

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 Bangladeshi, discuss issues relevant to Bangladesh. In "Live from the Internet" the Daily Star reprints these posts verbatim (complete with English language errors) — just as they would appear on your computer screen. They have only been edited for size and relevance to the subject matter.

Women's Rights in Islamic Countries

Umm Shaban (Ybor8)
ybor8@mail.hcc.cc.fl.us
USA:

As a muslim woman I feel that Arab and Iranian men have violated the rights that Islam has given women. The Prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon Him) instructed men to treat women accordingly as written in the Holy Quran. If men were treating women in accord with the Quran, then proper respect would be shown.

Jai Singh
jais@bcch64b.bnr.ca
Canada:

hmm...and these two nations profess to be great guardians of Islam!

Hazem Nasereddin
htana@ee.mcgill.ca
Canada:

1) This problem is not only in arabs and iranians, it spreads into other Islamic Nation.
2) Why look at the empty side of the glass??? Arabs and iranians have a lot of good in them and there are a lot of Good muslims in both nations, your attack on them is really not fair.

I am defending Arabs and Iranians as Nations!!! not as muslims!!! I have agreed that we have a problem but I remarked that it is spread in all

wear a chador or anything. In fact some even wear Western attires if they choose to do so. They can run for public office and indeed we have a female prime minister. I don't know what your nationality is, but please be informed that we certainly have a better record than Saudi Arabia. I am surprised that you had the gall to make the claim that you did. As far as the treatment of women as stipulated in the Qur'an is concerned, I think we will have even sicker prob-

Iranians or the Pakistanis do not adhere to? Will anyone answer me?

Ashraf Abu-Abdou
hebal1@astate.edu
USA:

1) None of the countries you have mentioned above rule by the Islamic law
2) A Muslim as you claim you are should abide by the Qur'an and The Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH) unless you are a hypocrite of course.

As a muslim woman I feel that Arab and Iranian men have violated the rights that Islam has given women.

Umm Shaban (Ybor8)

This problem is not only in arabs and iranians, it spreads into other Islamic Nation.

Hazem Nasereddin

lems if we adhered to the Qur'anic teachings.

Hazem Nasereddin, Canada: I read about it in a post a couple of days ago. I am not talking about the governments oppression of women, I am talking about the men's treatment of women.

Mohammad N Islam, USA: As I pointed out earlier, wife-beating and imprisonment will be legal.

At least women can drive cars in Pakistan. They don't have to wear a chador or anything. In fact some even wear Western attires if they choose to do so. They can run for public office and indeed we have a female prime minister.

Mohammad N Islam

most all muslims lands not only arab and iranian lands!!! My defence was a nationalist and not islamic defence!

The problem spreads in all the islamic world!!! Pakistan for example has a worse record than any arab country. But generally I agree, if men treat women as Quran told them to we wouldn't have such sick problems.

Mohammad N Islam
mislam@jhunix.hcf.jhu.edu
USA:

Would you please tell me where did you get your information about Pakistan having a worse record than any Arab country in treatment of women? I am not saying that women are treated like queens in Pakistan, but we do have less institutionalized oppression of women than in Saudi Arabia. At least women can drive cars in Pakistan. They don't have to

LelaKap
lelakap@aol.com
USA:

What about cheating husbands, do we get to beat them and imprison them?

Hazem Nasereddin, Canada: None has the right to punish anyone except for the state, as a citizen, you can not punish anyone by yourself, you just report to the authorities.

Mohammad N Islam, USA: The egregious Huddood ordinance and it's equivalent in Saudi Arabia and Iran are looming over our heads. I think that Pakistanis would be much better off if they liberated themselves from the dogma of a 1400 years old Shariah.

Hazem Nasereddin, Canada: Your point of view.

Mohammad N Islam, USA: Finally, I ask again: What particular injunctions of the Qur'an do you think the Arabs,

zahira islam
islam@wam.umd.edu
USA:

The same crimes. And even, if for the sake of argument, lets just say for a second that this issue is not discussed in the case of men, doesn't this make perfect sense that the same punishments be applicable on the men as they were to be implemented in the society for women? After all we are talking about the same crime only committed by people from opposite sexes!

xx
xx@missing-host-name

While it may make perfect sense to most people on the net here, it does NOT to people who follow religion to the letter (be it any religion). This thread started off with someone implying that women would be better off if men followed Quranic injunctions to the letter. That is what so many netters here protest. And not the fact that many muslims can (and do) form their own humanitarian extensions of the Quran (even if they outwardly rave about its immutability and deny existence of any ambiguities).

CALL for OPINIONS on U.S. Foreign Aid

Roger Zender
rzonder@bgnnet.bgsu.edu
USA:

I am doing a project on U.S. foreign aid, looking at it from the standpoint of other countries. I'm trying to answer questions like is it necessary for the U.S. to continue contributing to the needs of other countries to hold the status of world power, etc. Just any opinions or anything along that line would be GREATLY APPRECIATED!

If you could, please respond personally. I'm sending this out to a lot of news groups and would be unable to check them again.

Zulfikar Shahnavaz
zulfikar@zulfidemon.co.uk
UK:

You should try to understand the politics of foreign aid. Foreign Aid is a US foreign policy objective for various reasons. For the sake of brevity, I just one to raise the following two points.

Firstly, contrary to opinion, foreign aid is not FREE, because 'aid' includes long term loans as well as grants which carry high interest. Secondly, the question of what 'donors' do, should be in the context of their motive - commercial self-interest, the desire for power, a belief in global dependence, and influence and control over the sovereignty of the recipient government.



