LIVE FROM THE INTERNET

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1996   The Daily Star 5

Bangladesh

Open Letter to the Prime Minister

INTELLECTS INC.
intellec@intellects.com
USA:

I would like to know whether it is possible to launch high tech entrepreneural venture in Bangladesh without paying any bribe to any government official. I plan to duplicate Bangalore in Bangladesh and also intend to be in Bangladesh in near future.

Mohammed Hasanuzzaman
mhasan@dip.eecs.umich.edu
USA:

Good passionate posting. Thanks for objective thinking and civil language.

Internet vs. Intranet

ASHK AHMED
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USA:

Andrew Roabins seems to be upset or disppaointed over the fact that Bangladesh got into the information high way thorugh the two ISP s. Instead of lauding them for their pioneering role, he is appranetly trying to pull them back by saying that they should form a network amongst themselves instead of connecting internationally via Hong Kopng etc. He seemed to have strong objection gainst these ISP s because they put profit before the national interset Mr.Roabins as far as I know you are in the Ford-Foundation, can you tell us what you or the Ford foundation has done for Bangladesh, except drawing fat salaries out of the Ford-Foundation funds. Did the emergnce of internet in Bangladesh hurt your own interset some how ? After all whose interset are you serving ? etc.....

Andrew Robinson
andrew@bangla.net
Bangladesh:

It seems poor Mr. Ahmed enrolls simple businessmen and "laudatory pioneers" in the same nursery school.

Providing Internet access to computer users cannot be called "pioneering" -- the Internet has been around now for 30 years and linking the notebook computers of BBC correspondents, or UNICEF workers, or World Bankateers in the jungles of Gambia to the Internet is the natural progression of an expanding (almost imperially so) network. But has Mr. Ahmed forgotten the condition of his own country? Visit any town in Bangladesh, my friend, and ask the people who live there if Bangladesh is on the information highway. They will look at you and laugh.

Providing Internet access to non-computer users, such as users of newspapers, radio and television -- that is what we've been exploring (with a very short-term individual grant from Ford), and it's as applicable in Dhaka, Bangladesh as Atlanta, USA. This work, however, cannot be called "pioneering" either, as people have attempted throughout history to bridge various forms of media.

It is common sense that some semblance of a government-run domestic network should have been installed in Bangladesh "before" the arrival of full-fledged private Internet servers. The computer-accessed Internet -- with its growing emphasis on pornography, entertainment and junk advertising (90 percent of Internet information originates in America and Europe) is simply not appropriate for public consumption in Bangladesh. The non-computer-accessed Internet (in which our argument will no doubt appear, a la the Daily Star), especially within the Bangla language media, is certainly a more suitable forum for the exchange of ideas, even if it can't be "surfed."

Whether or not the ISPs impede upon the growth of better communications within Bangladesh is difficult to say, but I do know that whatever minimal domestic email existed in Bangladesh was virtually free of cost before the ISPs arrived. Today, as email providers must now compete to provide Internet services, Bangladeshis who simply want to communicate domestically must pay a 10,000tk membership fee and 3tk per minute of on-line time. In other words, I can talk -- literally talk (as in voice-talk) with my friends and family in the US over the internet for a mere 3tk per minute. And yet I can't even get a call through (nevermind email) from Dhaka to Chittagong. Any communications scholar will tell you that such a situation is disastrous for a country, especially at a time where Bangladesh has everything it needs -- the resources, the brains, a single national language and a surfeit of data managers (namely, people) -- to become a tremendous vortex of power in the age of information.

We Are Not Concern About The Real Issues

Rabbul H. Mirza
rhm4@po.CWRU.Edu
USA:

Lately, I have read infinite number of discussion on the title of SMR, Special Powers act, rivalry between AL and BNP and the list goes on and on. No one however took any time to propose solution or discuss our real problems such as corruption,illiteracy,poverty...

We never try to come up with answeres to thesee problems and blame every one else for not doing so while looking back and pointing to our past for our current destitution and a broken econmy.

