

## Tech Fair

# Curtain falls on country's largest software showcase

### BASIS SoftExpo 2002 ends

Nafid Imran Ahmed

The people of our country came to know about computers from late '80s. But within the next two decades a lot has changed. At present, we have not only a huge number of computer users we also have produced many tech brains. With their help we were able to establish our name in the world's software industry few years back. At present Bangladesh is exporting state of the art software to 16 countries all over the globe. There are many companies working very hard behind this promising industry and Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), the national trade association for the software and IT services industry played a major role promoting them since its birth in 1997.

For the first time in the history of Bangladesh BASIS organised a software exposition titled 'BASIS SoftExpo 2002', which started at the Winter Garden, Dhaka Hotel Sheraton Hotel on October 26 and came to an end on October 29. This 4-daylong software gala drew a huge number of crowds. Forty-one local companies showcased their products on banking, apparels, office management, billing system and



telephone call registering database systems. Not all of the participants were software companies. 2D/3D cartoon, pre-press graphics, multimedia authoring and internet content development were also exhibited by different companies.

Software companies showcased their latest products at the 'BASIS SoftExpo 2002'. Among them, Technohaven Co. Ltd introduced their three products TRTS (Technohaven Reservations and Ticketing System), TIBS (Technohaven Integrated Banking System) and TERMS (Technohaven Enterprise Resource Management System). 'Flora Bank' a

ment, school, hospital, transport and accounts. TechnoVista Ltd who have developed a software application for Land O Lakes Inc of USA, a project of US based donor agency of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) also exhibited their products. Some of software products lacked proper skills and knowledge.

3D animation films generated huge enthusiasm among the visitors at the SoftExpo 2002. Greenfield Toons, animation wing of Decode BD, showed their animation products 'BugaBuga' and 'Ant and the Dove' at the exhibition. The company has recently signed a 4.7 million-dollar project with a Canadian company to make a 26-episode cartoon. Fornix Soft Ltd introduced different multimedia CD made by them. These included English to Bangla talking dictionary, Bangla typing tutor and Bangladesh Encyclopaedia. Thakral Information Systems Pvt. Ltd introduced their Digital Video Surveillance System, which drew a lot of attraction at the software extravaganza.

Apart from the exhibition there were also a number of seminars held during the BASIS SoftExpo 2002. A seminar titled

'ICT Policy and Practice Steps for the future' was held on October 28 at the Hotel Sheraton Ballroom. Jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Information and Communication Technology, Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Systems (BASIS) and JOBS/IRIS, the seminar



reviewed the proposed National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) policy and the benefits it promises to electronic commerce and to information and communication technology (ICT)-based enterprises in Bangladesh. The seminar featured a progress report on IT initiatives presented by Asahabur Rahman, Joint

Secretary of Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology. International participants included Jody R. Westby, president of The Work-IT Group, a U.S.-based consulting company specialising in e-commerce and cyber-crime legal and regulatory issues, and ICT industry sector development. She discussed the special opportunities and challenges for developing countries and their impact on government policy and the legal and regulatory framework.

The concluding ceremony of BASIS SoftExpo 2002 was held at the BallRoom of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on October 29. Barrister Md. Aminul Haque, Minister for Posts and Telecommunication attended the ceremony as chief guest while Suhel Ahmed, secretary for the ministry of commerce and Yussuf Abdullah Harun, president, FBCCI were also present as special guest and guest of honour respectively. Overall 'BASIS SoftExpo 2002' was indeed a treat for the tech lovers and initiatives like this can take our country towards the bright future. BASIS did a great job organising the whole thing and people will expect more from them in the coming years.

## Tech Snaps

### Red Hat Linux training partner in the country

Dot Com Systems, a local IT training and networking solution company, has become the authorized Linux training partner of Red Hat Inc in the country, says a press release.

