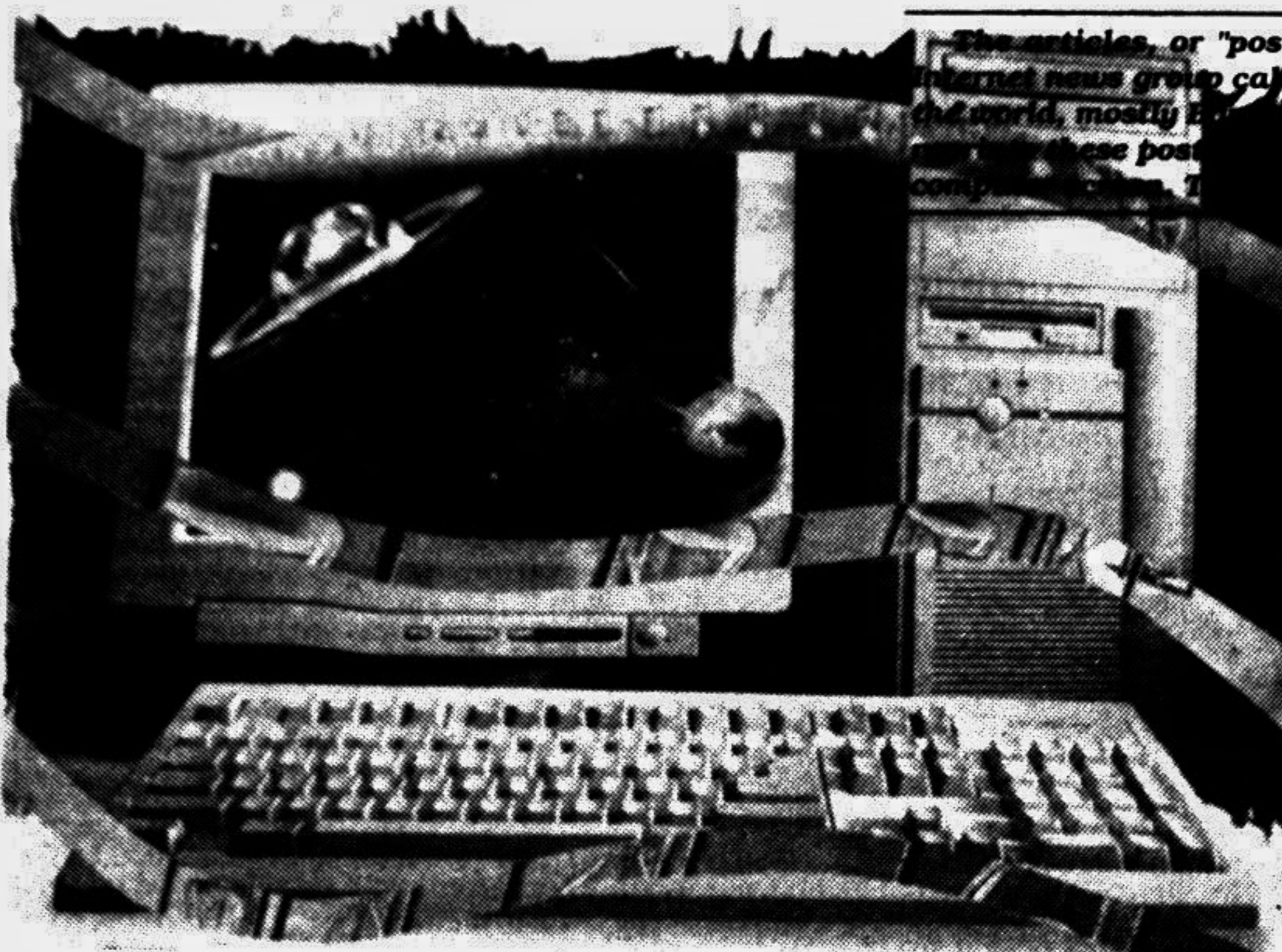


# LIVE FROM THE INTERNET



## Country of the WEEK: BOSNIA

### CLINTON DEPLOYS VOWELS TO BOSNIA Cities of Sjlvdnzv, Grzny to Be First Recipients

Before an emergency joint session of Congress yesterday, President Clinton announced US plans to deploy over 75,000 vowels to the war-torn region of Bosnia. The deployment, the largest of its kind in American history, will provide the region with the critically needed letters A, E, I, O and U, and is hoped to render countless Bosnian names more pronounceable. "For six years, we have stood by while names like Ygrjvelhv and Tzylnhr and Girm have been horribly butchered by millions around the world," Clinton said. "Today, the United States must finally stand up and say 'Enough.' It is time the people of Bosnia finally had some vowels in their incomprehensible words. The US is proud to lead the crusade in this noble endeavor."

