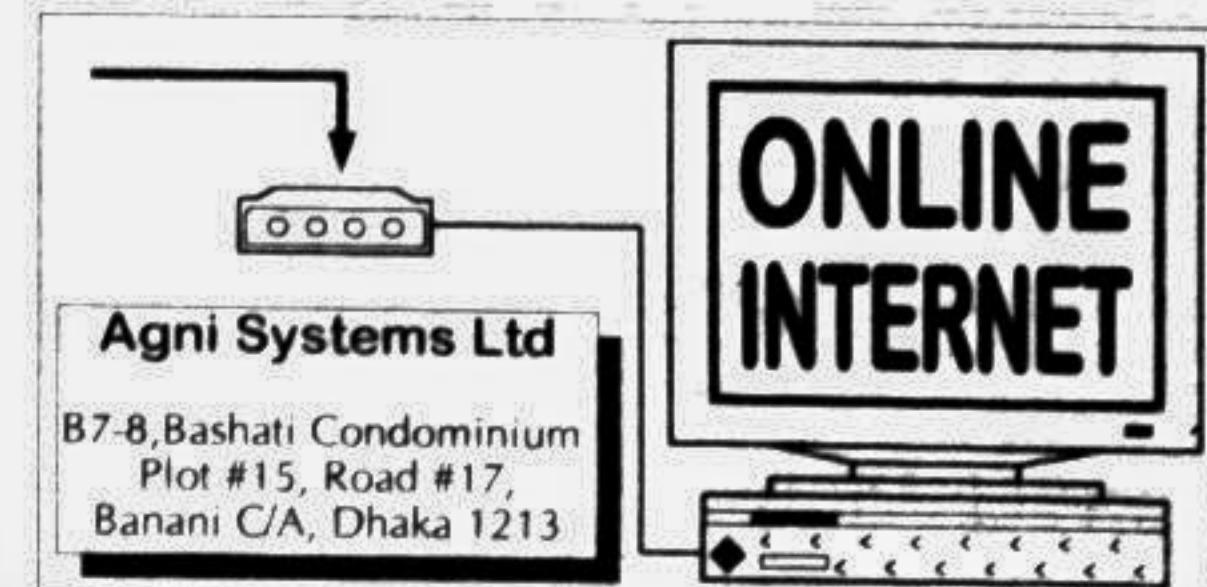




DHAKA WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1996

LIVE FROM THE INTERNET



The Daily Star 5

Bangladesh

Technology and Sustainable Economic Development

Rokonuzzaman
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St. John's Canada:

We are aware of the importance of technology to the economic development of a nation. Technology life cycle (TLC) passes through a number of phases like development, application, launch, growth, maturity, and degradation. High risk and negative return on investment (ROI) are the attributes of early three phases. Most of the ROI is made in growth and maturity phases of a targeted technology. In the technology degradation phase, the labor component of products has comparable value to that of the knowledge or technology component.

Here, the ROI is much lower than the growth or maturity phase.

At this stage, companies (or countries) of the developed world either license that to the 3rd world manufacturers or setup their own plants in those low income countries to get benefit of low wages. If 3rd world countries including Bangladesh follow this approach as only means of economic development, a little (or no) benefit will be gained in the long run. It does not mean that I am objecting to foreign investment, rather I am trying to explain the prospect of sustainable economic development following this policy. Initially, investing huge unutilized human resources in labor intensive work these countries will show good GDP growth for couple of years then the growth will decline. Payment for debt incurred to provide adequate infrastructure facilities for rapid

(or artificial) industrialization and loss due to environmental pollution may be higher than the benefit gained from little ROI of degraded technology.

In parallel to foreign investment, government in cooperation with private sector should select few target technologies. This selection should be based on sound economic analysis. Then through proper policy, planning, management, and investment those technologies should be developed. Government will provide base funding in three high risk and negative ROI phases. Government will patronize these technologies by adopting appropriate policy in the launch phase of these technologies.

It should be noted that the government's responsibility is to patronize private sector to develop and market targeted technologies. Government will get return of their investment in terms of VAT of new products and income tax of wages of new employees. Government will reinvest a portion of this ROI on new technologies. As a matter of fact this is a close cycle system. This is the way sustainable economic development will be achieved and ROI will be much higher than the adoption of degraded technology from developed world in terms of foreign investment and licensing.

We have to keep in mind that there is no short cut of sustainable economic development. No foreign investor using their pension fund is waiting to provide charity service for us. It will be my pleasure to participate with readers in discussion on this topic.

Political Strife

our international image.

Businesses don't want to invest heavily to a country that may erupt into chaos at apparently any moment. Political leaders in Dhaka must learn that the pen is indeed mightier than the sword. Although it is not necessary to agree with the status quo, violent upheaval is not the answer.

From an international perspective, I feel especially strong that students have no place in politics. How can youngsters with so little experience with life in general make decisions on how a country should be run? Why must students deal with the issues of some political leader? They should be left to developing their minds through education, but then that might lead to Bangladesh becoming an industrialized nation!!

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Asia and Japan and was somehow relayed to a retired Australian pilot who posted it on a world-wide electronic discussion group about aviation.

Another case concerns a man called Andrew, whose electronic message to Tracey about how he would "love to kiss your hose-covered toes" inadvertently got posted to a mailing list of thousands of legal experts on the global computer network.

