

## Bio Tech

# End of cancer detection enigma!

Bangladeshi tech wizard unleashes a software that can make the job look quite easy

**ZAHIDUL HAQUE**  
A scientific software titled "Medicsight" developed by Abu Dhabi-based Zayed Institute for Research and Technology, in partnership with HTTP Technology will allow doctors to detect cancer at a much earlier stage through a simple medical scan.

The software analyses computerised axial tomography (CAT), shows images of the lungs, and automatically detects the suspected cancerous nodules, which can barely be seen with the naked eye.

A Bangladeshi scholar, Sabbir Rahman, was the founder member of the Abu Dhabi-based Zayed Institute for Research and Technology. He was also the chief technology officer of HTTP Technology.

The core engine of the cancer detection system contains advanced algorithms performing multivariate statistical analysis. The same algorithms with further enhancements are contained in "Chameleon Statistics" a new data analysis and visualisation package which has been developed by Seventh Sense Software. Sabbir Rahman is now the chairman of this computer firm in Dhaka.

"A number of foreign individuals have purchased the software through the Internet so far and we hope to start exporting the software package soon," said Sabbir.

Some of these algorithms were tested by the UK MOD's Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) and confirmed to be "world class" and "leading the field".

"Medicsight system will benefit individuals, governments, insurance and industry partners as well as medical science," Sabbir told this correspondent at the just concluded BASIS SoftExpo 2002. Sabbir hopes to earn 400 million

Most lung cancer patients are smokers, so the governments of the US, UK and Japan would like to introduce a mass screening programme in which they perform CT scans of the lungs of every smoker in the country.

It is planned to embed the Medicsight system into the CT scanners which are being used for the screening project and for which the company, which developed the Medicsight system, will charge 100 to 150 US dollars per CT scan.

sent to a hospital by the Medicsight system via computer and simply sent back again after being analysed. The system is also being developed to analyse MRI scans of the brain and heart.

With a few developments, the same system can automatically analyse images of the Earth, taken by advanced sensors on spy satellites or unmanned aircraft.

The statistical engine can be used for many kinds of data analysis. Anyone who has large amounts of data that are arranged in a matrix format could use Chameleon Statistics to analyse and understand the data.

For example, a bank that has large amounts of data regarding its customers such as their age, job, salary, area of residence, current and saving accounts balances, could automatically analyse these information to classify their clients into various coherent groups of similar individuals.

"It can pick out individuals with unusual records who may be taking part in fraudulent activities. The package will also help them to efficiently target their marketing efforts towards the appropriate groups," Sabbir said.

For example, a bank may want to offer small business loans to the poor, and offer investment plans to the affluent based upon the results of the statistical analysis. Without this kind of analysis, much time and money is wasted marketing inappropriate products to individuals who would not need them.

The same principles apply to any

large business, sales or marketing company who have large amounts of data to deal with and need to gain a good understanding of both their clients and their specific needs.

Chameleon Statistics is also very useful for academics in universities who need to analyse large amounts of experimental or scientific data.

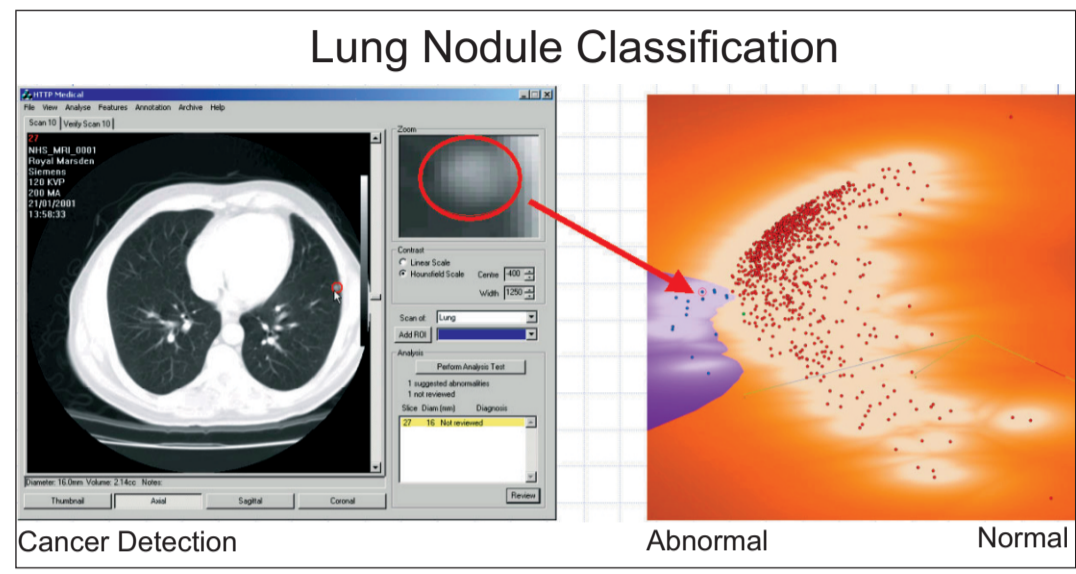
It is particularly useful for those working in statistics, artificial intelligence, pattern recognition, or image analysis. Because of the advanced mathematical algorithms which Chameleon Statistics contains, it is one of the most powerful statistical tools available for this kind of work.

