LIVE FROM INTERNIET:

At last some chance for peace

HAMMAD * HK0191@CUB.UCA.EDU

Finally the opposition party has won there share of the deal!! What I fail to understand is why Zia didn.Æt resign before the election?? It seems they like to create problems for a country that is working hard to get out of the third world status it has. I hope

things get better before I go I go back home this summer after 2 years. I want to go back and enjoy my beautiful country in peace, like everyone else. we need cooperation between the parties in order for us to live. how can we expect to prosper when we fight among each other so much!! It is time for us to help each other for the sake of our motherland!!

Relief at last?

APOQUETT9318@vax2.Winona. Msus.Edu

Is the country at last free from the bad spell or new kind of scourge to come? may thats the new topic over tge tea cup in the capital for few day's.

After Khaleda Zia decided to step down new type of rumors and gossips have been generated. "Will she leave the country?"

" I think Ershad is coming back again, no doubt ." ,This is the final chance for Awami League, whatever you say. and so on .

But all rest on the almighty God , Because beleive me brothers no body but he/she(?) knows how the country is running(?).

Khaleda & Hasina - As a person

Md. Rafigul Islam rislam@ccwf.cc.utexas.edu University of Texas at Austin.

We all have dissected PM Khaleda Zia and Opp. Leader Sk. Hasina Wazed politically. looking into every qualities, good or bad, that they may have. (We all know politically

both of them are immature!). But how are they as a person? Are they gentle, wellmannered down-to-earth person or are they arrogant as their political rhetorics could

Among these two leading ladies, who is more well behaved? Who would be more comfortable to deal with?

Junkies and Dummies get Lost in Cyberspace

Arlene Getz apgetz@aol.com Boston, Massachusetts

"Surfing the Internet", as the trendy travellers of the information superhighway describe their explorations, is not always all its cracked up to

It is often more a case of wading - with occasional pauses to dig yourself out of the cyber-mud

Perhaps this is not a wise admission from somebody who writes about the high-tech world of computer link-ups. And it may simply be because I am a technological dummy unable to grasp my computer's hidden talents. But there are times when I find going "online", as they say, so tedious that I want to trade my terminai for a quill pen It is true that a vast treasure

chest of wonderful information

attract serious attention from therapists and quality newspa-Newsweek magazine car-

Wide Web have now begun to

ried a report about those "who log on, but can't log off". The article cited Glenda, a 43-yearold Texan housewife, who spent 18 hours a day on-line and then lied to her husband about her huge telephone bills. A 21-year-old Californian student, meanwhile, was reported to be sleeping only four hours a night so that she could spend more time in cyberspace.

A report in The New York Times featured Patrice, who confessed to calling in sick at work so that he could visit electronic chat rooms and reach out to people all over

Then there was the man who wrote to an advice columnist, blaming a modem — the

While some computer users are so fascinated by the Internet that they have become "Webaholics", addicted to on-line life and unable to log-off, others find the information highways and markets frustrating and time-consuming. A Gemini News Service correspondent reports on her experiences as a "less-than-expert Internaut."

is out there, but finding it can sometimes be so frustrating and time-consuming that it is easier to look for it the old-

fashioned way - on paper. Sometimes travelling on the Internet feels like going round in circles.

I hunt down a topic in the electronic information market, the World Wide Web, but in order to explore it properly have to negotiate through endless menus of options and superfluous information. Often feel as if I am lost in a cavernous poorly-catalogued li-

If I do find something, have to wait while the dots on my screen re-arrange themselves into graphics that would rather not see, or sit patiently before a spinning triangle which may dissolve into a box telling me that the Internet address I have requested could not be retrieved try again later.

Similar reservations were expressed by a US News and World Report reporter who tried to take advantage of the much-vaunted option of on-

line shopping. Instead of having to contend with traffic and tired feet, she found herself bogged down by long delays finding electronic shopping sites, reluctance by stores to accept orders by electronic mail, and cumbersome procedures for viewing goods.

Her conclusion: "Shopping on the Internet turned out to be more of a pain than trudging through the local mall on the last Saturday before Christmas."

Not everyone feels this way. Some people love the "Net" so much that up to three per cent of the on-line community hundreds of thousands of users - are thought to have serious "Internet addictions."

Whether they are truly hooked or whether this is American hype is debatable. but the swelling ranks of those allegedly trapped in the World

device which links computers

to telephone lines

wrecking his marriage There is an insidious monster waiting to pounce on the American people," he warned the agony aunt in his tale about how his "computer junkie" wife of 17 years had left him for a man she met on a computer bulletin board. "It will destroy more marriages and lives than anything the world has ever known.

