

Tech Festival

A festival of flair and fresh ideas

Notre Dame IT Festival 2002

STAR TECH DESK

THE computer department students of the Notre Dame College organised a three-day IT festival last week, attracting participants from 12 colleges in the city. Education Minister Dr Osman Faruk inaugurated the IT Festival 2002 on August 1 as chief guest. Professor Kaykobad, Department of CSE, BUET, R I Sharif, ex-vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Open University and chairman of the BCC, Shah Mohammed Farhad, Controller of the BISC and Mustak Ahmed, lecturer of Department of CSE, BUET were also present at the inaugural ceremony.

Students from Dhaka College, Dhaka City College, Rifles Public College, BAF Shaheen College, St. Joseph College, Vigarunnisa Noon College, Residential Model College, Siddeshwari Girl's College, Agrani College, Hermann Gmeiner College, Central Women's College, Engineering University College joined their Notre Dame College coevals in the festival.

A seminar followed the inaugural ceremony. Rubab Mohammed Imroze Khan of Notre Dame College presented the keynote paper.

At the seminar the education minister said that the government has taken all necessary steps to add computer education to the mainstream. He also suggested that youths should work with unwavering determination so that they can easily compete with their coevals in the advanced world.

All the speakers at the seminar harped on the same note - infrastructure for IT education should be developed.

The main attraction of the festival was the programming contest, participated by 42 students in 16 teams from 13 colleges took part in the contest. There were eight problems to be solved within three hours.

The Notre Dame team of Manzurur Rhaman Khan, M Tanvir Al Amin



The winners of the IT festival with the invited guests (sitting from left: Dr. Kaykobad, Abir Hassan, Dr. Anwar Hossain, Matiur Rahman and Father Bokul S Rosario) at the award giving ceremony

and K Ryan Kamal finished first, solving six of the eight problems. The team of Ashique Rahman, Mustafa Tanvir Hassan and Raihan Khan of the same college was second. They solved only two problems. Khairul Anam, Moinuddin Sify and Mushfiq Rahman of Rifles Public College also solved two problems and finished third.

Another major attraction of the inaugural day was a quiz competition in the afternoon. The competition was held in two segments. In the preliminary stage there were 42 participants while 13 made it through to the final round. In the end, Natasha Ishrat of Vigarunnisa Noon College won the first place followed by Shaikh Hasan and Asifuzzaman, both from Notre Dame, in second and third places respectively.

The concluding event of the festival attracted everyone. Thirty-six contestants from 13 colleges took part in a gaming contest. Adnan Bin Mannan of BAF Shaheen College finished first and Adebek Iftikhar of Hermann Gmeiner College and Fahad Faisal of Notre Dame second and third respectively.

The colourful IT Festival came to an end with the VC of IUT Professor Dr Anwar Hossain distributing prizes among the winners of various competitions. Personalities like Dr. Kaykobad, Professor Department of CSE, BUET, Matiur Rahman, Editor, The Daily Prothom Alo; Abir Hassan, Assistant Editor, The Daily Janakantha and Father Bokul S. Rosario were also present.

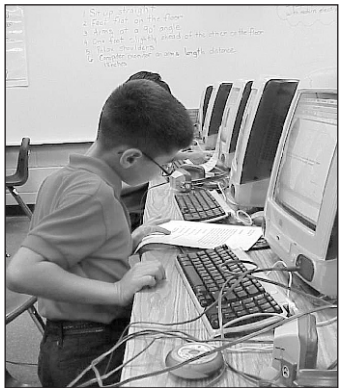
Tech View

Kids Computing: some ideas

NASHIR UDDIN

IF you as a guardian really think that computer education can help your child reach new heights, responsibility goes up to you to do something more for your kids familiarising them with home PC, internet connection and even with a computer school. Well, here are some useful ideas as suggested by The Fourth R Inc. for the conscious minds: -

➤ Guardians need to spend time sharing the computer with their children. Encourage, support and share the excitement together. Help children get started with new programs and



safely explore on-line resources.

