## Tech Fair

# The software showcase

## BASIS SoftExpo Bangladesh 2002 starts tomorrow

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

WE have so far seen computer fairs mostly dealing with hardware accessories and devices, but for the first time people of our country are about to experience something really different. The Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), the national trade association for the software and IT services industry, will hold a four-day software gala exposition titled 'BASIS SoftExpo Bangladesh 2002' which starts tomorrow at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

The inaugural ceremony of the BASIS SoftExpo Bangladesh 2002 will be held at the ballroom of the hotel at 4:00pm. Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman will inaugurate the exposition as chief guest while Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan will also be present as a special guest.

This mega-event will be held exclusively for software and IT services, said Habibullah N Karim, the BASIS president, while speaking at a press conference.

He also said that the exhibition will be held in the Sheraton Winter Garden while the seminars and workshops will be in Sheraton Ballroom. All major software and IT service firms of the country (47 booths by 41 firms in total) will be exhibiting products and services at the BASIS SoftExpo.

Locally developed software products will be displayed at the exposition. These include latest software applications for banking, ERP, database publishing, hospitality, POS, CRM, Web Services and others while IT services to be shown include 2D/3D cartoon animation, pre-press graphics, multi-media authoring, internet content development and others.

The BASIS is also expecting 10 internationally acclaimed ICT experts as speakers for the seminars and workshops. They are Larry Buckland, CEO, The Buckland Group, USA, Jody Wetsby of JOBS/IRIS, USA, Dimo Calovski of UNCTAD, Switzerland, Angelio Faria of UNCITRAL, Switzerland, two experts on intellectual property rights (IPR) of WIPO, Geneva, Michael Hyde, CIO, DSI, Inc, USA and others.

The seminars and workshops will cover issues related to development of the country's software and IT services industry, including a Roadmap to ICT Development in Bangladesh, Framework for Protection of IPR, Legal Framework for E-Commerce and M-Commerce, ICT Outsourcing to USA in the aftermath of 9/11 and E-Governance & E-Tendering Initiatives for Bangladesh. The seminars and workshops are by prior registration with the BASIS office only. There is a token fee of Tk 500 per half-day seminar and Tk 1000 per full-day seminar.

The exhibit area will be open to only business professionals, academics and government officials on the first day from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The next two days the exhibits will remain open to the public from 10:00am to 8:00pm while on the last day it will be open from 10:00am to 6:00pm. The entry fee is Tk 20 per adult and Tk 10 per student (with ID) and visitors under


## Fibre Tech

# Fibre-optic telecommunication and better ICT in Bangladesh

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

SHABBIR A. BASHAR

### Optical Fibre Technology

Faced with the aforementioned fundamental shortfalls of a satellite-based system, real interest in optical communication was aroused with the invention of the laser in early 1960's. Proposals for using optical fibres to avoid degradation of the optical signal while propagating through the atmosphere were made almost simultaneously in 1966. Early systems exhibited high attenuation (1000 dB/km). Today, less than 40 years on, attenuation of less than 0.2 dB/km is easily achieved for a carrier wavelength of 1.55mm. Unlike some of its predecessors, fibre optics technology has many unrivaled advantages, some of which are listed below:

1. Enormous potential bandwidth: the optical carrier frequency in the range 1013 to 1014Hz offers the potential for a fibre information carrying capacity that is many orders of magnitude in excess of that obtained using copper cable or wideband radio systems. This enables fibres to simultaneously carry voice, data, image and video signals.

2. Small size and weight: an optical fibre is often no wider than the diameter of a human hair; thus even after applying protective layers, they are far smaller and much lighter than corresponding copper cables. This is a tremendous boon to alleviating duct congestion in cities.

3. Immunity to interference and cross talk: they form a dielectric and are therefore free from electromagnetic interference.

4. Signal security: as light from a fibre does not radiate significantly, a transmitted optical signal cannot be obtained

non-invasively, thus ensuring a high degree of signal security.

5. Low transmission loss: this enables extremely wide repeater spacings (70 to 100km) in long-haul com-munication links.

6. System reliability and ease of maintenance: due to the low loss property, system reliability is generally enhanced in comparison to conventional electrical conductor systems. Furthermore, reliability of optical components have predicted lifetimes of 20 to 30 years. Combined, these factors tend to reduce maintenance time and costs.

There are 3 major applications of fibre optic telecommunications each one corresponding to the three low fibre-attenuation windows: long haul backbone networks (1.55mm); metro area networks (1.3mm) and local area optical networks (0.85mm). Domestic intercity systems based on optical fibres have now been widely implemented. These use digital transmission with pulse rates ranging from a few hundred Mbit/s to about 2Gbit/s. With the usage of single mode fibres since 1984, repeater spacing of up-to 40km or more is achieved.

