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Agni Systems Ltd, B 7-8, Bashati Condominium  
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 Tel. 882379, 833984 Fax. 831070, 882547

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1996

## OPINION SURVEY ON THE FORTHCOMING BANGLADESH ELECTIONS 1st UPDATE

Manir  
 Manir@nccs.anu.edu.au

Australia:

I want to mention at the start that this survey is conducted on a pool of non-voters. As per Bangladesh law people not residing in Bangladesh are not voters. Moreover, many of us don't have real touch with the voters, so this survey may not in any way reflect the true voting pattern that might take place in June 1996.

My guess is primarily based on last election held in 1991.

I think AL will be the biggest party in popular vote like last election. They may get around 40% (in 1991 this figure was 38%) while BNP may get around 30%. I still think BNP and JI may have some sort of election friendship against AL and so the parliament seats may not reflect above pattern. The final outcome may be something like:

AL- 120, BNP-100, JP-50, JI-10, Independent and others-20

This will result in a hung parliament. BNP may try to form a coalition govt with JP. If that is done, Ershad will be released and soon after that another election will become necessary.

In the alternative, if AL and JP form a coalition, Ershad will be released but the AL govt will survive since the reserved female MPs will make their number of seats sufficient to have majority in the Parliament.

Zakirul Kabir  
 w00u7@acad1.unbsj.ca

Canada:

And my prediction is:  
 BNP: 155; AL: 80; JP: 30; JI: 12; OTHERS: 23; Total: 300.

Zamir Rahman  
 zrahman@topaz.cqu.edu.au

Australia:

You are correct in figure but you need to only one change.

Look what will be the result:

BNP: 80; AL: 155; JP: 30; JI: 12; OTHERS: 23; Total: 300.

Asif Saleh  
 asaleh@eos.ncsu.edu

USA:

My prediction:

BNP: 110; AL: 85; JP: 70; JI: 20; other 15  
 Total: 300

## Pop Quiz on BD Politics

Moazzem Hossain  
 moazzem@compass-da.com

USA:

**WARNING:** The following are some political jokes on the politics of Bangladesh. If you are affiliated to any political party in Bangladesh and have allergy of any sort of criticism then you should not read and try to enjoy the jokes. Also if you do not like David Letterman, because you think he is exploiting Mujibur and Sirajul to make fun of Bangladesh then you also should not read and try to enjoy these jokes; because these jokes are written following "Letterman Quiz".

Furthermore, these are solely based on my observation and understanding of the political situation of Bangladesh and reading scb. So if you like to flame me, please feel free to do so. Unlike our government and politicians, I take full responsibility of these jokes.

Q: What will be the effect of new constitutional amendment?

A1: We will get some responsible politicians in future.

A2: Every election year will be a war time in Bangladesh.

A3: We will run out of chief justices soon.

A4: All the army generals will want to become chief justice rather than becoming ambassadors after retirement.

Q: Why did BNP resist the caretaker government idea for two years?

A1: Because, Khaleda Zia's son has become the richest man in Bangladesh.

A2: They did not want to be the victim of their own justice against Ershad and his corruptions!

A3: BNP thought that it got the mandate for good to take care of the country and elections like the Magura one.

Q: Why did BNP agree on the caretaker government after two years?

A1: To show that Khaleda Zia is the "MOTHER OF ALL

Shah Rahman  
 shahraman@osf1.gmu.edu  
 USA:

I think Jatio Party will become a key player and my distribution is: BNP: 125; AL: 105; JP: 60; IND: 8; JI: 2; Total: 300

So JP will play a major role in forming the government.

Zafar Akbar  
 zakbar@cx.computlnk.co.uk  
 UK:

I say JP (Ershad) 60%; BNP 20%; AL + Others 20%. That is if it is not rigged.

Mahmood Hassan  
 hassan@kenroku.ipc.kanazawa-u.ac.jp  
 Japan:

Let there be LIGHT!! Sleep in peace in the paradise of your own.

The Only Positive point if there is: The image of Fight Between 2 rival politicians. A man can easily draw attention.

