

Tech Conference

A promising insight

5th ICCIT held at Dhaka

SHUVRO

ONE of the largest IT events in the country, the fifth International Conference on Computer and Information Technology (ICCIT) 2002 was held on December 27-28. This year's ICCIT was organised by East West University with the help of fourteen other universities. Computing professional, teachers, students and researchers from fifteen countries including the United Kingdom, the United States, India, Japan, Canada, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Malaysia, Singapore, the Netherlands and the hosts Bangladesh took part in the conference.

The participants of the conference presented 123 research papers on more than thirty different fields. Mohammad A Karim, the City College of the City University of New York, Eric G Manning, University of Victoria, Canada, Mahbubur Rahman Syed, Minnesota State University, Tadao Nakamura, Tohoku University of Japan and Parvez I Haris, De Montfort University of the UK presented the keynote speeches.

The inaugural session of the conference was held at the Plenary Hall of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre on December 27. Inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin, president, board of director, East West University. The chief guest of the

programme was Professor Muhammad Yunus, founder and managing director of Grameen Bank. Welcome Address was given by Mrs Firdaus Ali, registrar, East West University. In his speech, Dr Yunus emphasised on the availability of information technology opportunities around the country. He said if these options were uniformly distributed countrywide, it would work in the country's development like the lamp of Aladin.

Dr Farashuddin, in his speech, hoped the conference

would be the convergence of view and knowledge of local and foreign computer scientists, researchers, professionals, educators and entrepreneurs. In the inaugural session, Dr George B. Assaf, UNIDO Regional Director for South Asia; Professor Mozammel Huq Azad Khan, organising committee chair, ICCIT 2002 and chairperson, CSE Department, East West University; Mohammad A. Karim, programme committee chair, ICCIT 2002 and dean, School of Engineering, the City College of

the City University of New York also addressed the session. The science and ICT secretary and senior professors of universities were present in the programme.

After the inaugural session, the technical sessions began. Throughout December 27 and 28 technical sessions were held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre and the IDB Bhaban. The session chairs of those sessions were Professor M Zafar Iqbal, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology,

Bangladesh; Dr. M Abul Kashem, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh; Professor Chowdhur Mofizur Rahman, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh; Professor R I Sharif, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh; Professor Tadao Nakamura, Tohoku University, Japan; Professor Semir Daskapan, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands; Dr. Joarder Kamruzzaman, Monash University, Australia; Dr. Parvez I Haris, De Montfort University, UK; Professor M Lutfar Rahman, Independent University, Bangladesh; Professor M Kaykobad, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh; Dr Manzur Murshed, Monash University, Australia; Professor M A Mottalib, Islamic University of Technology, Bangladesh; Professor M A Sobhan, Prime University, Bangladesh; Professor Eric G Manning, University of Victoria, Canada; Dr Abul L Haque, North South University, Bangladesh; Professor Mohammad A Karim, The City College of the City University of New York, US; Professor Pradip Peter Dey, National University, USA; Professor Mahbubur Rahman Syed, Minnesota State University, USA; Professor Farruk Ahmed, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh; Dr A M Chowdhury, Bangladesh

Computer Council; Professor Sajjad Zahir, University of Lethbridge, Canada.

The ICCIT was first held at Dhaka University as the National Conference on Computer and Information Systems (NCCIS). This year's ICCIT was organised by East West University with the help of the Ministry of Science and Information and Communication Technology and fourteen other private and public universities. Sponsors of the conferences were Citibank NA, Limo Electronics, Prime Bank, Bank Asia, Premier Bank and Southtech Ltd.

The concluding session and dinner of ICCIT 2002 held at the Saffron Restaurant. This session was chaired by Dr Farashuddin and the chief guest was Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan. On behalf of the organisers crests were given to the honourable technical session chairs. Organising chair of ICCIT 2002, Professor Mozammel Huq Azad Khan then read the draft recommendations. Recommendations include the necessity of connecting the country to fibre optic backbone and becoming a member of the Uniconet consortium. In his speech, Dr Khan expected that this country would be connected with the fibre optic backbone within a few years. He also said that this kind of conference helped Bangladesh progress in IT.



