

Tech seminar

Technology for the poor

Seminar on 'Information Communication Technology (ICT) for the rural poor as Human Rights'

SAAD HAMMADI

In an effort to discuss how the rural poor can use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for all aspects of development, a seminar was held on March 15 at the BRAC Centre Inn.

The seminar was jointly organised by the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG), Bureau of Human Rights Bangladesh (BHRB) and the Bangladesh Computer Society (BCS).

The objective of the seminar was to share ITDG's experience of ICT in rural areas. This was supplemented by a discussion on the basic human rights and policies that can promote ICT in Bangladesh. ITDG Bangladesh, in conjunction with Intermediate Consultants from the UK have just finished a project which aims to provide ICT services to local men and women engaged in small business. This is to enhance their skills, support business ideas, increase their ability to market products, and improve their quality of life.

Country Director of ITDG Veena Khaleq talked about the importance of Information



The panel of speakers at the seminar

Technology to get rid of poverty from Bangladesh.

Mostafa Jabbar of Bangladesh Computer Jagat said, "Web pages should be developed in district languages so that people of the region can understand and thereby learn."

He also advised schools and colleges not to charge their students for learning computer usage.

"The more we learn, the more we get familiar with the technology. Today computer is part of our lives," said Secretary General of BHRB Md. Shahjahan.

The seminar had a great deal of technical session and provided important insight in ICT and its implementation in Bangladesh.

Ziaul Haque Zia, state

minister for LGRD and Cooperatives, was present as the chief guest while Justice Md. Abdur Rouf, president of BHRB was the chairperson of the seminar. Oliver Wakelin, ITC-UK was present as the special guest and Gerard Hendriksen, representative of DFID, presided over the seminar.

Tech News

In search of whizzes

AIUB Talent Search 2003

STAR TECH DESK

With an aim towards bringing forward those possessing natural talent in information technology, a nationwide talent search program has been launched.

Named the 'AIUB talent search 2003', the program is jointly organized by the American International University Bangladesh (AIUB) and IT related magazine e-biz.

Teams of college and university students from the six divisional headquarters of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Barisal will be selected through a preliminary quiz

contest on April 5.

The main contest will be held on April 12 at the IT department of the

AIUB. About 50 teams are expected to take part.

A signing ceremony between the two organisers took place on March 27 at the AIUB Auditorium.

"This is the first private university to undertake this initiative," said Carmen Z. Lamagna, vice-chancellor of AIUB.

"The event will help bring out the talents in Information Technology in the country," said Saju Hossain, chief editor of e-Biz.



Saju Hossain, chief editor of e-Biz (L) and Carmen Z. Lamagna, vice-chancellor of AIUB (R) at the signing ceremony

Dr Tech

Dear Dr. Tech,
When I first purchased my computer everything ran fast. But after a while it seems like it just keeps getting slower and slower. Is there anyway I can fix this speed issue? Please let me know me.
Rezwana

Dear Rezwana,
Here is how you can restore your computers' speed once again.
One sure-fire way is to do a reformat and re-install (NOT an exercise for beginners). If you have been running your system for awhile and have not done this, it may be something to look into.
However, reformatting is probably a bit on the extreme side for most speed problems.
The most likely reason you are experiencing slowdowns (and possibly more lockups) is that there is too much "junk"

running in your System Tray. It seems like just about every other program you install wants to put an icon there.
Each one of those little icons is actually a program running in the background. Some take up a lot of resources, some don't, but the overall effect is a hit in the performance dept. So, disabling all the nonessential programs in the system tray is usually a good place to start. See today's Tip of the Day for more details.
Another source for slowdowns is hard drive fragmentation. If it's been awhile since you've run a Defrag, now's the time. You can get to the Windows Disk Defragmenter program via the Start button, Programs, Accessories, System Tools.
Anyhow, there is a few suggestions for you. Of course, the list above doesn't cover everything, but should be a good start.
dailystartech@yahoo.com

Web Tech

Start of war leads to jump in web traffic

REUTERS, New York

THE U.S. strike against Iraq led to a jump in traffic on the Internet, which is expected to become the major source of information on the conflict for many people.

But the limited nature of the assault, and the timing of the strike -- which came late on Wednesday evening in the United States when many Americans were at home watching television rather than in front of their computers at work -- meant that any fears of Internet gridlock and outages appeared to be unfounded.

Yahoo Inc.'s news site saw about three times more traffic than it would in a typical hour directly after President Bush told Americans in a speech that the U.S. had launched a war on Iraq, according to spokeswoman Joanna Stevens.

Dean Wright, editor-in-chief of the Internet arm of cable news network MSNBC, said traffic was running at two to two-and-a-half times normal levels after the war started. He said in the next few days the Web site would target people at work who have high-speed connections by including a live video television stream.