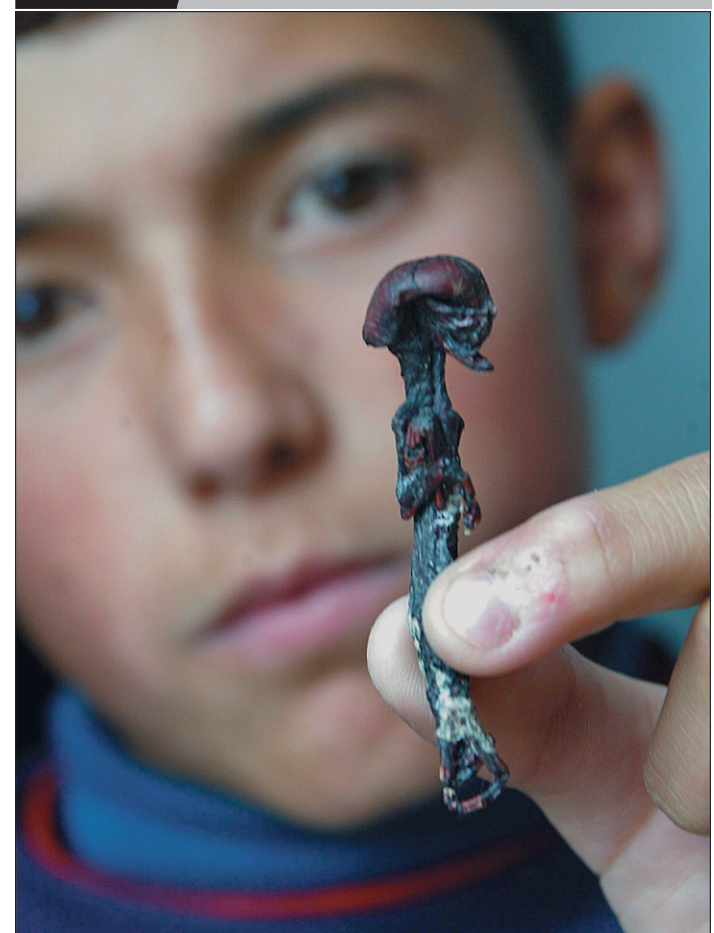
In this connection a deed of agreement has been signed recently between the two companies at the regional headquarter of Red Hat Inc in Mumbai, India. A 3-day open seminar is going to be held in this regard from November 3 to 5 at the Dhanmondi office premises of Dot Com Systems. Last date of registration for the seminar title "Networking Career & Red Hat Linux Certification" is November 2. Interested persons are requested to contact immediately at House 667/A (4<sup>th</sup> Floor), Road # 32 (Old), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.

### Aptech Day celebration

Axiom Technologies will celebrate the fifth year anniversary of Aptech in Bangladesh on November 4 at the IDB Bhaban auditorium, says a press release.

The celebration includes programming contest, software display, seminar on IT topics and an award giving ceremony.

## Not of this earth



Armando Henriquez displays 25 October, 2002 in Santiago, a foreign organism he says he found during the first week of October in a remote area of Chile. Henriquez says the creature was alive when he found it but died a couple of days later, turning into a mummy. The find was taken to the nation's capital to be examined by experts.

## New Tech

### Top 5 17-Inch Monitors

<b>NEC-Mitsubishi MultiSync FE791SB</b> Diamondtron M2 aperture grille tube 15.9-inch viewable area and .25mm stripe pitch 1600 by 1200 maximum resolution at 70 Hz refresh rate 116 Hz maximum refresh rate at 1024 by 768 resolution Three-year warranty Current prices: \$158.78 to \$235.39	\$229.03	<b>Samsung SyncMaster 700NF</b> Diamondtron NF aperture grille tube 15.9-inch viewing area and .25mm dot pitch 1600 by 1200 maximum resolution at 70 Hz refresh rate 119 Hz maximum refresh rate at 1024 by 768 resolution Three-year warranty Current prices: \$158.75 to \$291.06
<b>IBM P77</b> FD Trinitron aperture grille tube 15.9-inch viewable area and .24-.25mm stripe pitch 1600 by 1200 maximum resolution at 70 Hz refresh rate 85 Hz maximum refresh rate at 1024 by 768 resolution Three-year warranty Current prices: \$226 to \$379.06		<b>ViewSonic G75f</b> Perfect Flat shadow mask tube 16-inch viewable area and .25mm dot pitch 1600 by 1200 maximum resolution at 70 Hz refresh rate 105 Hz maximum refresh rate at 1024 by 768 resolution Three-year warranty

**NEC-Mitsubishi MultiSync FE700+**  
Diamondtron NF aperture grille tube  
15.9-inch viewable area and .25mm stripe pitch  
1024 by 768 maximum resolution at 70 Hz refresh rate  
87 Hz maximum refresh rate at 1024 by 768 resolution  
Three-year warranty  
Current prices: \$131.25 to



## Tech Toon



"MY DAD DOESN'T KNOW A LOT ABOUT COMPUTERS. HE THINKS ISDN AND MP3 WERE THE ROBOTS ON 'STAR WARS.'"