➤ Children should develop their own sense of control around technology. Let children operate the computer. Avoid the temptation to jump in and show them how.

➤ Encourage children to explore software freely. Let them know that mistakes are part of the learning process. Learning how to correct common mistakes helps children become more self-sufficient with

computers. Give children time to work through problems themselves.

➤ Give each child in your family one on one attention. Don't worry if they do things differently. Establish good habits and a fair schedule so that everyone has equal opportunity to use the computer.

➤ Let the child "play teacher". You'll be surprised what your children can teach you. Let your children know that you are learning from them.

➤ Continue building a good software library. Plan on purchasing 2-3 new titles each quarter. Choose software that is appropriate for your child. Just like TV programming, there are good and bad software titles. Avoid violence and negative reinforcement.

➤ Encourage your child to use different hardware devices-printer, microphone, scanner, drives, speakers, etc. Build your child's hardware literacy. Have your child disconnect and reconnect all the computer parts. Never let them touch any connections when the power is on.

➤ Integrate the computer into daily routines. Encourage your child to use the computer for homework and projects of all kinds. Create a portfolio of your child's computer work.

➤ Help each family member become computer literate. Enrol in a computer course to get a positive jump - start on technology or to challenge a more advanced child.

➤ Have fun. Happiness is contagious. When learning is easy and fun, everyone excels.

Nashir Uddin is the Media In-charge of The Fourth R Inc.

Tech News Snaps

Rokibul honoured by DIIT

A celebration programme was held at Daffodil Institute of IT (DIIT) on August 4, honouring Rokibul Islam Khan, who achieved first place at the British Council Programming Contest. British Council Bangladesh organised "IT Qualifications @ UK Fair" from July 21-23, 2002. All the institutions conducting NCC courses in Bangladesh participated at the fair. A programming contest was also held as a part of the fair. Rokibul who stood first at the contest is a student of Daffodil Institute of IT (DIIT) studying NCC International Advanced Diploma in Computer Studies. The first prize of the contest was the arrangement of a two weeks visit in London (UK) with Dhaka-London-Dhaka air ticket.

Website for Ideal School

Masnoon Ahmed, a 16 year old who has passed SSC from Ideal School and College from the commerce group, has developed a website for the Ideal School and College. This is the first school site ever in Bangladesh and contains adequate information about the institute. The website has many sections such as the teacher's corner, results section, academic activity, examinations, admission test, governing body, scout team, debating club, students sign up page and a photo gallery. The website is also a winner of the Golden Web Award 2002-2003.

URL: www.isc.2ya.com or www.geocities.com/iscdb/isc.html

CADD Centre offers skill development courses

Engineering software training institute CADD Centre is going to start some engineering skill development courses for the engineering student as well as the professionals from different branches of engineering.

All the courses are scheduled to start from the next week which will include industry specific foundation, diploma and professional level courses on Civil CADD, Mechanical CADD, Architectural CADD, Electrical CADD, GIS, Project Planning & Management and Colorgrafx & Multimedia. Each level of courses will span over a period of 3 months, 6 months and 9 months respectively. For more information please contact: caddcentre@ww-bd.com

New Tech

Five hot MP3 players

Apple Ipod

This expensive, sleek player has intuitive file management and navigation. Its FireWire interface allows for fast file transfers. It currently requires a download of one of several software packages to work with Windows, but Apple has announced that fully Windows-compatible iPods will be available in late August

Samsung Yepp YP-90S

This tiny player can tuck into almost any pocket. A clear display simplifies navigating the stored music. Comes with a USB 1.1 connection, an FM tuner, and a voice recorder, but its memory cannot be expanded.

Sonicblue RioRiot

Thanks to its large, crisp LCD screen, the RioRiot makes managing and navigating its vast storage space easy. File transfers via its USB 1.1 interface are slower than on other USB 1.1 devices, however. Also has an FM tuner.

