

TEENS and TWENTIES

Playing in Network: Blast 'em All

WATCH your Back! — scream it out loud and blast off your opponent from the back. Give the creep the fright of his lifetime. You must be wondering what the heck I'm talking about.

Well, this is something you can do when you're playing computer games in an internet. What you need is only a modem and a network game installed in your computer. Most of the new games released now a days have the facility of network playing, especially the 3D, DOOM kind of games.

In a game named 'RISE OF THE TRIAD' released by the game software master APOGEE you can play with 11 players. You just have to connect to your local network and get your partner in the game. While playing the game you can send messages to the other players say, like 'Breath for the last time' and then shoot him down. You can also say something to them by the microphone in your own voice.

The story of the game is like this: you are a member of the HUNT, the top secret High-risk United Nations Taskforce, sent on extremely covert operations to possible trouble spots outside the three-mile boundary waters of member countries.

You are investigating a break-out of cult activity on a small island in the Gulf of Santa Catalina. And here starts the dark war. You have to fight bravely and survive the onslaught of hundreds of the evil Oscuridos, because you must defeat their well-armed and heavily-funded forces to reach their master, El Oscuro and destroy him.

You can have many kind of weapons like a simple gun, machine gun,

bazooka, heat seeker and loads of others. But you have to find them and pick them up in the game in different levels. And you can nearly destroy everything that comes in your way, even you can make bullet holes in the wall.

There are some different modes in the game. One of them is the Cheating Mode, well... that's if you want to become invincible, have all the guns with infinite numbers of bullets and missiles or ride with the missile or jump onto a secret level and a lot like that. You can activate the Cheating Mode by typing Dipstick after running the game and then enter different codes for various kind of cheating. And if you have a sound card installed, well there's news for you, because this game's got bashing sounds

and music that'll scare the hell out of you.

I recommend you get this game before you start playing in the internet. Now let's get back to the actual subject... er... what was it... oh yeah network playing. If you are not a dumb kid I suppose you can realize by now how great it would be to play in the net. Imagine 11 guys in one game and their all playing at the same time no matter how far they are from each other.

Plus, connecting to an internet does not only mean playing games. There are loads of others stuffs you can do, like, chat with somebody, send E-mails, form some club etc. But we're not gonna talk about those, it's games what we're concerned about. Now about how it would cost you to get connected.

I suppose you have a computer, if you don't have one, well things that you can do are, read the feature and moan, curse your luck or play in your friend's computer or simply buy a computer, you'll need it in the future anyway.

So after that, the first thing you'll need is a phone or fax modem. It's not that expensive, the lowest price is approximately five thousand. Start saving for it today (or push your parents to buy you one). If these do not work then go on a hunger strike before you get a modem. If you become successful or if you had a modem earlier well the next thing to do is to become a member to the local internet. There are some networks in Dhaka. You can enter the

net as a guest if you want to just wander around the net and check out what's in it. And if you're interested you can become a member by contacting them.

Then you can have the full access to the net and the stuffs in it. Afterwards make your friends become a member and then you can all enjoy the net-playing. Be sure that all you guys have the similar games or software needed to play in the internet. Besides playing games you can also exchange your files and other cool stuffs in your computer with your friends. You can also send E-mails to your friends or relatives living abroad. You have to pay a monthly charge for the connection, but I tell you it's worth it.

If you still cannot get connected to a network there are some other ways to play the network games. In that case you can play with only one opponent. If you can get two computers together, connect them with a serial cable, then run the game, set the game for serial play and walla... start playing.

The other way is a bit tougher. If you have a modem, dial up another person who is waiting with the game running and setup your COM port setting and so on. If you are successfully connected then you can start playing. Well isn't it better to play in the net... eh?

I hope you got the idea by now that it's really exciting to be in the internet. If you've got brains and you think you're smart well I think you should get connected as soon as possible. The internet is a cool place to be in, don't you agree?



— by Sajid

Great Ball Of Fire Where is the Sun?

by Siraj-us-Saleheen Lovell



AFTER a long gap of about 15 years the lucky people of this subcontinent are again going to experience a 'Full Solar Eclipse' on the 24th of this month.

This Eclipse is a very big and important event to both the amateur and professional scientists as well as to the people of all other walks of life. Every zealous scientist is taking various steps to observe the most interesting event of the year from now on. Moreover, at the time of the Eclipse the weather will be extremely favorable.

