

## Tech Fair

# ICT fares well at SME Fair 2002

SHUVRO

THE Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Fair at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre in the city proved a grand success. The six-day fair, organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), and held from September 15 to 20, drew a huge crowd. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inaugurated the fair on September 15 and President Iajuddin Ahmed was chief guest at the concluding ceremony.

The fair, aimed at promotion of Bangladeshi products in the competitive world market, put accent on the information and communication technology. Organisers of the fair said that, as export revenue from readymade garment industry looks set to decline after 2004, they had given importance to ICT promotion in this fair.

On the first floor of the centre, there were 35 stalls of 20 different companies and institutions dealing in ICT. These stalls were mainly on office and accounting software, animated films or cartoons, Internet services, web hosting and training programmes. The speciality was that all software or animation shown or services offered, was from native resources, and as a result there were no stalls of imported computer hardware or peripherals.

### Internet and web services

There was also a cyber café for the visitors and it was packed all the time, a reminder of increasing awareness of Internet. Different Internet service providers offered dial-up and broadband subscriptions. Broadband connections have become very popular these days as long queues at the café suggested. Almost all the



PHOTO: STAR

Hundreds of enthusiasts visited the fair everyday

companies gave special discount on pre-paid connections. Some companies also arranged gifts for subscribers. There were attractive web hosting packages available from different providers. Two web portals - Bangladesh-Info.com and

JobsBD.com - promoted their sites at the fair. The participating Internet service providers were Information Services Network (ISN), DhakaCom Limited, Bdc.com Online Limited, Global Online Services Limited, Bangladesh Online

Limited, etc.

### Cartoon and animation Product

Cartoon and animation is new in the country's ICT sector but has already made its presence felt. *Montu Mia*, aired on Ekushey Television (ETV), was first of its kind in three dimensional cartoons. Three institutions - CSL Software Resources Limited, Greenfield Toons of the Decode Limited and Aftab IT Limited - presented 2D and 3D animations and cartoons at the fair. Greenfield Toons has already exported an animation series to Canada.

### Customised, offshore software and multimedia products

Customised software including accounting software, industry management such as garments, bank or even clinic and hospital management software were exhibited in the fair and response from foreign customers was encouraging. The country's multimedia developers also presented some excellent works. In the fair, Ananda Computers, FornixSoft Limited, Daffodil IT Limited and CD Media showed their multimedia products.

### Training institutes

Some training institutes offered various courses in the fair at a discounted fee. Training programmes offered were mainly on software development, web development, multimedia and medical transcription. FornixSoft Limited, Ananda Computers, Daffodil Computers Limited, Australasia Institute of Business and Technology, Technosoft Transcription Limited, Bhuiyan Computers, etc, had special offers for the fair.

## Tech News

# Bill Gates invited to attend next computer show

BSS

BAKLADESH Computer Samity (BCS) is taking large-scale preparations to stage its next show in January 2003 with the participation of the world's leading computer firms for the first time.

The fair, pegged as the largest event in the country's communication technology sector, will be held at the imposing Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre from January 12 to 18.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who opened the fair last year, is also expected to inaugurate it this time when Microsoft chief Bill Gates might be at her side, said Azizur Rahman, secretary general of the BCS.

"We are inviting Bill Gates to the opening function and have made initial contact with him," he said.

His arrival in the country will encourage the information and communication technology (ICT) and add dynamism to the industry, Rahman said.

The fair, formally known as BCS Computer Show, has emerged as a big crowd-puller since its launch in 1987. The show will include a number of sections including hardware, software, outsourcing, ICT



Bill Gates

training and education, product development, multimedia, e-commerce, international firms, data processing and graphic design.

Rahman expects that about 500,000 people will visit the fair, up from 300,000 last year.

The first two days of the seven-day show will be exclusively earmarked for foreign guests and representatives. The last five days will, however, remain open to all visitors.

Thirty-six seminars will be held on the sidelines of the fair, Rahman said.

The stalls at the fair must be booked by November 30, he added.

## Tech News Snaps

### Neural's NeoPOS- Point of Sales Systems Software

NeoPOS 'Point of Sales Systems Software' developed by Neural Software Solution is a sales automation software. With NeoPos a salesman can manage his sales, purchase, inventory, account and build queries for data that can be viewed in a variety of ways.

Management and executives can take instant decision from the customised reports. Neural's systems developers have developed this multi-user; user friendly and cost effective customised system to meet present and future requirement. This system has been developed for departmental stores, shopping malls etc.

### KEY FEATURES:

- Information regarding the Suppliers or Customers
- Brands or Departments Information.
- Product information by Product type or by Department or by brand.
- Customized Bar Codes for each product.
- Active or inactive Customers information.
- Damage or lost information of products.
- Purchaser information according to the date range, supplier, product, department or brand.
- Purchase return information.
- Summary of stock value by Department or by product or by brand.
- List of Reorder.
- Sales and Purchase voucher.
- Accounts related information like Balance sheet, Profit & Loss.

