

Tech Conference

New entrepreneurship plan in the wings

STAR TECH DESK

COMPUTER Graphics and Design (CGD), a member of BASIS and ICT Incubator, announced the launching of e-Accounting Services, at a press conference on "Prospects & Barriers of e-Accounting in Bangladesh", at the

Bangladesh. Speaking on the financial benefits he said, "An e-Accounting bookkeeper can generate upto US \$ 10,000 export per year vis-à-vis US\$ 1500 export per year by a garments factory employee, so with an initial investment of Tk 40 lakhs a company can expect to generate a revenue around US\$ 2,00,000."

computations, unreliable and costly internet service, skepticism in IT investments, absence of standard legal International contracts etc. He suggested that these factors be addressed by taking appropriate measures such as installing fiber optic internet connectivity, ensuring smooth transfer of foreign

encouraged by the interest and response shown by the trainees over here and was confident that they will perform well.

Fahim Mashroor congratulated CGD for their courageous venture as pioneers in a lesser-known outsourcing concept. Terming Business Process Outsourcing as the last hope for Bangladesh he said, "E-Accounting can be developed using basic technology and accounting skills and is thus a good option for Bangladesh as expert workforce for both departments are available."

E-Accounting allows business organisations to keep their financial data and applications in a safe and secure environment, providing easy access to permitted users regardless of their location or local computing platform. The concept is that a US company hires an agent company for performing their accounting processes who then in turn contracts a local agent in another country for the job. Therefore at a periodic interval (daily/weekly) a scanned image or pdf file of the transaction will be transferred to the local agent, via the US-based agent. Through the use of a 'Virtual Desktop', which is located on some server on the net supporting the Accounting software, professionally certified Bookkeepers (from Bangladesh, for example) will perform the necessary online accounting procedures. CGD will be using Quick Book Pro, a remotely installed software, said to have user friendly interfaces, compatibility with other software and versatility to support the accountancy procedures of different countries. CGD is the first among its peers to adopt this outsourcing business in Bangladesh.



Pramit Reza, secretary, BASIS speaking at the conference.

BASIS auditorium last Tuesday. Among others, speaking at the ceremony were Md. Hasan-Uz-Zaman Dipu (the CEO of CGD), Sudipta Rakib and Onirban Ghosh, both of whom are instructors from India for CGD, as well as Fahim Mashroor, CEO of the job portal Bdjobs.com.

Md. Hasan-Uz-Zaman gave an overview of E-Accounting and the challenges and prospects involved in implementing it in

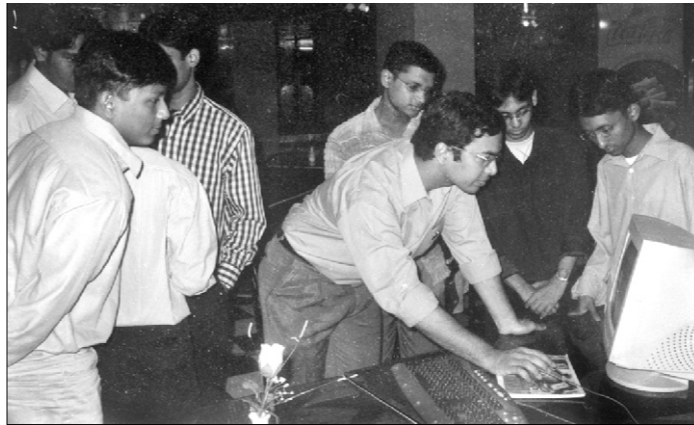
"E-accounting," he said, "is preferable for a country like Bangladesh for numerous reasons". The reasons he cited were the time differences with North American countries, efficient working force at lower costs and availability of unemployed skilled and semi-skilled commerce and IT professionals.

The barriers to overcome, according to Zaman, are absence of IT policy, low English communi-

currency and embassy initiatives to legalize International contracts.