So why miss the most fascinating fact of the year (may be the last of Century).

This Solar Eclipse can be observed from the North-East African areas, the Middle-East of Asia, The Northern of Australia and some coastal areas around the Pacific from 0722Hrs to 1243Hrs according to the International (Greenwich) time.

can be seen just before the Moon eclipses the Sun. This band is the result of the imbalanced distribution between different atmospheric layers. Even after the Moon engulfs the Sun, a vague but bright emanation can be seen. The Moon's uneven surface is the reason for such radiant lighting. Just after this episode, an unnatural bright white light is seen around the Moon-clad Sun which is known as 'Corona'.

Slowly and steadily, as the Moon passes away from the Sun, another Corona builds up within the first one, and when this Corona fades away a most extraordinary event comes to an end.

During the Solar Eclipse, the dark shadow which engulfs the Earth may be from 232000miles to 236000 miles in length. A Full Solar Eclipse might occur for a total of 7.5 minutes. Such a long Eclipse can be seen in the year 52168 (Hah! so close isn't it?) which shall be the longest ever 'Full Solar Eclipse'.

thing to keep in mind is to well protect the eyes from any kind of fatal accidents which is most likely during observation of the Eclipse. The observer can easily take Black & White/Colored snaps of the Solar Eclipse using a 35mm camera having a Telephoto Lens of 200mm focal length. As the Corona flickers for only a couple of seconds, the photographer must be prompt and alert and on his toes all the time. In this case special filters are not so necessary.

For a more precise observation Binoculars or Telescopes are most helpful instruments. But one must always keep an eye on his/her eyes as the radiation from the Sun is harmful enough to cause a disaster any time.

For example, the direct Sun-ray could easily splinter the lens or the filter of your camera, binoc or telescope hurting your own precious lens. In such cases, a 'Direct Vision Spectroscope' with a 'Neutral-Filter' is useful defensive weapon.

You can also use a Photometer to measure the brightness and intensity of light, weather instruments to measure changes in the weather and environment, Balloon-Flights to measure the sudden change in the 'Ozone Layer' and radars to detect changes in the 'Ionosphere'. Keep a sharp eye and you may observe the superb 'Baily's Bead' and 'Diamond Ring' shortly before the Eclipse starts.

As this queer and wondrous 'Full Solar Eclipse' has created intense inquisitiveness among the mass and Amateur astronomers, on the other hand it has opened the door to a wider horizon of knowledge for professional scientists.

As the Police have sung, 'There's a little black spot on the Sun today! It's the same old story as yesterday.' (You call 15 years yesterday?)

Happy Moon-raking.

What is it?

In the ancient times, people would imagine such a rare incident to be a disastrous natural calamity or the curse of some diabolic Satan because of the total black-out. But it also created curiosity in their minds.

Well, as the saying goes "There's always an answer to everything in this World" — today the inquisitive Human race has discovered the reason for this so called unusual happening as 'Solar Eclipse'.

This Eclipse takes place when the Moon is positioned in between the burning Sun and our planet Earth. A lot of other things happen during a Solar Eclipse which are equally interesting as itself.

If anyone wants these moments as a keepsake then, they must certainly try to photograph or video them. For example, if you're resting under a tree at the time you'll find the light from the Sun, falling through the tree-leaves, shaped like a full Moon. During a partial Eclipse, these spheres become crescent-shaped. Again minutes before a full Eclipse the spots have changed in both size and shape and every thing goes black (you know how it's like to be in the middle of a load-shedding!). Even beasts and birds become delusion and crazy.

A band of various colors

What Astronomers Learn From A Full Solar Eclipse?

Usually, the Sun is so bright that it's outer portion (including its gas) specifically known as 'Chromosphere', and the various Coronas cannot be clearly measured (or even imagined). A Solar Eclipse has given such a golden opportunity as to get a full and clear idea about the Chromosphere as well as the Coronas.

Many research works have been conducted on various relative and important issues during a Full Solar Eclipse which are the core plinth of Solar Physics. The presence of Helium and Hydrogen in the Sol was first observed by the help of a Solar Eclipse.