We all work hard and try to solve problems for US industry and how US or foreign business can make more money but never bother to discuss how can we revive our JUTE (Remember Banglar Sonar Ash) industry, We talk about which regime violated human rights the most but never bother to discuss how should the government solve the existing tribal problem.

I can write forever.. I ask everyone to start thinking for solution not problems. Even if we can come up with one solution it could make a big difference (Ex: Grameen).

Lets all be proud of our past but not hang on to it any more. We can't solve the problems that were in thepast but we can certainly solve the ones at present. Its time to move on...

Ajker Sangsad

ZAedM
szm2133@alpha.cc.OBERLIN.EDU
USA:

I guess the funnyest and entertaining program on tv right now in Bangladesh is not Baywatch, it is Agker Sangsad which-BTV broadcasts everyday in two 1/2 hr sessions after the 8pm and 10pm news bulletin! It give a totally new perspective into the sillyness of our eleceted MPs. BMP was specially embarssed after BTV showed the leader of the opposition shouting a word of caution at the AL MPs. Than there is the constant shouting of the AL MPs and Govt. Ministers. When you think that these people are running the country it is really SCARY!

Bangladesh

North South University

Abul Haque
ahaque@nsu.agni.com
Dhaka, Bangladesh:

Hello:

I am loggod on from Bangladesh through agni.com. Is not this wonderful? What do you think about the North South University? I am a faculty in the Department of Computer Science. If you want to help NSU in any way you can please do so. We need your support, contribution to help NSU grow in the right direction.

Syed Haque
sye@nortel.com
USA:

Please correct me if I'm wrong. Isn't NSU a private school? I heard the only requirement to attend NSU is a HUGE contribution to the school general fund, and be able to pay high tution fees. Now, why would you need outside support? Just raise the contribution level, or the tution fee. But if the support is other than monetary, just ask.

hwre@ix.netcom.com
USA:

North South University is for profit no doubt. The days when some rich person in Bangladesh would set up such a noble or ambitious venture are long gone, with the fish and clean waters. Of course this institution is for profit. And from what I hear only the very rich can attend, because of the high fees and the salami etc that has to be doled out every year. Nonetheless, this university is fulfilling a basic need for our country-- the need for institutions of higher learning. I hope the faculty are atleast honest about what they do.

Skolastika
skolastika@aol.com
UK:

Can someone from the adminstration of the NS University explain the significance of the name of the university? It is very odd to have a name like that! Very often, in the US, you see the name like Northwest or Northeast, or any other quadrant. During my last visit to Dhaka in June '95, I was told by a student of NSU that their school is affiliated with an institute in the US by the same name. But, I think it is not true. The western people have enough sense to pick a name like that.

The other concern that I have about the private universities of Dhaka is that -- Is the country yet ready for private universities? Private enterprises have to put up huge some of money to have science and technology curriculum in the university along side with the arts and commerce program. After investigating the curriculum of these institute, it is obvious to me that some academician and businessman in Bangladesh started these schools for financial reward, rather than helping the society. The irony of the matter is that the faculty member of the private universities in Dhaka are themselves the product of the public universities of the country!!! Furthermore,one look at the composition of the students in these universities will give credence to the notion that these institutes are "for profit organization." If someone at the NSU begs to disagree with me on this issue, I like to hear. I think, I am uniquley qualified to make criticism of these private universities in Bangladesh since I was connected with the three US universities over 15 years. I received my Ph.D. in 1974 from a mid-western University in the U.S. I am a research scientist for the U.S. Fedral Government for the past 12 years.

Jahangir Sardar
JHS1@students.stir.ac.uk
UK:

Well, I don't have any clue to the reason of that name, I found lots of other universities recently have named them, like, EAST-WEST university. ASIA-PACIFIC university. The names sound so great!!!!

Writer Humayun Ahmed

Ihtisham Kabir
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USA:

Yeah, he is good. Except that his characters "... fhor hor korey bomi korey dilo `1.

Nripendra Nath Sarker
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USA:

That does not touch me. His works touches my heart. I am fond of what he presents to us in terms of writing.