## Star Tech Quiz

14

Check the box beside the correct answer

- Which is **not** an internet protocol?  
 HTTP       STP  
 FTP       all of the above
- Computers calculate numbers in what mode?  
 Decimal       Octal  
 Binary       none of the above
- Examples of deliberate sabotage of computers are  
 Hacking, encryption       Software piracy, legisla  
 Viruses, vandalism o       Unauthorised access, format of floppy disk hardware

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Last week's answers**  
 1. do are all of the above part of the Internet BRAINIAC  
**Winner: Siddhertha 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.

## Photo Tech



The Soyuz-TMA spacecraft is transported to the launch pad at the Baikonur cosmodrome early 28 October 2002. The launch of the Soyuz-TMA spacecraft to the International Space Station.

## Fibre Tech

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

SHABBI A. BASHAR

### C. Fibre Optic Cables Installed on Overhead Power Transmission Lines:

Historically regional and international power transmission lines have required modern network automation and remote control systems. To achieve this, power utilities started very early to equip their lines with reliable telecommunications connections. With deregulated tele-communications, opportunities have been opened up for these power utilities to lease dark fibres or data transmission capacity or indeed to become telecom operators themselves. Fibre optic cable links are the foundation of such communication systems. Given their capacity to transport high bandwidth information over long distances and being immune to electromagnetic interference makes them an ideal candidate for installation on overhead electrical power transmission lines.

Stringing fibres on poles along electric utilities has traditionally been the second or third choice for carriers looking to expand a network backbone, but that is starting to change. Even a decade ago, the carriers were generally deterred from using aerial rights of way due to lack of marketing by the utilities, shortcomings of the technology and an age old habit of burying cables. But between 1988 and 1995, MCI worked closely with various utilities to install more than 3,800 route km of aerial optical ground wire (OPT-GW). Similarly, OPT-GW has been used on a significant segment of 3,500 route km of Trans-Siberian Communication line passing over Russia's four large power utilities. Examples exist in Britain with Energis, a subsidiary of Scottish power utility, as well as in sub-Saharan African countries.

Aerial construction can be as much as 40% less expensive than going the underground route. In addition, overhead fibre cable installation tends to be much quicker than buried construction. Unlike buried solutions along railroad or public highways, electric utility right of way includes the unique advantage of having substation facilities approximately every

40 to 50 miles. In a water logged country like Bangladesh, these are the reasons which make this technology a candidate for serious consideration for expanding the existing optical fibre network along with the power distribution infrastructure.

### IV. Status Of Telecommunications In Bangladesh

#### A. Satellite/Microwave Network:

Relying primarily upon the IO-



Inmarsat synchronous orbit satellites located above the Indian Ocean, the geo-stationary satellite/terrestrial microwave link network in Bangladesh that is solely used for international telecommunication consists of four ground stations: the first two are standard "A" stations located in Betbunia, about 40 km from Chittagong on the Chittagong-Rangamati highway and in Mohakhali, in Dhaka City; the third one is a standard "B" station at Talibabad, about 30 km north of Dhaka on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway while the fourth one, of standard "F", is in Sylhet.

The microwave links carry the intra-country portion of the traffic. For instance, the Betbunia station is connected to Chittagong by a 2 GHz 140 Mb/s PDH Microwave; the international channels are then transmitted through a STM-16 Optical Fibre transmission system to Dhaka, where the three international gateway switches (two at Moghbazar and one at Mahakhali adjacent to the satellite Earth Station) are installed. The Talibabad station is connected to the international switch at Moghbazar through a single hop 6 GHz microwave link. The Sylhet Earth Station is to cater for the international trunk service to Sylhet and adjoining areas. This

## Dr. Tech

Dear Dr. Tech,  
 Could you please let me know how I can make a "snapshot" of my screen?  
 Steve