The graphics in Chameleon Statistics are by far the finest available in any statistics software. It would be of great value to anyone wishing to present their data to potential investors or clients, or wishing to prepare impressive reports or presentations.

Graphical artists may even want to use the programme to develop computer-generated works of art.

Chameleon Statistics is being sold at \$395 per package, including boxed CD and user manual. Academic discounts are available for those using the software for personal non-commercial use. Academic department licenses are available for \$549, while Corporate Office licenses are available for \$1795.

"Seventh Sense Software intends to develop several large-scale software systems, each of which would bring in millions of dollars in foreign exchange to Bangladesh," Sabbir said.



to 900 million US dollars a year if the programme is accepted for use in national lung cancer screening programmes in the US, UK and Japan.

In the United States, United Kingdom and Japan the government spends a lot of money to detect and cure cancer patients. "If such diseases are detected at an early stage then it would be possible to treat these patients and the cost would come down dramatically."

Unfortunately, there are not enough radiologists in these countries to analyse all these scans, and the accuracy of diagnosis is only about 70%. Also, each CT scan costs around 500 to 700 US dollars.

The Medicsight system achieves higher accuracy than the radiologists in the detection of cancer, it is automatic, does not get tired like doctors, and produces consistent, objective results.

The number of people who will be scanned each year will be in millions, hence there will be a projected revenue of hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

Dr Sabbir Rahman has a Bachelors degree in Physics from Oxford University and a PhD in Theoretical Physics from MIT. He is currently living in Bangladesh.

The system could also be used in remote diagnosis. Scans can be

## Tech Jobs

**Motion Media**  
32, Easkaton Road, Mogbazar  
Position : **Video Editor**  
Closing date : Friday, November 15, 2002

**Northern University, Bangladesh**  
3/18, Iqbal Road, Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207.  
Position : **Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor and Lecturer in Computer Science & Engineering, Network Administrator, Computer Lab Attendant**  
Closing date : Sunday, November 10, 2002

**Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO)**  
House # 5, Road # 11/2, Block - B, Section - 10, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216  
Position : **Deputy Manager, IT (Systems Analyst), Assis-**

**tant Programmer P & D**  
Closing date : Sunday, November 10, 2002

**Bangladesh Public Service Commission.**  
Old Airport Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka.  
Position : **Assistant Programmer for Computer Cell, Home Ministry, Senior System Analyst for AGB, Ministry of Finance in favor of Finance Department, System Analyst for AGB, Ministry of Finance in favor of Finance Department, Programmer for AGB, Ministry of Finance in favor of Finance Department**  
Closing date : Monday, November 25, 2002

**Fortuna Group**  
Kunia Bazar Gazipur Tongi  
Position : **Database Programmer**  
Closing date : Sunday, November 10, 2002

## Tech Toon



## Star Tech Quiz

16

Check the box beside the correct answer

1. Which of the following is not an image file?  
 JPEG  TMP  
 GIF  BMP

2. Which command lists files in UNIX  
 cd  dir  
 ls  list

3. What is a cookie?  
 Cooking software  Internet information file  
 Web site  Hacker file

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

Last week's answers  
 1. electronic mail2. Paseo 3. user.dat, system.dat

Winner: **Md. Munirul Abrar Chowdhury**  
 18 Badshah Meah Chowdhury Road, Chittagong 4203

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by November 13, 2002.

