

Tech Interview

# Bangladesh is an emerging market for IT

Microsoft's Managing Director for Emerging Markets South Asia Region speaks to The Daily Star

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

HOW do the bosses of world's number one software company think about the future of IT in our country? Do they even bother or have the time to think about it? Well, they do not only think about it, they actually want to help us to change the future. Ahmed Chami, Managing Director for Emerging Markets South Asia Region of Microsoft Corporation shared his thoughts and views with The Daily Star (TDS) while his short visit to Bangladesh last week.

**TDS:** Could you tell us what are the objectives of your visit?

**A Chami:** Actually this is my second visit to Bangladesh. We see Bangladesh as an emerging market for IT. Our company is based in Singapore and our job is to develop and execute a Market Development Plan (MDP) for the emerging markets of South Asia such as Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka etc. Different markets need different plans. In Bangladesh we want to find companies who has the resource to help us evaluate how much progress we have made. At present Southtech Limited is our market development partner in Bangladesh.

**TDS:** At present what are your activities in Bangladesh?

**A Chami:** At present I am talking to the local distributors



Ahmed Chami, Managing Director for Emerging Markets South Asia Region of Microsoft Corporation

such as Flora, Desktop to survey the market. I am also talking to some Banks regarding corporate account management. We also would like to work with the government of Bangladesh. At present we are talking with the Education Ministry, Ministry for Science, Information & Communication and Technology and Ministry for Commerce.

We want to see how much

improvement we made with Southtech and our MDP. We want to keep the process going. We want to create more interest in Microsoft products.

**TDS:** What do you think Bangladesh should do to protect Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the IT sector?

**A Chami:** The IPR of any creative work should be protected. If the government of Bangladesh has an IPR law,

then that law should be properly maintained and that will protect the IPR.

**TDS:** Does Microsoft has any plan for taking IT to the villages and rural areas of Bangladesh?

**A Chami:** Today we do not have any plan to take IT to the rural areas. At present our priorities are the major cities. But if the government or an NGO comes to us and asks for help we shall help them.

At present our primary focus is youth education sector. To help the youth adopt Microsoft technologies. Secondly, we want to make the people start using the right technology for the right job. And finally to work with the government and make them create an environment where we can invest.

**TDS:** If India has made themselves a super power-house, why not Bangladesh?

**A Chami:** India stands where it is today, because of policy development and strategic commitment. It is not we who made them a super power-house. They were looking for strategic partners and we were one of them. We gave them the facilities to work and develop. It is the people, the developers who made India a super powerhouse. I believe you can find similar smart people in Bangladesh too. If there is skilled manpower and a legal environment that facilitates business, we are willing to do the same here. But India is far down the road. Bangladesh could be a super powerhouse, and to do that they have to put all the policies in the right place.

**TDS:** Tell us something about your new offering, Tablet PC.

**A Chami:** The Tablet PC is a good and innovative. It's easy to use and the new digital ink technology is remarkable.

**TDS:** Why do the businesses

increasingly prefer to use open source software? And why should one prefer Windows to Linux?

**A Chami:** I do not dispute open source software. Today deployment is not happening on open source. We find most Linux users in universities. We also provide codes to people who need it. We think that community support is also very important.

I believe innovations will come more from windows platform. Linux falls under General Public License (GPL) which has a lot of shortfalls.

**TDS:** How do you address issues of security since Windows is a constant target of virus attacks?

**A Chami:** We have changed our vision on how we shall develop our product. We will go for securities then features. As a consequence of that we are training our people on security to make our products 'secured by design'. We are also keeping all our customers informed about security. I believe Windows has been attacked because of its popularity. We shall make our products more secured in the future. Security is like a journey and Microsoft is just a piece in the puzzle. It is the problem of the whole industry.

Dr. Tech

Dear Dr Tech,  
When I try to play music CDs in my computer it starts "beeping" in on top of it (you know, for error messages and such)? Please tell me how to fix the problem.  
Shezan

Dear Shezan,  
I know how annoying it is when such things happen. This tip might help you.