But Ershad??  
 NO NO

Imtiaz Kabir  
 imtiaz@cx.computlnk.co.uk  
 UK:

To all in SCB:  
 As promised in my original message "OPINION SURVEY OF FORTHCOMING BANGLADESH ELECTIONS", I am providing the first update on the forecasts received by me so far.

I have trawled through the conference messages on the subject (both attached to my original message as well as independent ones on the same subject) and also those which were mailed direct to my address.

So folks these are the first results in percentages (but please sending them - those of you who have not contributed already):

BNP 35.73%, AL 31.90%, BNP 22.39%, JI 4.57%, Others 5.41%.

As you may have noticed, I have not contributed myself to this debate. This is deliberate! However, my comments on the forecasts received so far are as follows:

Despite individual bias feeding through, the collective total is acquiring a realistic shape. Whilst, I have no problem with JI receiving only 4.57%, I think most of you are underestimating their support.

Or was it the rebellion led by Dr. Mohiuddin Khan that was the ultimate reason for Khaleda Zia's fall? Did Khaleda Zia call for revenge in a huge public rally? We all know about the attack on Dr. Mohiuddin Khan - come to this very newsgroup. We all blame the oppositions for the hartals and destructions of last two years and give credit to the oppositions for Khaleda Zia's fall. Was it really the oppositions' hartals that put an end to Khaleda's rule?

Or was it the rebellion led by Dr. Mohiuddin Khan that was the ultimate reason for Khaleda Zia's fall? Did Khaleda Zia call for revenge in a huge public rally? We all know about the attack on Dr. Mohiuddin Khan - come to this very newsgroup. We all blame the oppositions for the hartals and destructions of last two years.

As: No single party in the history of Bangladesh (make it world), won ALL the seats in parliament before Feb 15.

Q: Why Feb. 15 election will be a historic milestone in Bangladesh politics?

A1: It was the first democratic election in Bangladesh. No? Damn!

A2: It made BNP realize that they did not have the mandate to take care of Bangladesh the way they did for the last two years.

A3: No single party in the history of Bangladesh (make it world), won ALL the seats in parliament before Feb 15.

Q: Why did AL make ties with JI to overthrow BNP?

A1: Enemy's enemy is friend.

A2: They got a chance to sleep with BNP's (ex)lover.

A3: LOVE IS BLIND!!

Q: Why did BNP break up with JI in 1994?

A1: Magura election?

A2: They did not know that JI will fall in love with AL.

A3: There is a thin line between LOVE and HATE. I guess it tooooooo thin in this case.

Q: Why hartals still work in Bangladesh?

A1: that's the only democratic tool that oppositions have to make an argument with any government.

A2: Who said hartals work. It is bureaucrats who work (at last).

A3: People get a chance to see Indian movie in VCR at home.

Q: Why was Hasina so adamant to bring down Khaleda's govt?

A1: She wanted to be atleast the second woman prime minister of Bangladesh.

Damni first one was missed!!

A2: Wanted to avoid the trick of becoming the opposition leader.

A3: Personal rivalry between Hasina and Khaleda.

Q: Why did BNP agree on the caretaker government after two years?

A1: To show that Khaleda Zia is the "MOTHER OF ALL

# LIVE FROM THE INTERNET

*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.*

## A speech and the "seeds of instability"

*This thread is based on a news from The Janomot, a Bengali news weekly, published from LONDON (4th - 11th April, 1996)*

mendment, no democracy, nothing will work until and unless we come above the party politics. Until we do not put the country's interest above party and personal interest (that include all including the leaders of BNP, AL, JI, and JP), no caretaker government will be able to take care of the country and politics for the future.

Mr. Milon was addressing a rally of JCD in Dhaka University.

Mr. Maniruzzaman  
 manir@kabek.tu-tokyo.ac.jp  
 manir@asam.tu-tokyo.ac.jp  
 Japan:

POHELA BOISHAKHE ROMANA BOTO MULE-R Kotha Mone Pore.

Robindro Shangit ar shathe Pora morich ar Panta Vat Khub Shokale of ekti Din fire abar pabe kobe?

I wasn't aware that Ramendu Majumder had gone through such a major operation. Or did it happen naturally, as it did in the case of the Rajshahi University students years ago.