Dear Steve,  
 If you have some imaging software (or a good word processor), you can make a screenshot. Here's how:  
 To capture the whole screen, just hit the **Print Screen** button on your keyboard (It is just to the right of the F12 key). Then, open your imaging software (and a blank page, if

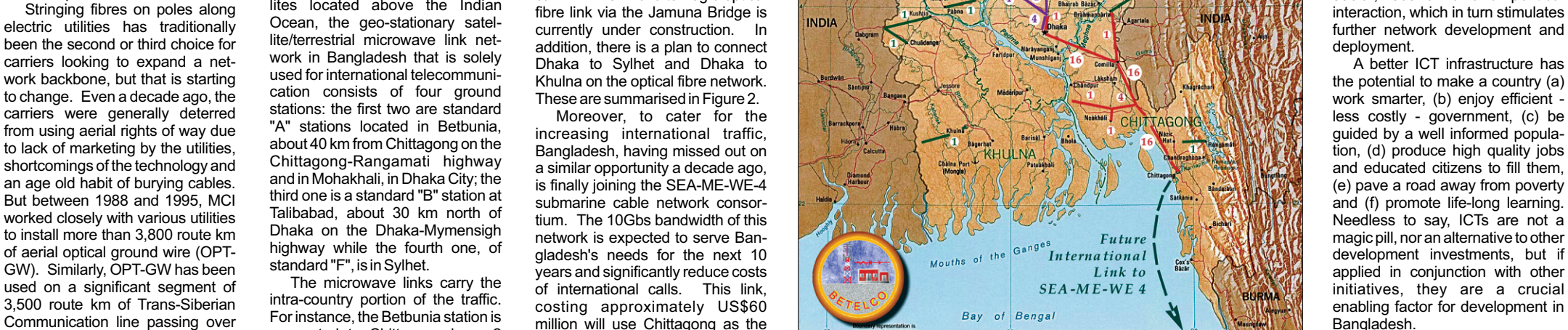
you need to - it will depend on your software) and select your **"Paste"** command (usually Ctrl+V). This should paste an image of your computer screen into the document you're working on. You can also paste the image into a word processing program like MS Word or WordPerfect if you don't have imaging software. If you would like to capture only the current window, hold down the **ALT** button while you press the **Print Screen** button.  
 dailystartech@yahoo.com

# Fibre-optic telecommunication and better ICT in Bangladesh

phone communication network. Bangladesh is among the countries with the lowest teledensity with only 0.4 telephones per 100 persons. Communication technology also serves as a "Market maker". In today's knowledge-based global economy, in which capital and technology are increasingly mobile, the quality of a country's information infrastructure will help determine whether companies invest there or elsewhere. Therefore countries like Bangladesh need to recognise that development of their information infrastructure is key to creating jobs and attracting new businesses. Missed opportunities due to lack of communications access will have more dire consequences in the future. To be successful, Bangladesh must be prepared to compete in a global economy in which production takes place around the world on a decentralised and flexible basis. "Time to Market" is a critical success factor in today's global and domestic marketplace. Deployment of a better communication system encourages catalytic social, economic and political interaction, which in turn stimulates further network development and deployment.

## V. Economic Benefits Of A Better Communication Infrastructure

The advantages and benefits that information and communication technology (ICT) can bring to education, commercial, medical and governmental activities are too numerous to mention, suffice to say



There are about half a dozen licensed private cellular-phone network operators in Bangladesh. Most of these were established in collaboration with foreign telecom companies. Due to the lack of availability of land-based networks in the country, they serve a major part of the total telephone traffic in rural and remote parts of Bangladesh as well as business users in large cities. One of these operators has leased dark fibres from the Bangladesh Railway to serve as the backbone for their domestic mobile that its expansion plays an important role in the economic and social development of a country. One important benefit of a penetrative telecom infrastructure is that it can enhance instant communication between Bangladeshis and people in distant places around the globe. In other words, increasing the number of phone lines per inhabitant, teledensity, can help put Bangladesh on the world map through enhanced domestic and global trade. This will pave the way for a stronger economy. Currently, the author would like to acknowledge the help of S. Osman of Sheba Telecom, S. Khan and N. Basher of BETELCO for providing information on the telecommunication infrastructure in Bangladesh. A. Brady and T. Bashar are thanked for proof reading the manuscript. 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 1996 respectively. His doctoral thesis was on the study of components for fibre-optic telecoms.