

News Front Page

LATEST: Twenty-seven villagers reported killed in attacks in India's Assam state.

Last Updated: Wednesday, 24 March, 2004, 13:17 GMT

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Madrid memorial for bomb victims

World leaders attend a ceremony in Madrid for the 190 people who died in the 11 March attacks.

- In pictures: Madrid memorial
- Europe's new security challenge
- Blair talks with Spain's new PM

OTHER TOP STORIES

- ▶ Taiwan court challenge delayed
- ▶ New Hamas chief vows revenge
- ▶ Missile attack on Baghdad hotel
- ▶ US envoy talks to Libyan leader
- ▶ Firms 'aid poor-country fraud'
- ▶ Jackson sues over 'property sale'

ALSO IN THE NEWS

-  Monty Python's Life of Brian takes on The Passion of the Christ
-  Violinists demand pay rise for playing more notes



Bush critic due at 9/11 hearing

The 9/11 inquiry will hear former anti-terror aide Richard Clarke, as the president says he handled the crisis properly.



Microsoft hit by record EU fine

The EU fines Microsoft almost 500m euros for anti-competitive behaviour and demands software changes.

BBC SPORT

- LIVE** Pakistan v India
- LIVE** Sri Lanka v Australia



E-mail exchange Middle East women discuss opposing claims to shared land



Foetal feelings New rights are in the offing for America's 'unborn children'



Day in pictures Some of the most striking images from around the world



- Anti-clockwise from top
- 1 The BBC News homepage online
 - 2 Celebdaq on bbc.co.uk
 - 3 Educational content includes ReviseWise

A safe home on the internet

bbc.co.uk uses the internet to complement the full range of the BBC's broadcast output, extending the depth, interactivity and ease of access to the information, education and entertainment on offer. **bbc.co.uk** encourages participation in the digital world and provides a safe home on the internet.

bbc.co.uk's key service priority

Following a thorough review of **bbc.co.uk**, the Governors agreed that our objective should be to grow the reach and usage of **bbc.co.uk**. We will aim to encourage audiences to realise the full benefits of the digital world by delivering must-see landmark, cross-platform events – from the Olympics to *Space Odyssey*.

Access to the facts

The news service on **bbc.co.uk** is updated every minute of every day, with up to 2,000 new stories or features added weekly. Issues are explored in greater depth than is possible on TV or radio, and major stories are supported with audio or video content. There are homepages for each of the UK's nations and local news through the 55 *Where I Live* sites.

Audiences are able to debate a range of current news issues through *Have Your Say* and a number of message boards. We are currently piloting *iCan*, which aims to foster a unique interactive online community where individuals can make a difference to the issues that directly affect them.

In 2004/2005, our key commitments are:

- the launch of Quick Guides, offering extra insight and context to illuminate daily news events
- to relaunch *Newsround*, our children's news service, giving greater prominence to user-generated content

Inspiring participation in the cultural life of the UK

We will continue to span the full range of the UK's cultural activity, supporting existing engagements with BBC Radio networks and key TV programmes and genres.

As well as complementing our broadcasts, online interactivity will support artistic and cultural involvement across the nations and regions of the UK. We will run specific programmes to encourage and educate people in using the internet as a space for

creativity – as we did with the *Get Writing* website, which offered viewers the chance to join an online learning community and contribute their own stories for others to read and share. *One Minute Movies* will give users advice on how to write and produce short fictional films, the best of which will be offered on the site.

In 2004/2005, our key commitments are to:

- enhance the BBC Radio Player, extending the number of programmes available
- improve the quality and efficiency of our audio streaming, while managing distribution costs
- develop our online sites for BBC radio services to deliver greater interactivity, more dynamic information and support for key events such as live music, festivals and the Reith Lectures
- build the audience input to our lifestyle service with a daytime area, enabling viewers to interact with and contribute to programmes
- run a technical trial exploring the feasibility of offering on-demand access to some TV programming
- deliver compelling online elements to the BBC's cross-platform coverage of the year's massive sporting calendar, including the Olympics and Euro 2004

Informing and educating

From pre-school to adults, **bbc.co.uk** will offer education resources to support all learners.

Our CBeebies site will continue to complement the broadcast channels with a range of games and activities designed to deliver core early learning objectives, including language and literacy, numeracy, knowledge and understanding of the world and physical and creative development.