The reknown scientist Janseen Fraun Hoffer first discovered 'Corona' on the 12th of December, 1871. He identified a dispersion of Hydrogen and Sodium in a Corona. The 'GreenLine' of a Corona was first observed on the 7th of August, 1869. Besides, the 'Reversing Layer' of the Sun was discovered from the Solar Eclipse that occurred on December 28, 1870.

How An Amateur Astronomer Can Observe A Full Solar Eclipse?

The first and foremost

ness the enlivening atmosphere all throughout the day. Oh! there I am, again talking irrelevantly. So as I was telling you about my job — you know I guess there are fewer Romeos nowadays. I hardly get young buyers who purchase flowers from me. I usually run from cars to cars as the traffic signal turns red.

Sometimes when I stand beside a car window, I smell such beautiful aroma that the fragrance of my own flowers seems not fit enough to compete. I wonder what flowers they produce it from. They must be foreign flowers. Anyway, most of my day is spent in chasing shiny and speeding cars and waiting for the traffic signal to turn red. This is my job, you can say.

Once a madam had told me that this was child labour or something, so I must stop and start studying. Saying a few such words, she sped in her car. I couldn't care less for what she said. My mother works in the houses of the wealthy and my dad is a sweeper so they can't afford to spare money for my education.

Instead, if I work, I can at least earn the money for my dad's 'birt'. These people just talk too much and do nothing. If they want to see me going to school, they should give my father a better job and then talk, otherwise its useless giving lectures. Its getting late, I better go to work now.

Subconscious Intermission

by Kazi Khaled Arafat

This dream is too short to have an interval of reality break into the hallucination like a paroxysm of jealous and paranoid daylight.

We are squeezed inbetween two pieces of enveloping truth. This pleasant lie the supernatural reflection of your weary mind is trapped. Stuck like a neutron in a black hole Or like an ant. Unintentionally caught between the Sole and the soil.

The semblance to death ends with lookalike material substance. Cuz even though it's virtual demise with your body your mind never live more.

For your imagination is the soul of your thoughts and thoughts are the soul of your mind and your mind is the soul of your soul which lies dormant and hidden but which dominates and, in your limited comprehension, is omnipotent.

Creation is nothing but the conception of fictional beauty. And we are the mirage the Creator sees in the lonely deserts of Eternity and Infinity.

If you're seeking temporary immortality then go to sleep and dream as the spiritual vision you'll see from inbetween the bows of your human physical cage is a greater euphoria than the colours of a rainbow or the beauty of a real smile or the purity of a child's tears or the holiness of divinity. Cuz they are all components of your dream.

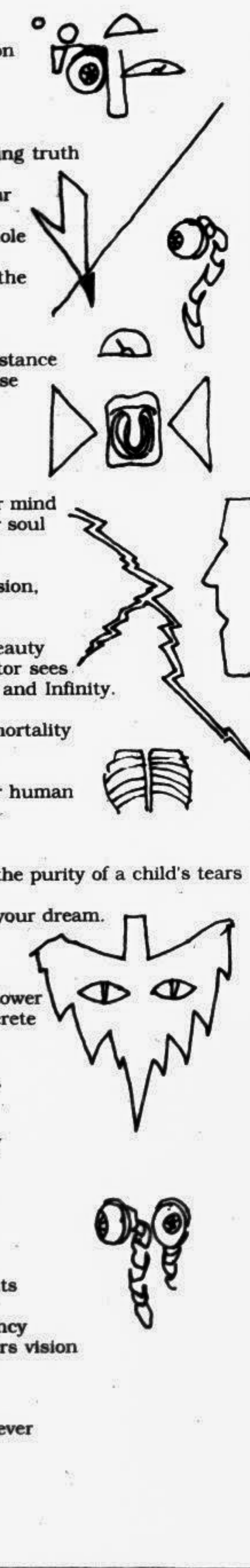
Your dream is the last view of a suicide when he looks down from the tower before the Plunge into the concrete abyss.

And, just as the suicide will die, so will your dream.

For death is the ultimate reality but reality is the ultimate sin and sin is the ultimate price that you pay in wakefulness to fulfill your dream.

The damnation for your sin is the realisation that your flights of the night are only the shadows of your fancy your invisible soul which renders vision. So sweet and yet so cruel with it's unseen light.

The shadow will follow you forever but you shall never get more than a glimpse you'll never be able to catch it as you walk down the yellow Brick Road leading to your fantasies.