AIDS in Bangladesh

Saiful Haque
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USA:

I was reading an article which really scared me. It says "Three million Indians may be affected by AIDS ...Official sources indicate that India could well have one of the highest incidences of HIV positive cases in the world. At last count, the number of people who have gone in for sero-survillance for HIV infection was 22,804. AIDS control officials, however, figure that the actual incidence is far higher.

Underlining this feeling, the International Conference on Aids in Vancouver, Canada in early July named India as having the largest number of HIV-infected people in the world."

The use of unclean syringes by drug users being given as the chief reason for spreading this deadly disease.

I wonder what's the situation in Bangladesh now. Doesn't matter what's the current situation now the Bangladesh Govt. should take serious steps for public awareness about AIDS in EMERGENCY basis. Let's fight this disease now before things get out of control.

Cellular Phones in Bangladesh

Kirk Kuykendall
kirkk@austin.aus.sig.net
USA:

Does anyone know of any attempts at implementing cellular phone technology -- in Bangladesh? What are the regulatory hurdles one would face in implementing such a system?

Shabbir M. Hossain
smh5965@is4.NYU.EDU
USA:

When I visited last summer, I noticed several people with cellular phones and can confirm that there is a system set up for use. But the toll for using this service is quite steep in Bangladesh standards. It's about 10 taka per call. Due to this, it lacks any practical use. The only purpose of using a cellular phone that I saw was to showcase it in public in a very undignified manner. It's ridiculous to see young people spend money so frivolously in public to only showcase it in front of the many less privileged in Bangladesh.

Business

Home-based Business

KEVIN SADLER
ksadler@ldd.net
USA:

A list of over 800 Companies that need YOU!!! Opportunities Include--Free-Lance Artists, Free-Lance Photographers, Free-Lance Writers, Free-Lance Illustrators, Medical Billing, Assemble Products at Home, Vending Machine Businesses, Photo and Negative Re-Touching, Windshield Repair Business, Writers needed for Greeting Cards,Technical Writers, Cosmetic and Jewelry Products, Phone Company Reps. Telemarketing, Word Processing, Mail-Order Catalog Business, and MUCH MUCH MORE!!! Over 20 Pages of Information!!!! write to T.A.Sadler 16992 County Road 527 Bloomfield, MO 63825!! Get started in your own Home-Based Business today!! The Information Includes Company Names and addresses and also the Type of Opportunity that they are Offering!! All YOU have to do is write to them for Free Information!! Don't Delay, Send for Info TODAY!!!

Bruce Astbury
cn528@FreeNet.Carleton.CA
Canada:

I would like to introduce you to the hottest program ever devised for making ordinary people earn small fortunes. It generates HUGE CASH PROFITS, and there is no limit to what you can earn. This program works because there is no buying or selling, takes hardly any of your time to do, and is so simple it can be done by virtually anyone. It is fun, completely legal, and it WILL make you alot of money.

Karen Skaar
kskaar@dct.com
USA:

Successful home based business owner seeks to help others get started in their own business. Individuals selected will receive up to $750.00 to get started in a business that can produce unlimited income. Stop working to make someone else rich. Take control of your destiny and join the MOST SUCCESSFUL MLM IN HISTORY! Send email. include "Freebie" in the subject line for more information.

Education

Typewriter or Pen?

Jennifer
chua.3@osu.edu
USA:

Hi.

Is it really necessary to complete the applications with a typewriter instead of a pen? Would the admission officers disregard applications completed with pens? My brother is trying to decide whether he should buy a typewriter just for the applications. Please help.