The columnist sensibly responded that the couple's mar ital problems had probably got little to do with "an electronic device". But some psychotherapists are taking the issue more seriously. Inevitably there are a rash of support groups, while a University of Pittsburgh clinical psychologist believes Internet addiction should be added to diagnostic

There is also a Webaholics age on the World Wide Web Internet address http://www.ohiou.edu/rbarrett /webaholics/ver2/), started by Ohio University graduate student Rich Barrette after watching the academic careers of two friends go 'down the

This electronic site is said have been visited by 200,000 people. But every time I tried to enter it, I got one of those" could not be retrieved" boxes.

While I was sorry that computer junkies had beaten me to it, I could not suppress some smugness that at least my willingness to admit to being a less-than-expert Internaut had saved me from wasting hours on trivia.

I enjoy logging on to read newspapers from around the world. I love my electronic mail so much that I have started corresponding with friends I have not contacted for years. But as for spending hours retrieving useless information or syndicating tired jokes ... well, at least not until I get a faster modern.

(Courtesy: Gemini News)

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 Bangalees, 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.

Akhtar

hossain@mwk.com

I agree with you 100%.

Take example from Indonesia,

they were no better 25 years

back, look at Indonesia today.

They have a rule of law - no

one dare throw a stone at any

public property let alone

throwing fuel-bomb into a bus

full of live people - is this an

experiment into democracy?

into words what most people

Hassan Monu Alam, USA: What

we need to do is grow up as a

nation. All countries on their

way to democracy, stumble.

Witness Napoleon, Hitler, the

American Civil War, and Ms.

GandhiÆs attempts to sus-

We are simply going

pend the constitution.

in Bangladesh feel.

Thanks again for putting

What we need is a strict ruler...

Md Rumman Hassan mrh0008@jove.acs.unt.edu

We all know what kind of situation has been prevailing in our country for the past few months. The word DEVEL-OPMENT has become obsolete. We are lagging behind in all aspects of life.

It surprises me that the people fail to realize the cause of all this. I don't solely blame the two leaders...but the peo-

Hassan Monu Alam, USA: And dictators have succeed in any country??

Md Rumman Hassan, USA: The people of our nation should be disciplined..for today we have transformed our nation into a jungle where there are no rules. It is high time that we need a person who shall not fear from enforcing strict rules

and regulations.

It is about time that we have a ruler who can direct the nation in a path where we shall be prosperous. Not in theory but in reality.

-Md Rumman Hassan, USA

ple who support them.

It is about time that we have a ruler who can direct the nation in a path where we shall be prosperous. Not in theory but in reality. To achieve that goal we need a strict autocratic ruler..let me emphasize the word STRICT...

Hassan Monu Alam hassan@shell.portal.com

And how exactly do you propose we select this mytical dictator who will magically solve all our problems? How do you propose we remove him/her when he/she is not needed.

Can you imagine the consequences of a bad selection like getting either of our current leaders as dictators.

Md Rumman Hassan, USA: Democracy has terribly failed in our country....we need people to abide by rules...who even passes a red light should be punished...every truck driver who crushes a person should be shot in public.

Aminul Islam

Norway:

aminul@stud_unit_no

ROUSHAN ZAMAN

Dhaka

politicians

Bangladesh has won praise

from both domestic and for-

eign agencies for the way its

economy has prospered in re-

cent years. However, Gemini

News Service reports that op-

position-inspired general

strikes and political uncertain-

ties are seriously rocking the

Despite the dissolution of

Parliament and the calling of a

general election, the Bangla-

desh economy continues to be

a hostage in the hands of

that a series of strikes and

calls for the resignation of

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda

Zia's government could un-

dermine recent economic

November dissolution of Par-

liament - which had only three

months of its five-year term

left - seems to meet opposition

demands. Sheikh Hasina.

leader of the main opposition

party, the Awami League, wel-

Since the strikes began,

foreign exchange

reserves have dropped to

about \$2 billion from \$3.4

billion last June, and

inflation, which for a

long time held steady at

four percent, has shot up

to eight percent.

But President Abdur Rah-

man Biswas asked Khaleda Zia

to continue as interim Prime

Minister in the run-up to the

election, and the key opposi-

tion demand has been for

government."

would disrupt it.

elections under a caretaker

parties - which accuse Zia's

government of being corrupt,

inept and inefficient - would

not only boycott any poll held

under her government, but

Hasina said the opposition

comed the move.