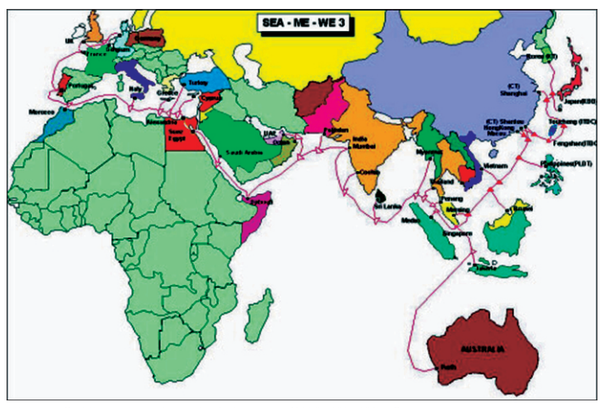


Figure 2: The global route taken by SEA-ME-WE-3

**A. Submarine Optical Fibre Based Long Haul Backbones:**

Underwater cables for com-munications have a relatively long history. The first transatlantic cable was laid as early as 1858. It was used for telegraphy and transmitted less than a few words per minute! About a hundred years later in 1956, the first analog transatlantic telephone cable (TAT-1) became operational. It carried 36 voice channels. The analog TAT family grew with further development in telecommunications systems and the last such cable, TAT-7, carrying 4200 channels per co-ax cable was fully perational by 1983. An increasing demand in the early 1980's for reliable intercontinental telecommunication links resulted in many proposals to introduce Fibre optic undersea cable systems.

By the late 80's, high capacity optical fibre cables using a carrier wavelength of 1.3mm were laid under the Atlantic Ocean (TAT-8) and the Pacific Ocean (TPC-3) respectively. TAT-8 and TPC-3 have the capacity to transmit data at a rate of 280 Mbit/s per fibre pair. Thus, these formed part of the so-called first generation digital lightwave systems. The second generation cables (TAT-9 to TAT-11 and TPC-4), with enhanced capabilities such as 560 Mbit/s per fibre pair and using a carrier wavelength of 1.55mm, are now in operation. The third generation cables (TAT-12 and 13 and TPC-6) are now in their installation/operation stages; these have a capacity of 5 Gbit/s transmission rate per fibre pair employing the first fully optical regeneration techniques in the repeaters and use dispersion shifted fibres and 1.55mm carriers.

The second and third generation cables have extended digital connectivity to the South Pacific, South East Asia and other points.

Two of such global submarine cable networks that are in the vicinity of Bangladesh are the "South East Asia, Middle East and Western Europe (SEA-ME-WE)" and the "Fibre Link Around the Globe (FLAG)" long haul backbones respectively. For example, Figure 2 shows the 39,000 km long route taken by SEA-ME-WE-3 cable network that was started in early 1997

and took two and a half years to complete. It is an SONET cable system that uses the latest wavelength division multiplexing (WDM) technology and provides the platform to launch innovative wideband services.

**B. Optical Metro Area Networks:**

Sandwiched between optical local area networks and the long haul backbones, the optical Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) is evolving at a tremendous rate. It is rapidly becoming a highly competitive market driven by the rise in demand for a broad range of data communication services such as remote applications, high volume information storage, web-hosting, video on demand, and other IP-centric needs as well as bandwidth flexibility at a low cost.

Gigabit or Optical Ethernet's ability to offer bandwidth in small granular increments (1Mb/s) combined with its cost competitiveness in the 40-70 km range makes this technology highly suitable to MAN applications; it is eight times cheaper than either SONET or ATM.

To be continued...

Shabbir A. Bashar is a director of Bengal Telecommunication & Electric Corp. (Pvt.) Ltd. He received his B.Eng. (Hons.) and Ph.D. degrees in Electronic & Electrical Engineering from King's College, University of London in 1991 and 1998 respectively. His doctoral thesis was on the study of components for fibre-optic telecoms.

## Best 0 Websites

Category: Teen Fashion

**dELiAs**
dELiAs is the online destination for teen clothing and accessories. Shop for the latest fashions at dELiAs.cOm!
**URL: http://delias.iturf.com**

**Girlshop Inc.**
Hip Boutique featuring of-the-moment designers from NYC and CA. Find innovative fashion and accessories you can't find anywhere else.
**URL: http://www.girlshop.com**

**abercrombie.com**
Get The Latest A&F Goods - Shipped Anywhere, Anytime!
**URL: http://www.abercrombie.com/anf**

**droog**
Shop online!
**URL: http://online.droog.com**

**GAP**
A simple formula drives our brands: We strive to deliver style, service and value to everyonekindergartners and grandparents, students and professionals, athletes and philosophers, big-city urbanites and small-town folks.
**URL: http://www.gap.com/onlinestore/gap**