Sudipta Rakib and Onirban Ghosh gave an account of their experiences in e-Accounting from the perspective of their country. According to Ghosh, even though e-Accounting is a new concept in India as well, they have around 30-40 certified firms engaged in providing such services and everyday there are new-comers joining the business. Rakib said he was very much

Tech News



Tanbir Ahmed, chairman, CSE Department, Southeast University inaugurates the site

Make online friends on home front

STAR TECH DESK

A group of eight young IT-enthusiasts, studying at different universities, launched a website on October 1. Co-designed by Imagine Graphics www.bondhu.net adds another surfing option for Bangladesh's internet community. "Bondhu.net" is multifaceted, not only enabling its users to meet new people but also providing information on university education, various special occasions and cine-entertainment.

"It's really delightful that a group of self-inspired youngsters could get together on a friendly bondage and undertake an inspiring IT enterprise," said Tanbir Ahmed, Chairman of CSE Dept. of Southeast University, at the inaugural ceremony.

"Such enthusiasm among the young people should be encouraged to stimulate the curiosity of people in the IT sector to keep track with the progress in the neighbouring countries," Ahmed added.

Bondhu.net hosts five sections featuring education, the bondhu club, special days, information on TV and cine entertainment, chat

and e-greetings.

The users and members of this site will enjoy all services free-of-cost, and "will always remain free," as the organisers say.

One of the main attractions of the site is the bondhu club (designed using ASP), offers the members access to discussion boards, private message boxes, and member search facilities.

The education section provides information on admission, curriculum and other necessary areas of local public and private universities. The organisers believe this section has potential to draw interested students from neighbouring countries.

The special-occasions section of the site features the significance of different national and international days.

The site will be updated daily and monitored to prevent the postage of any indecent messages or content.

The organisers of the site include Robin, Saikat, Rony, Reza, Sultra, Samun, Arif, and Tanvir under the banner of Imagine Graphics.

Tech Snaps

Orientation class and drawing test for animation course at Globekids

The orientation class and drawing test of the animation training programme at Globekids will be held on October 14 and 15 at 9-11a.m. and 2-4p.m. respectively, says a press release.

The results will be announced on October 18 at 10a.m. and viva and the final selection will be held at the same day at 11a.m.

Selected persons will be offered a training programme from November 1.

Only qualified candidates shall be offered an employment opportunity at Globekids Digital Limited. The candidates who will not qualify for the advanced animation course may be selected to continue their training without a stipend at the recommendation of the trainer.

Photo/Tech



PHOTO: AFP

This NASA Mars Global Surveyor (MGS) Mars Orbiter Camera (MOC) obtained on October 5, shows some of the complex flow and channel features of the Olympia Fossae region in northern Tharsis on Mars. The story of the Olympia Fossae is still emerging and continues to be puzzling. There is evidence in the Olympia Fossae channels that a fluid with the physical properties of water may have been involved in creating some of the erosional forms, but there are also flow features suggestive of lava or mud in the region. The area shown is 3 km (1.9 mi) wide.

Sombrero Galaxy



PHOTO: AFP

This NASA Hubble Heritage Team image released on October 2, shows the Sombrero Galaxy. One of the largest Hubble mosaics ever assembled, this magnificent galaxy is nearly one-fifth the diameter of the full moon. The team used Hubble's Advanced Camera for Surveys to take six pictures of the galaxy and then stitched them together to create the final composite image.

Web/Tech

Napster ready for test launch

BBC ONLINE

Pioneering song-swapping internet service Napster is to make a legal return to business, two years after it was shut down.

The service will run a test launch on 9 October and should be fully operational by November, ahead of schedule.

The original website boasted 60 million users but was forced to close when record companies began legal action for copyright infringements.

Users will now have to pay for music from the renamed Napster 2.0 site.



Napster has signed a contract with Microsoft



Digital media company Roxio bought Napster last year for \$5m (£2.9m), with plans to launch a legal service but cashing in on the brand name.

Napster's founder Shawn Fanning was brought back by Roxio to work as a consultant.

The company will unveil full details of the services it will offer at

an industry press launch, where a surprise major performing artist is due to appear, signalling the legitimacy of the company.

It has tied up a deal with Microsoft for Napster to be included on its next media package.