Yahoo's Stevens said Web surfers were also using more targeted searches after Bush's speech. The top search terms on Yahoo in the 15 minutes after the speech were: "Iraq," "George W. Bush," "world map," "Ari Fleischer," "Saddam Hussein" and "war," she said.

Over the last couple days, the

search for news of the threat of war drove many Americans to the Web. The 15 top news sites had an average 41 percent more traffic on Tuesday than their daily average

during major events, especially after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

The conflict with Iraq will be the biggest war involving the United

news for many people.

The increasing availability of high-speed Internet connections is also likely to drive usage as many news Web sites offer streaming video, live feeds from Iraq, and breaking news coverage.

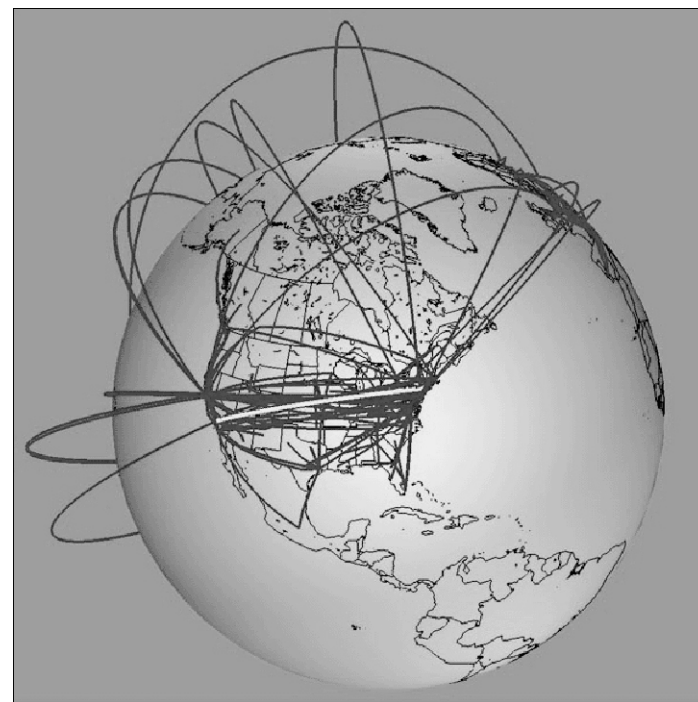
Although activity on the Internet picked up after Bush's speech, there was no crush of Web traffic because many Americans were at home watching television rather than at work in front of their computers.

"People are still watching the television and right now this is a visual thing," said Eric Siegel, principal consultant at Keynote Systems, which measures the performance of Internet sites. "As more information appears than they can get from the TV, people will turn to the Web."

Keynote Systems said there were few disruptions, and major Internet service providers, including AOL and EarthLink Inc., and most Web sites reported normal operations late Wednesday.

However, there were some glitches. Several government Web sites in the United States and Britain had been caught off-guard by traffic spikes spurred by the looming attack on Iraq and worries about a rise in terrorist attacks, Keynote Systems said in a report earlier on Wednesday.

Keynote's Siegel said he does not see any major problems on the Internet, barring an attack on the Web structure itself, and he said many sites have prepared for increased activity.



over the previous four weeks, according to Comscore Media Matrix.

The Internet has increasingly emerged as a key source for news, communication and comfort

Tech Jobs

An ISP Company
Post: System Admin (Server), Assistant System Admin (Server)
Last Date: March 26, 2003

Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
Post: Software Programmer, MIS Officer
Last Date: April 03, 2003

HLSP Consulting
Post: IT Consultant, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Last Date: March 25, 2003

Cantonment Public School & College
Post: Computer Teacher
Last Date: March 30, 2003

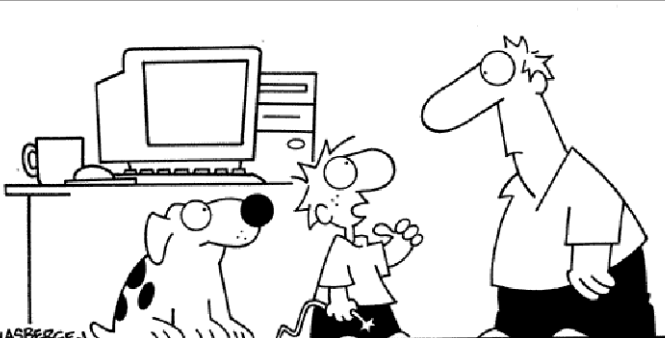
Cyberview Network & Communication
Post: Network Support
Last Date: March 31, 2003

Southtech Limited
Post: Database Analyst, Implementation Analyst, Quality Implementer, Programmer
Last Date: March 30, 2003

Perdana College of Malaysia
Post: Part-time Faculty Member
Last Date: April 06, 2003

Opex Group
Post: Manager IT & MIS
Last Date: March 30, 2003
source: www.bdjjobs.com

Tech Toon



"He chewed through our Internet cable, but if you double-click his nose, you can read your e-mail in his eyes."

