

COMPUTER TELECOMMUNICATION & OFFICE EQUIPMENT EXPOSITION '93

DATE : 12, 13 & 14 NOV. 1993
VENUE, DHAKA SHERATON HOTEL



Conference & Exhibition Management Services

127, Motijheel Commercial Area (3rd Floor)
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
Telephone 246383, Fax : 880-2-863357, 863861

The Daily Star

Special Supplement

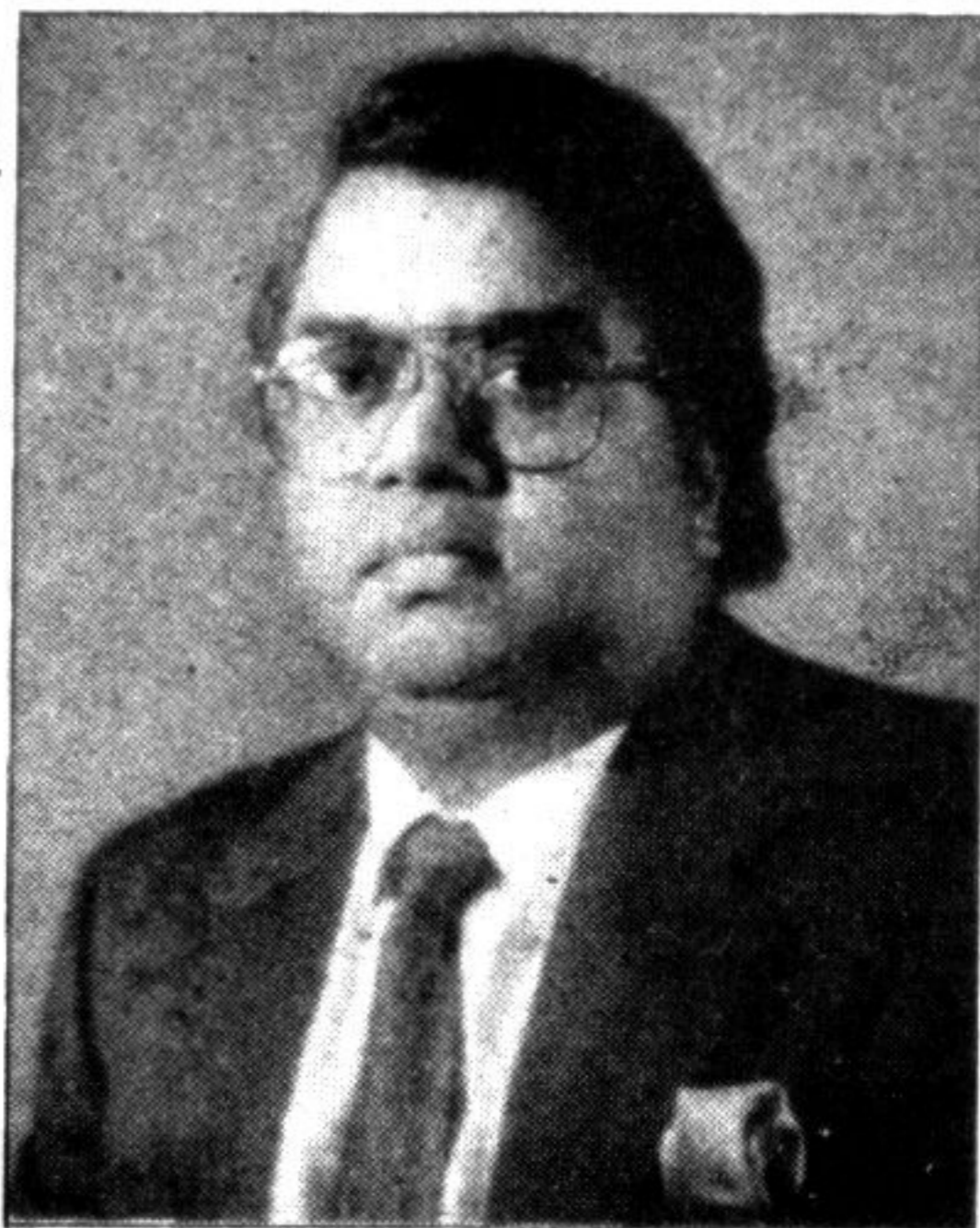
November 12, 1993

MESSAGE

It is heartening to see that the private sector in Bangladesh is playing an increasingly larger role in the use and display of modern equipment and technology in running and managing trade and industry. The revolutionary developments taking place in computer and information technology as well as in allied industries have far reaching implications for the human society as a whole. To be able to take advantage of this progress in science, we must have access to the use of computers, telecommunication and other office equipment. This can be done through exhibitions like COMTEQ '93.