The deployment, dubbed Operation Vowel Storm by the State Department, is set for early next week, with the Adriatic port cities of Sjlvdnzv and Grzny slated to be the first recipients. Two C-130 transport planes, each carrying over 500 24-count boxes of "E's," will fly from Andrews

Air Force Base across the Atlantic and drop the letters over the cities.

Citizens of Grzny and Sjlvdnzv eagerly await the arrival of the vowels. "My God, I do not think we can last another day," Trszg Grzdjnklm.44, said. "I have six children and none of them has a name that is understandable to me or to anyone else. Mr. Clinton, please send my poor, wretched family just one 'E.' Please." Said Sjlvdnzv resident Grg Hmfrs, 67: "With just a few key letters, I could be George Humphries. This is my dream."

<portions euthanized>  
The airdrop represents the largest deployment of any letter to a foreign country since 1984. During the summer of that year, the US shipped 92,000 consonants to Ethiopia, providing cities like Ouauououa, Eaoituae, and Aao with vital, life-giving supplies of L's, S's and T's. The consonant-relief effort failed, however, when vast quantities of the letters were intercepted and hoarded by violent, gun-toting warlords.

## Pakistan Apology for War Crimes Demanded

Mahmood Hassan  
hassan@kenroku.ipc.kanazawa-u.ac.jp, Japan:  
And what about Jamaat of Bangladesh? Do they kill others? Before asking for apology should something else be done?  
Before I mentioned about returning our stolen treasures by the then WEST Pakistan. We Can Show it well How our economy was exploited by the West wing of United PAKISTAN. It was one of the crucial issue of the HISTORIC SAY DAFI Adolon.

Shujaat Ali  
shujaat@singnet.com.sg  
Singapore:  
Whatever in 1971 and before that to separate e.pakistan and who was playing in enemies hands is quite clear now. The buddy who enjoyed all this pinpang is sitting next to this.  
What Pak army did and why, don't feel like touching it. But definitely what I experienced during my last and the only trip trip to Dhaka is worth mentioning. I met many business associates. Most of them had a good words about PAK rulers of that era and spoke high of the infrastructure development done before 1971.  
A friend of mine was very critical of Pakistan on the whole... mentioned all what's happening in karachi. In the end he could not reply a simple question: "we have all these problems in Pakistan, political and karachi and you don't have except a little political, even then why are you lagging that behind Pakistan".  
Anyway, They are better off without us and we are better off without them.

Rajib M hasan  
pundit@interlog.com  
USA:  
This generation of Pakistan does not know any thing about the war of 1971. They only know that Bangladeshi peole started it. So from their point of view we are the worst because we devided the whole Pakistan (East & West). They know nothing about the election of 1970 when we got the majority and they didn't let us enter into the parliament.  
Actually we should not blame them but the previous generation. The previous who fought with us didn't let their children know about our victory. So this generation try to bully us, but they don't know that their views are false.

Anonymous  
noname@noname.net  
USA:  
It is this very obsession that we have the past as a very dangerous and unproductive. The least of our worries should be a

meaningless apology: a recent trip to Bangladesh will reveal a country in chaos and mass confusion, and Bangladeshi on Bangladeshi crime, an economy crippled by meaningless Hartals, lack of ethics in most dealings, bribes, "hush money", BNP faction A fighting BNP faction X over the "control" of an area where "protection money" is a lucrative business etc. We are responsible for all of the above and suddenly apologies seem petty and trivial.

Naeem Mohalemen  
naeem@ix.netcom.com  
USA:  
"Obsession" because most of the issues remain unresolved.  
An apology would not be "meaningless". For some of us, it is a major issue. If it is indeed the "least of worries" for you, it should leave you with more free time to work on all the other issues you mentioned (bribe/anarchy/etc in modern Bangladesh).

The fact remains that the majority of Pakistanis are unaware -- or don't care to be aware -- of some major segments of their history.

--Shahed Aziz, USA:  
This generation of Pakistan does not know any thing about the war of 1971.

