

## Studying on the Net

There is every reason to feel felicitous about the Dhaka University Library being linked with other libraries around the world through the Internet. This computer-based educational apparatus starts cruising next week. There is more rationale to be delighted because the Dhaka University Library Automation Project (DULAP), initiated in July last with the financial hand from the government, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the University Grants Commission (UGC), is expected to be completed in June next year.

While making DU Library digitally advanced, the user-friendly perimeter of the library must not go neglected. In fact, the existing analogue system should also be enriched in terms of availability of books and publications as soon as these get marketed locally and internationally. The administration and the atmosphere of the library have been in a shambles for long. For example, acquiring the right reference-work for a student is a wearisome chore; and a pupil-friendly environment in and around the library is grossly lacking for students willing to study.

Making the library digital doesn't mean an automatic improvement of the situation. There has to be a satisfactory number of computers available with guarantee for appropriate maintenance. It will also be impractical if the library-users are computer-illiterate. Enormous responsibility thus rests with the university authority to impart info-tech knowledge to the students so that they are able to communicate with the rest of the world. It is equally important that other universities have the access.