

**Tech Fest**

## A trek back in space

Sputnik Fest 2002 marks the first Artificial Satellite Exploration

SHUVRU

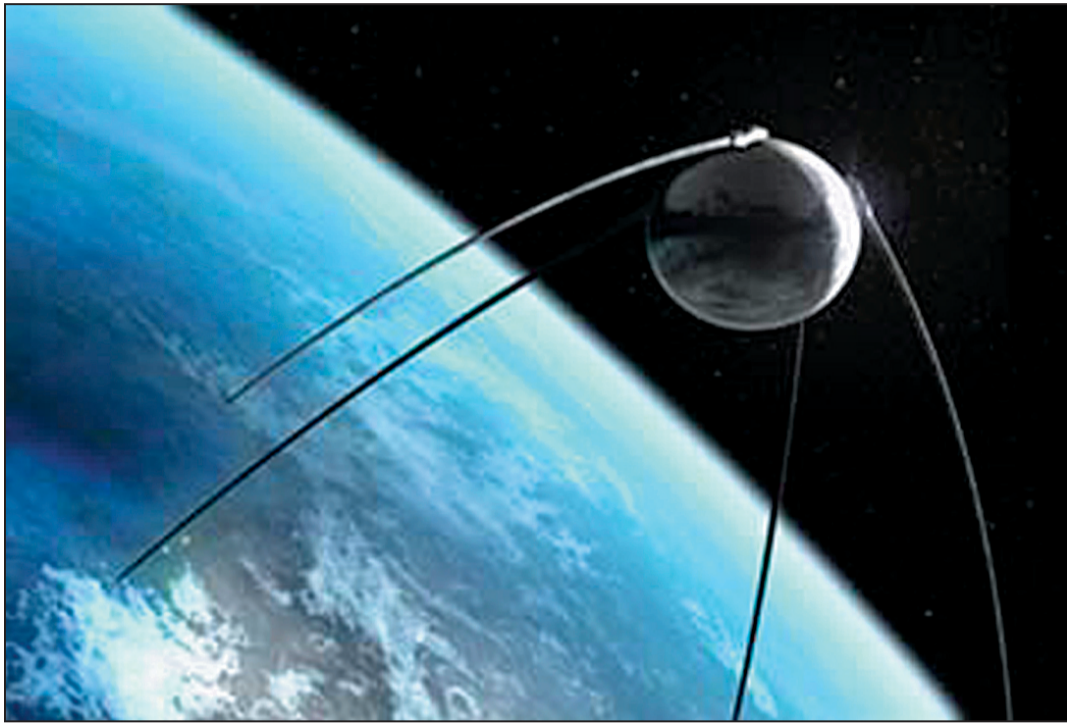
OCTOBER 4 is a milestone in human history. Forty-five years back, on this day, the then Soviet Union launched its first satellite Sputnik into the orbit. It marked the start of man's space odyssey. Thereon, many more satellites, rockets, space shuttles have been launched. Man has walked on the moon and landed unmanned probe on the Mars, and now looks beyond the solar system into the vast expanse of galaxies.

On the 45th anniversary of the first Artificial Satellite Exploration, the Bangladesh Astronomical Association and the Russian Cultural Centre chalked out a daylong programme arresting man's journey into space. The nine-hour programme, which began at 10.00am on October 4 at the Russian Cultural Centre, featured poster and sculpture exhibitions, space-based movie screening, discussions and quiz competitions.

The centre's hallway had colourful and explanatory posters of different satellite explorations and planets on the walls, captivating the imaginations of schoolboys and schoolgirls. Also on display were posters of previous space-fests organised the astronomical association. The centre of the attraction was a poster titled *We make it happen* (Pathfinder) an exploration guide to the Mars.

At one corner, lined up were sculptures of all-time great astronomers of the Indian subcontinent and the rest of the world Satyendranath Basu, CV Raman, Ramanujan, Ptolemy, Newton, Kepler, and Tycho Brahe.

Several episodes of famous television documentary *Cosmos* were screened at the centre's auditorium. The audience was awestruck, some for the umpteenth



time, as Carl Sagan took them through intricate mysteries of the universe. Two other shows *Sputnik Exploration* and *This is Gagarin* also caught the imaginations of the audience.