## Space Tech

# No Apollo moon landing?

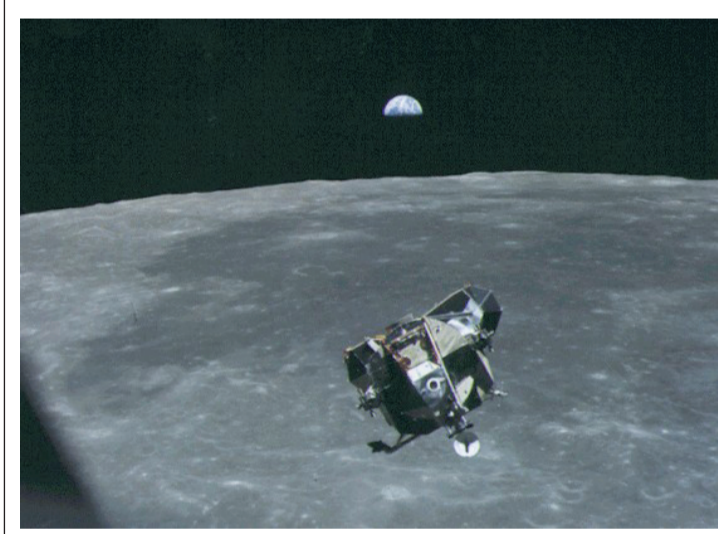
NASA book to combat doubts

REUTERS, Washington

**M**OOON rocks weren't enough. Neither was testimony from astronauts or even photographic evidence. So NASA has commissioned a mini-book to show that yes, indeed, Americans did land on the Moon.

Most humans on Earth accept counter the doubters, and in September, NASA agreed to pay aeronautics engineer James Oberg \$15,000 to write a monograph gathering up materials answering the sceptics, point by point.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has dealt with the controversy for decades, without much fanfare, but Launius



that US astronauts first got to the moon aboard the Apollo 11 mission on July 20, 1969. But those who don't believe have created a sort of cottage industry of doubt, and that is what NASA wants to combat.

"I'd been concerned for some time that there was this story that's circulating about how we never landed on the Moon and we would get, periodically, calls from people about how to respond to that, especially from teachers," said Roger Launius, NASA's former chief historian.

Launius had long wanted to put together an educational aid for teachers and others who wanted to

on movie sets.

The doubters said the fake was done so poorly that there is ample evidence of fraud, including a picture of astronauts planting the American flag that allegedly shows the flag rippling in the wind. The sceptics contended there can be no breeze on the moon, so the picture must have been faked.

On its own Web page debunking the Apollo doubters, NASA agreed that there is no Earth-type breeze on the moon, and there is no atmosphere either.

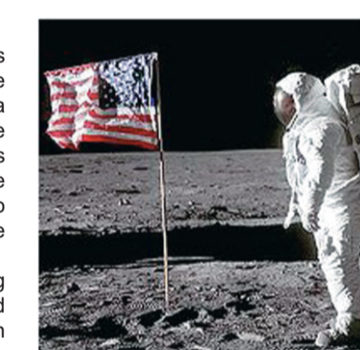
But when the astronauts struggled to plant the US flag in the lunar surface, they twisted it around a bit before it stuck, and that naturally created ripples in the flag.

The ripples would have dissipated within seconds on Earth, where the atmosphere would have stopped them. But on the Moon, the rippling went unchecked, making it look as if it were being carried by the wind.

There are other sites, including www.badastronomy.com, that take aim at the substance of the doubters' claims. The site's creator, astronomer Phil Plait, was blunt in his condemnation of the doubters, whom he calls conspiracy theorists.

"The craziness involves people who think that the NASA Apollo Moon missions were faked," Plait said on the site. "There are lots of rumours spreading around about this, and rest assured they are all completely false. The claims made by these conspiracy theorists are actually all wrong, sometimes laughably so."

The controversy recently emerged from cyberspace in the person of Bart Sibrel, who has made a film questioning the Apollo Moon missions and who confronted astronaut Buzz Aldrin at a Beverly



Hills hotel on Sept. 9 and demanded that Aldrin swear on a Bible that he had in fact walked on the moon.

The 72-year-old Aldrin, the second man ever to touch the lunar surface, punched the 37-year-old Sibrel in the face. Sibrel asked that assault charges be filed, but Los Angeles County prosecutors declined. A videotape of the incident showed Sibrel following Aldrin on the street with a Bible and calling him a "thief, liar and coward," one prosecutor said.

Launius, who recently moved from NASA headquarters to the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC, said he has no illusions about whether the upcoming monograph, which he describes as a short book, will change every doubter's mind.