Yet another is about Kraig, whose passionate message to a new girlfriend was accidentally sent to a woman he was trying to ditch.

Much of the misdirected mail is harmless, but sometimes there can be serious repercussions.

Consider, for example, the messages sent by United States F-16 fighter pilot Scott Zobrist when his colleague, Captain Scott O'Grady, was rescued after being shot down in Bosnia last year.

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The information subsequently became available to millions of Internet users around the world. Horrified intelligence officers have no doubt the information was quickly picked up and stored by military forces in countries hostile to the US.

Clearly, electronic mail (email) is less private than its millions of users — numbers are growing by an estimated 20 per cent per year — would like to believe.

E-mail is a new form of communication — a cheap and quick way of contacting colleagues and friends around the world. Users tend to be briefer, more informal and less discreet than they would be if communicating by telephone or letter. They seem to think their messages will be confidential in cyberspace.

Recent incidents suggest this is far from the truth.

There are several reasons for e-mail going astray. Most common is when a sender incorrectly addresses a message

The Daily Star invites its readers to participate in the following Internet discussion groups by sending or faxing Internet posts to: M. Shamimuzzaman, Page-in-Charge, "Live from the Internet", The Daily Star, House # 11, Road # 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. We will mail your letters to the Internet and responses will be published the following week. Letters should be titled and be no more than 100 words.

Mostafa Quamru Sobhan
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London, UK:

If anyone asks us where is your country we say Bangladesh. The next questions that follows are 'Too much flood? Too many strikes? How do you afford to come to this (foreign) country? This is the typical sort of questions that a person from Bangladesh has to face. Sad, what an image Foreign media and our previous governments has portrayed.

We all know deep in our soul that one day we will come out of this stereotyped remarks. We will control the world economy. Probably a lot of people are thinking that I am dreaming absolutely not, since we are proudly in possession of the hardest working people in the world. Can anyone show me where a man can pull a vehicle around the whole day with just a bread as his only food.

Now we have all the feedbacks we need to have a nice

Arlene Getz
apgetz@alo.com

Boston, US:

Everybody on the Internet has a favourite story about the electronic message that got away.

There is one about a New York executive who tried to use the latest technology to transmit a video of herself stripping off clothes for a friend — and ended up pressing a button that mistakenly sent the revealing footage to all 400 employees in her company.

Another case concerns a man called Andrew, whose electronic message to Tracey about how he would "love to kiss your hose-covered toes" inadvertently got posted to a mailing list of thousands of legal experts on the global computer network.

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Bangladesh

My Dream Land Bangladesh

resource we have. We (the Bangladeshi's) are still very young, we are only Twenty Five years old, and still we have a long way to go.

Our country is gifted with Jute and the Garments Sector. We had our success with the jute but sadly it fell. But after that like wildfire Garments came into the rescue ending up in giving about 60% of the country's export. And now we have the booming stock-market. If everything goes right politically, and if the present trend in the market continues than we might pull ourselves out of the present situation and into a new era of Business.

The Prime Minister, we have now, can definitely take us to a new horizon, for I believe that she has in her what it takes to be a successful ruler with a successful country. She has already represented herself very nicely in the U.S. Especially the advertisement that she gave in one of the News paper. Really amazing. Her technique I think is 'give a little, take a lot'. This technique of her will definitely attract multinational companies into the country because these companies's need assurance that their investment would work or not.

Now we have all the feedbacks we need to have a nice

country, to work nicely, in order to have nice means of living for the nice people who live in it.

Bangladesh

Red faces and security alerts over e-mail leaks

Computer messages are not as private as they may seem, and prying eyes may be scanning that electronic "postcard" you just popped into the Internet letterbox. In her latest column for Gemini News Service on the information superhighway, Arlene Getz reports on the funny and worrying consequences of mail falling through the wrong holes in cyberspace.

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Education

Education system in Bangladesh and abroad

Taslima Tarafder
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Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Though I am young in age I found the compulsion between Bangladesh and abroad countries educational system. I am just 19 years old. I have been in several countries like Canada, UK. Now I am staying in Malaysia with my family. Now Malaysia is developing in a high speed. But twenty years ago it was undeveloped than Bangladesh. The education system in Malaysia is getting better. Every one is getting education. The job is available for Malaysian people. Those who passes the school final examination they can get a good job. But in our the PhD holders can't get a job. How shame for us isn't it. This is our bad luck. The percentage of educated people in our country is too little. But the government is always shouting that every one must get education. Our country is following foreign country but there not following in the right way. This is the problem of our country. The primary, secondary and the higher secondary educational system is worst. The students don't enjoy it. The percentage of H.S.C examination this year is below 30. Because the system changed after our test, I am proud of our former education minister. What a wonder minister we had isn't it. There is no political stability in our country. There are violence everywhere. But in other countries there is no student politics and violence. The government is responsible for it. One day we will win. We have to take manifold schemes in this respect.

Government decision for English language

Hans Knutsson
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I am very much pleased to read the news about our Government's decision regarding the development of training facilities in English language in all educational institutions of the country. We are Bangladeshi. Bangla is our national language and we are proud of to be able to speak in our mother tongue. But we should not forget that we need to learn other language also. Even non-English speaking nations in different parts of the world accept English as their second language in educational institutions. Here in Sweden also students start learning English language from