I am enormously pleased to see that Conference and Exhibition Management Services has taken the initiative to promote computer and telecommunication technology in Bangladesh. They have arranged this through the exhibition to take place in Sheraton Hotel on November 12, 13 and 14. I congratulate the organizers for this bold venture and wish them all success. I also thank The Daily Star for bringing out special supplement on this occasion.

Barrister Nazmul Huda
Minister, Ministry of Information,
Government of Bangladesh.



Information Technology and Bangladesh

by A M Sharafuddin

TODAY, before our very eyes, the world is changing almost beyond recognition. A short while ago, man could see, literally, little beyond his nose. The world appeared to be vast, but man's horizon was quite close. Only after Galileo peered through his small telescope in late 1609, the far reaches of the world began to be visible to man. It was a spectacular view for those days and most people could hardly believe what they were seeing through that contraption. The mountains and craters of the moon could be seen for the first time, as well as some small moon-like objects moving around Jupiter and small dark spots on the big, glowing surface of the sun.

Man's vision has today reached much further than that. Astronauts have landed and travelled on the moon; automated space probes have brought stunning views of Mars, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune — all the planets of the solar system, several with characteristic ring structures around them, and their many satellites. A great deal of the secrets of the distant stars and galaxies, quasars and pulsars, supernovas and black holes have come to light.

While man's vision and horizon gradually expanded, the world he knew before, began to get smaller and smaller. Rapid, reliable means of transportation and communication have

brought various parts of the globe within our easy reach. Today, any one can pick up a telephone and begin to speak to another person on the other side of the globe. Developments in electronics, including the use of digital computers, and space technology have almost miraculously annihilated distances of space and time.

These developments have certainly far reaching implications for every person individually and for the human society as a whole. The implications are the more dramatic and poignant because of the rapidity with which these changes are taking place. For a Third World country like Bangladesh, these developments create new challenges as well as new opportunities.

The new technology

The background of the new information technology was created through developments in the mastery of electricity in the late nineteenth century and the invention of the vacuum tube in the early part of the twentieth century. These ultimately led to the creation of the first general-purpose computer in 1946 at the University of Pennsylvania. It was called the ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Automatic Calculator). It contained as many as 18,000 vacuum tubes, weighed five tons, occupied six rooms and

could process 10,000 instructions per second. It also cost about \$5 million to build. The development of the transistor (1948) and the integrated circuit (1958) — the 'chip' etched on thin little slips of ultra-pure silicon — very soon changed all this.

Today, a silicon chip 5 millimetres square and half a millimetre thick costing less than \$10 gives more processing power than the behemoth which ENIAC was! Such a chip may contain elements equivalent to more than a million transistors.

The computer and the new information processing technology that goes with it, is getting cheaper and hence more ubiquitous day by day. It is estimated that computer circuitry is now improving at about 20 per cent each year in price/performance and at the same time getting smaller in size by about 20 per cent per annum. As prices fall, computers are coming within the reach of more and more people. In 1980, one computer workstation was available to every seven white-collar workers in US business, the ratio came down to one to three in 1985 and is almost one to one today.

Other technological developments too, are reinforcing the storage, processing, transmission, distribution and input/output functions so very dramatically advanced by the computers. Fibre optics technology, for example, is revolutionizing the transmission of information. The fibres are glass threads, no thicker than a human hair, which are able to carry concentrated light waves over long distances. Ten thousand times more information can be carried on a glass fibre than on regular telephone copper wire. A bunch of twelve such fibres, properly protected and reinforced, is no larger in circumference than an average finger, but can carry more than 100 television channels as well as two-way telephone and data communication.

Similar other developments in information technology are video cassette recorders, laser compact discs, CD ROMs, multi-media and satellite dishes. All of these are bringing the world closer than ever before and knowledge and entertainment within the reach of everybody.

Implications for Bangladesh

The revolution in information technology is rapidly changing almost all aspects of human life. In Bangladesh, the printing and publishing industry is passing through a radical transformation. Telephones and telecommunications are going through a process of rapid change and modernization. The education and library services and production sectors are yet to see much change, but change in these sectors are also bound to come. Industry, agriculture, medicine, banking and finance and various other service sectors are likely to benefit tremendously from these developments.