Pogo RipFlash

This small player includes a ton of



features: a good price, expandable memory (SmartMedia), voice recording, and a USB 1.1 interface. Also records audio directly to an MP3 file from the line-in port, but the MP3 quality is poor.

iRiver America IMP-350 SlimX

Well named, this sleek player has upgradable firmware and an FM tuner, and its LCD screen is conveniently located on the handy remote. However, it has limited options for managing and navigating its stored music.

Tech Toon



Star Tech Quiz

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Check the box beside the correct answer

1. Which of the following is not related to e-mail?

- BCC Pen
 SPAM Pine

2. Which of the following is part of a hard disk drive?

- Mother Board Laser
 Platter Riser Board

3. Which of the following is not a network device?

- Core Hub
 Switch Router

Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Contact Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Last week's answers

1. Motorized 2. See 3. Cable

Winner: Shamim Ahmad Salim

30, Kalabagan 1st Lane, Dhaka 1205

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by August 13, 2002.

Bio Tech

Asia's designer babies: but at what price?

AFP, Hong Kong

WE all want to give our children the best possible start in life -- but the question is how far would you go?

Genetic determination? Vetted sperm donors? What about going under the knife to ensure that your child is born on the most auspicious day of the year?

Every year tens of thousands of women in Asia eschew natural birth and opt for surgery, earning the region the moniker of caesarean capital of the world.

But while caesarean sections are not the high-risk, emergency-only operations they once were, medical experts are concerned that needless surgery is putting women's health at risk.

Fortune-tellers across Asia do a roaring trade in determining the best day for a marriage, birth, business or property deal.

"Many women come to me because they want to know a good day to have a baby. They want to give their child a head start in life," says astrologer Yeung Ki-yue.

Sitting down with the parents, Yeung consults the Chinese Almanac -- a voluminous book full of astrological charts and pictures -- to work out a birth day and time for the child that would set it on a path for great things.

"Some days are good, some not so good. It depends on when the parents were born," says the Hong Kong-based fortune-teller.

"With the birth day and time many things I can calculate into the future," he tells AFP.

There are thousands of fortune-tellers like Yeung across Asia. Many ply their trade from street corners with just a laminated chart in front of them while others hold court in backstreet rooms stuffed with charts and thick with incense.

Some savvy fortune-tellers have even turned to the net to allow parents to calculate for themselves

which days would be luckiest for their child to be born.

Using a complex numerical system based on the Chinese calendar's 60-year cycle and the five elements -- wind, water, fire, wood and earth -- some even claim to be able to determine what sex the child will be in any given month.

Mambo Man, vice president of the Hong Kong Midwives Association, says she has seen a growing trend towards caesareans during her 30 years as a midwife here but that "very few expatriates" opt for surgery.

The private Sanatorium hospital where Man works, and much favoured by Hong Kong's society experts, is said to deliver more babies by caesarean than natural birth.

"It's a Chinese tradition that women like to ask a fortune-teller when is a good day and time to give birth," says Man.

But Yeung says that mums are



Bottled gene

wasting their time and that a child cannot escape the destiny that nature has intended.

"Just like surgery to change the face -- the nature of the face is still there," he says.

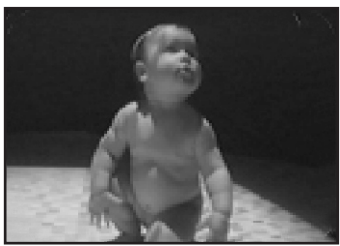
This argument is apparently lost on South Korea where a flood of babies were delivered by caesarean on the eve of the Year of the Horse, which started on February 12, 2002.

According to the Chinese Zodiac, also followed in South Korea, a girl born in the Year of the Horse, which comes every 12 years,

is fated to be strong willed and short tempered.

According to the ministry of health, South Korea now has the highest rate of caesarean sections in the world with nearly half of all pregnant women opting for an operation. It cites, among other things, superstition, and a belief that caesareans are safer, pain free and more convenient.

The World Health Organisation estimates that 15 percent of babies should need to be born by



Designer baby



Embryo

caesarean either due to the baby lying horizontal across the mother's womb, or foetal distress.

These figures have been superseded in most countries in Asia, but also in the United States and Britain where caesarean mums have been dubbed "too push to push."