Competition

But while Napster was one of the

first downloads services on the web it now faces competition from many other sites, including industry-backed services such as Apple's iTunes and unlicensed services like the popular Kazaa, which stands accused of encouraging its users to download pirated music.

Napster 2.0 is set to offer 500,000 songs which fans will be able to buy through a monthly subscription or through one-off purchases.

It will also offer customised radio stations and the ability to copy songs onto CDs and other devices.

The original Napster had one of the biggest brand identities on the internet, but its fame brought it to the attention of the major record companies.

Lawsuits began flying as Napster was accused of infringing the copyrights of artists.

The lawsuits were finally halted when a court ordered the website to be shut down, but almost immediately plans were afoot to relaunch it as a legitimate service.

Tech Toon



Star Tech Quiz

60

Check the box beside the correct answer

1. Which one of the following holds the most information?

A book A floppy disk

A compact disk None of the above

2. Which one of these translates a high level language to machine code?

Assembler Compiler

Decoder Encoder

Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Contact Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Last week's answers

1. file server 2. Finder

Winners: Md. Munir Abrar Chowdhury (Correct Answers: 1) 18, Badshah Miah Chowdhury Road, Ctg.

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by October 13, 2003.

Tech/News

ICT journalists identify problems of information society

STAR TECH DESK

Bangladesh ICT Journalist Forum (BIJF) organised a seminar on "Role of media on Information Society: Perspective Bangladesh" on October 3 at the IDB conference room. The keynote speaker of the seminar was Parves Shonchoy, treasurer, BIJF.

"Bureaucratic tangle, lengthy procedural complicity, inadequate legal back up and lack of skilled manpower are the reasons the sector did not boom as it was expected earlier," said Ahmedul Islam Babu, president, BIJF while chairing the session.

"Newspaper and newsmen are continuing their endeavors to create a mass awareness toward information technology," said Sabur Khan, president, Bangladesh Computer Samity while addressing the seminar as special

guest. Khan emphasised the need for creating a full-fledge database involving all the media personnel and IT personnel.

All the BIJF members along with Abdul Hakim, secretary, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regularity Commission (BTRC); Karar Mahmudul Hasan, member, Privatization Board; Reza Selim, member secretary, Working Group, WSI; Mustafa Jabbar, EC member, BCS and BASIS; Ahmed Hasan Jewel, president, BCS Computer City; Azimuddin Ahmed, general secretary, BCS Computer City; Abdullah H Kafi, former president, Bangladesh Computer Samity; were present at the seminar.

Software from the country are generally exported countries like Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, UK and USA. The average software sales turnover

was around 40 million taka in the last fiscal year, said Parves

Shonchoy while presenting the keynote paper at the seminar.



Sabur Khan (2nd from right), president, Bangladesh Computer Samity speaks at the seminar

Best 10 Websites

Category: Security Resources II



File Sharing Vulnerabilities
HP labs initial research reveals Kazaa file sharing on the web is risky business.
URL: <http://www.commercetimes.com/perl/story/18136.html>



How Hackers Escape
Reasons to be most careful about who to trust with your private details.
URL: http://news.com.com/2009-1017-912708.html?tag=fd_lede



Security Faults in Web Mail
More good reasons to protect your privacy & use only top quality e-mail providers.
URL: <http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,21498,00.html>



AVERT
Excellent service of the anti virus emergency response team.
URL: <http://www.avertlabs.com/>



Trend Micro
Virus identification & management resources.
URL: <http://www.antivirus.com/>



Fight Back
AntiOnline tool kit & tips to enhance online security.
URL: <http://www.antonline.com/fight-back/>



Security Focus
Internet security news, vulnerabilities & resources.
URL: <http://www.securityfocus.com/>



Help Net Security
Fresh security news, vulnerabilities & alerts, bookstore, articles & tips.
URL: <http://www.net-security.org/>



Internet Security Systems
Internet security news, vulnerabilities & events.
URL: <http://www.iss.net/>



ESecurity Online
e-business security news, vulnerabilities, articles & tools.
URL: <http://www.esecurityonline.com/>