The rapid and large scale dissemination, processing and use of information have made it necessary to redefine the role of information in society. In the earlier times, human settlements usually developed at places with good communication — such as on the banks of rivers or intersections of roads. Trade and commerce was limited to mostly material goods and such communication centres facilitated trade and commerce. Today, with facilities of electronic communication, such limitations are no longer valid. Similarly, the distinctions between the city centre and the suburb, or between the work place and the home are also being gradually obliterated. People no longer have to live close to the city centre for easy access to the place of work.

There was a day when a nation's resources were measured mainly on the basis of the crop lands, forest resources, minerals and energy sources it possessed. Today, information resources are rapidly becoming the prime source of strength of

Message from the Chairman of Conference and Exhibition Management Services

For effective marketing of products and expansion of business network, coming together of producers and consumers is critical. Awareness of the market, knowledge of existing competitors, consumers' reactions to products and their demand pattern are essential inputs for developing effective marketing strategy. Organized trade shows and exhibitions provide the much needed platform which brings the consumers and producers together; it allows the consumers to gain knowledge of the available products on one hand and permits the producers to obtain first hand market reaction on the other.

We realized that while Bangladesh is making commendable progress in industrialization, tools of marketing continued to remain too weak to provide the desired support in completing the business cycle. We decided to focus on organized and institutional effort to provide a forum to bring together producers and consumers of different sectors of the economy. And hence the birth of Conference and Exhibition Management Services.

Our organization is geared to provide dedicated services in

organizing exhibitions, trade shows, conferences and seminars and in assisting the entrepreneurs in developing marketing strategy and tools to suit their varied and often challenging requirements. We take pride in announcing that ours is the first venture of its kind in the private sector.

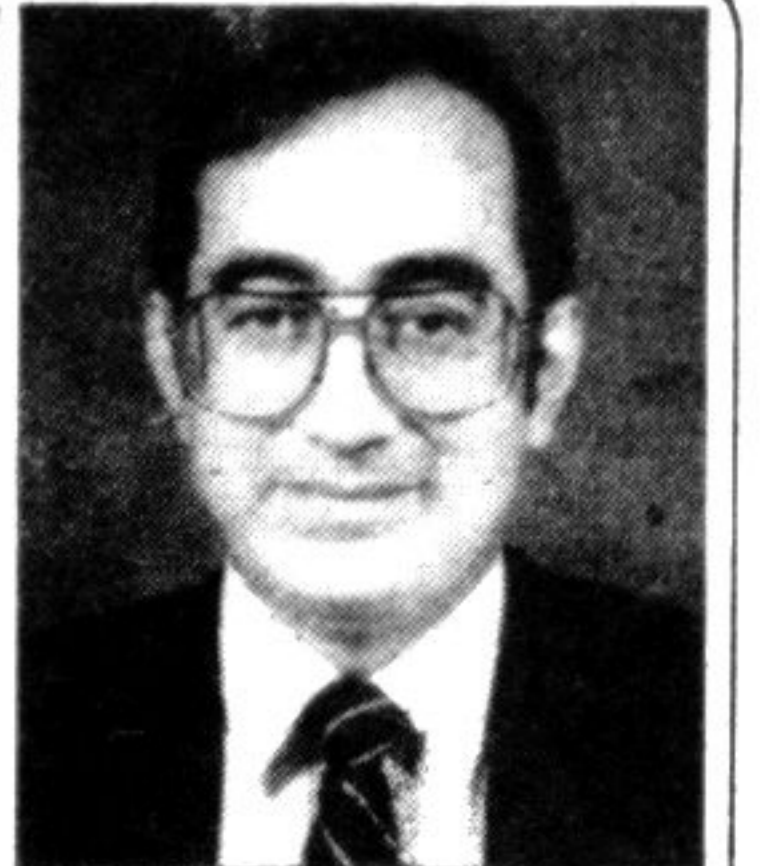
The first initiative of Conference and Exhibition Management Services was an exhibition on construction related materials. Twenty eight national and multi-national companies took part in it. Market response to our maiden effort and the satisfaction of our valued clients far surpassed our expectation. Encouraged by our initial success we moved on to organize the present exhibition on computers, telecommunications and office equipments.

We plan to expand our field of operation to keep pace with the ever expanding growth in our economy. We believe that by developing a highly professional and skilled management team totally dedicated to organizing and managing trade shows, exhibitions, conferences and seminars we can play a vital role in the over all development of our economy.