But GPs are concerned that more women are making decisions to have a major operation without knowing the risks involved and egged on by doctors looking to cash in on the business of birth.

Dr. Tech

Dear Dr. Tech, My display flickers while working and my animations are also not working properly. What can I do to solve this problem? Samia

Dear Samia, I hope his tip will help you solve those video problems although you have not mentioned the name of your display adapter.

Hold down the **Alt** key and double click on the **My Computer** icon, then select the **Device Manager** tab (XP Users: it's the **Hardware** tab). Double click **Display Adapters**.

Next, double click your video card. The **Device Status** window will list any problems with your video card. If a problem is listed here it is

usually a conflict between two devices. Click on the **Resources** tab. If there are any conflicts listed in the **Conflicting Device List**, make sure the **Use Automatic Settings** is checked and reboot your computer. You can also try running through the steps under the **Troubleshooting** button in the **General** tab of the **Properties** window.

If either of these solutions doesn't solve your problem, reload your video driver by repeating the above steps up to double clicking on your video card. From there click on the **Driver** tab, then **Update Driver** and follow the on-screen instructions. Have your video card driver disk or cd ready when you reinstall the driver. dailystartech@yahoo.com

Tech Jobs

Chittagong University
Chittagong.
Position : **Professor - Department of Computer Science**
Closing date : Thursday, August 15, 2002

Darul Ihsan University
House # 21 (New), Road # 9/A, (New), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1205.
Position : **Computer Lab. Assistant**
Closing date : Saturday, August 10, 2002

National Academy of Science & Technology
12, Green Square, Green Road, Dhaka-1205.
Position : **Lecturer - Department of Computer Science**
Closing date : Saturday, August 10, 2002

An International Organization
P.O. Box # 6103, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212

Closing date : Monday, August 12, 2002

Candid Infotech
House # 134, Road # 22 New DOHS, Mohakhali
Position : **Web Developer (part-time or full-time)**
Closing date : Thursday, August 15, 2002

FIIT
House 1, Road 8, Sector 4, Uttara Model Town
Position : **Faculty Member**
Closing date : Monday, August 12, 2002

The Fourth R Of Bangladesh - GP Tech Solutions (BD) Ltd.
Hoque Chamber (4th Floor), 89/ 2 West Pathopah, Dhanmondi
Position : **Web Developer, Programmer/ Full time faculty, System Admin & Support Engineer**
Closing date : Thursday, August 15, 2002

Source: www.bdtjobs.com

Photo Tech



People look at a robot fish modeled after a coelacanth as it swims in a glass tank at the Japan's Mitsubishi Minatomiri Industrial Museum in Yokohama, 06 August 2002. The 80-centimeter-long robot incorporates propulsion technology Mitsubishi Heavy Industries developed for use in submarines and ships. The robot can float and use its five elastic fins to swim like a real fish.

Best 10 Websites

Category: Kids - Fun Stuff

BONUS.com
The SuperSite for Kids.
URL: <http://www.bonus.com>

Nickelodeon
Everything Nick.
URL: <http://nick.com>

Cartoon Network
Welcome to the Cartoon Network.
URL: <http://cartoonnetwork.com>

Sports Illustrated For Kids
What Kids Want To Know About Sports.
URL: <http://www.sikids.com/>

Pokemon World
Official Pokemon Site.
URL: <http://www.pokemon.com/>

Discovery Kids
Join Discovery Kids and we'll challenge you to do all the things you ever imagined and more.
URL: <http://kids.discovery.com/>

comics.com
Daily Comics.
URL: <http://www.comics.com/>

LEGO
Cool LEGO Stuff.
URL: <http://www.lego.html>

FOX kids
The all new FOX kids.
URL: <http://www.foxkids.com/>

iKnowthat.com
iKnowthat.com is a web-based, multimedia educational kids software that enables personalized learning in history, art, math and language. Currently, activities for kids 2-12 include themed stickerbooks, simulation games, and painting.
URL: <http://www.iknowthat.com/>