### Seminar on computer technology at Daffodil International University

A Seminar on Computer Technology was held on September 21 at the premises of Daffodil International University (DIU). The seminar was titled "Evolution of Computing and Computer Technology." Professor Dr. Lutfar Rahman, founder chairman of the department of Computer Science, University of Dhaka, was present as keynote speaker while it was presided over by Professor Aminul Islam, vice chancellor, DIU. Professor M Shahjahan Mina, dean, business & economics was also present at the occasion. Dr. Lutfar Rahman spoke about various distinguished aspects of the development of computers since its evolution and its practical uses to the students. Dr. Md Abu Taher of the department of Computer Science & Engineering conducted the seminar as a convener.

## New Tech

### Top 5 Colour Laser Printers

#### Lexmark C720n

Rated 24 ppm monochrome/6 ppm color. Standard 64MB of RAM, 2400-by-1200-dpi maximum resolution, 250 sheets input and output. Price: \$2069

#### Oki Data Oki C7200n

Rated 20 ppm monochrome/12 ppm color. Standard 64MB of RAM, 1200-by-600-dpi maximum resolution, 530 sheets input, 500 output. Price: \$2164

#### Minolta-QMS Magicolor 3100 DN

Rated 16 ppm monochrome/16 ppm color. Standard 256MB of RAM, 1200-by-1200-dpi maximum resolution, 600 sheets input, 250 output. Price: \$2199

#### Brother HL-4000CN

Rated 16 ppm monochrome/16 ppm color. Standard 64MB of



#### Xerox Phaser 6200

Rated 16 ppm monochrome/16 ppm color. Standard 128MB of RAM, 2400-by-600-dpi maximum resolution, 600 sheets input, 250 output. Price: \$2399

## Tech Toon



"Oh, the usual stuff. Spam from the Joker, another e-mail virus from the Penguin, an illegal chain letter from Cat Woman..."

## Web Tech

# Online 'Smiley Face' :- ) turns 20

REUTERS, Washington

It was 20 years ago, Scott Fahlman taught the 'Net how to smile.

Other computer scientists know the IBM researcher for his work with neural networks -- a computer technique designed to mimic the human brain -- and helping to develop Common Lisp, a computer language that uses symbols instead of numbers.

But the planet's 500 million Internet users can thank Fahlman for a flash of inspiration 20 years ago that helped to define online culture, in all of its ungrammatical glory.

On Sept. 19, 1982, Fahlman typed :- ) in an online message.

The "smiley face" has since become a staple of online communication, allowing 12-year-old girls and corporate lawyers alike to punctuate their messages with a quick symbol that says, "Hey, I'm only joking."

Fahlman's innovation has since inspired countless other "emoticons," like :- ) to signify a wink, :- 0 to show surprise, and (-:-) to say, "I am a scuba diver."

"I've certainly spent 10 times as much time talking with people about it as I did coming up with it in the first place," Fahlman said from his Pittsburgh home.

"Hopefully my actual research career will add up to more in the long run."

In the early 1980s, computer networks were rarely found outside university science

departments and secretive government facilities.

But even then, discussions on primitive online "bulletin boards" could quickly turn nasty when touchy users misinterpreted remarks meant to be taken

Fahlman suggested :- ), along with the admonition to "read it sideways." Before long, other bulletin board users were placing the smiley face in their messages. The practice spread as Internet users found the symbol



lightly.

After a particularly tangled joke about mercury contamination in an elevator, users of a Carnegie Mellon University bulletin board proposed a variety of markers for humorous comments, including \*, %, &, (#) and \_/.

useful as a rough approximation of a twinkle in the eye.

A FEW FROWNS Predictably, the smiley face encountered a few frowns as the online population exploded.

"Humans have managed to communicate with the written word for thousands of years

without strewing crudely fashioned ideograms across their parchments. It is as if the written word were a cutting-edge technology without useful precedents," groused Neal Stephenson in the New Republic in 1993.

Fahlman stands by his creation. "If Shakespeare were tossing off a quick note complaining about the lack of employee parking spaces near the Globe Theater, he might have produced the same kind of sloppy prose that the rest of us do," Fahlman writes on his Web site.

Emoticons now crop up regularly in advertisements, and could eventually become an accepted part of the English language, said humor expert and Long Island University professor Jim Lyttle.

"Eventually, yeah, they'll creep in and become accepted," Lyttle said. "Most of the things that are in our language crept in colloquially."

Yahoo!, Microsoft and America Online all incorporate emoticons into their instant-messaging systems, while telecom firms, jewelry makers and online retailers have filed trademark applications for products and slogans that incorporate Fahlman's smiley face.

But Fahlman has never seen a dime from his creation.

"If it cost people a nickel to use it, nobody would have used it," he said. "This is my little gift to the world."