MESSAGE

I am very happy to learn that an Exposition of Computer, Telecommunication and Office Equipment, COMTEQ '93, is being organized in Dhaka. Revolutionary changes are taking place world-wide in the field of Information Technology, which now encompasses computing, telecommunications and office automation. Unless we take an active role in this IT Revolution, we would be totally isolated from the rest of the world and languish in the backwaters of under-development. The potential benefits are yet to be realized by our policy-makers. The Exposition would fulfill a vital need of creating an awareness about the latest developments in the related technologies.

On this occasion, I recall that CONEXPO '93, which was also organized by CEEMS earlier this year, was greatly appreciated by all professionals involved in



the Construction Industry. I am sure COMTEQ '93 would also be able to generate a lot of interest among our professionals as well as members of the public.

I wish COMTEQ '93 all success.

Dr. Jamilur R. Choudhury
President, Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

Computer Games for IBM and Compatible PC Users

COMPUTER games have added a new dimension to home entertainment. With a computer at home people of all ages can enjoy endless hours of fun playing computer games. The best thing about computer games is that they not only entertain but they stimulate people towards learning serious computer applications as well. Specially young children by playing computer games can easily familiarize with the general operating procedures of computers. Many teenagers and adults also find the experience delightful.

Basically what I am trying to say is that computer games are meant for all ages and all tastes. Normally young children tend to prefer action games, simulated car races and arcade games, teenagers tend to prefer flight simulators, mystery and adventure games. Mature adults are more interested in chess, golf, complicated flight simulators, tetris etc. However, the generalization that I have made above is not always true. I myself enjoy absolutely all types of computer games and I'm sure there are a lot of you out there just like me. Bottomline is that there are computer games for everybody whatever their age, sex or tastes.

This article is mostly for those of you who have and who intend to have computers at home but are not very much into computer games. What I want to do here is just sort of introduce you to the major types of computer games and within each category name some easily available computer games which you can try out. Since there are no conventional systems for categorizing computer games, I have developed four categories myself.

1. Skill/Reflex games: The games which require skillful movement, timing and good reflexes more than intelligence and strategy are placed in this category. One thing about playing these games is that they require precision use of the

by Raihan A Khan

keyboard. If you have a tendency to fumble the keys on the keyboard, playing these games will improve your control over the keyboard.

Games of this type are very small programmes (require very little disk space and memory) and run on almost all computers regardless of what the configuration is. (Those who have Hercules monochrome graphics will need a programme called 'Magic Key' to play these games. Those who have VGA/EGA graphics without autoswitching options will have to change the video setup of their computers. For beginning computer users I would recommend that you talk to your vendor before installing and playing games.)

The most common forms of skill games are those in which you might find small bugs running around the screen, or spacecraft hovering all over which you have to avoid and shoot down. There are some games which are classic examples of skill games. These are Pac Man, Digger, Zaxxon, Paratrooper, Alley Cat, Space Wars, Space Invaders, Moonbugs, Jail Bird, etc. My favorites are still Digger and Moonbugs. All of these games are widely available in Dhaka. I'm sure you can get, if not all, some of these games from friends and relatives.

You may find (acknowledged) computer buffs discouraging you from these games because they are too simple or because they are very old. But I assure you for beginning players these are the ideal starters. If you take a big leap and try to start with some sort of a complex adventure game, it is very likely that you will have a tough time moving on with it and might even get totally frustrated.

There are some relatively new skill games which have come out. Some of these are Budo, Street Fighter, Dave, Double Dragon, Samurai, Wolf 3D, Operation Wolf, etc. These

relatively new games have excellent graphics and dazzling images. However, monochrome and CGA users will find out that some of these work only on VGA graphics. A word of caution for parents: some of these games (Wolf 3D, Operation Wolf and Street Fighter) include profane violence and should not be played by children below the age of 10.

2. Mental/Strategy games: Mental and strategy games require intelligent thinking and strategic decision making. Some mental games do require a touch of skill and reflex, however, not as much as intelligence, strategy and wit are required.

Adult players and those with a taste for board games will find mental games very interesting. The most common mental game available on computers is chess. There are many different chess programs available for computer users. But one thing they have in common is that they all are very slow. You can make the computer play fast moves by trying out starting levels, but then the quality of your opponent (the computer) becomes very low. I myself have to play at the higher levels on most chess games to find it challenging. The problem here is that at higher levels the computer takes an awful lot of time (some times 30 minutes) for each move. So if you are a mediocre chess player you will find computer chess very interesting. For a good chess player, until a strong and fast computer chess programme is available, I'd recommend a human partner.