We have received approval to launch the digital curriculum service for primary and secondary schools throughout the UK.

In 2004/2005, we will:

- deliver online propositions as an integrated part of all the major TV factual landmark series
- launch *Computers for the Terrified*, a course for complete beginners and precursor to a basic skills campaign in 2005/2006

Space to talk

The unique power of the internet lies in its capacity to create and support communities. The BBC is able to attract highly diverse audiences and to continue to make a unique contribution to building a tolerant, multicultural society.

Our *Where I Live* and regional sites serve every geographic community in the UK with news and information, and provide discussion spaces which relate to particular community needs.

We also gather together communities of interest not linked by geographical location, but by shared passion of common goals.

In the year ahead we will:

- expand the range of community and audience-contributed content
- explore the possibility of issuing children with secure digital identities for use within online spaces (improving safety for children and peace of mind for parents while acknowledging our duty of care to our users and licence payers)

A worldwide web

We will continue to connect the UK and the international community primarily through the rich and trusted coverage of international news. **bbc.co.uk** coverage of the Iraq war brought people from across the UK into dialogue with individuals and opinions from as far afield as Fiji, Ghana, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain and the USA.



Anti-clockwise from top

- 1 Press the red button to access BBCi
- 2 Interactive TV offers a wider variety of stories for the Dunkirk season of programming
- 3 The 6 Nations Rugby Championship, part of BBCi's comprehensive sports coverage

Puts you in the driving seat

BBCi offers all-day up-to-the-minute news, weather, education, entertainment and other information. It is available to all digital television audiences via the red button on the remote control. The service aims to enhance the value of the BBC's television proposition to all digital audiences through video, audio, pictures and text.

BBCi's key service priority

BBCi gives audiences a choice beyond scheduled programming. Our rich content mix is permanently available at the touch of a button on the remote control.

This year our offering will be significantly enhanced and more varied, following an investment in technology to deliver online content into TV.

Also this year we will provide additional services on Freeview and cable TV, bringing them more in line with the offering on digital satellite. This will include provision of news video loops on digital cable, and a selection of interactive content supporting our digital radio stations on both digital cable and Freeview.

Supporting informed citizenship

BBCi aims to be the essential source of immediate news for those who choose to access it through digital TV. Our service offers coverage of the top international, national and regional news stories and issues.

The core news service on BBCi has recently been considerably enhanced: up to six video loops – depending on the digital service – are immediately accessible, and around 1,000 text pages are continuously updated throughout the day.

The year 2004/2005 marks the beginning of an improved news coverage service – a wider variety of stories and more in-depth coverage of major items, reflecting the BBC's commitment to full plurality of voices and opinions.

For some, BBCi on digital TV may become the first point of regular contact with digital media as a source for immediate news and other information, particularly as the user incurs no additional charge for pressing the red button.

For 2004/2005, the key commitments are:

- significant improvement in the range and format of BBCi news and sports articles
- enhancement of the service provided for Freeview and digital cable audiences, bringing it more in line with the service on digital satellite
- new regionalised access points – direct links to local and regional news driven by the geographical location of the user
- ease of transition to digital for analogue Ceefax users through Quick Codes that pinpoint the equivalent information on BBCi

Building a learning society

BBCi offers a range of learning services, including GCSE revision and developmental games for the very young.

An improved *Bitesize Interactive* service will be launched, including a video quiz element. Revision subjects will be updated daily.

A range of interactive, developmental games is available on the CBeebies section, and the number of games provided throughout the year will be increased in 2004/2005. The section also provides parenting advice such as nurturing child development through play, as well as make-and-do tips and hints.

Inspiring and celebrating UK culture

BBCi provides over 4,000 text pages to deliver a comprehensive overview of what is on offer from the UK entertainment sector, as well as a video round-up of entertainment news, updated daily.

The service offers TV listings, with preview clips from upcoming BBC comedy, drama and film. In addition, a weekly *EastEnders* catch-up video is available, accompanied by soap story updates, gossip and information about future episodes. Film coverage is provided, with local cinema listings and film reviews both in text form and on video. Finally, the music entertainment sector is covered with reviews and chart listings for singles, albums and DVDs, as well as video loops for new singles releases.

The sports section offers a comprehensive service – the latest sports stories available on video and text pages with detailed scores, results, fixtures and league tables. A ticker service allows viewers to be instantly informed of scores, headlines and results without interfering with TV viewing.