

Dhaka Day by Day

Cyber Dream or Nightmare?

by Samia Islam

Computers are the in-thing these days both here and abroad. Every job requires computer literacy and almost all resumes have certificates highlighting the achievements of the applicant in this field. One can well imagine the plight of an ignorant simpleton in this cyber maze. The correct course of action under the circumstances would be to buy one of these wonders of modern science and get educated. When computers first hit the scene in this city, only a blessed few could afford them. With the passage of time most people waited for the basic rules of economics to set in and the prices to drop. It has been some years since these beauties made their debut in town and so one would think that the time was right for a deal to be made. This sudden feeling of security has something to do with the recent increase in the number of computer dealers, distributors and schools in town.



Computers can be cranky.

Once one decides to go to the market its a roller-coaster ride. The first step (or mistake) for any novice is to try and get a branded item. There are dealers in town for all the companies that matter but they are so out of an individual's reach that even thinking about them is a sign of ignorance. These establishments are there to provide total solutions for the high rollers and not the everyday people and specially not students who most need them to serve themselves as well as the nation.

Among the limited options there are for such a consumer, one is to get in touch with some company that deals in products from Singapore and the like. From the outset these companies look as important as any computer dealer with its salt and with some amount of trepidation and indifference one gets in touch with one that offers a fair deal. Going to all the joints will not get you anywhere since someone tend to ask for prices that are almost equal to any product made in the states. As a short cut and also to avoid transportation hassles these days one has the yellow pages — something very significant for any business in the western world. The first thing most businesses here

ask, though, is where you got their number from and who recommended them to you. The yellow pages are such a bother now-a-days that it's impossible, they don't really do business this way, etc are the next messages that are spelt out for you. Lastly, you want to know the price anyway and the ask about Tk 85,000 for a 486 just like the rest of them. There's a news flash for you here: basic laws of economics don't always work.

One might consider one lucky and find that an uncle or an uncle's friend's cousin is also in the business which in turn might get him a computer that's respectable in looks and one that can satisfy the needs of a novice adolescent — an otherwise impossible task for someone with no connections.

When you are there as a prospective customer you hear confidence gurgling out of the people. Tales of achievements so far bore you no end as you long to get hold of a calculator and figure out the right price. A little haggling and a substantial amount of money later you bring your new friend home secure in the knowledge that the people at your dealer's are always there to fight all evils that might befall your computer.

If you are lucky once again you should go to Atlantic city but if you are not so lucky you go back to your aces who don't turn out to be such experts after all. From then onward it's just rides to and from the place with your delicate CPU in your hands. Service men don't always serve you at home, computer aces don't always know what you are talking about, virus-guards don't necessarily guard your system against viruses and working with your computer might just take up more time than simple pen and paper. Soon the computer starts running your life instead of the other way round.

In the light of all these facts, it's prudent to learn all about the relevant programmes and operations that a computer does for you. It's also wise to know the inside of a computer like the back of your hand, should you decide to join the cyber-tech world of the future. At least while you are in this city.



The Jatiya Press Club accorded a reception to renowned Indian film actor Dilip Kumar at the club auditorium yesterday.

What's on today

Manik Mia Parishad: A discussion on present political, social and economic situation of the country will be held. Topic: Parliamentary democracy and political conduct. Venue: Jatiya Grantha Kendra. Time: 5:00 pm.

Installation ceremony: The installation ceremony and the annual dinner of the Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters' Association will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 7:00 pm.

Zahir Raihan Film Society: The society will screen the film 'The Cousins'. Venue: Auditorium of the Alliance Francaise. Time: 5:30 pm.

Lions Club of Dhaka Angeb: The regular meeting and the meeting of the Board of Directors of the club will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dilkusha: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Shahbagh, Dhaka: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Rotary Governor's visit to the club will mark today's programme. Venue: Manin Chinese Restaurant, Sonargaon Road. Time: 6:00 pm.

Jatiya Kabita Parishad: An emergency meeting of the convener and secretaries of the parishad will be held. Venue: Dhaka University Teacher-Student Centre (TSC). Time: 5 pm.

Painting contest for children

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangla Academy will arrange painting, recitation and music competitions for children on the occasion of Amar Ekushey.

The painting competition on the theme of *Baishakhi mela* will be held on February 2.

The competitors will be divided into three age groups and first place winners of three groups will be awarded.