**Nike**
The Nike Store
**URL: http://nike.com**

**Levi**
To help you get around the site from any page, we've included a pull-down menu in the navigation bar at the bottom of every page. To move to another area, simply click on the pull-down menu and choose another section of the site.
**URL: http://levi.com**

**AE**
American Eagle Outfitters is a rapidly growing specialty retailer of quality, casual apparel for men and women with a focus on customers age 16-34.
**URL: http://ae.com**

**esprit**
Shop online!
**URL: http://www.esprit.com**

**adidas**
Shoes and apparel for those who train, run, homer, dunk and tackle. Available in the U.S. only.
**URL: http://www.adidas.com2**

## Photo Tech

PHOTO: AFP

**A Malaysian Navy officer (2nd L) listens as unidentified executive (L) from Agusta Westland's helicopter division talks about their product in front of models during the HELI Asia 2002 exhibition in Kuala Lumpur, 22 October 2002. Heli-Asia 2002 provides the region's largest-ever dedicated helicopter exhibition, attracting leading manufacturers and suppliers.**

## Dr. Tech

Dear Dr. Tech
Sometimes the websites I access have small fonts, is there any way I can increase the font size in my browser? Please let me know.
Dr. Farook

Dear Dr. Farook,
Do you have one of those handy little wheel mice? If so, here's a cool trick for Internet Explorer that you will like if you want to increase the font size in a web page.
I bet you have found yourself on a web page with a font so tiny it was almost unreadable? Well, don't strain your eyes a moment longer. Next time you visit a page like that, hold down your CTRL key and roll the wheel on your wheel mouse. You'll find that you can increase / decrease the font size as fast as your finger can spin that little wheel.
If you don't have a wheel mouse, there's another way to increase the size of your fonts. Just hit the View menu, Text Size, and you'll get a sub menu that lets you choose a larger or smaller font.
dailystartech@yahoo.com

## Star Tech Quiz 14

**Check the box beside the correct answer**

1. Which is **not** an internet protocol?
- ☐ HTTP
- ☐ STP
- ☐ FTP
- ☐ all of the above

2. Computers calculate numbers in what mode?
- ☐ Decimal
- ☐ Octal
- ☐ Binary
- ☐ none of the above

3. Examples of deliberate sabotage of computers are
- ☐ Hacking, encryption
- ☐ Software piracy, legisla
- ☐ Viruses, vandalism o hardware
- ☐ Unauthorised access, format of floppy disk

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

**Last week's answers**
1. do are all of the abo 2. a part of the Internet 3. BRAINIAC

**Winner: Siddertha Karmaker**
**26/1, Shayestha Khan Road, Narayanganj 1400**

**Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by October 30, 2002.**

## Tech Snaps

### World Wide Web Institute to help HSC students

Internationally acclaimed training institute World Wide Web Institute has taken up the initiative to help the HSC students. The institute will provide free training for the students having Computer Science Part I and II courses. The students will be guided by a renowned teacher and will be able to use state of the art lab facilities, doing project works and the Internet. For more information contact, World Wide Web Institute's corporate office: Shaan Tower (6th Floor), 24/1 Chamelibagh, Shantinagar Crossing.

### Seminar at IUBAT

CADD Centre, a Chennai, India based engineering software training institute organised a seminar recently at the International University of Business Agriculture &Technology (IUBAT) campus in the city, says a press release. The seminar titled "Computer Aided Engineering: Better Career Options" was geared towards familiarising the students with engineering software. IUBAT officials and students of engineering, business administration &computer science department attended the seminar. In his detail presentation K Muhammed Sidheek, an expert on Computer Aided Design/ Manufacturing (CAD/CAM) from India, stressed on the use of civil, mechanical & electrical engineering and project management software in our daily operations. He also described how the knowledge of engineering software can help students to do better in the world job market.

### Bdjobs.com to promote NIFD

Bdjobs.com Limited, country's leading job portal and Giant Management & Services Ltd, which runs the first private sector full fledged apparel/textile design institute-National Institute of Fashion Design (NIFD), has recently signed an agreement for strategic marketing co-operation, says a press release.

Under the agreement, Bdjobs.com Ltd will promote the NIFD programmes through its job sitewww.bdjobs.com for the prospective students and job seekers willing to make career in garments, textile & fashion industry in the country. Bdjobs.com, jointly with NIFD, will also arrange workshops & seminars on career prospects of fashion and other garments oriented professional tracks in the country. Bdjobs.com will also develop an online professional database of all the graduates & students of NIFD.

## Tech Toon