Professor Muhammad Yunus speaking at the inaugural ceremony

PHOTO: STAR

Dr. Tech

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Although you have not mentioned your mailing system I am giving you two separate and most popular systems to change your password. One for Hotmail and one for Yahoo! I hope this will solve your problem

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 2. Enter your new password (as you would like it to be) in the second box.
 3. Confirm your new password in the third box.
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- dailystartech@yahoo.com

Bio Tech

Myths of Cloning distort reality, scientists say

REUTERS, New York

THE claim that a human being has been cloned for the first time has fueled concern that science fiction is about to become reality.

But scientists this week dismissed popular myths about cloning, saying that images of an exact human replica or an army of identical marching soldiers are preposterous.

They stressed whatever fears people may have, a clone would not be an exact replica of the person being cloned, saying it was more akin to an identical twin one or two generations removed.

"Even in identical twins, where the DNA is identical, they are different people because of the influence of environment," said Janet Rowley, professor of medicine at the University of Chicago and a member of the President's Council on Bioethics that convened earlier this year.

The relative influence of genes versus environment on an individual's development is a debate that has raged for more than a century, typically framed in the context of "nature versus nurture."

Sir Francis Galton, a 19th century British psychologist and cousin of Charles Darwin, introduced the idea that the principle characteristics that make up mankind are hereditary and that society could and should selectively breed to improve itself - otherwise known as eugenics.

Defects in Animals
A fear of such an idea being put in practice lies behind much public concern about cloning. This was only exacerbated by the beliefs associated with the company that did the cloning - namely that aliens created mankind.

Most scientists agree that it is unconscionable to clone humans when tests in animals have not been perfected.

Cattle, mice, sheep and other animals have been cloned with mixed success. Some have displayed defects later in life and scientists fear the same could happen with cloned humans.

"It's very difficult to imagine that

The head of Clonaid, which belongs to the Raelian sect which believes that life on earth was sparked by extraterrestrials who arrived 25,000 years ago and created humans by cloning, said last Friday in Florida that it had produced the first clone of a human being, without offering any proof.

Some scientists say it is only a matter of time before cloning

transplantation of an entire nucleus and not of specific genes - the principle behind genetic engineering - it is nonetheless an attempt to produce a child with specific traits.

Sinister And Comic
The idea of reproducing specific people, either as individuals or in hordes, has been expressed in popular culture to both sinister and comic effect.

In Woody Allen's 1973 science fiction comedy "Sleeper," the character played by Allen finds himself 200 years in the future where he foils a plot to clone a deceased tyrannical despot, who was blown up by rebel forces, by stealing all that is left of the dictator - his nose.

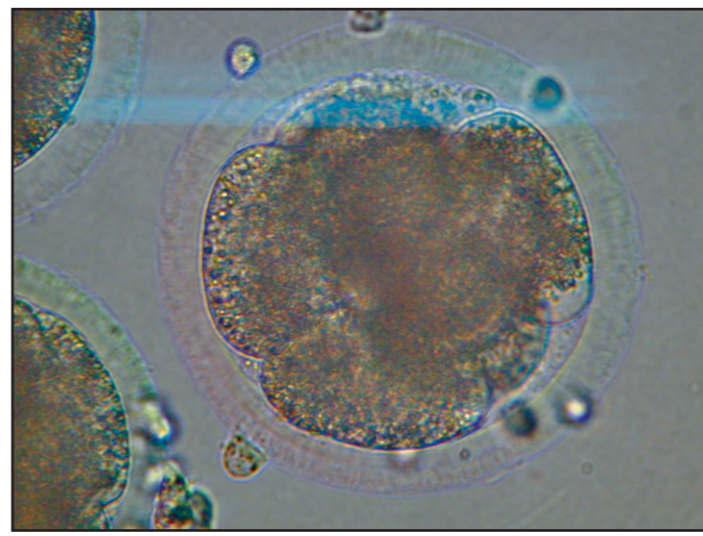
In the 1978 thriller "The Boys From Brazil," based on Ira Levin's novel, the Nazi doctor Josef Mengele works in the South American jungle attempting to resurrect Adolf Hitler through cloning and recreate the Third Reich.

Hilarious or terrifying as these scenarios might be, they remain fantasy, scientists say.

"Hitler was the way he was not just because of genes," said Bonnie Steinbock, a philosophy professor at the State University of New York at Albany who focuses on bioethics. "If you tried to clone Hitler, you might instead get the personality of Thomas Jefferson."

