

## Web Tech

# The virtual trade fair

Internet portal for Bangladesh garments industry

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A website is like a large neon billboard set on the top of the world so that anyone can see it. But a web portal is more than a billboard. It is like a virtual fair having many signboards. BGMEA (Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association) has put up such a 'virtual trade show' with their recently launched webportal [www.bangladeshgarments.info](http://www.bangladeshgarments.info).

BGMEA along with eVastra, a US based software company for the apparel industry and DataSoft, a local software firm launched the portal for our garments industry on July 2, 2002. An interactive dialogue on the future and prospects of the portal was held between BGMEA and IT and business journalists on August 13 at the conference room of BGMEA.

Through this portal the industry entered the digital era. This is the first Business-to-Business (B2B) web portal in the country. It functions as a virtual global marketplace where the country's 3500 garments factories are united, thus presenting a significant presence to draw buyers from around the world. The site has been created for the BGMEA with all the features required by country's garment exporters in mind.

The portal, [www.bangladeshgarments.info](http://www.bangladeshgarments.info) links buyers, factories and suppliers worldwide. A buyer, anywhere in the world can now access a garment manufacturer's directory and search for the exact product they need, and thus easily find suitable factories before they even set foot in Bangladesh. Plus, the buyer can post the details of their required garment to a web-based apparel marketplace where country's all-relevant factories can see the details and respond.

The portal has many features.



First of all it has searchable directories with virtual tours and product portfolios with front and back photographs for each sample, as well as fabric, trims and style descriptions and pricing information. Individual factory websites can also be accessed simply through the portal. Each factory has complete control of information uploading and updating. Factory personnel can access data entry screens for updating profile and portfolio for their own office. They do not need to rely on BGMEA or anyone else to update their information. Password protected authentication system prevents anyone except authorised personnel from accessing or modifying factory data.

The portal is a B2B (Business to Business) e-marketplace for the BGMEA factories. The basic e-marketplace is the 'Apparel

Exchange', which enables many garments buyers and factories to meet and negotiate deals. The additional exchanges include, 'Stock Lot Exchange', which enables any BGMEA factories having stock lots of unsold garments to auction off the unwanted goods quickly to the highest bidder. 'Fabric Exchange, Yarn Exchange, Trims Exchange and Grey Fabric Exchange', which provides a complete merchandising solution. Each of Bangladesh's factories will be able to post their requirements for any kind of raw materials for the relevant exchange, where a large number of suppliers both locally and around the world will be able to bid against each other. Other features such as order tracking and vessels scheduling are also included in the portal.

Both garment buyers and

manufacturers can be benefited in many ways through the portal [www.bangladeshgarments.info](http://www.bangladeshgarments.info). The only drawback of the portal is that it does not include online transaction. So the buyers can place bids or order but can not pay online. This is because the country's e-business system does not permit online transaction.

Through the launch of this portal BGMEA is preparing its members to face the reality of today's digital world of competition. In the last few years it has been seen that buyers in the western world have moved towards internet-based business for garment producers and exporters. Bangladesh was completely out of this new market until this portal was launched. Now we have the tool to compete with others. Lets make the best out of it.

## Tech Review

# School days revisited

Viqarunnisa Noon School and its Golden Jubilee celebration in CD

STAR TECH DESK

VIQARUNNISA Noon School celebrated its 50 years anniversary on January 14 this year. A four-day programme was held celebrating the golden jubilee. Every student of the school will cherish the memories of the school and the colourful programme that took place. To preserve their memories forever, Soft Soul, a multimedia based company has launched a CD covering the golden jubilee celebration programme and different activities of the institute.



decorated during the celebration period and many unforgettable moments.

The school section starts with a preface part having essays by teachers, a photo slide section of classrooms and interviews of the principal and other head teaching staff. Next there is a teachers database with the names and photos of all teachers. There is also a result section having the list of all the outstanding results of SSC and HSC. The section ends with a photo gallery section.

The CD will be available to Viqarunnisa students later this month. The CD can be collectible from all branches of Viqarunnisa School and College or Soft Soul.

The CD titled 'Golden Jubilee' is mostly done in Flash and starts with a colourful animation. After the intro a two-way menu appears, one points to 'Viqarunnisa Noon School' and the other to 'Golden Jubilee Celebration'.

The 'Golden Jubilee Celebration' section has three sections: Messages, Video and Photographs. The 'Message' section contains the messages from the President, Prime Minister and Education Minister on the 50 years anniversary. The Video section contains video highlights of the opening ceremony, student's reunion, closing ceremony etc. The photo gallery consists of photographs of the school colourfully

## Tech News Snaps

### Rupali Bank launches its website

Rupali Bank Ltd, one of the largest public limited banking company of the country, formally stepped into the global communications network from Monday by launching its Website. Rupali Bank Ltd Chairman Dr Momtaz Uddin Ahmed inaugurated the website in the computer division of the bank's head office as chief guest. The website will help the bank to disseminate Rupali Bank's profile throughout the world. The website is expected to contribute substantially for augmenting the foreign exchange and remittance business of the bank and add a new dimension to the free flow of information about Rupali Bank globally.

