

**Tech Seminar**

# Looking for a friend in ICT development

## Seminar on 'The Role of IT: Japan and Bangladesh Perspectives' held

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

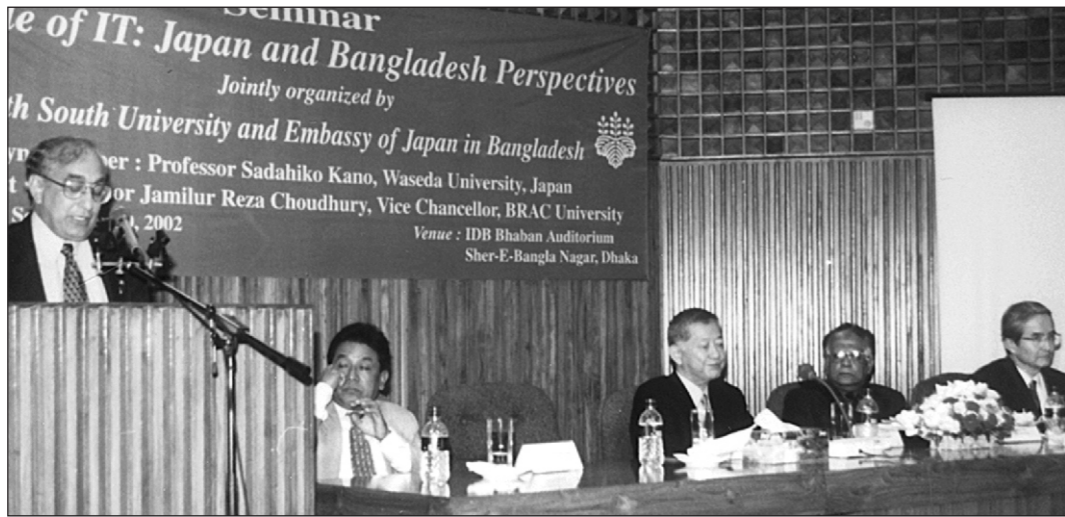
ONE of our focal points at present is the ICT (Information Communication and Technology) sector of the country. We are very much into the development of this sector. But we have to keep one thing in our minds that without the help of other developed countries it is impossible. Exchange and transfer of knowledge and technology are the key assistance that other developed countries can provide us with. Japan has always been one of the leading technology giants in the world and with their assistance we can go a long way. Jointly organised by North South University (NSU) and the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh a seminar titled 'The Role of IT: Japan and Bangladesh Perspectives' discussing Japanese assistance to develop country's ICT sector was held on September 10 at the IDB Bhaban auditorium.

NSU Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Hafiz GA Siddiqi chaired the session while it was addressed by Jiro Kobayashi, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh and ABM Kamal Uddin Khan, chairman of the NSU Foundation.

In his welcome speech, Ambassador Kobayashi suggested Bangladesh to address five crucial areas to develop the sector. These are high-speed data infrastructure, constant international market access, formulation of separate rules for e-commerce and e-governance, and grooming human resources.

The main topic discussed at the seminar was 'Japanese financial and technological assistance to develop human resource for utilising the country's potential in Information and Communication Technology (ICT)'.

Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of BRAC University attended the



Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury speaking at the seminar

seminar as chief guest. "The G-8 countries have created a fund of 16 billion US dollars to bridge the gap of digital divide," he said in his speech.

He requested Japan to look into the problems of the country's ICT development, expecting the G-8 country would provide a part of the fund for human resources development in the country through co-operation between educational institutions of the two countries and also by other means.

Professor Chowdhury informed the seminar that 1,500 ICT graduates come out every year from universities and institutes in the country and this number would rise to 10,000 per annum by the year 2006.

He also revealed that the national taskforce on ICT decided to provide an amount of the Tk 300 crore Equity and Entrepreneurship Fund (EEF) to establish e-governance thus creating employment opportunity for the just coming out ICT graduates.

Dr. Kaykobad, professor, Com-

puter Science and Engineering Dept, BUET, chaired the business session. Professor Sadahiko Kano of Global Information and Telecommunication Institute, Waseda University, Japan, presented the keynote paper on 'The ICT and Regional Development'.

His slideshow presentation on the paper started off stating Japan's long economic recession and regional development projects based on ICT. In his paper he discussed topics such as Features of ICT, Role of ICT in national economy, Regional development, Industry case studies, etc. His paper was detailed, informative and useful.