At first glance the 24

Observers had been warning

Hassan Monu Alam, USA: If you need law enforcement you

have a representative governthrough our learning curve. ment enforce laws. Experience While it would be nice if didnt with "elected dictators" have have to, the answer lies in pershown they have a remarkable suading our leaders through tendency clinging to power. democratic means that we

We are simply going through our learning curve. While it would be nice if didnt have to, the answer lies in persuading our leaders through democratic means that we want a different form of behaviour.

- Hassan Monu Alam, USA

Md Rumman Hassan, USA Maybe my message was too harsh but this is exactly how I feel right now. Like all of you out there I love my country and I want to see it prosper. Let's hope for the best.

Hassan Monu Alam, USA: Many of us love our country. However, most would not want a cure worse than the disease.

This threat is not to be

taken lightly as opposition

parties have several times vir-

tually brought the nation to a

stndstill as they enforced a

series of strikes, including one

that lasted for six days from

Chamber of Commerce and In-

dustry (MCCI) estimates that

each day's lost production dur-

ing a hartal (strike) is equiva-

racy has now created a stale-

mate in economic develop-

ment," says MCCI president

Anis-Ud-Dowla. "If democracy

is a sustainer of development

quite naturally, development

has become a casualty of the

The cost to the economy

of continued political

stalemate and

confrontation is

enormous, in terms of

lost working days and of

investment and jobs

foregone because of

uncertainty.

foreign exchange reserves have

dropped to about \$2 billion

from \$3.4 billion last June, and

inflation, which for a long time

Zia, the intry's first

held steady at four percent,

democratically elected woman

leader, contends that despite

political problems and envi-

ronmental calamities such as

droughts, floods and cyclones,

her governm ent has brought

about an economic turn-round

Finance Minister Saifur

Rahman has implemented a

rigorous economic reform pro-

gramme. Financial and banking

allowing commercial banks to

set int erest rates and abolish

credit ceilings. Programmes

have been set up to help rural

people establish cottage indus-

tries. Many money-losing pub-

licly-owned companies, espe-

cially textile mills, have been

sectors have been deregulated.

since it took power in 1991.

has shot up to eight percent.

Since the strikes began,

The stalemate in democ-

Dhaka's Metropolitan

November 11 to 16.

lent to \$60 million.

political impasse."

want a different form of be-

They conduct the governtment in this manner because we let them do it. We must hold them accountable for their behaviour and throw them out if they behave like ju-

"The fault is not in our leaders but in ourselves"

Revenues have risen as a re-

sult of the value added tax that

replaced excise duties. In the

June budget, revenue collec-

tion increased to 103,000 mil-

lion taka compared with

61,520 million taka in1991-92

have also helped the economy

Dhaka's Metropolitan

Chamber of Commerce

and Industry (MCCI)

estimates that each day's

lost production during a

hartal (strike) is

equivalent to \$60 million.

In the fiscal year ending last

June, gross domestic product

grew by nearly five per cent,

according to government fig-

ures. And the growth projec-

tion for the current year is six

37 per cent, largely thanks to

the ready-made garment sec-

tor, which accounted for \$2

billion, or nearly 63 per cent

Imports, mostly of machin-

The government claims that

All this was good news for

Bangladesh, an impoverished

nation of 120 million whose

destiny has always swung be-

tween hope and despair. But

the cost to the economy of

continued political stalemate

and confrontation is enormous,

in terms of lost working days

and of investment and jobs

foregone because of uncer-

Bangladesh Institute of Devel-

opment Studies (BIDS) say that

in recent years the economy

Economists at the

of foreign exchange earnings.

ery and intermediary goods.

rose by 34 per cent. The In-

dustrial sector grew by 10 per

as much as 43 per cent of an-

nual development expenditure

is being met by internal re-

Last year, exports grew by

per cent.

sources.

Successive good harvests

without any rise in tax rates.

Dhanda (stick) "democracy" and the **EECH** mentality

Rinku Anisuzzaman anisuzzaman. I @postbox.acs.ohi o-state.edu Columbus, Ohio, USA:

Someone (a Bangladeshi) told me the other day that the only thing bangladeshies understand is the "dhanda"....he thinks what we need is a ruler who will "keep us in line with the dhanda", because this is the only method us bengalis understand...Anyways, Iam not making a point, just thought it was a funny point he made. Also, What is up with this EECH mentality? youll know what

I am talking about EECH is the sound a bengali makes when he/she gets jeaulous of a fellow bengali...example: When a bengali tells another bengali "hey, I just got a new BMW..the other bengali goes EECH, nutun BMW kinchen..accha, to ammar ke?"