Myscars  
myscars@aol.com  
USA:  
You are typical of the Pakistanis who don't know what Pakistani army did in Bangladesh and don't even care. Do you know that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman won the election and he was refused power just because he belonged to Bangladesh? Its something like a Black president winning the election in the US and whites refusing to hand him power. Even if the Govt. of Pakistan doesn't care, you as a human being (not as a Pakistani), should acknowledge the fact that 3 million people were killed in the war in Bangladesh. Pakistan army butchered, raped and destroyed families. They did the same thing what the Serbs are doing to Bosnian Muslims. Do you care that Bosnian Muslims are being killed and raped in the name of "cleaning"? I don't know what part of Pakistan you are from but let me tell you, someday Punjabi army will do that to Sindhis or maybe Sindh army to Punjabis. Then you'll definitely care.

Shahed Aziz  
shahedaziz@mail.utexas.edu  
USA:  
The MQM Pakistan Army (and other permutations thereof) situation is perhaps

more complicated than that. The Pakistan Army HAS been guilty of similar atrocities in Baluchistan. In one incident, a valley in Baluchistan was blocked off and the Army then proceeded to shoot anything that moved (referring to in "In the Shadow of Afghanistan", by Harrison). Jallianwallahbagh anyone?

Former Pakistan Army officers have noted that the Army's -- or the Army's "punjabi mafia's" -- attitude to unruly civilians is decidedly medieval. Their actions in counterinsurgency operations (1971, the Baluch uprising, and the present Karachi troubles fall under that rubric) are considered both illegal (according to international law) and counterproductive (according to Counter-insurgency warfare doctrine -- doctrine successfully practiced).

As for the Apology bit, I wouldn't hold my breath. People in Pakistan are usually taught that the 1971 war was a low intensity conflict

started and bankrolled by India rather than a CIVIL WAR by "Pakistani nationals" for legitimate (according to most international observers) rights and demands. Ignorance of murder doesn't exculpate the guilt but in that context, most Pakistanis would be expected to be hostile to our calls for any apology. Personally, I think our government allowing the Pakistan Army Chief of Staff to lay a wreath at the "onirban Shikha" damages our case somewhat.  
For the record, there have been Pakistanis who have acknowledged that guilt. General Sahebzada Yaqub Ali Khan's views on this subject are legend. Also, there is a Pakistani writer, Dr. Tariq Rehman, who has also written on that subject believes that "murder is murder, and we should apologize for it."  
Lest I reap the wrath of the Pakistanis, Dr. Rehman used to be Major Tariq Rehman of the Probyn's Horse Cavalry Regiment.

The fact remains that the majority of Pakistanis are unaware -- or don't care to be aware -- of some major segments of their history. As the man said: "those who are ignorant of history are doomed to repeat it." If the Pakistanis refuse to acknowledge history, they may as well lose a few more wars

The articles, or "posts" (to use Internet parlance) published in this page come from the Bangladesh Internet news group called "soc.culture.bangladesh," or SCB. In this newsgroup, Internet users from around the world, mostly Bangladeshis, discuss issues relevant to Bangladesh. In "Live from the Internet" the Daily Star (complete with English language errors) -- just as they would appear on your screen -- have only been edited for size and relevance to the subject matter.

## Sea Level Rise Around Bangladesh

Md. Shahidul Islam  
mst@st-andrews.ac.uk  
St Andrews, UK:

Is Sea-level rise a potential threat to Bangladesh? I am a Ph. D student in the U.K. and working on sea-level changes of Bangladesh. I welcome discussion on the matter. I have collected records of sea-level and environmental changes during the last 8000 years (Holocene). The records are, Mangrove pollen, Diatoms, C14 dating and Lithology. Is any one of you interested on such research areas?

Shahed Aziz  
shahedaziz@mail.utexas.edu  
University of Texas, USA:

I would think so. I remember a Dutch firm (not related to FAP) that was working on coastal flooding in Bangladesh (I've forgotten their name but I do know their BD counterpart was DDC Ltd.) that had a math model of the coastal areas. The model was a mod. of their own North-Sea flooding models (with some changes to the seabed and tidal parameters) and was possibly prone to some errors but they did see a VERY high probability of long term coastal flooding as well as higher frequency and magnitude in the catastrophic coastal flooding in case of a sea-level increase. Somewhat obvious, considering that our average elevation is around 30 m!!