1. Right-click the little yellow speaker in your system tray (the system tray is located opposite your start button). Select Open Volume Controls. (XP Users: click Start, Control Panel, Sounds/Speech/Audio Devices, then select Sounds and Audio Devices. On the Volume tab, click the Advanced button.)

2. A screen will pop up with lots of volume controls on it (surprise), find the one for "Wave" and check the little Mute box. On my

computer, the Wave volume control was the 2nd one.

That's it. No more interruptions while listening to your CD. Make sure you turn them back on after you're done with your CD though :-)

An alternative to this would be just to turn your Wave sounds down a little. Follow the procedure above, but slide the volume control for Wave files down rather than checking the Mute box.

dailystartech@yahoo.com

Tech Toon



"I went to Ask Jeeves to find out where babies come from."

Star Tech Quiz

23

Check the box beside the correct answer

1. Which network topology uses an uninterrupted cable or backbone with terminators?  
☐ BUS ☐ Ring  
☐ Star ☐ All of the above

2. RJ-45 jacks and UTP cable are used with which type of network?  
☐ 10Base2 ☐ 100BaseT  
☐ 10Base5 ☐ All of the above

3. Typically wired networks can have a higher data transfer rate than wireless networks?  
☐ True ☐ False

Name: Occupation:

Address:

Contact Number: E-mail:

Last week's answers  
1. DES 2. All of the above 3. All of the above

Winners: None

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by January 15, 2003.

Tech Guru

## Einstein proved right on gravity

DR DAVID WHITEHOUSE  
BBC News Online science editor

THE speed of gravity has been measured for the first time, revealing that it does indeed travel at the speed of light.

It means that Einstein's General Theory of Relativity has passed yet another test with flying colours.

The measurement was made by Ed Fomalont of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) in Charlottesville, Virginia, and Sergei Kopeikin of the University of Missouri, in Columbia, both US.

Writing in New Scientist magazine, they say: "We became the first two people to know the speed of gravity, one of the fundamental constants of nature."

**Higher dimensions**  
Isaac Newton believed the influence of gravity was instantaneous. Later, Albert Einstein assumed it travelled at the speed of light and built his 1915 General Theory of Relativity around that assumption.

If gravity travelled at the speed of light it would mean that if the Sun suddenly

vanished from the Solar System, the Earth would remain in orbit for about eight minutes - the time taken for light to travel from the star to our planet. Then, in the

absence of gravity, Earth would move off in a straight line.

Modern researchers say that knowing the speed of gravity is important in the study of branches of cosmology

where the Universe has more spatial dimensions than the usual three.

Some of those theories suggest that gravity could take a short cut through higher dimensions and so appear to travel faster than the speed of light.

Jupiter's help

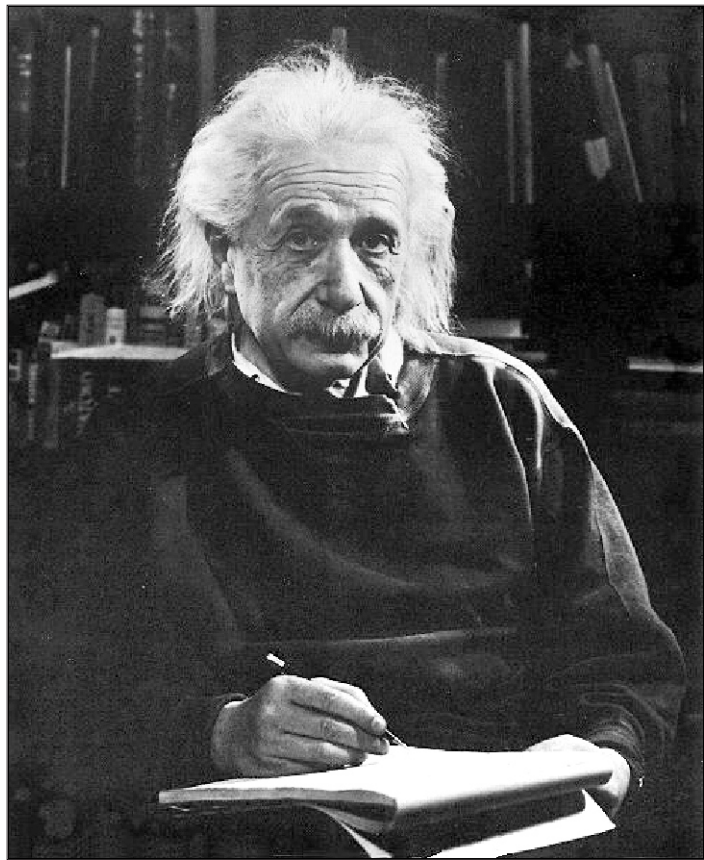
To measure gravity's velocity, Kopeikin determined that it could be determined with the help of the planet Jupiter, if its mass and velocity were known.