Bangladeshi wins election

Zia Hassan zisan@iastate.edu

Iowa State University, USA: You all would be happy to know that a Bangladeshi

(myself) has won the "International Senator" position in the "Government of Student Body" elections held at the Iowa State University yesterday. He got 3 times more votes than his nearest opponent. :-))

Mohammad Harunuzzaman mharunuz@magnus.acs.ohiostate.edu

Please accept my sincere

The Ohio State University,

congratulations. Bangladesh: POLITICAL TURMOIL

THREATENS ECONOMIC GAINS weather some of the disrupfions. "But continuing political impasse and frequent strikes may eventually have a debilitating effect on the economy." says BIDS economist Osman Haider Choudhury. Bangladesh's recent performance has also won praise from many Western donors, who single out the country's efforts to push forward with economic reform measures to accelerate

> "Bangladesh in recent years has made tremendous progress," says British High Commissioner Peter Fowler. The current political unrest is he said. "obviously worrying for every one concerned with Bangladesh's development. "So much disruption of production and trade due to political agitations could jeopardise the future. And they are coming at a time when the old image of Bangladesh - that of a poor calamity-prone nation - is changing to a positive one."

growth and investment.

But Fowler remains optimistic: "Provided the current political tension can be resolved in the next few months and elections can be held peacefully and fairly, the big opportunity for Bangladesh has not yet been entirely lost,"

The World Bank and other donors are afraid that with national elections knocking at the door, the government will shelve its reform agenda. In a newspaper interview. Pierge Land ell-Mills, World Bank resident mission chief in Dhaka, gave warning that the continuing uncertainties would damage the economy. But he said he appreciated the difficulties of good economic man-

agement in anelection year. United States Ambassador David Merrill said: "As one of the least developed countries. Bangladesh cannot afford many days of direct economic losses and lost opportunities."

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Jahangir Sultan JSULTAN@cronus.bentley.edu

I AM FED UP

Oh well, why not me? Lots of people are posting on the SCB (whether or not they make any sense thats another issue). I thought the time is just right for me to say I AM FED UP.

1. I am sick of reading nonsense about who says what about something that may have offended somebody. Stop your mud slinging and get on with life. Or better yet, get a life. Get a job ... Then again, it sure beats the soap operas by a

Thanks for the laugh. 2. I am sick of hartals in Dhaka. I almost got stranded at the Dhaka airport last month. My brother tells me that Dhaka is bracing for a major showdown and at the end its always the middle class that gets totally screwed by the politicians. Why cant we all get along? By the way, a windshield costs something like 20,000 Taka and a brick costs nothing.

Get the point? 3. I am sick of the Malaysian Airlines not being able to track my luggage after a month. It wants to pay me \$500 when the contents cost well over \$2000. It says the luggage was lost from Dhaka airport? No way Jose... Deshis dont steal.. I guess I should accept the money.....Bird in hand versus a bird in the bush...hmm

By the way, have you seen how the Malaysian Airlines staff treat us Deshis???? Wow... you will get a kick out of. I bet if there was way the MAS staff would like to throw the Deshis out of the aircraft everytime MAS takes off from Kuala Lumpur. Ever noticed how all foreigners sit at the front (not business class) and us Deshis are hudled near the toilette? Hmm...You ask for glass of water and you almost get your face slapped off. Fly Biman.

At least I dont mind getting my face slapped off by a Deshi.

4. I am sick of grad students coming to my office and asking me for extra work so that they can get a passing grade in international finance. Well, this makes a lot of sense to me. They cant handle the existing work load and now they want more work? Am I missing something?

5. I am sick of my friends laughing at me for rampant cheating in secondary school certificate exams in Bangladesh. Bengali students cheating during exams??? No way...

6. I am fed up with this snow.... I hate it. My car handles like a piece of crap in the snow. So much for buying real wheel drives... 7. Oh well.. spring is only

few months away. Have a nice



Norway calling Japan

dvg01042@mail.everyday.no Norway: Is there anyone in Japan

Tinku

can provide me some info concerning job facilities. I live in Norway and would like to travel to Japan in june this year for summerjob. I have found an accomodation but I'm not sure weather it will be wise to travel there for job. I'd like to be there for approximately 3 months. I know it's quite expensive country and so is Norway. Would it be easy to find a job there when one can not speak Japanese? What about salary in US\$? I'd appreciate if you can provide me some info.

Gautom Das das@netcom.co

Yoy may search for job at misc.job.contract or there are some other newsnet providing

Investment Newsletter

Robert Shatikian iglobe@ix.netcom.com Introduction:

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1.12

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Thailand

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

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