You might consider talking to FIDAP in Dhaka. I know it's a FAP-related firm but they do have quite a bit of data (GIS-based) that might help you.

## Human Rights web page

Margarita and Mike Lacabe  
mlacabe@shellx.best.com  
USA:

Hil I've made a modest page with links to human rights reports on Bangladesh. Its located at <http://www.best.com/~mlacabe/saran/bangla.html>. I would appreciate any information about other useful information for people interested in human rights in Bangladesh available in the net.

"It's not the repression by the bad people that hurts-it's the silence of the good".



## ELECTION '96

Md. Altaf Hossain  
s010mah, USA:

Can anybody tell me what's the procedure to cast the vote by mail from U.S.A. ? Whom to contact?

## Disclaimer

The Internet is a global medium of communication and expression. It is free from all sorts of censorship and restrictions. It is truly a PEOPLE'S FORUM.  
The opinions expressed in these columns are the author's own as they appear to all receivers of the Internet. We reproduce them authentically to permit our readers to know what Bangladeshis abroad are feeling and saying.  
The Daily Star is not responsible for the opinions expressed in these columns. - Editor.

## HOW TO DEAL WITH A DISHONEST TRAVEL AGENT

Partha Banerjee  
pb019@cnsunix.albany.edu  
USA:

- Some suggestions.
1. Document the problems.
  2. Report them to agencies such as Better Business Bureau and the various customer protection agencies.
  3. Let others know about the dishonest agents and their misdeeds.
  4. Report your experiences to the internet database for travel agents (such as the one compiled by "Prince").
  5. While talking to those dishonest agents, do not cover. Face them strongly.
  6. Sue them if the problem is well-documented.
  7. Buy tickets from well-reputed agencies next time.
  8. You are paying a LOT of money to travel to India or BD, so you are entitled to get GOOD treatment. Go to an American travel agent (well-recommended) if the latter give you better treatment.
  9. Talk to the airline directly for confirmation.
  10. Do not be a "pennywise poundfoolish".

## Get rid of HARTAL Plague

Khondakar M Mostafa  
kmms26+@pitt.edu  
USA:

\*\*\* Rid Bangladesh of Hartal Plague \*\*\*

Abul Anisuzzaman  
anisuzzaman.1@postbox.acs.o-hio-state.edu  
USA:

Whats the use of having free and fair elections when nobody respects the results? Bangladeshes experiment with democracy is a failure, democracy in Bangladesh will never work. Democracy is creating more problems then it is solving in Bangladesh. No

govt.). How could you relate Hasina's action against a democratically elected government with the struggle against an illegal dictator and lebel the first post as hypocrisy? Aren't you deluding yourself?

Montaz Ali INF  
mail@kasper.abo.fi  
Finland:  
You are very right about the Hartals and the economic losses. But then if that is all we should care about then why did we have so many hartals during Ershad's regime? Clearly, people wanted change, did they get it?

## Rid Bangladesh of Hartal Plague

-Khondakar M Mostafa, USA:

matter what the results, someone will scream foul play. If hasina would have won the last elections, I truly think Khalada would be doing exactly what Hasina is doing today...that is whining about a caretaker government, and calling hartals etc.

Shtmant Manzur  
manzurs@fp.co.nz  
NewZealand

I doubt if you would've had the same opinion about hartal and hartal callers when it was called against the previous government. I could imagine it cost the country as much then as its costing now. You can't give the politicians and people the licence to call strikes when it suits your agenda - then turn around and ask them not to when it doesn't. It won't work - because unfortunately hypocrisy isn't the best tool to convince people.

Mohammad Zabir  
jabar@nyc.pipeline.com  
USA:

I believe you have meant Ershad govt. ( the previous

I worked for BNP Dhaka-9 unit in 1991 when Khaleda Zia ran for election from that area. By 1993 I was completely disillusioned. If we can not have fair elections in the country, how can we assure that the people are being represented by the candidate of their choice in the Jatiya Shangsad? And if they are not, then that means we do not have democracy. And that is exactly the problem that we must concern ourselves with.

All political parties involved in this crisis have been rather rigid about their positions. And clearly they put their own and party interest over that of the nation -- this where the real problem lies. Politicians have to think about the country first, unless and until they do that, hartal plague will always be with us.