The perfect opportunity arose in September 2002, when Jupiter passed in front of a quasar - a distant, very active galaxy - that emits radio waves.

Fomalont and Kopeikin combined observations from a series of radio telescopes to measure the apparent change in the quasar's position as the gravitational field of Jupiter bent the passing radio waves.

From the observations the researchers determined that that gravity does indeed move at the same speed as light.

The results of the study have been presented to this weeks meeting of the American Astronomical Society (AAS) in Seattle.



It all adds up: Albert Einstein would be pleased

The Modern Lummy



PHOTO: AFP

Visitors look at a dissected body which has treated using new plastomic technology which allows human specimens to be viewed at normal temperature without formalin and with no smell at the "Mysteries of the Human Body Exhibition" in Hong Kong 06 January 2003.

Tech Jobs

**Pran Foods Limited**  
**Post:** Systems Supervisor  
**Last Date:** January 15, 2003

**Dot.com Ltd.**  
**Post:** Software Developer, Web Designer  
**Last Date:** January 30, 2003

**Ministry of Education**  
**Post:** Computer Programmer  
**Last Date:** January 25, 2003

**Ashrafia Info Tech**  
**Post:** MCSE in 2000 Track  
**Last Date:** January 15, 2003

**Russel Lodge Holdings Ltd**  
**Post:** Graphics Designer  
**Last Date:** January 20, 2003

**Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills Ltd**  
**Post:** Software Engineer, Systems Engineer  
**Last Date:** January 15, 2003

Tech Snaps

### BCS Computer Show 2003 starts January 12

The 14<sup>th</sup> Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS) Show, 12<sup>th</sup> BCS computer show, a yearly occasion held by BCS will take place at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center (BCFCC) from 12-18 January, said BCS officials in a press conference held earlier this week. Preparation works for this individual and one of the biggest computer show in the field of computer hardware and software industry and of this kind in Bangladesh are almost complete.

'Where Technology Meets People' with this dynamic theme this coming computer razzmatazz is expected to meet the demand of the people from different walks of the society.

More than hundred companies based on Information and Communication Technology (ICT), computer hardware and software, Internet service provider (ISP), ICT publications are taking part in the fair.

For the show, 112 companies rushed for 222 stalls. Among the companies there are 30 software developer companies having 35 stalls, 55 computer hardware companies with 150 stalls, 8 Internet Service Providers (ISP) companies with 12 stalls, 11 ICT based magazines and other companies with 14 stalls.

Samsung, a reputed computer hardware company, has been selected as the Platinum sponsor for the coming computer fair and Era Infotech Ltd has been selected as Golden sponsor. Ministry of Science and ICT will also take part at the BCS Computer Show 2003 as a special sponsor. Dhaka Bank will work as the Official Bank and Pepsi as the Official Drink in the coming computer fair.

