IT FAIR AT UITS

Moving fast towards global challenges

DURDANA GHIAS
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The three-day Brac Bank IT Fair 2006 at University of Information Technology and Science (UITS) ended on Monday with hopes to create more job opportunities for young professionals.

The aim of the fair was to encourage young IT students and to evaluate their talents in the field of IT.

The two IT clubs of UITS software development club (SDC) and the digital design and development club (3D) orangised the fair.

Arif Rana, senior lecturer, School of Computer Science and Engineering (SCSE) of UITS and chief coordinator of the fair, said: "This event was arranged to instill confidence in students, the would-be professionals of tomorrow."

The fair was sponsored by different non-IT related institutes, which gave the organisers and aspirants much encouragement.

"The sponsors thought it was their social obligation to help and offer an opportunity to potential programmers to expose their talents," added Rana.

Seminars on web development, fiber optics, microprocessors and IT-related topics were arranged, while workshops, movie shows and quiz contests on IT were other events.

A software development competition kept all participating universities and institutions on their toes, each aiming to bring out the best of their abilities.

This event was exciting as each institution, given just four days to prepare and display their innovations, was fighting against time to come out on top.

"This was the first time we thought of having such a fair, and the number of stalls were limited," said Sanjoy Kumar Roy, lecturer, SCSE, and the man who initiated the event. "Our desire was to link students with corporate bodies to help them look ahead," he added.

"We also want our young generation to understand the depth of information technology in Banglaesh," Sanjoy said.

The fair will reveal the requirement of IT in industry and schools will revise syllabuses according to practical needs of the rapidly changing info sector,' said Dr Hafizur Rahman, Director, SCSE and convener of the fair.

The seven participating universities were Dhaka University (DU), Khulna University (KU), United International University (UIU), University of Asia Pacific, Daffodil University of Information Technology, American International University of Bangladesh (AIUB) and UITS.

DU students presented a programme by which SMS (short message service) can be sent from computer to a mobile phone. University of Asia Pacific presented a programme for picture recognition where the programme can recognise people from ID card photos.

Khulna University (KU) made a programme for stock management project, which is currently used by Citycell.

The SDC displayed three new software programmes -- the IMPO-2006, dynamic jewelry solutions and dynamic shipping-2006.

IMPO-2006 was made to be used as a bank loan module, current accounts and Letters of Credit, working like a bank statement and calculating interest and money exchange rates. It can also calculate the product cost including the interest incurred for delayed payments (PAD).

The jewelry software shows stock info like weight, price and amount available; invoicing, stock balances, profits, daily ledger balances can all be calculated.

The shipping programme is used for a vessel's records, capacity, machine, crew and profile change at every tour. It records the movement of the ship, its duration at each port, and the estimated arrival (ETA).

Shaila, a student from a private university, said she was surprised to see so many new programmes with practical use.

A voting system for best software was arranged where 20 percent votes came from visitors and 80 percent from judges.

The first prize is Tk 10,000, second prize Tk 7,000 and third prize Tk 5,000 sponsored by BRAC Bank, PHP group and Rangs Motors respectively.

The fair was sponsored by Brac Bank Limited, and co-sponsored by PHP Group and Rangs Motors, while The Independent, The Daily Jugantor and Channel i were the media partners.

STAR PHOTO

Participants engrossed in the Gaming competition at the IT fair at UITS in Gulshan.

'Weight-less' weights

very high price. There is no profit from our sales. So, we are forced to resort to malpractices. If we increase the price we will lose our customers," said the butcher.

Monirul Alam, a paper seller admits that he also carries two types of stones with his weighing scale. When a paper-seller charges high, he (buyer) uses the duplicate stones, or else uses the original ones.

Peanut sellers too, use two types of weighing-stones. When he sells 100 grams of nuts he uses two 50-gram stones, which together weigh less than 100 grams.

"Our weights depend on the price our customers are willing to pay. When he gives Tk 10 for 100 gram of nuts, we maintain accuracy. But when he bargains and gives Tk 6 for the same quality, we use two 50-gram stones and cheat him" said a peanut seller.

