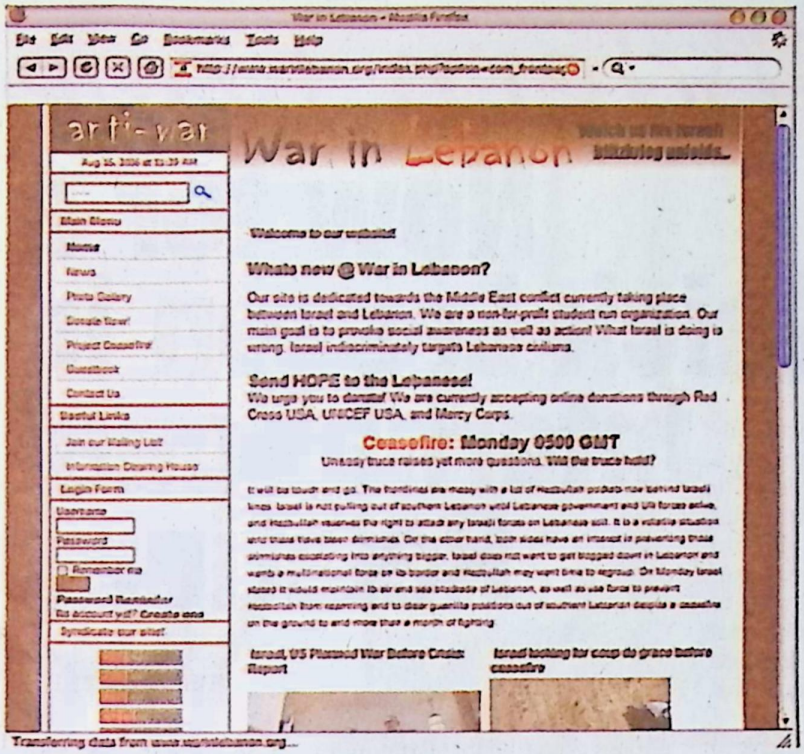


itself was well received and it ended with a lively debate session where everyone put forward their points of view. Since the seminar the website evolved off and now is a portal of sorts, it is a pot puri of information and opinions. When asked about why he continued with the portal even after the seminar Ziyad said " It's a way that you can express yourself and share your views and let other people see them as well." Anika added "we are just trying to express ourselves and our political ideas, not just thoughts like get rid of Bush, who knows maybe the Hezbollah will be the next Taliban". She went on to say "We (the website) would like to spread the word of optimism".

This is the sort of positive forward thinking that we are desperately in need of, and shame on us that two university students from the backwaters of Bangladesh are some of the only people who actually did something about it. These days injustice is greeted with a muted response, the day it is greeted with silence we would all have lost the humanity within us. As long as these two individuals are alive there will always be a voice against the oppressors, no matter how small it is. With the help of their website they hope that slowly the voices will unite and will be heard on a global stage.

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People have visited the website from America to Iceland and the Seychelles and it has a truly global audience. With an exchange of views from around the world their website has done its best to be noticed. It even has links on how to donate funds to Lebanon. While it is a work in progress this first step of setting up the website was an achievement in itself.

their website has done its best to be noticed. It even has links on how to donate funds to Lebanon. While it is a work in progress this first step of setting up the website was an achievement in itself. One might say some of the inspiration came from Ziyad and his experiences in America. He says he disliked how America was changing; with the onset of the Patriot Act no one was free from suspicion. He told me that he did not feel safe in a country where every move from books borrowed at the library to private e-mails could be scrutinised by the government. He also felt particularly oppressed by the lack of free speech, which America so famously spouts to the rest of the world. These reasons added to his move to Bangladesh and helped when he set up the site. He said that if he had set up the website in America then he probably would have picked up on anti terrorist charges. With the controversial content he provides on his website like pieces by Seymore Hersh and Noam Chomsky and a whole plethora of anti Israeli articles he would not only have been picked up under the guise of the Patriot Act but probably would have had a lot more to deal with. The land of the free is euthanizing its own freedom.

One hopes that this will not be an exercise in futility and from their example more people will speak up and be heard. The time has come for all of us to do something instead of lamenting why we didn't. Anika and Ziyad are two people that we should all learn from, they spoke up without fear and believed in a cause. Most of us are willing to let events pass us by on CNN and the BBC, next time you see something that shocks and disturbs you, don't sit back and say that you would like to help. Go out and do something. ■