URL: [www.rupali-bank.com](http://www.rupali-bank.com)

### CNS to develop OIMS for Biman's GSE and MT

CNS Limited has been selected by Biman Bangladesh Airlines for the development of Online Inventory Management System (OIMS) for Ground Service Equipment (GSE) and Motor Transport (MT).

Through these systems, Biman will be able to avail facilities such as automated online Bin card, automated indent preparation and cross-checking of requisitions, automated and easy inventory transfer facility, multi location support, user and group level security, automated inventory information using international standard EOQ (Economic Order Quantity) inventory model, automated buffer stock and lead time consumption alerts etc.

Additional Services include Data Entry of 50000 records, Training for Administrative and User Levels professionals, Maintenance Services and much more.

### 1st Anniversary of DIIT Feni Campus

The first Anniversary Programme of Daffodil Institute of IT (DIIT), Feni Campus was held on August 11, 2002 at Shahid Zahir Raihan Hall, Feni. Mr. ASM Nur Nabi Dulal, Chairman of DIIT Feni campus chaired the programme while Professor Aminul Islam, Vice Chancellor of Daffodil International University was present as chief guest. In his speech Professor Islam said that "This is the generation of Information Technology, therefore we have to develop ourselves in this field". Apart from the students he also advised the teachers and guardians to be more cautious in this regard.

## New Tech

# Top 5 wireless phones

- Sony Ericsson T68**  
Inexpensive, compact phone packs joystick navigation button, color screen, and world roaming.  
GSM 900 MHz/1800 MHz/1900 Mhz  
3 ounces; 3.9 by 1.9 by 0.8 inches  
7-hour talk time; 8 days standby
- Motorola V70**  
Smallest, most innovatively designed phone of this group has unique swiveling cover and circular display, though the keypad is a bit small.  
GSM 1900 Mhz  
2.8 ounces; 3.3 by 1.8 by 0.8 inches  
4-hour talk time; 6 days standby
- Handspring Treo 270**  
Combines phone and PDA into the highest priced, only Palm OS-compatible device here. Has a color screen and a tiny keyboard.  
GSM 900 MHz/1900 Mhz  
5.4 ounces; 4.2 by 2.8 by 0.8 inches
- Nextel Motorola I90c**  
Flip-up, Java-enabled phone with separate caller ID screen on the cover is the only model here with speakerphone and two-way radio capability.  
IDEN 800 MHz (based on TDMA)  
4.8 ounces; 3.5 by 2 by 1.1 inches  
3-hour talk time; 3 days standby
- Nokia 6360**  
The most affordable phone on our list (at six dollars).  
3-hour talk time; 3 days standby



## Game Tech

# Microsoft to Launch Xbox Live on Nov. 15



REUTERS, Los Angeles

MICROSOFT Corp. on Tuesday said it will launch "Xbox Live," the online gaming service for its video game console, in North America on Nov. 15, the Xbox game machine's one-year anniversary.

The service will require a \$49.95 starter kit, which includes 12-months' access, a game and a headset kit for voice communications with other players.

At least six online-enabled games will be available for the console at launch, with about 16 by the end of the year, Xbox spokesman David Hufford told Reuters.

He said initial tests of the underlying network for the service will begin with about 10,000 people at the end of this month, though he said the network will be able to handle far in excess of the usage it will actually get in the early going.

"We will definitely be able to support multiples of what we bring in on day one," he said.

As for how many of the starter kits will be available that first day, Hufford said "that number will be dictated by

(retailers)."

Microsoft competitors Sony Corp. and Nintendo Co. Ltd. also will enable online gaming for their consoles latter this year.

Sony will release a network adapter for the PlayStation 2 as well as related games later this month, while Nintendo has not specified a release timetable for the adapters for its GameCube console.

While the Xbox has networking capabilities built-in, it only supports broadband Internet connections; the other two consoles will support traditional dial-up connections. The Sony adapter will support both while Nintendo will release separate adapters for each connection method.

Video game hardware and software sales topped \$9.4



A still from Xbox NBA Live 2002

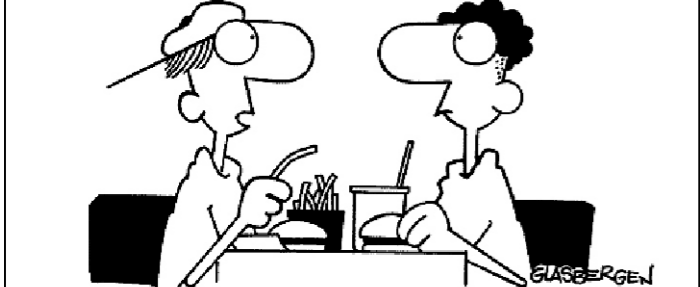
billion in the United States in 2001, with sales expected to easily break that record this year, driven by competition among the three consoles and growing mainstream popularity of games.

According to surveys by the game industry's trade group, the Interactive Digital Software Association, as many as 31 percent of frequent game players say they play online.



Xbox Voice Kit of games.