The quiz competitions attracted participants, students of class seven up to ten, from Agrani Girls High School, Mukulika High School, European Standard School, Green Herald School, Dhanmondi Boys High School, and others. The questions were on astronomy and science and the participants impressed the audience with their grasp on the topics.

A five o'clock in the evening, there was a discussion on space

exploration with M Abu Taher as chief guest and Sergei V Cherkas, consul of the Russian Embassy in Dhaka, as a special guest. Professor Sushanta Kumar Adhikari of Notre Dame College, who is also the moderator of the Notre Dame Science Club, was also there. Shajahan Mridha of the Bangladesh Astronomical Association presided over the discussion.

Within a few minutes of its start, the discussion turned into a lively debate on contribution of Russia and the United State to space exploration. In the end, however, the discussants concluded that a healthy competition between the two was essential for further

success in space explorations.

After the discussion programme, prizes were distributed among winners of the quiz competition. Then the festival ended with vote of thanks speech by Mridha. He thanked everyone, especially the Russian Embassy for helping organise the programme. He declared the future plans of the association that included 100-year celebration of invention of aeroplane and space festival 2002-2003, etc. The association sought help from the Russian Embassy to invite first woman astronaut Valentina Terescova to Bangladesh for its next space-fest.

**Tech News**

## Computer Aided Engineering and the possibilities

NASHIR UDDIN

In today's world, IT industry has grown to such an extent that it is not just confined within the boundary of education/training or software development, it has rather expanded its network to some newer arenas including the service sector. And computer aided engineering (CAE) has become a good part of this.

In general, CAE is defined as a latest tool or technology in modern engineering industry by means of which engineering activities can be made faster, easier and more accurate simply depending on computer. It is almost impossible now a days to think of any engineering project without applying this technology. Today it is no more a necessity to spend our valuable time, money and effort on building a prototype model and test it. With the blessing of CAE, now all these can be done on the computer screen by the push of a button.

But unlike the developed countries, most of our local engineering companies are not using world-renowned engineering software in their daily operations hence, resulting in a lower output for both the companies and the professionals involved. As a result, most of our engineers are unable to satisfy their need adequately from their current profession. Moreover, because of not having proper exposure and adequate knowledge on engineering software, most of our engineers are employed merely at field supervisory level in Middle Eastern and South Asian countries. Besides, many of our engineers who are migrating to USA, Canada and European countries are engaging themselves in odd jobs because of failing to meet or comply with the demand of the engineering

companies in those countries. Therefore, establishing oneself competitively in the engineering area with complete knowledge on engineering software for designing, modelling, structure analysis, estimation, project-planning, project-management, tender analysis and so on, becomes a clear advantage for bright career prospects at home and abroad.

Developed Countries need thousands of engineers having proficiency in design and drafting. Knowledge on CAE technology or expertise in engineering software like AutoCAD, VP Studio, GT Strudle, Mechanical Desktop, Architectural Desktop, Data Viewer, MSC/Nastran, AutoDesk Map, Adobe PhotoShop, 3D Studio Max etc can help our engineers to get better employment in those countries.

At least more than two hundred engineering professionals are thought to be employed in the US either as CAD engineer or as GIS operator with an initial payment of \$60,000 per year. All these are, in fact, a true testimony of our professional or technical expertise.

Nevertheless, experienced engineering companies should come forward and take active participation in the economic development of Bangladesh by providing local and export oriented design analysis and engineering testing services for the American and European companies which will, in turn, create huge employment for our diploma as well as graduate engineers and will result in banking more foreign currency.

Nashir Uddin is the Media & Communications In-charge of The Fourth R of Bangladesh

**Tech News Snaps**

## AIUB Journal of Science and Engineering

American International University Bangladesh (AIUB) officially launched their very first issue of The AIUB Journal of Science and Engineering (AJSE). AIUB also launched its Journal of Business and Economics (AJBE) before.

Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Science Information and Communication Technology inaugurated the launching ceremony as chief guest. He was very much impressed by the pioneering initiative of AIUB to publish academic journals. He underscored that the journal is a landmark of achievement and progress of a university and it also serves as a spokesperson for the university's contribution towards the society and the country as well.

Pro-vice Chancellor of AIUB and the associate editor of AJSE was present at the occasion and inaugurated the journal officially.