Photo Tech

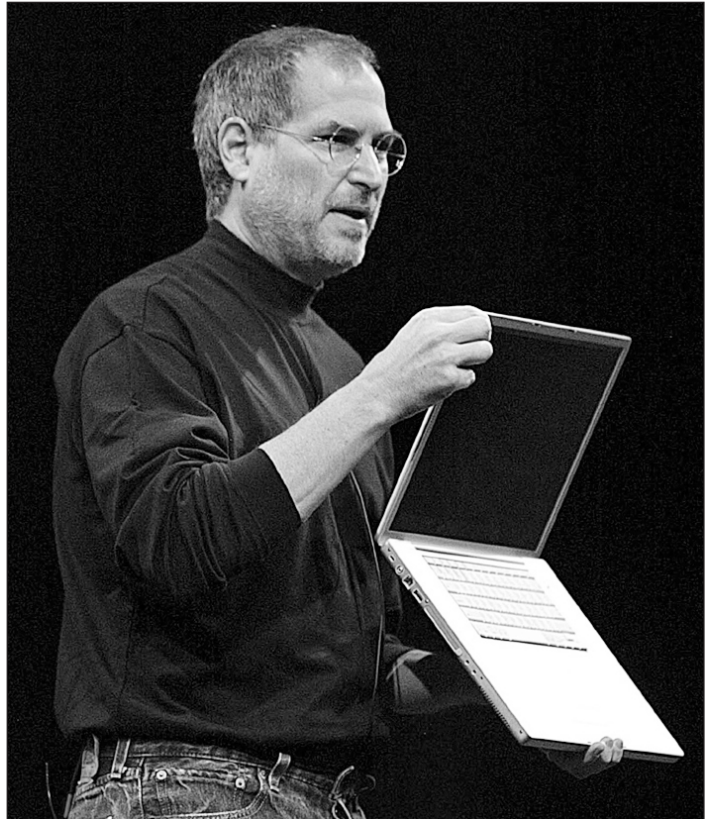


PHOTO: AFP

Apple Computer CEO Steve Jobs introduces the new Apple 17-inch (43-cm) Powerbook during his keynote speech at the MacWorld Expo 07 January 2003 in San Francisco, California.

Best 0 Websites Category: Gardening

**garden.com**  
Gardening for today's world.  
URL: <http://www.garden.com>

**Etera.com**  
Etera is the gateway to Fine Independent Garden centers. Local advice will lead to success in your garden.  
URL: <http://etera.com>

**Jackson and Perkins**  
Fragrant blooming gift plants, fresh cut flowers & accessories, too. 100% guaranteed.  
URL: <http://www.jacksonandperkins.com>

**Gardener's Supply Company**  
Everything from balsam wreaths and scented candles to birdhouses and watering cans.  
URL: <http://www.gardeners.com>

**HGTV**  
Home & Garden Television is the only network devoted to providing comprehensive information to inspire the home enthusiast.  
URL: <http://www.hgtv.com>

**Martha Stewart**  
Review Martha's biography, check her calendar to get ideas for your own to-do list, take a look inside her scrapbook, and get answers to commonly asked questions.  
URL: <http://www.marthastewart.com>

**TrueValue.com**  
Welcome to the world's largest family in the hardware business. Our Goal is Simple - to help customers improve, beautify and repair their #1 investment - their home.  
<http://www.truevalue.com>

**BURPEE**  
For 124 years Burpee has been a trusted household name, one that means the best in seeds and plants.  
URL: <http://www.burpee.com>

**Lazy Gardener**  
A Lazy Man's Guide to Veggie Gardening, the one gardening book you want to have, tells you how to grow amazing organic veggies in three easy steps.  
URL: <http://www.lazygardener.com>

**Improvements Catalog**  
Whether your home is 5 years old or 75, it's sure to have one thing in common with everyone else's: you never seem to be finished fixing this, renovating that, improving the other. Same is true with your yard and car.  
URL: <http://www.improvementscatalog.com>

**Improvements**