RozMW
rozmw@aol.com
USA:

College admissions committees will not throw your application in the JUNK pile just because they see handwriting. But. typewritten applications do make good first impressions. Neatness counts whether by hand or machine. I recommend typewritten applications.
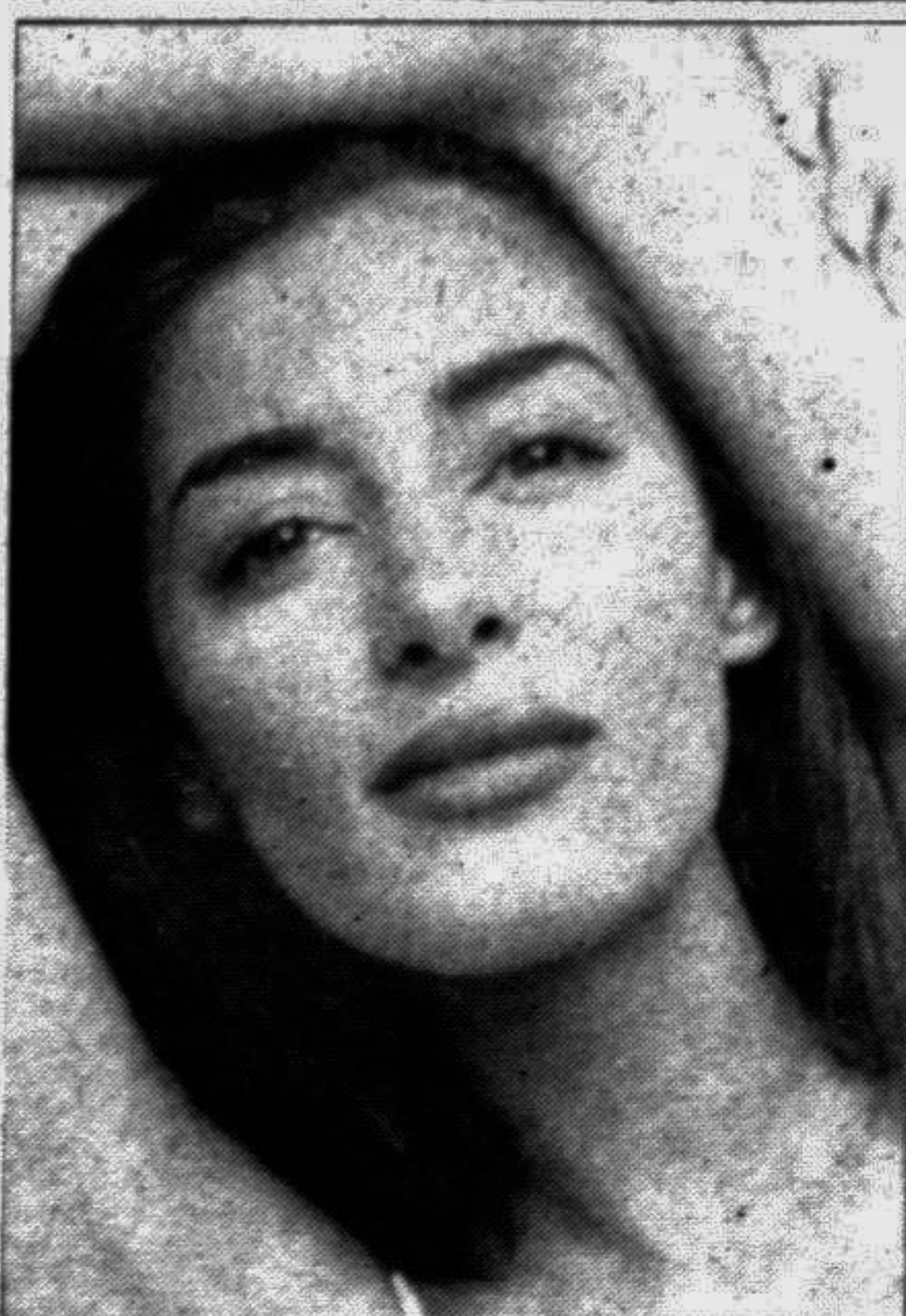
Research Assistantship

Affan Habib
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USA:

There are two immidiate research assistantships available under Dr. Mustaque Hossain, Asst. Prof. K-State University in the field of transporatation/geotechnical engineering. Interested candidates are advised to contact me immediately.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

TOM and JERRY

James Bond

by IAN FLEMING
DRAWING by HORAK