The programme was addressed by the chairman of the board of AIUB. He expressed his gratitude to chief guest and thanked the members contributors of the journal. Finally, the dean of the school of science and engineering Dr. Saiful Islam delivered his vote of thanks.

## DIIT - Elite Partner of NCC education in Bangladesh

Daffodil Institute of IT (DIIT) has been qualified as the "Elite Partner" of NCC Education (UK) in Bangladesh says a press release. This is a highly valued reward of NCC Education Ltd. There are 350 centers of 45 countries in the world conducting internationally recognized computer courses of NCC Education Ltd. This "Elite Partner" status is available only to a very restricted number of NCC's most valued partners worldwide. From Bangladesh only DIIT & three other institutes from Hong Kong, Malaysia & Myanmar have achieved this status among 350 accredited centers of NCC education worldwide. NCC Education has considered some factors before giving this status to DIIT such as the results of the students, the quality of the teachers, the standard & methodology of teaching, rich library, computer lab facilities & many other logistic support. DIIT has been conducting NCC courses since 1997. The courses are 1) International Diploma in Computer Studies, 2) International Advanced Diploma in Computer Studies & 3) B. Sc (Hon's) in Computing & Information Systems under London Metropolitan University.

**New Tech**

## Top 5 Digital Camcorders

**DCR-TRV27 Mini DV HandyCam**  
Manufacturer: Sony  
Model: DCRTRV27  
Digital Zoom: 120 X  
Optical Zoom: 10 X  
LCD Screen Size: 3.5 in  
Recording Format: Mini DV|Sony  
Memory Stick  
Audio Format: PCM|Stereo  
Price: \$613

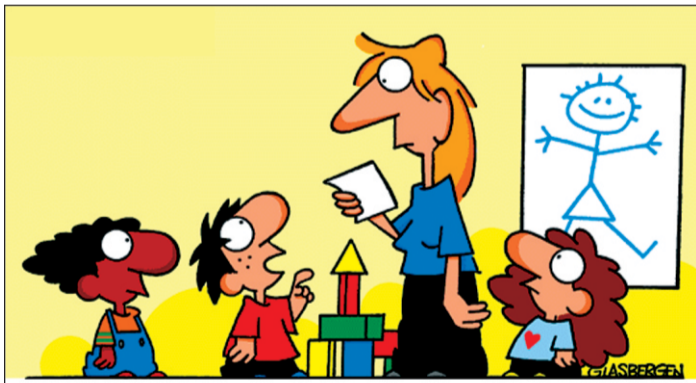
**Zr40 Mini DV**  
Manufacturer: Canon  
Model: 7557A001  
Digital Zoom: 360 X  
Optical Zoom: 18 X  
LCD Screen Size: 2.5 in  
Recording Format: Mini DV  
Audio Format: PCM|Stereo  
Price: \$424



**ZR50MC Mini DV**  
Manufacturer: Canon  
Model: 7555A001  
Digital Zoom: 440 X  
Optical Zoom: 22 X  
LCD Screen Size: 2.5 in  
Recording Format: Mini DV|MultiMediaCard|SD Memory Card  
Audio Format: PCM  
Price: \$489

**DCR-TRV740 D8 HandyCam**  
Manufacturer: Sony  
Model: DCRTRV740  
Digital Zoom: 420 X  
Optical Zoom: 15 X  
LCD Screen Size: 2.5 in  
Recording Format: D8|Sony Memory Stick  
Audio Format: Stereo  
Price: \$487

**Optura 200MC MiniDV**  
Manufacturer: Canon  
Model: 7932A001  
Digital Zoom: 200 X  
Optical Zoom: 10 X  
LCD Screen Size: 2.5 in  
Recording Format: Mini DV|SD Memory Card  
Audio Format: PCM  
Image Stabilization: Optical  
Price: \$1059

**Tech Toon**

"My name was David, but that sounded old fashioned. So I shortened it to DVD!"

**Space Tech**

## Shuttle Atlantis crew meets space station residents

REUTERS, Cape Canaveral

The space shuttle Atlantis approached gracefully and docked flawlessly with the International Space Station on Wednesday, gliding out of the inky darkness of space on the whisper of its smallest jets.