## Star Tech Quiz

10

Check the box beside the correct answer

1. Which of the following is an example of Binary?

- 123                       7B  
 111 1011                 All of the above

2. Typically, hard disk drives employ what technology storage mechanism?

- Laser                       Magnetic  
 Light                         Chemical

3. What is degauss?

- Attachment for CPU       Medical software  
 Creating magnetic media    Erasing magnetic media

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Last week's answers

1. Monitor 2. Central Processing Unit CPU

Winner: Sharif Bari  
 61, English, 1/1, S.U.S.T, Sylhet-3114

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

## The Gladiators

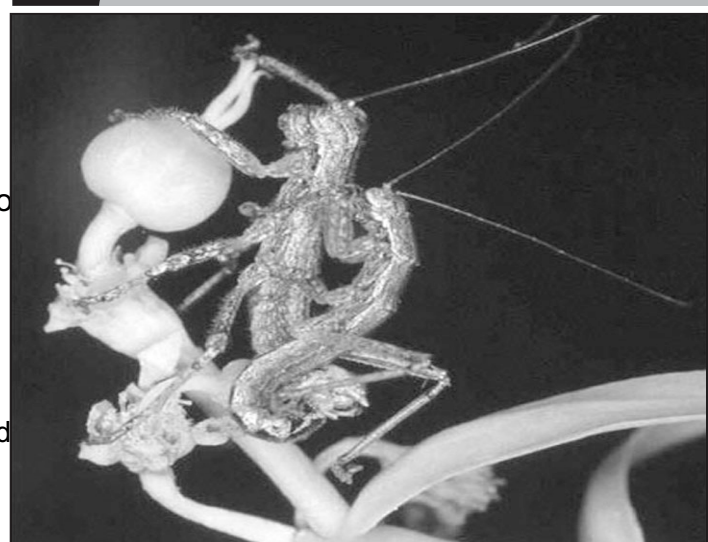


PHOTO: AFP

A hand-out picture taken at the University of Cape Town dated August 2002 shows a pair of insects from the new order "Mentophasmatodea", aptly nicknamed "gladiators". The recent recognition of the new order has been dubbed as one of the most exciting discoveries in Zoology, boosting the total number of insect orders to thirty and appears to be restricted to southern Africa.

## Dr. Tech

Dear Dr. Tech, I have a small office with 10 PCs, but we have only one printer. How can I share the printer so that all of us can use it?

Selim

Dear Selim, If the computers are networked together, enable printer sharing on the computer with the printer. This is done under the Network icon in the Control Panel.

Then, install the networked printer you created above on the second computer. You do this from the Printers folder in My Computer (XP users, head to the Control Panel). Just click "install Printer" and when asked, tell it you're installing a network printer. There's a handy little wizard to guide you through the process (it's actually very easy). That should get you printing. The only potential problem I can

see is if the printer is not able to be used on a network. Most can be, but there are some that will refuse to run.

OK, but what if the computers aren't networked together?

If they're not networked, you still have an option. Most computer stores sell a switch box device that can be used to connect a single printer to several computers. Although this doesn't work everytime (some printers are funny about switchboxes), most of the time it does the trick. You should be able to get these switch boxes for under Tk. 1000. A word of caution - you may want to check your printer documentation to make sure that the switch box is safe for the printer in question. I've never really seen a problem with using a switchbox, but it never hurts to check. dailystartech@yahoo.com

## Photo Tech



PHOTO: AFP

A model holds a Kodak DCS Pro 14n digital SLR camera during a preview of the International Fotokina photographic fair in Cologne, 24 September 2002. The camera features a 13.89 megapixel sensor (13.89 million pixel) and is due to cost some 6,000 euros when it goes on sale in December 2002.

## Best 0 Websites

Category: Movies



Reviews & Information  
**Reel.com**  
 Reviews and Information.  
 URL: <http://www.reel.com>



**Hollywood.com**  
 Movie Reviews and More!  
 URL: <http://www.hollywood.com>



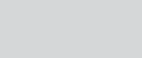
**Film.com**  
 Movie Reviews and More!  
 URL: <http://www.film.com>



**HotPopcorn.com**  
 Movie reviews and news for the next generation.  
 URL: <http://www.hotpopcorn.com>



**Fandango.com**  
 Fandango's mission is to be the premiere destination for consumers to plan their evening out to the movies.  
 URL: <http://www.fandango.com>



**AtomFilms.com**  
 Not too long ago, few people thought of short movies as a big-time form of entertainment. Then, AtomFilms went out and created a new industry  
 URL: <http://www.atomfilms.com>



**Cinema Now**  
 We're a group of filmmakers that love to watch (and make) films.  
 URL: <http://www.cinemanow.com>



**WireBreak.com**  
 Wirebreak.com is a digital studio that creates, produces and distributes interactive online content.  
 URL: <http://www.wirebreak.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>



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 Sooner or later, everybody comes to Rick's  
 URL: <http://www.ricksmovie.com>