Some other very interesting mental games available are Sokoban, Droughts, Blockout (3D tetris), Grand Slam Bridge, Taipei (Windows), Tetris (Windows), Lemmings, Carmen Sandiego, Lords Conquest etc. Amongst these games serious mental buffs will find the Oriental games of Taipei and Sokoban very challenging in-

Continued on page 9

Greetings from the Organizers

Conference and Exhibition Management Services is a private enterprise dedicated to the promotion of trade and industry through the organization of conferences, exhibitions, seminars and a variety of public relations ventures. We sincerely believe that Bangladesh should now take the fullest advantage of modern computer and communication technology and their application in management, both in the public and in the private sectors to uplift efficiency and improve productivity. To be more competitive, there is no other recourse. With this objective in view, in February 1993 the organization launched its first unique and hugely successful venture: CONEXPO '93.

As a sequence to its first successful endeavour, we are now organizing another 3 day Exhibition on Computer, Telecommunication and Office Equipment at Hotel Sheraton on 12, 13 and 14 November, 1993. Most of the established firms and companies dealing with computers, telecommunication and office equipment are participating.

This is not an exhibition in the usual sense. It is more a trade fair, where producers, manufacturers, buyers, sellers, visitors, interested persons will converge. This is not only a place for display of products, but also a forum for interaction and exchange of information. Discussions, film shows and social events like reception will be arranged to enable the participants and visitors to derive maximum benefits out of the event.

We are grateful to all our sponsors and participant for their unstinted support and cooperation in organizing COMTEQ '93. Right from the time we visualized this exhibition down to its actual implementation, we have received inspiration and support from our valued participants and exhibitors, manufacturers, dealers, traders, users, buyers and professionals. We extend our heartiest congratulations and thanks to them for helping this event taking place. May our joint collaboration and endeavour become successful by the grace of Allah!

The Daily Star has done a great service to the computer, telecommunication and office equipment industry and business by agreeing to bring out this special supplement. The newspaper's commitment to development and application of computers and modern technology in Bangladesh is widely acclaimed. We thank them for their gesture. Through The Daily Star we extend our invitation and warmest greetings to the participants, exhibitors, visitors and all others interested in COMTEQ '93.

Mehru N. Islam
Chief Executive
Conference and Exhibition Management Services

TOSHIBA

COPIER, FAX & COMPUTER,

display in Comteq '93 exhibition at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel to be held on 12, 13 & 14 November '93 from 10 a.m to 7 pm. Come & see the display of world reputed TOSHIBA's office equipments.

Sole distributor :

international office machines limited.

DHAKA : 43 North South Road, (Topkhana).
Phone : 230456, 236206 Fax : 880-2-863448
CHITTAGONG : Zilla Parishad Super Market, Phone : 203705, 228606
BOGRA : Saptapadi Market, (1st Floor) Phone : 5531
KHULNA : 24/25, Khan-A-Sabur Road, Phone : 23004
SYLHET : 16, Surma Mansion (1st Floor), Phone : 2053



COMPUTER, TELECOMMUNICATION AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT

EXPOSITION '93

DATE : 12, 13 & 14 NOVEMBER '93
VENUE : DHAKA SHERATON HOTEL

EXHIBITORS

- CIPROCO COMPUTERS LIMITED
- COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS LIMITED
- COMPUTER AND OFFICE AUTOMATION SYSTEMS LIMITED
- EASTERN TYPE WRITER COMPANY
- HUTCHISON BANGLADESH TELECOM LIMITED
- INFOTECH LIMITED.
- INTERNATIONAL OFFICE MACHINE LIMITED
- MEGACORP LIMITED.
- MICRO ELECTRONICS LIMITED.
- PACIFIC ASSOCIATES LIMITED.
- PROJKTI INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
- RALEX COMMUNICATIONS AND SATELLITE SYSTEMS.
- FECTO YAMAGEN ELECTONICS (SENA KALYAN SANGSTHA).
- SUNRISE ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES.
- TELEPHONE SHILPA SANGSTHA LIMITED.
- THE NATIONAL TYPE WRITER CO. LIMITED
- UNIVERSAL TRADERS LIMITED

Continued on page 9