## Debate on Ershad Years: Death of freedom, Student politics etc....

Abul Anisuzzaman  
anisuzzaman.1@postbox.acs.o-hio-state.edu  
USA:

So what if you were involved in the student movements of 1983 to 1991? where has it gotten us today?

Naeem Mohalemen  
naeem@ix.netcom.com  
USA:

At least democracy. And a country stepping into democratic system for first time in a decade cannot be expected to immediately start functioning like more "developed" nations.

Hossain Satrul  
satrul@eagle.fedu.uec.ac.jp  
Japan:

Students movement was to unseat Ershad-autocracy and to replace Madam-autocracy or Hasina-autocracy. Our students failed to work independent of their foster-parties in their agitation against Ershad-

began with a very strong class-warfare overtone (paralleling Paris and other internationalist uprisings), and then was rapidly hijacked by the middle-class-beholden AL in East Pakistan, and feudal class interest-led opposition parties in West Pakistan (in 1970, West Pakistan political landscape was dominated by Bhutto--representing the landed elite).

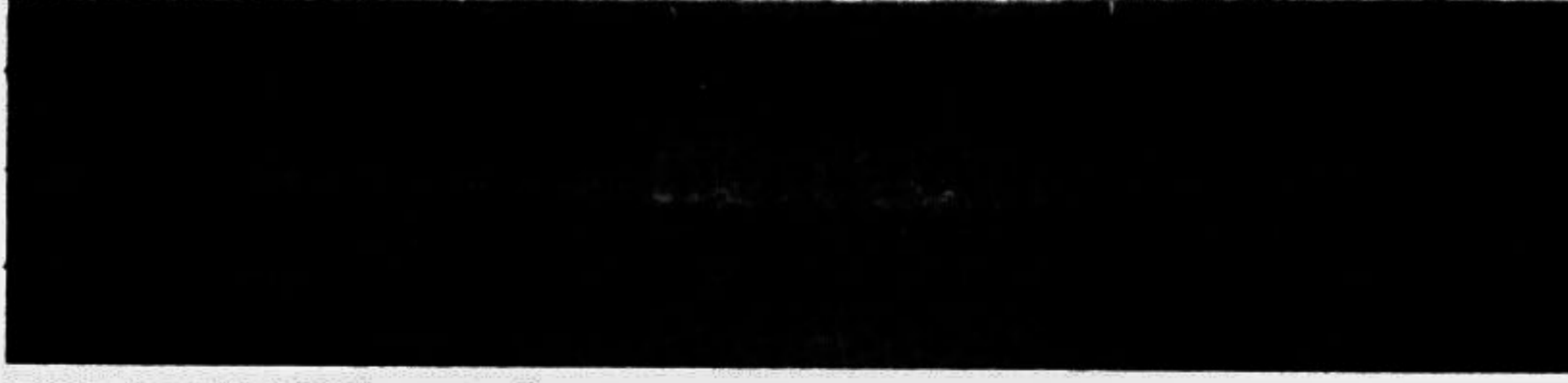
Santul, Japan: Mr. Naeem, can't u remember the victory over the 8th amendment case during the period of Ershad regime. The 8th amendment was done to divide our HIGH COURT into some independent benches spreading all over Bangladesh. A case was filed against it. And the then govt. failed to defend the amendment. Ershad admitted his defeat. Renowned industrialist E.U. Ahmed, Golam Faruk

ant, was one of the first 2 female newsmen in post-independence BTV. She was part of the core group that began the boycott in the late 80s. Govt very carefully squashed any public announcement of boycott.

At the time, my aunt thought the boycott would last a few months and the govt would concede. Instead BTV hired a whole new group of newsmen. Sharp drop in quality of newsmen was noticed, especially in English news.

Govt proved to be remarkably obstinate/resolute in facing the boycott. In the end the boycott lasted through the entire Ershad regime.

As far as I remember, after Ershad fell, my aunt never went back to TV news. Similarly, many of the faces that had become familiar over the previous 10-15 years, did not return.



regime. If democracy had been their target, they would have moved against their parent parties which have no commitment to democracy. That's why, we've got Khaleda-version of Ershadian autocracy.

Naeem, USA: Not true. Court victories of Farhad Mazhar, impending decision on Humayun Ajad, pending case in Dinajpur rape-murder case, none of these would have been possible under Ershad dictatorship. On this topic, I recommend Farhad Mazhar's book of essays: "SHATLIPI, VOL 1". Excellent insights on how the student movement, which began as pan-party movement was initially ignored by BNP, AL presidium, and when APSU's power was revealed-- the leadership panicked and moved quickly to coopt and neuter the student movement.