## Tech Toon



"I forgot to make a back-up copy of my brain, so everything I learned last semester was lost."

www.glasbergen.com

## Star Tech Quiz

5

Check the box beside the correct answer

- Which of the following is a PC video file extension?  
 .MVE       .Mp3  
 .AVI       .VDO
- Which of the following is not a Operating System?  
 SuSE       UNIX  
 DOS       OSD
- Which of the following is not a Internet browsers?  
 Internet Explorer       AOL  
 Opera       Netscape

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Last week's answers  
 1. Pen 2. Platter 3. Core

Winner: Tasnim Sultana  
 27/B Monipuri Para, Dhaka 1215

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by August 20, 2002.

## Dr. Tech

Dear Dr. Tech, I use Outlook Express to check my mails and suddenly my mails have stuck. What can I do to solve this problem?  
 Faisal

Dear Faisal, Many outlook users have faced this problem, e-mail ready to go out, you try to send it, and it won't go. All you get is an error message during every send cycle. The e-mail seems like it's "stuck" in your outbox.

The first thing to try is going to the e-mail in question and deleting it. If it's in your outbox, go to your outbox, highlight the e-mail, and hit your Delete key. When you click the e-mail, it automatically opens in the preview pane and locks things up

before you can get to the Delete key. The solution is to temporarily close that preview pane, then select and delete the e-mail. I've never seen that little trick not work.

So, how do you close the preview panel? Easy! (Instructions below are for Outlook Express)

1. Click the **View menu, Layout.**
2. **Uncheck the "Preview Pane"** checkbox (check out all the other options too :-).

Hit OK and you should be able to go in and get rid of that problematic e-mail. Once it's history, just follow the steps above, but this time check the preview pane box. I hope this will solve your problem.

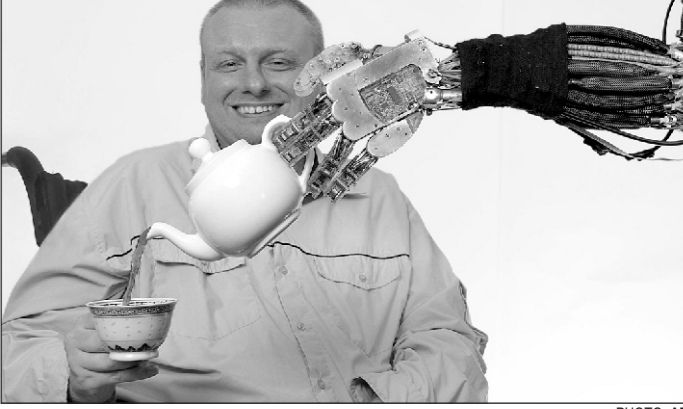
dailystartech@yahoo.com

## Dino Tech



Spectators look at a dinosaur-shaped robot, named "Tarbosaurus", as it swings its head and opens its mouth at the entrance hall of a Tokyo department store, 12 August 2002. The robot dinosaur, seven meters in length and four meters in height, attracts customers as a Chinese dinosaur exhibition opened at the department store from 13 August.

## Photo Tech



Mark Worsdall, a programmer at the Shadow Robot Company, who suffers from Spinal Muscular Atrophy has a cup of tea poured for him by a robot developed by the north London firm, which will literally give elderly and disabled people a helping hand about the house.

## Best 0 Websites

- Category: Cooking Recipes
- AllRecipes.com**  
Allrecipes.com is the leading community-based recipe and meal planning web site. The site offers users unique food ideas and resources.  
URL: <http://www.allrecipes.com>
  - Top Secret Recipes on the Web**  
Get a custom secret recipe every week -- each one designed in the TSR test kitchen. Find a new Top Secret Recipe right here every week!  
URL: <http://www.topsecretrecipes.com>
  - Copykat Creations**  
Welcome to Copykat Recipes, home of the web's most exciting recipes.  
URL: <http://www.copykat.com>
  - World Wide Recipes**  
Free recipes delivered to your email box every day. A complete gourmet menu every week.  
URL: <http://www.wrrcipes.com>
  - epicurious.com**  
We've got more than 10,000 recipes from Gourmet and Bon Appétit, and several different ways of finding them.  
URL: <http://food.epicurious.com>
  - StarChefs.com**  
StarChefs, where the artistry of the world's celebrity chefs takes center stage, is already one of the premier culinary sites on the Internet.  
URL: <http://www.starchefs.com>
  - Quick 'n' Easy Recipes**  
Providing fast, simple cooking for everyone. Featuring recipes for meals that are Quick 'n' Easy to prepare.  
URL: <http://www.quickneasyrecipes.com>
  - recipecenter.com**  
Recipe Center has more than 100,000 recipes. Recipe features on line recipe sizing that calculates the quantity of recipe ingredients needed.  
URL: <http://www.recipecenter.com>
  - Culinary Cafe**  
Now is the time for Comfort Foods and we have chosen a few of our favorites for you.  
URL: <http://www.culinarycafe.com>
  - Vegetarian Kitchen**  
Nava Atlas is the author and illustrator of many books on vegetarian cooking.  
URL: <http://www.vegkitchen.com>