The competitors or their guardians have been requested to enlist their names by January 28, while the participants to recitation and music competitions would have to apply to a prescribed form on January 29 and 30.

Gano Forum rally today

By Staff Correspondent

The Gano Forum will hold a rally at the Shankar bus stand in Dhanmondi at 3 pm today. Party president Dr Kamal Hossain, Advocate Zahur Islam, Panikaj Battacharya, Sufuddin Ahmed Manik and Mostafa Mohsin Montu will address the rally among others.

Exams shifted

The final examination of the 3rd paper (Reference and Public Relations) and 4th paper (Bibliography and Documentation) scheduled to be held on January 24 and 25 will now be held, respectively on January 31 and February 1. The time place and the dates of final examination of other papers will remain unchanged, says a press release.

Obituary

By Staff Correspondent

Azizus Samad father of noted journalist Ataus Samad and Shaheed Lt Ashfaqus Samad Bir Uttam died of cardiac arrest yesterday morning. He was 72.

Founder of Dhaka Fisheries, late Samad is survived by his wife Sadeka Samad, a former headmistress.

Azizus Samad himself had suffered torture at the hands of the Pakistan occupation army in 1971.

His name-e-janaza was held at Baitul Mukarram Mosque after Zohr prayers yesterday and he was buried at the Banani Graveyard in the afternoon.

Qukhawani of Azizus Samad will be held at the residence of his son Ifekhar Aziz at 147, Green Road after Maghreb prayers on Friday.

KHULNA, Jan 22 A renowned lawyer of Mymensingh District Bar and former member of the then National Assembly Maulvi Mosharrar Hossain died at Khulna Sadar Hospital early this morning of old age complications. He was eighty, reports BSS.

Sandhani council session Jan 27

By Staff Correspondent

The central council session of Sandhani National Eye-Donation Society will be held on January 27 at the room of the director of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Lecture on German theatre

Dr Manfred Linke, Secretary, International Theatre Institute (ITI) communications committee will give two lectures on contemporary German theatre today and tomorrow at 5 pm at Goethe Institut, says a press release.

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Law students meet Biswas

President Abdur Rahman has underscored the importance of acquiring the knowledge and interpretations of law to build a society based on justice and fairness, reports UNB.

The President said this while talking to a 25-member delegation of Central Committee of Barisal Divisional Law Students' Welfare Association which called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

President Biswas said, everybody should have the working knowledge of law

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Visitors at the opening day of a painting exhibition by Nusrat Lubon Nazlee at the city's Gallery Tone yesterday.

LOTTERY OF SHARE APPLICANTS

This is for general information of all concerned that a LOTTERY will be held on 24-01-95 at 4:00 p.m. at the following mentioned address to ascertain the successful share applicants against the public issue of shares of Delta Millers Limited which opened on 07th December, 1994 and closed on 16th December, 1994.

Address of Lottery to be held

M/s Sofsys Engineering Ltd.
House No. 56, Road No. 13,
Block-E, Banani, Dhaka-1213
(Behind Banani Bazar)

Delta millers limited
Corporate Head Office
D.C.C.I, Building (7th Floor)
65-66, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

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Standard Chartered Bank a UK based international bank is looking to fill the position of an officer in its Human Resources Division at their country office in Bangladesh. This is a challenging and a growth oriented senior level position.

The Candidate should preferably be in mid-thirties with a minimum of 3 to 4 years experience in managing Human Resources function. The job is highly demanding and therefore requires a proven track record of performance preferably within a financial environment. The right candidate should possess a thorough understanding of the process of recruitment, administration of salary, pension, gratuity, and other benefits as well as good skill in overall general human resources management and industrial relations administration. Prior experience in managing human resources information system would be a definite advantage. The incumbent should also possess excellent communication ability in English and Bengali combined with strong interpersonal skills. Knowledge of basic computer operation is a must especially the window based software packages.

A very competitive salary and relevant training would be provided to the right candidate.

Applicants who fulfil the above qualification and experience should hand in their detailed C.V. along with an application for the position, in confidence to the 'Head of Human Resources' Standard Chartered Bank, First Floor, ALICO Building, 18-20 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, not later than February 4, 1995. Candidates who do not fulfil the above requirements need not apply. Selected candidates will be called for an initial interview within two weeks from the date of closing of application.

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