Waiting for the Traffic Signal to Turn Red

by Trishna

I could no longer prevent those flowers from withering away. I've been sprinkling water on them since the past two days in hope to hold back their freshness and beauty but in vain.

This is almost everyday's yarn — I sell some and the remaining dry away leaving nothing but loss. During these late evening hours, I only sit under this thatched roof taking care of my flowers and thus playing a mother's role. Throughout the night, I only wish to see them as fresh as the next morning and stay fit for alluring buyers. Some mornings bring me joy, most don't.

My day starts quite late. I don't need to wake up as early as those school going kids but before noon, I must begin my work. I step out of this gloomy place and walk a few metres, crossing the puddles, as often my feet sink into the soft mud. Hence, I get mud shoes on my feet which is nothing compared to those polished black ones of the school boys. Mine is easier to manage. I guess — no polishing, cleaning or repairing and the best part is when I want to get rid

of them I just have to wash my feet.

There's no bending down and fighting with the laces. But you know something? I wouldn't mind to be in their shoes. Anyway, its just a negligible wish; I've learnt to look at the bright sides of my life. I needn't be wrapped up in those pressed, clean uniform with a tie around my neck almost choking me. For me its just one set of clothes everyday — that is no clothes!

These pair of shorts complete my dressing up. Look at those boys — stooped and crooked like old men, with their heavy loads of books. I really feel pity. I doubt if they can really read all those books or do they also pretend like me? You know what I once did?

Well, it happened so, that I got this book from some people who were distributing reading materials and toys in our slum. I recollect having a fight with Biju for snatching it away from him as I found his more attractive, bright and colourful than mine. That foolish boy went home crying and then his mother came... never mind.

So, as I was saying, I got this book which contained plenty of alphabets and pictures but when I opened it, I went totally blank. It felt as if I had entered a new world I could only recognise the birds and the animals though not all, but the letters were strangers. Nevertheless, every morning after mom and dad left for work, I sat at the door with the book open before me and put all my concentration into it, as if studying hard.

Envious eyes of the neighbouring lads, soon stared at me. The feeling was great, I tell you.

Life at home is abominable, yes, it truly is. Its no 'Home Sweet Home' case for me. All there is to do is get bitten by mosquitoes, hear that neighbouring old woman's unremitting coughing or count the number of raindrops falling in my home through this old roof. But I love it when I'm at work. Everything is so glamorous, so gorgeous, so fascinating, so exciting, so thrilling, so... I can never stop. I guess.

You know I long to be a traffic police when I grow up, so that I get to be with the city's excitements, can wit-



"I sprinkle water on them in hope to hold back their freshness." —Star photo

A Silent World

by Farhana I Khan

SPEECH is silver — Silence is golden — But it does not mean one should be deaf and dumb. However what transpires is: Talk when it is necessary; keep silent even when it is unnecessary.

Fortunately or unfortunately now my world is silent forever. Yes, I cannot speak nor hear but am still lucky enough to feel and see. I arrived in this world amidst a happy welcome; but an unspeakable disease had encased me into this world of the disadvantaged.

I had courage, I had mystery; I had wisdom, I had mastery

And this is what supported me strongly to accept the reality as it was surely a tragic shock for me.

I consider myself to be fortunate in the sense that I have a world of my own where there is no sound of the blaring of the horns or from the machineries, no noise of quarrels, no sound of explosions — all ultimately degrade into a stupid cadence. It is totally silent and calm almost a soothing serenity.

I am unfortunate because I am deprived of social communication for, I cannot talk.

Though we have our own community, it is often found that a person with some physical disability faces troubles in his social life. We turn out to be a subject of less importance and constant refusal. We are pushed aside in a corner and confront others hostile behaviour and attitude.

I may be deaf and dumb but I can still feel every object and reckon every movement of this world. During the days when I could hear, it was just listening to people's oppressive gossip and foul criticism. Now, I may not hear the sweet twitterings of birds, but I can feel the fresh air and see the bright sun rising in the morning giving light to our beautiful nature.

The stars in a dark sky look more beautiful than the sun over a noisy world. The guns of Bosnia do not bother me; the cries of orphans do not benum my spirits. I have grown a natural artist — I read faces I can read the mind of MonaLisa; I can feel the feel of Leonardo the Vinci.

The less we hear, the better. A quieter world is a better world a silent world is a serene world. We achieve perfect harmony with nature in silence.