After the presentation of the keynote paper, a technical paper titled 'ICT: present status, opportunities, prospects and challenges of Bangladesh' was presented by Dr. M Abdul Awal, Associate Professor, Computer Science Dept, NSU. His paper focused on the telecommunication sector. Another technical

paper titled, 'Role of IT: Scope of Japan-Bangladesh co-operation' was presented by assistant professor of NSU Dr. Rokonuzzaman. Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) president Habibullah N Karim stressed the need for linking academics, industrialists and public sector for the development of ICT in the country, while speaking at the seminar. He said that country's export of IT-related services now cover 16 countries, including Japan, with an estimated annual earning of some US\$30 million.

While speaking at the seminar Dr. Farruk Ahmed, professor, Department of Applied Physics and Electronics, University of Dhaka urged the necessity of a Hi-Tech park and a virtual university.

There are many ways Japan can help Bangladesh to develop its ICT sector. But it is up to us, how we utilise their support and prove ourselves worthy.

**Tech Workshop**

# A perspicuous workshop

SHUVRO

Aptech Worldwide Bangladesh Ltd. organised a workshop for the educators to introduce their new programme for the schools 'Aptech Plus' on September 16. The two-hour seminar was held at the seminar hall of Victoria University, Dhaka.

The seminar started with the welcome speech by Pranab Bose, managing director, Aptech Worldwide Bangladesh Ltd. Nilesh S. Vani, senior vice-president, Aptech Training Ltd, who came from India to conduct the workshop, then delivered his core speech. He said, 'Aptech Plus' is not simply a commercial programme, it also wishes to make a change in the young IT learners. He presented various aspects of the 'Aptech Plus' programme with slides to the participating educators.

The 'Aptech Plus' product is released as part of the 'Aptech for Schools' programme. According to the product brochure, Aptech plus offers an academically integrated and structured IT curriculum for schools. The product is designed for schools that have introduced computers and have necessary infrastructure. Aptech will provide



Nilesh S. Vani conducting the workshop

training for the teachers and required course materials needed. The total curriculum is based upon six main topics -

- Information technology
- Word processing
- Spreadsheet
- Databases
- Graphics and multimedia (including web page designing)
- Programming

The Aptech Plus syllabus is for 'standard k-2' to 'standard eight'. Standard nine and upwards follow the board syllabus. The pricing is the annual license fee payable to Aptech. The annual license fee is charged to the school and is based on the number of students. This curriculum is academically designed to fit into one of the study periods in the overall schedule. Upon signing an agreement for the license of the 'Aptech Plus' programme, the school gets the following materials from Aptech student guides, implementation manual, teachers manuals, CD-ROM containing other required contents such as slides, templates and activity related software and future technical support. Aptech also created an online portal of the 'Aptech Plus' programme, which provides support and updates to the teachers.

**New Tech**

# Best 5 Digital Cameras

- Olympus C-3020 Zoom**  
This bulky camera has a fast lens and many controls that photo hobbyists desire.
- 3.2 megapixels
  - 16MB SmartMedia
  - 3X optical zoom
  - Video recording, no audio recording
  - Current prices: \$335.88 to \$499.99

- This heavy, black camera includes manual control of both aperture and shutter speed for a great price.
- 3.2 megapixels
  - 8MB Secure Digital
  - 2.8X optical zoom
  - Video recording, no audio recording
  - Current prices: \$285.59 to \$464.4

- Nikon Coolpix 2500**  
Great-looking, compact point-and-shoot has a novel design that protects the lens during storage.
- 2 megapixels
  - 16MB CompactFlash
  - 3X optical zoom
  - Video recording, no audio recording
  - Current prices: \$229 to \$349.95

- Canon PowerShot S200**  
The S200 updates its predecessor, the S110, with style tweaks, reworked menus, and new navigation buttons.
- 2 megapixels
  - 8MB CompactFlash
  - 2X optical zoom
  - Current prices: \$276 to \$369.99



- Pentax Optio 230**  
Compact and simple to use, the Optio 230 has some unusual features, like a 3D picture mode and a fold-out color LCD screen.
- 2 megapixels
  - 16MB CompactFlash
  - 3X optical zoom
  - Video recording, no audio recording
  - Current prices: \$234 to \$299.99

- Toshiba PDR-3300**
- 2 megapixels
  - 8MB CompactFlash
  - 2X optical zoom
  - Current prices: \$276 to \$369.99

**Tech Toon**



"To upgrade or not to upgrade, that is the question!"