That allowed for a boisterous meeting between the shuttle's six-member crew and the three current residents of the space station, who began their mission 126 days ago.

The two spacecraft, each weighing more than 100 tons, hurtled above the Earth at five miles a second, but the final miles of an orbital rendezvous are so carefully choreographed that only the rapidly spinning Earth beneath the shuttle, as seen from video cameras aboard the station, hinted at the speed and force involved in their flights.

The shuttle and its crew launched from Florida on Monday and their 11-day mission is carrying a \$390 million, 45-foot truss segment for the growing space station.

Shuttle commander Jeffrey Ashby, a U.S. Navy captain, fired the shuttle's rockets to slow its progress throughout the morning, then used maneuver-

ing jets to fine-tune his approach until Atlantis inched up to the station and grabbed hold of a docking port at 11:17 a.m. EDT, slightly ahead of schedule.

The shuttle and station crews chatted amiably as Atlantis moved within radio range.

"Hey, Piers, how are you doing? How do you like being in space?" called out Peggy Whitson, the American science officer on the station. She and her two Russian crewmates

were spending their 126th day in orbit.

"So far, so good. It's great," said Piers Sellers, a British-born NASA astronaut making his first flight.

On Thursday Sellers is to make his first space walk with American David Wolf. The pair will secure the truss segment to the station and prepare many of its systems for activation.

The long, narrow girder-like assembly in the shuttle's cargo bay is the second truss segment

to arrive at the station, and will become part of an eventual 350-foot structure, the longest ever built in space. The structure will support the massive arrays of solar panels that will power the life support and science activity on the station throughout its life.

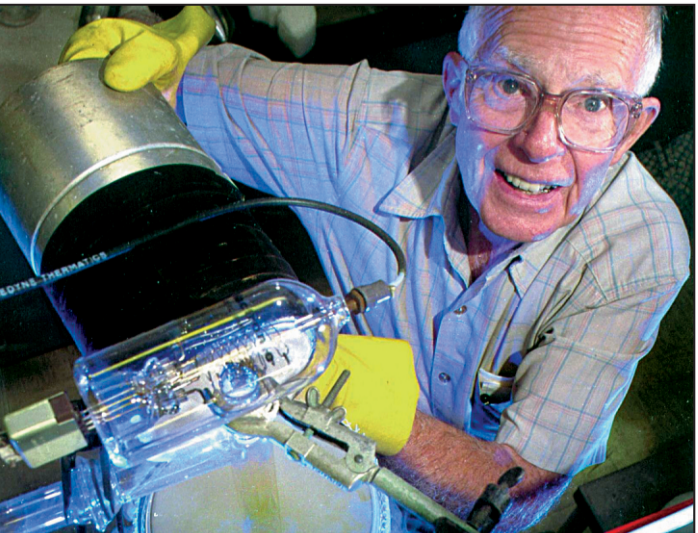
After seals and air pressure were checked on the newly joined complex, hatches separating the two spacecraft flew open and the six Atlantis astronauts crowded into the U.S. laboratory module, Destiny, greeting their hosts with bear hugs and boisterous greetings.

These were the first visitors for the station crew of commander Valery Korzun, flight engineer Sergei Treschev and Whitson since the shuttle crew that delivered them left 17 weeks ago. They will wrap up their long-duration expedition in November.

The Atlantis crew brought with them fresh fruit, hot sauce and a pecan pie. Living off a diet made up largely of reconstituted food, space station crews most often request things like oranges that they can smell and taste.



The Space Shuttle Atlantis is seen orbiting above the Earth mated to the International Space Station's pressurized mating adapter, on the Destiny lab module, October 9, 2002. The shuttle and its crew of six are on an 11-day mission to deliver a \$390 million, 45-foot truss segment for the growing space station. Photo by Nasa Tv/Reuters

**The Nobel Physicist**

This 1999 file image obtained from the US Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory 08 October 2002 shows Raymond Davis, Jr. It was announced earlier 08 October 2002 that Davis is a winner of the Nobel Prize in physics for pioneering contributions to astrophysics for the detection of cosmic neutrinos leading to the discovery of cosmic X-ray sources.

**Dr. Tech**

Dear Dr. Tech, I have almost a dozen programs in my system tray. I think it makes the booting very slow. How can I get rid of them? Please help me. Shaheen.

