

## At last some chance for peace

**HAMMAD**  
HK0191@CUB.UCA.EDU  
USA:  
Finally the opposition party has won their share of the deal! What I fail to understand is why Zia didn't 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 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@ax2.Winona.Msu.edu**  
USA:  
Is the country at last free from the bad spell or new kind of scourge to come? May that the new topic over the tea cup in the capital for few days. 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 believe me brothers no body but he/she(?) knows how the country is running(?)

## Khaleda & Hasina - As a person

**Md. Rafiqul Islam**  
rislam@ccuf.utexas.edu  
University of Texas at Austin, USA:  
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, well-mannered-down-to-earth person or are they arrogant as their political rhetorics could be?  
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 be.  
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 "on-line" as they say, so tedious that I want to trade my terminal for a quill pen.  
It is true that a vast treasure chest of wonderful information

Wide Web have now begun to attract serious attention from therapists and quality newspapers.  
Newsweek magazine carried a report about those "who log on, but can't log off". The article cited Glenda, a 43-year-old 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 the world".  
Then there was the man who wrote to an advice columnist, blaming a modem — the

device which links computers to telephone lines — for 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 marital 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 manuals.  
There is also a Webaholics page on the World Wide Web (Internet address: <http://www.ohio.edu/~rbarrett/webaholics/ver2/>), started by Ohio University graduate student Rich Barrette after watching the academic careers of two friends go "down the drain".  
This electronic site is said to 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 Internet addict 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 modem.

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 Internet."

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 I have to negotiate through endless menus of options and superfluous information. Often I feel as if I am lost in a cavernous poorly-catalogued library.  
If I do find something, I have to wait while the dots on my screen re-arrange themselves into graphics that I 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

(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 Bangladeshis, 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.

## What we need is a strict ruler...

**Md Rumman Hassan**  
mrh000@jove.acs.unt.edu  
USA:  
We all know what kind of situation has been prevailing in our country for the past few months. The word DEVELOPMENT 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 people 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.

*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

**Hassan Monu Alam, USA:** And dictators have succeeded in any country??  
We are simply going through our learning curve. While it would be nice if didn't have to, the answer lies in persuading our leaders through democratic tendency clinging to power.

**Md Rumman Hassan, USA:** If you need law enforcement you have a representative government enforce laws. Experience with "elected dictators" have shown they have a remarkable tendency clinging to power.

**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.

**Md Rumman Hassan, USA:** Can you imagine the consequences of a bad selection like getting either of our current leaders as dictators.  
We are simply going through our learning curve. While it would be nice if didn't have to, the answer lies in persuading our leaders through democratic tendency clinging to power.

**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.

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

**Rinku Anisuzzaman**  
anisuzzaman.1@postbox.acs.ohio-state.edu  
Columbus, Ohio, USA:  
Someone (a Bangladeshi) told me the other day that the only thing Bangladeshis 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, I am not making a point, just thought it was a funny point he made. Also, what is up with this EECH mentality? you'll know what

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

We are simply going through our learning curve. While it would be nice if didn't have to, the answer lies in persuading our leaders through democratic tendency clinging to power.

**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. Gandhi's attempts to suspend the constitution.

**Zia Hassan**  
ziasan@state.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.ohio-state.edu  
The Ohio State University, USA:  
Please accept my sincere congratulations.

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

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## I AM FED UP Investment Newsletter

**Jahangir Sultan**  
JSULTAN@cronus.bentley.edu  
USA:  
Oh well, why not me? Lots of people are posting on the SCB (whether or not they make any sense that's 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 mile.  
Thanks for the laugh.

2. I am sick of harkens in Dhaka. I almost got stranded at the Dhaka airport last month. My brother tells me that Dhaka is bracing for a major show-down and at the end its always the middle class that gets totally screwed by the politicians. Why can't we all get along? By the way, a windshield costs something like 20,000 Taka and a brick costs nothing.

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... Desh's don't 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 it. 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 huddled near the toilet? Hmm... You ask for glass of water and you almost get your 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 can't 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 day.

**INTERNATIONAL CALLBACK** is a unique innovation designed to provide U.S. International long distance rates to countries outside the United States.  
For example, say you want to make a call from France to Japan. From your telephone in France, you simply dial the "callback computer" in the U.S. and hang up after one or two rings (there is no charge for this part of the call). The callback computer will immediately call you back with a dial tone. You then enter the number in Japan you wish to call and you are connected. That's all there is to it.  
The cost per minute you pay is simply the sum of the rates for the two countries involved. In this example, it would be the sum of the French rate and the Japanese rate. And, of course, you will be billed in 6 second increments.

**WORLD ACCESS CALLBACK**  
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Abbreviated Access to Frequently Dialed Numbers  
No Charge Automatic Call Forwarding (Pre-Determined Dialing)  
Available Automatic Call Units (Dialers) Provide Transparent Access  
Available Customized Prompts in up to 14 Languages  
Call Blocking, # Redial, Automatic Retry, Callback Delay and more

**Norway calling Japan**  
Tinku dug01042@mail.everyday.no  
Norway:  
Is there anyone in Japan 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 accommodation but I'm not sure whether 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.

**Gautam Das**  
das@netcom.co  
USA:  
Joy may search for job at misc.job.contract or there are some other newsgroups providing job info.

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Please send or fax your Internet posts to: M. Shamuzzaman, 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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