A short walk at Kaptan Bazar shows that most stores sell two types of weighing stones -- one is black, the other grey. They charge Tk 80 to Tk 110 for any of the sets.
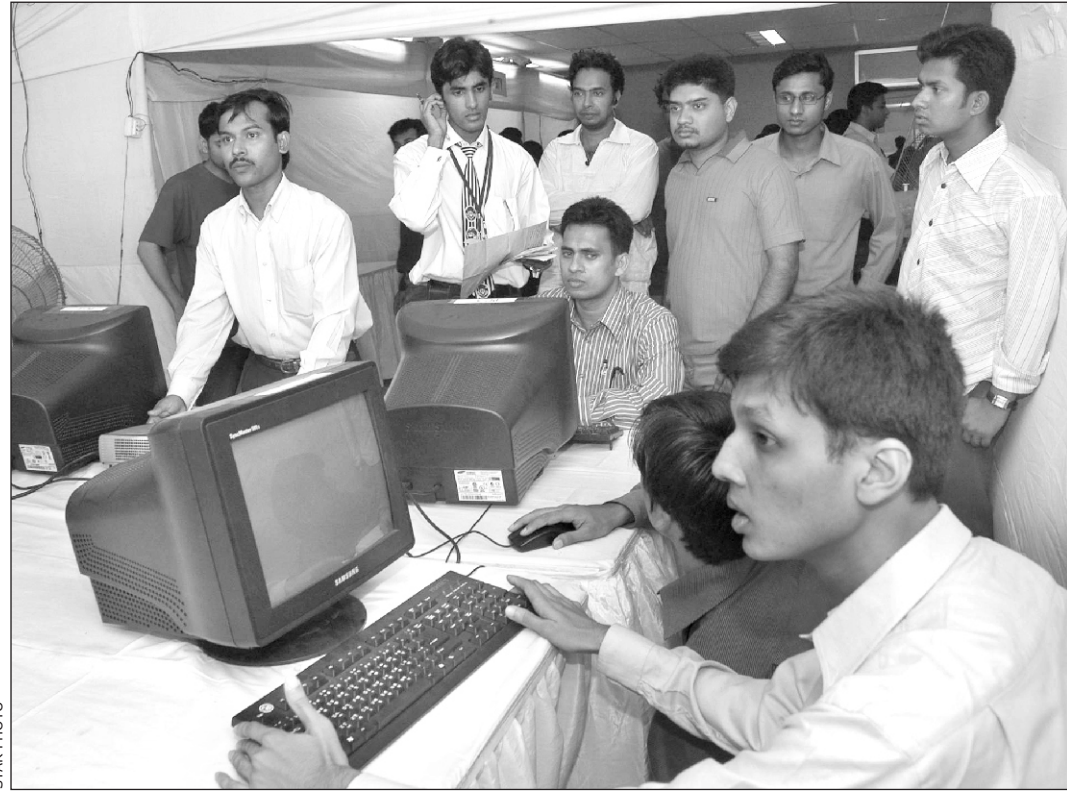
A Kadir Varieties Store sells two different coloured weighing stones, one black, and the other colour less. The nearby grocer said that they sell old and used stones after polishing and re-painting.

But the owner disagreed. "Don't come to me if you want to buy inaccurate stones. I only sell those stones that are certified by Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI)," he said.

"When stones are manufactured, their weight is not always accurate. Lead is reduced from the stone when it shows more weight," said the owner of Bashir Varieties Store.

The owner added, "Additional melted lead is poured into the hole beneath the stone if it shows less weight. Thus weighing accuracy is maintained. But in the case, some dishonest sellers dig out the amount of lead thus cheat customers."

Street children

shelters for vulnerable children.

Wahida Banu, director (programmes) of Aparajeyo Bangladesh stressed the need for strengthening cooperation from governmental organisations to non-governmental organisations and law enforc-ers.

Meanwhile, the professional bodies and the community should be more supportive to make sexually abused street children to open up about their nightmarish experiences, she said.