Dear Shaheen, Program running in your system tray can cause any (or all) of the following problems:  
- Sluggish system speed  
- Frequent lockups / illegal operations  
- Software install problems  
- Difficulty in running some programs  
So, how do you keep all these unwanted programs at bay?  
1. Click the **Start button** and select **Run...**  
2. Next, type in: **msconfig**  
Then hit **OK**.  
3. The System Configuration Utility should run (please note

that not all computers have it installed - see note below).

4. Click the **Startup tab**.  
5. You'll see a listing of all the stuff that starts itself when your computer does. Just uncheck the programs you don't want to load and leave the rest alone.  
Note - If you don't have msconfig on your system (win 95 / 2000 doesn't) then check out Startup Control Panel at: <http://www.mlin.net/StartupCPL.shtml>  
In general, don't disable stuff that starts find that your computer won't run without them and you'll have to go into Safe mode to get things working again.  
dailystartech@yahoo.com

**Star Tech Quiz**

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Check the box beside the correct answer

- A ZIP is a program used to
  - speed up the memory
  - speed up disk access
  - speed up disk access for none of the above
- Internet Browsers are used
  - to create web page graphics
  - to file and sort web pages for all of the above
- Anti-virus software should be used regularly to check
  - Floppy disks and hard drives
  - inserted floppy disk
  - Files downloaded
  - mail attachments, all of the above
  - and rewritable Cds

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

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

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

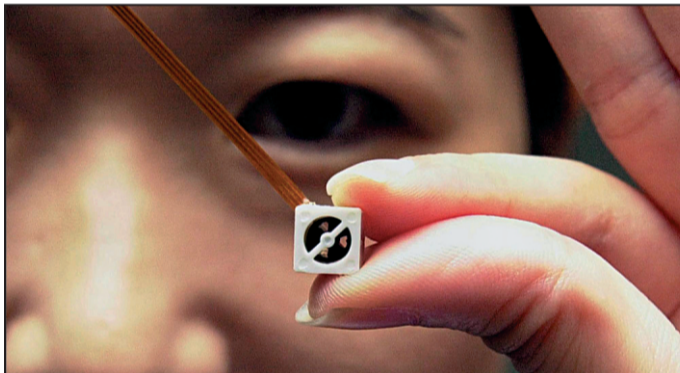
Last week's answers

- VLAN
- Pirated software/Computer Misuse Act

Winner: **Munir (correct answers: 2)**

**Badshah Meah Chowdhury Road, Chittagong**

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by October 16, 2002.

**Photo Tech**

Taiwan's Sunonwealth Electric Machine Industry unveils what it says is the world's smallest cooling fan ever made during a press conference in Taipei on 8 October, 2002.

**Best 0 Websites**

Category: Computer Manufacturers

- Gateway**  
Great PC's and more @ Gateway.com!  
URL: <http://www.gateway.com>
- DELL**  
Dell is the world's #1 direct seller of PC's.  
URL: <http://www.dell.com>
- Apple**  
The Apple Store  
URL: <http://www.apple.com>
- Hewlett Packard**  
Buy direct from the HP Shopping Village.  
URL: <http://www.hp.com>
- Micron**  
Buy Online  
URL: <http://www.micron.com>
- Compaq**  
It's our commitment to give you, our customer, the flexibility you've asked for when it comes to evaluating, selecting and purchasing Compaq products and services.  
URL: <http://www.compaq.com>
- IBM**  
At IBM, we strive to lead in the creation, development and manufacture of the industry's most advanced information technologies, including computer systems, software, networking systems, storage devices and microelectronics.  
URL: <http://www.ibm.htm>
- eMachines**  
Retailer of low-cost PC's and monitors. Browse products, find store locations or become a reseller.  
URL: <http://www.emachinesinc.com>
- Toshiba**  
Today's fast changing and demanding global market presents the twin challenges of borderless operations and mega-competition. We are resolved to meet them and to remain at the cutting-edge of the world's electronics industry.  
URL: <http://www.toshiba.com>
- AMD**  
AMD is a global supplier of integrated circuits for the personal and networked computer and communications markets. AMD produces processors, flash memories, programmable logic devices, and products for communications and networking applications.  
URL: <http://www.amd.htm>