M. Younus, 'UK: The Reply of Dr. Alamgir: "BNP's corruption during last five years will be disclosed as written document"

I don't know the authentic-

*Until we get rid of our prejudice from our mind and start respecting different opinion from ours, no God will give us better leaders we all cry for to take us to the next century. Because, the leaders of a nation reflect the people of the nation.*

Moazzem Hossain, USA

ity of this "Bengali News Weekly", but if the news is true this is very unfortunate for us. We certainly don't expect such kind of democratic(?) language from a prominent Chatra (??) Leader, regardless of any party.

Another prominent Chatra (??) Leader from rival group would say the same kind of language to prevent the shari being taken off.

Is there any end of this kind of behavior? Do the political leader ever think about people? Do we the netters think about our situation with

We all understand and fully support the separation of the executive and the judicial branches of government. I am sure the bureaucrats who decided to take a political stance also support this separation.

Mohammad Harunuzzaman, USA

out taking any side? Of course some netters do, though there are lots of polarized posting now-a-days. I hope, SCB netters will show more unpolarized views in their posting which might create a significant effect on country netter/reader back home. I also hope that in future our great leaders will think hard before the deliver their such great lectures.

(The opinion is mine only)

If you do not have any answer to these, then I should say that you are saying the editorial and comments correct because it criticizes BNP.

No constitutional am-

Shoumyo Dasgupta  
 TXD111@psuvm.psu.edu  
 USA:

While I am reminding some of the readers from West Bengal about some magazines we all shared when we were little, I would also request our Bangladeshi netter friends to enlighten us about the magazines you grew up with.

1. Shuktara : Remember Handa Bhonda and Bantul the Great?

2. Kishore Bharati : Nonstop Phoney? ? Dinesh Chandra Bandopadhyay's series on Runu? I remember a dialogue which was hilarious, stated about this friend (?) of Runu, by his father: "O halay ka koy tar siddo-anna misa kotha".

3. Tepantor : Was VERY good, disappeared...

4. Chhotoder Katha: used to be published from Bardhaman.

5. Jhumjhumi : a mini magazine. I still think it was one of the richest, in terms of quality.

6. Anandamela (of old days, where we read Gabbushi Gabbar, a story by poet Nirentranath Chakraborty, not the recent version for "young adults")

7. Some special Puja numbers: Can you remember some names?

8. Please add on... would love to reminisce.

Mahmood Hassan  
 hassan@kenroku.ipc.kanazawa-u.ac.jp  
 Kanazawa, Japan:

In Bangladesh we used to get Anandamela from India after the birth of Bangladesh. It was a very nice production for the young. I mean "Kishore" generation.

I remember the Juvenile

name).

It's a nice initiative dear Shoumyo, I appreciate very much. Thanks for giving few moments full of dear nostalgia.

Arab  
*<unknown> USA:*

Dasgupta. Apnar lekhata porch money porchche je ei kagojguli katha ami bodhoy shunchechhi. Bahattor/Flatt-e Bangladesh thekey amader kachchey (Kolkat) amader Naheed Khalamoni beRate aashten. Uni Muktijuddhher golpo boiten, ar shongey aantechotur kagoj.

Amar Jotodur money porchche, Al Mahmud-er "Amma" bolen/ Pori-re shona/Abba bolen/Mon Dey/ Paathyer amar / mon bosheena/ Kaintha chaalaimpar/Gondhey" ei opuro chora-ti kono ekta shishu-potrikay prothom dekhi. Naam-ta monne porchchevna Bohudin por Dhakha Shilpo-Kala Academy gye jokhon onlike ei katha boli, uni khub-i bishmito o anondito bodh korechhilen.

Jhumjhumi naamer je kagojtar katha bolchhilm, sheta chhilo char inchi by char inchi ekta khudye porika. Sheta-tey, amar money porey. Kalol Tripathi boley ekhon baaro bochhore chhelye (shet shomoye baro) darun chhobhi aankto. Shey ekbar einkichchilo "Bangladesher Muktijuddho" naamer ekta chhobhi. Chhobhito amar khone money a