Thus, initially movement was entirely student led, suddenly Khaleda/Hasina started appearing at rallies. After fall of Ershad, both parties quickly moved to give key student leaders nominations, and thus-- doodh kola khaiyye ghoom parie dilo.

Also, for those who have read Tariq Ali's "Pakistan: Military Rule or People's Power", there are eerie parallels with 1968/69 student movement, which

Abhi also had victories in court during Ershad-regime. Moreover, it is Ershad-regime which took initiative to build apartments for Justices and also to raise their salary to a handsome amount. This was done to make feel secure.

Naeem, USA: I remember more defeats than victories. The fact that people are even able to debate Hasina vs Khaleda in the media is something that is the direct product of democracy. Remember in Ershad regime: -The core group of 15 popular TV newsmen who came of age in post 71 Bangladesh were absent from TV for over 4 years as they boycotted Ershad govt's complete censorship of BTV news.

Abhi is an alleged killer, so don't know if rule of law was the only thing going on there.

Santul, Japan: A new information! Could u let me know some of them?

Naeem, USA: -Newspapers were banned left and right during Ershad movement, including AJKER KAGOOJ Army budget saw unprecedented jump over 10 year period -Lavish Army Club in Cantonment was constructed, along with other huge infrastructure investment in armed forces (to detriment of education sector) Sadia Chowdhury, my

Santul, Japan: I agree.

Naeem, USA: -Without any referendum, constitution was amended to declare Bangladesh to be an "Islamic Republic". Secularism, a core tenet of post-71 constitution, replaced.

Santul, Japan: I think it was Zia who replaced BELIEF IN ALLAH for secularism as one of our basic tenets. So the culpability goes to Zia.

Naeem, USA: - I think it goes to both of them. Zia began rehabilitation of Jamaat. Ershad moved it further along. Khaleda took it one step further with parliament coalition. No doubt, Hasina, if elected, will invite Jamaat's Motiur Rahman Nizami, killer of 1971, into the cabinet. Jamaat e Islami was further rehabilitated etc..

Santul, Japan: I agree.

Montaz Ali INF  
mail@kasper.abo.fi, Finland:  
Would not be any surprise as Motiur Rahman is already an MP!  
The basic tenets of constitution (or constitution itself) has nothing to do with who takes up a position in the cabinet or in the "bhanganvobone". Constitution is an integrated intity to govern a nation and it has nothing to do with "BISMILLAH HIR RAHMANIR RAHIM".

## Humor.

Sujit Dutt  
sujit@micb.mic.kl.se  
Stockholm, Sweden:  
Origination: Humor Mailing List.

Let's face it -- English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man wise guy are opposites? How can overlook and oversee be opposites, while quite a lot and quite a few are alike? How can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell another?

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race (which, of course, isn't a race at all). That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible. And why, when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I end it.

## Top ten Bangladesh list

Abul Anisuzzaman  
anisuzzaman.1@postbox.acs.o-hio-state.edu  
USA:

TOP TEN THINGS I MISS ABOUT BANGLADESH

1. going into a burger joint for them desi "jumbo burger"
2. the shouts of "oi bata"
3. the scent of pann and ak-ishi buri
4. Zia international airport departure lounge
5. going into a "general store" to buy some biscuits, and then getting into an argument about football and politics with the shopkeeper
6. almost getting run over by a double decker BRTC bus
7. Not getting a seat on the BRTC bus, hanging out the door and chatting with the conductor about comilla
8. buying a copy of the BANGLADESH OBSERVER and reading about "3 cows run over by bus in Khulna District"
9. BTV natoks
10. and of course, the moorgi ala shouting "moooooorggggg!!!!!!"

Zakaria H Sohel  
zhs@vax1.mankato.msus.edu  
USA:

Akhane ashe ja miss khorche ta holo riksha. Riksha chorar mogae alada, buia jae na.



The newsgroup, "soc.culture.bangladesh", has been provided courtesy of Agni Systems Limited.

You can also take part in this page by sending us your views / questions / comments / inquiries (anything that you want). The Daily Star will then send your responses into the Internet newsgroup free of charge where they will be read and commented on by participants from around the world. Letters should be no more than 100 words in length and titled.

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