Star Tech Quiz

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Check the box beside the correct answer

1. What does BIOS stand for?
 Basic Input Output System Basic Internal OS
 Basic I/O System BIOS

2. How many IDE hard drives can you have on a system with two hard drive controllers?
 5 3
 4 2

3. CDs can store more data than DVDs.
 True False

Name: _____ Occupation: _____

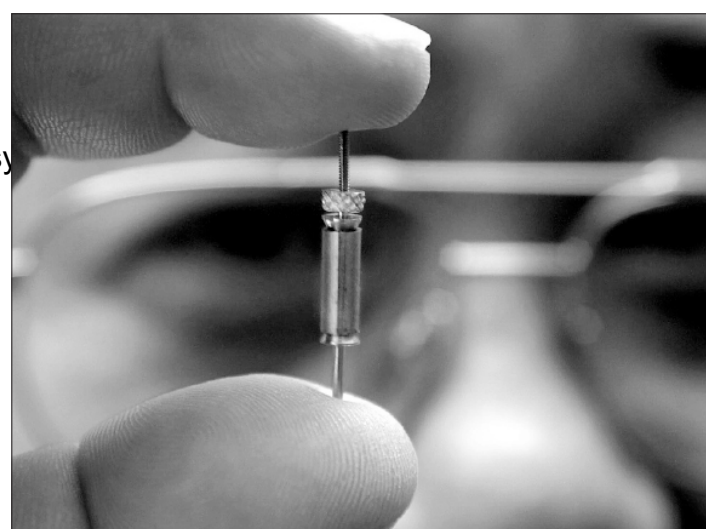
Address: _____

Contact Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Last week's answers
1. DOS 2. AVI 3. True

Winners: Hasanuzzaman
N-3, Nurjahan Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka
Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by March 26, 2003.

Photo Tech



Professor Freddy Boey shows a prototype of a small heart pump he and his team developed in Singapore on March 10. A Singapore university has developed a heart pump weighing just 50 grams (1.75 ounces) which it claims is the smallest in the world.

Tech Snaps

Oxfordians orientated towards ICT

Oxford International School recently launched an annual ICT (Information and Communication Technology) fair organised by the ICT department of the school at its premises at Dhanmondi, says a press release. The two day long ICT Fair-2003 (06 & 07 March) was designed to impart pragmatic knowledge among the young talents in the field of data-base management system, animation, web page designing, e-commerce and information system. About 50 students with their 32 stalls participated in the fair. Software such as 'Bangladesh Tourism', 'Cyber Cafe Billings System', 'Library Management System', 'Car Racing' (Gaming software) developed by the students of OIS, were highly appreciated by the visitors at the fair.

The next big tech thing



PHOTO: AFP

Scott McNeely, Chairman, President and CEO of Sun Microsystems speaks during his public address on "The Next Big Thing in Technology" in Singapore on March 19. McNeely spelled out his views taking place in the technology market with an audience.

Best 10 Websites

Category: Vitamins & Nutrition

- Rainbow Light**
Nutritional Systems - Founded in 1981, Rainbow light created the Food based category of supplements by being the first ever to combine nutrients, foods, and herbs into one product.
URL: <http://www.rainbowlight.com>
- Envision Labs**
Cutting edge vitamins and supplements designed for athletes and fitness enthusiasts.
URL: <http://www.envisionresearch.com>
- drugstore.com**
drugstore.com, inc. is a leading online drugstore: a retail store and information site for health, beauty, wellness, personal care, and pharmacy products.
URL: <http://www.drugstore.com>
- GNC**
Every GNC product is backed by GNC's famous "Money Back Guarantee". If you are not satisfied for any reason, simply bring the unused portion of your purchase with your receipt for a full refund.
URL: <http://www.gnc.com>
- Mass Quantities**
Please explore the site and we will show you how you can use our line of nutraceuticals to rapidly and safely take your body to the next level of muscularity and definition.
URL: <http://www.massquantities.com>
- Vistacost.com**
We are the low price leaders in health products on the Internet. Our products are sold at the Published Wholesale Price.
URL: <http://www.vistacost.com>
- VitaminShopper.com**
Here at VitaminShopper.com, there is nothing more important to us than satisfying our customers. If you find you are simply not satisfied with a product for any reason, return it to us at the address below within 30 days for a full refund, exchange or credit.
URL: <http://www.vitaminshoppe.com>
- Physician's Choice**
Educational site dedicated to providing you with the latest in nutritional news. This site addresses today's health issues in a way that is reliable, informative and fascinating.
URL: <http://www.physicianschoice.net>
- The Dietitian**
The Site For Sound Nutritional Advice
URL: <http://www.dietitian.com>
- Self.com**
Self is a production of CondéNet, a division of Advance Internet Inc.
URL: <http://www.phys.com>