**Star Tech Quiz**

- Check the box beside the correct answer
- A Cathode Ray Tube is found in what?
    - CPU
    - Printer
    - Monitor
    - Scanner
  - A CPU stands for what?
    - Central Power Unit
    - Certified Public Unit
    - Central Processing Unit
    - Certified Power Unit
  - The Intel Pentium bug/ flaw was an issue with the:
    - Cache
    - FPU
    - Socket
    - There was no bug/flaw

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last week's answers:  
 1. 1.44MB 2. Scanner 3. Netcfg  
 Winner: **Murshed**  
 64, Shukrabad, Dhaka - 1207

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by September 25, 2002.

**Space Tech**

# Voracious Black Holes detected in old Galaxies

REUTERS, Washington

OLD galaxies huddled together in clusters were once dismissed as the rest homes of the cosmos, but scientists reported on Friday that many of them have massive black holes gobbling gas at their cores.

The discovery of active black holes where none was suspected means these massive matter-sucking drains in space may be even more common than astronomers first thought.

It also indicates that even the oldest galaxies are not necessarily as staid as they may first appear.

"Most of these galaxies are really old and we've always thought they weren't doing much for a long time," said Dan Kelson of the Carnegie Observatories in Pasadena, California. "They're actually a lot more active than we've really thought."

In some cases, Kelson said by telephone, these galaxies may be as much as 10 billion years old, more than two-thirds the suspected age of the universe. Unlike younger galaxies, the black holes in the galaxies in galactic clusters were thought to be quiescent, with nothing to "eat" and therefore no way for scientists to detect them.

Black holes are celestial objects whose gravity is so great that nothing, not even

light, can escape. That makes them invisible but astronomers know where they are because of the swirling gas and dust that circles their rims just before being sucked into the hole.

Using NASA's orbiting Chandra X-Ray Observatory and the ground-based Walter

Baade optical telescope in Chile, scientists discovered six active black holes in galaxy cluster Abell 2104, where they suspected only one.

An image is available online at <http://www.carnegieinstitution.org/carnegieobservatories>.



Old galaxies huddled together in clusters were once dismissed as the rest homes of the cosmos, but scientists reported on September 13, 2002 that many of them have massive black holes gobbling gas at their cores. Shown is a Chandra X-ray Observatory image of the Abell 2104 cluster of galaxies. The image reveals X-ray emissions produced by both hot gas (the bright area near the center of the image) and by accretion of dust and gas onto supermassive black holes (the smaller bright patches on the outskirts of the image).

**Dr. Tech**

Dear Dr. Tech, I was wondering if you could help me out by suggesting me whether I should leave my computer running all the time or should I turn it off?  
Shamim

Dear Shamim, I guess I will give you the thoughts from both camps and let you decide.

**Leave it on:** The electronic components within the computer tend to last longer if they are not constantly cooling off and warming back up. Additionally, you do not get any kind of initial "spike" in power when your machine is first turned on (not a big problem if you have an ATX type motherboard - most newer computers do). Finally, it's much more convenient to just pop down in front of your computer and start working than to sit through a lengthy boot-up.

**Turn it off:** Your hard drive may last longer,

especially if your computer does not put the drive on "standby" after a certain amount of idle time. The constant spinning of your hard drive motor can wear out the internal bearings. I personally do not think this is a big deal. Newer hard drives will probably be in good service longer than the computer they live in.

Another "turn it off" argument is that you will save on your electric bill. Depending on your machine, it uses the same power as one or more 100 watt light bulbs. Finally, you are going to pull more dust into your computer if it's running all the time. More dust = more heat. More heat = short lived computers, unless you clean it out regularly. Those are the main reasons both ways. My opinion? I let it run during the day when I am using it and shut it off at night.