That could disappoint people who imagine they can replace a lost loved one.

"It won't replace a dead child," said Zirkin. "It would be terribly burdensome for a child to have to grow up thinking that he or she is a replacement for someone who died."



This undated photo released by Clonaid reportedly shows a human embryo resulting from human DNA nucleus transfer technology. A human baby was born 26 December 2002 through cloning, the first on record, French scientist and member of the Raelian cult Brigitte Boisselle said. The baby girl was born by caesarian section and the birth "went very well", Boisselle, president of the human cloning society Clonaid, said in a telephone interview with AFP.

PHOTO: AFP

we'll understand what's involved any time soon, so to do this in humans is insanity," said Barry Zirkin, head of the division of reproductive biology at Johns Hopkins University.

technology is perfected, and some argue there could be situations where it is appropriate, as a substitute for in-vitro fertilization for infertile couples, for example.

Even though cloning is a

Tech Toon



Star Tech Quiz

21

Check the box beside the correct answer

1. Which of the following is an acronym for a data encryption standard?

<input type="checkbox"/> DAC	<input type="checkbox"/> DES
<input type="checkbox"/> DECnet	<input type="checkbox"/> DNS
2. What type of information can be stored in a "cookie"?

<input type="checkbox"/> name and address	<input type="checkbox"/> IP address
<input type="checkbox"/> Type of operating system	<input type="checkbox"/> All of the above
3. The payload of a virus can

<input type="checkbox"/> delete files.	<input type="checkbox"/> overwhelm a network
<input type="checkbox"/> transfer important information	<input type="checkbox"/> all of the above

Name: _____ Occupation: _____
Address: _____
Contact Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Last week's answers

1. Mice
2. Amount of Memory
3. POP3

Winners: None

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by January 8, 2003.

Internet Zone



This file photo dated 18 August 2000, shows an employee demonstrating the use of a StarHub public phone to access the Internet in Singapore. Starhub Pte. Ltd. launched on 26 December 2002.

PHOTO: AFP

Tech Jobs

Secondary & Higher Secondary Education Board, Chittagong
Post: Programmer
Last Date: Monday, January 20, 2003

CyberNet
Post: Service Engineer
Last Date: Monday, January 20, 2003

APTECH, Khulna Center.
Post: Faculty Member
Last Date: January 15, 2003

Gano Bishyabidyalay
Post: Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor (Department of Computer Science & Engineering)
Last Date: January 15, 2003

ECIT
Post: Facilitator (Female Preferred), Hardware Engineer
Last Date: January 5, 2003

MGH Group
Post: IT Executive
Last Date: January 07, 2003

Genesis Technology Group
Post: Hardware and Software Support Engineer
Last Date: January 07, 2003

source: www.bdjobs.com

Tech Snaps

Microsoft Business Empowerment seminar held

Microsoft hosted a Business Empowerment seminar at the Ball room of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on December 22, 2002, says a press release. The Business Empowerment Seminar is a forum for businesses to learn about the latest products and technologies from Microsoft and how these can bring key benefits to their organisations.

The speakers from Microsoft discussed the features and benefits of key Microsoft products like Windows 2000 Server, Exchange 2000 Server, SQL Server, Share Point Portal Server and Windows XP desktop operating system. An awareness session on licensing of Microsoft products was also done. In addition, they demonstrated the Tablet PC which is a useful tool designed to increase productivity for mobile computer users.

Photo Tech



PHOTO: AFP

A computer technician checks the latest tablet PC by Taiwanese technology company Leo during a press conference in Taipei, 26 December 2002. Leo plans to work with local software designers and education department officials to develop a new generation 'digital package' for students between elementary school to university, where they can use an Easy Distance Learning (EDL) system to operate the voice, images, words and graphics via ADSL, ISDN, T1 or LAN wire.

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Home & commercial lighting fixtures at discount prices including: wall sconces, table lamps, recessed, ceiling, floodlights, bathroom, track & outdoor lighting.
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Light Outlet
Best value for light fixture and lamps. Offering the biggest selection, best prices, quick delivery and expert advice. Also fans, central vacs, intercoms and more.
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Lighting and Ceiling Fans at Lamp Depot. Top brands at wholesale prices.
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Authentic re-created lighting. Authentic details. Authentic materials. Since 1977. Free Catalog.
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LampsUSA.com
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