum 90 acredita que o método de pena de morte no Japão, no qual o prisioneiro é avisado com muito pouca antecedência, constitui um tipo de tortura psicológica.

No texto: "Forum 90, a collection of Japanese groups opposed to capital punishment, has been especially critical of Japan's sudden methods, which it says force prisoners 'to live each and every day in dread of the day the execution will be carried out'."

44 a

You can infer from the information in the article that even if Forum 90 continues its activities,

- a) the Japanese capital punishment system will probably not change, at least in the short term.
- b) the Japanese people will still demand that the death penalty be applied to more and more types of crimes.
- c) the Japanese people will never understand that capital punishment is just another form of murder.
- d) the Japanese government will still impose a more rigorous capital punishment system.
- e) the international community will never pressure the Japanese government to abolish the death penalty.

Resolução

Infer-se do texto que mesmo se o Forum 90 continuar suas atividades, o sistema de pena de morte japonês provavelmente não mudará, pelo menos a curto prazo.

No texto: "...57% of Japanese were still perfectly happy to 'keep the current system in the future'."

45 d

You can infer that the author of the article most likely believes that Japan's capital punishment system is

- a) adequately designed for the needs and aspirations of Japanese society as a whole.
- b) a monstrous anachronism that should not exist in a country that likes to consider itself modern.
- c) a natural expression of the will of the Japanese people and thus should not be criticized by Westerners.
- d) administered without real transparency and has characteristics that are unfair and poorly planned.
- e) an example of a government institution that will never be changed, even if the majority of Japanese turn against it.

Resolução

Infer-se do texto que o autor deste artigo, provavelmente, acredita que o sistema de pena de morte japonês é administrado sem verdadeira transparência e possui características injustas e mal planejadas.

No texto:

Parágrafo 1º: "But, in other respects, the sudden execution of Mr Takuma was typical of Japan's murky system of capital punishment."

Parágrafo 2º: "The lives, and deaths, of Japan's condemned men and women are shrouded in mystery."