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**Tech News Snaps**

# BASIS SOFTEXPO starts from Oct 26

'BASIS SOFTEXPO Bangladesh 2002' will be held from October 26 to 29 at Hotel Sheraton in the city, says a press release. BASIS SOFTEXPO Bangladesh 2002 is the Bangladesh's first international show for the software and IT enabled services (ITES) and the system solutions showcase for the Information Communication Technology (ICT) marketplace. BASIS SOFTEXPO Bangladesh 2002 will be the venue for the software companies in Bangladesh to display new technologies. Many reputed international IT companies Such as Oracle, Microsoft, IBM, HP are expected to participate in this exhibition to display their software and IT services. Booth rental is Tk 20,000 for BASIS members and Tk 30,000 for non-members. Booth reservation started from September 14 and booths will be allocated on first come first served basis. For registration all interested parties are requested to contact BASIS office at BRS Bhaban (14<sup>th</sup> Floor - East), 12 Kwaran Bazar, Dhaka 1215, telephone 913-3687, email [info@basisbd.org](mailto:info@basisbd.org). Registration forms can be downloaded from BASIS web site at [www.basisbd.org](http://www.basisbd.org).

# Microsoft Business Empowerment Seminar

Microsoft Business Empowerment Seminar was held on September 10 at the winter garden of Dhaka Sheraton hotel. In the seminar Microsoft introduced cutting-edge technologies to empower businesses. This seminar helped the audience understand these new technologies, thus enabling them to plan & deploy the right technology solutions for their business growth.

The speakers of the seminar was Sachin Wadhwa, Technical Specialist (SMB), Microsoft Corporation India Pvt Ltd and Harish Hariharan Business Development Manager for Bangladesh & Sri Lanka, Microsoft Corporation India Pvt Ltd. They explained the underlying technologies from Microsoft that enable business solutions. They also shared some case histories of organizations that have benefited from business empowerment solutions.

# Fourth R to start IT programmes

The Fourth R, a US based IT training company, is going to start IT programs in Bangladesh from the September 21 through its country promoter/master licensee GP Tech Solutions (BD) Ltd. Under its IT programs, Fourth R will deliver quality IT training on MOUS MCP, MCSA, MCSE, MCDBA, OCP (DBA), SCJP, Linux+ and some other vendor certification courses including a number of The Fourth R (TFR) certified short courses only for the interested individuals who are over 18 years old.

**Robo Tech**



Sumio Ishii, engineer of Japan's SECOM Co Ltd., shows his new robot "My Spoon" to help the disabled eat meals at the International Home Care and Rehabilitation Exhibition in Tokyo, 12 September 2002.

**Best 10 Websites**

Category: Art sales & galleries

- ArtQuest.com**  
We offer a new way to locate, buy and sell art. ArtQuest is a listing service that connects buyers and sellers via email.  
URL: <http://www.artquest.com>
- Barewalls.com**  
The Internet's leading print and poster e-tailer boasting more than 150,000 selections. Barewalls.com's affordable and professional framing and mounting services include boardmounting, canvas transfers and wood and metal frames.  
URL: <http://www.barewalls.com>
- Ashford.com**  
Ashford.com is the leading e-commerce destination offering luxury goods to individuals and corporat clients.  
URL: <http://www.ashford.com>
- American Royal Arts.com**  
American Royal Arts Corporation is the America's largest supplier of animation art.  
URL: <http://www.americanroyalarts.com>
- AllPosters.com**  
AllPosters.com offers 50,000 images, ranging from hard-to-find high quality art prints to the best movie and music posters. All prints are offered at discount prices.  
URL: <http://www.allposters.com>
- ArtinaClick.com**  
ArtinaClick.com is the premier source for buying art online. The company offers one of the largest selections of limited edition lithographs, serigraphs, originals, prints and posters, and sports memorabilia/collectibles.  
URL: <http://www.artinaclick.com>
- IncredibleArt.com**  
We have taken great care to present informative, easy to use pages for corporate art sales.  
URL: <http://www.incredibleart.com>
- 10thAvenue.com**  
10thAvenue.com allows shoppers to travel the globe through the eyes of the Internet and easily navigate through a unique collection of specialty items, home furnishings, artifacts and other discoveries from around the world.  
URL: <http://www.10thavenue.com>
- WalkerArt.com**  
Print gallery featuring impressionist, realist, abstract, modern, pop and contemporary art.  
URL: <http://www.walkerart.com>
- ArtPrintCollection.com**  
Since 1985, Artprint Collection guarantees the safe delivery via FedEx of all orders.  
URL: <http://www.artprintcollection.com>