Need Apartment

Nazima Kadir
fchangm1@cc.swarthmore.edu
USA:

Hello, my name is Nazima Kadir and I am a third year student at Swarthmore College. I hope to go to Bangladesh this summer, if the situation is not too bad, specifically Dhaka. I want to learn how to read and write formal Bengali instead of the dialect I speak. I hope to be there from the end of may to mid to late August. Does anyone know of anyone who rents apartments or houses for the summer. I'd appreciate any information possible.

Is it true?

Supratic Gupta
f37703a@nucc.cc.nagoya-u.ac.jp
Japan:

I heard a story, is it true? It seems that at that time mazorty in Bangladesh was Hindu, with a Hindu King. A Muslim kind invaded. One more person added that the muslim king invaded with only 12 soldier. It seems the Hindu King ran away!

Tahsin
u258@unb.ca
Canada:

It was a muslim commander, Ikhtiyaruddin Mohammed Bin Bakhtyer, and the Hindu King was Raja Lakhmanen. With only 12 horsemen he invaded. Upto this it is true.

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There is still time....

This I believe, will be in the best interest of all the conflicting political parties. If they don't want to do it for any other reason, they should do it for the Peace and Prosperity of the nation.

-Zia Hasrat

Zia Hassan
<unknown>
The solution:

BNP government will amend the constitution to make possible formation of a Neutral Care Taker Government, that will hold a Free and Fair election in which all political parties will participate.

This I believe, will be in the best interest of all the conflicting political parties. If they don't want to do it for any other reason, they should do it for the Peace and Prosperity of the nation.

Saleh Tanveer
tanveer@math.ohio-state.edu
USA:

Now that it appears Mrs. Zia is ready to do something along this line (recall her reported statements to Holiday Newspaper earlier), the question is if she has lost the window of opportunity. With re-

pressive measures by the government, the radicalization of the opposition might have already gone too far to permit any compromise at this stage. I hope this is not the case.

Bilayet Hossain
mbhossain@aardark.uconnor.edu
USA:

This proposal which came just around the time of the election of 15th need some modification in view of the fact what happened during the election. Once this election is legitimized--who would guarantee that BNP will not raise the slogan --we will finish the term to safeguard the constitution.

I would not be surprised if this latest overture by Begum Zia is a ploy to get recognition and 'legitimacy' to rule another term.

Frustrated Bangladeshi

Dasgupta
TXD111@psuwm.psu.edu
USA:

Bhenge porben na. Bhalo din aashchhey. Ebar nishchhol ekta sthittikor poriborton hobey Bangladeshe. Anek roker binimoye gora et desh. Ayo bhenge porle chobey ?

URGENT*** NEED TO KNOW**

S.Ahmed
AP2035@QMWCC5.qmw.ac.uk
UK:

I need to know how many days farhal has it been since Ershads govt fell. Its very urgent I would appreciate it if anyone can tell me please.

Franco er Pirata
aingotone@pasta.frnch

Need the figure of the number of days we had hartal in bangla land after the fall of ershad, and how many people have died in this present political stalemate.....anybody with knowledge please reply.....

Military power for the government!

Zakaria Sohel
zhs@vax1.mankgo.msus.edu
USA:

Is there the Bangladesh Army Force still on the road? I mean, does anybody know what is the present political situation in BANGLADESH after the parliament election? I heard that the Military is still trying to control any sort of political dilemma that was supposed to be occurred in post-election period. By the way, I heard that the opposition parties called non-cooperation movement from Mar. 09. Is it really true? But my question is, how come? Don't we have any other way to solve the situation? It's really BAD.

Monir Ahmed
mahmed@ucla.edu
USA:

What is the true political situation in Bangladesh at this time. If any one has any information I would like to know.

POLITICIAN AND THE POLICE

I am very sad to know about the brutal activities of police at Jaganath Hall of DU. Still I strongly believe that our politicians are mainly responsible for this incident.

Mahboob Hossain, Japan

Mahboob Hossain
mdmahbo@gipac.shinshu-u.ac.jp
Shinshu University School of Medicine, Japan:

I am very sad to know about the brutal activities of police at Jaganath Hall of DU. Still I strongly believe that our politicians are mainly responsible for this incident.

Rinku Anisuzzaman
anisuzzaman.1@postbox.acs.ohio-state.edu, USA:

Yes, I believe that there is no separation between the police and politicians. I believe that the police are the puppets of both the ruling party and the opposition. How do you separate the police from politics in Bangladesh when political loyalty can mean life or death?

Hasan Imam
imam@max
USA:

I am afraid that you simply base your thoughts or 'observations' on your pre conceived notions and prejudices. The police and para-military forces routinely (especially

during periods of political unrest) enter campus halls and beat up students. Given that historically in Bangladesh campuses have been hotbeds of political unrest, this is not surprising. Now, Jagannath Hall, the one where a lot of Hindu students reside, is traditionally seen as allied to Awami League...on the other hand, Salimullah Hall is seen as allied to Jamaat....given that these two are currently the chief opposition parties, I do not think any Bangladeshis are surprised that these two dorms were targets of the police under directives from BNP dominated civilian authorities.

On your second observation that minority dorms are typically targets of 'surprise' attacks is simply wrong. Which ever dorm is strongly allied with the opposition is the target. If you were knowledgeable about such things, you would have known that...unless this is propaganda? Further, making such statements, I believe, demonstrates your prejudices as to 'how things are' in Bangladesh.



The newsgroup, "soc.culture.bangladesh", has been provided courtesy of Agni Systems Limited (Tel. 882379).

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.

Please send or fax your Internet posts to: M. Shamimuzzaman, Page incharge, "Live from the Internet", The Daily Star, House 11, Road 3, Dhanmondi RIA, Dhaka-1205. (GPO Box no: 3257) Fax: 863035.

INFOTEC TRAVEL GUIDE TO BANGLADESH ONLINE

Marcus L. Endicott
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USA:

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