"We know that there are groups of people out there, individuals out there, that you're never going to convince of something like this," Launius said. "That's not the audience."

"The audience are those who are basically coming to NASA, looking for information, and obviously they'll make up their own minds, but we'll try to put the best possible information in their hands," Launius said.

## Tech Snaps

# Armed forces' computer simulated exercises held

A three-day computer simulated exercises on post-disaster humanitarian assistance and rescue activities was held at Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training (BIPSOT) at Rajendrapur Cantonment from October 29-31, reports BSS.

The Command Post Exercises were held under the auspices of the Armed Forces of the country and the US Marine Expeditionary Force (USMEF) and was named 'Anushilan Aashar Alo'.

The aim of the exercises was to find how relief and rescue activities can be planned, co-ordinated and carried out smoothly imagining a situation in which the coastal regions of Chittagong and Noakhali have been damaged heavily in a natural disaster.

Members of the Armed forces and the USMEF took part in the training exercises.

# E-post service to be expanded gradually

Bangladesh Postal Department will soon expand e-post service gradually across the country for giving better services to people through ensuring speedy communications. About 14 e-post stations have already been extending this service and receiving positive feedback from consumers, the Bangladesh Post Office authorities said at a roundtable in the city Monday. Speakers laid emphasis on introducing the most modern and sophisticated technologies in the postal service for better communications. Held at the GPO auditorium, the conference on "Modern Technology in Postal Communication" was presided over by its Director General Mohammed Saiful Huda. - BSS

## Photo Tech



The Soyuz-TMA spacecraft rests on the launcher prior to its launch, 30 October 2002. The rocket carrying the international space crew, Russian cosmonauts Yuri Lonchakov and Sergei Zalyotin, and Belgian astronaut of the European Space Agency Frank De Winne, was launched 30 October 2002 from Baikonur cosmodrome.

## Best 10 Websites

- Category: Online Games & Download
- MiniClip**  
MiniClip.com is one of the leaders in online games. Started in Nov. 2000 MiniClip.com has grown into one of the most innovative game sites on the Internet.  
<http://www.miniclip.com>
  - GamePro**  
GamePro.com is the premier online source for gaming information on the Internet.  
<http://www.gamepro.com>
  - ShockWave**  
AtomShockwave Corp. is a leading entertainment provider for businesses and consumers in emerging media channels.  
<http://www.shockwave.com>
  - avault**  
Over a million people a month visit the Adrenaline Vault, making it one of the Top Ten gaming websites in the world, and the most recognized independent source of uninfluenced PC and video game information.  
<http://www.avault.com>
  - Games Domain**  
Features resources for gaming enthusiasts. Find game FAQs, and hardware and company information for players.  
<http://www.gamesdomain.com>
  - Game Downloads Online**  
Packed with news, reviews, interviews, downloads, cheats, online games, and just about anything else you can imagine, Game Downloads Online has proven itself to be well worthy of a bookmark in every gamers browser.  
<http://www.gamedownloadsonline.com>
  - Free Games Online**  
Games, Free Games, Free Online Games, Free Game Downloads and More!  
<http://www.freegamesonline.com>
  - PC GameWorld**  
PC GameWorld is owned and run by gamers just like you. We don't have to worry about expressing exactly how we feel - we tell it like it is!  
<http://www.pcgameworld.com>
  - Game Zone Online**  
We hope you have plenty of room on your hard drive! Our "Downloads" section is filled with demos, games, preview movies, and many other great game related goodies you might not have heard of!  
<http://www.gamezone.com>
  - It's Your Turn**  
It'sYourTurn.com is a unique concept in online games. It's Free! Play for free for months or years if you like  
<http://www.itsyourturn.com>

## Mystery moon Europa



This image obtained 31 October, 2002 shows reddish spots and shallow pits peppering the enigmatic ridged surface of Jupiter's moon Europa in this composite view captured by NASA's Galileo spacecraft during two different orbits around Jupiter. The spots and pits visible in this region of Europa's northern hemisphere are each about 10 kilometers (6 miles) across. The dark spots are called "lenticulae," the Latin term for freckles.

## Dr. Tech

Dear Dr. Tech,  
 Sometimes it takes me ages to look for a file in my computer. Could you please let me know how I can get faster access to the files in my computer?  
 Simran

Dear Simran,  
 Here's a trick I use on a daily, if not hourly, basis.  
 Have you ever been trying to find a specific file in a folder that had hundreds of files? You have to scroll down to where the file should be, then slowly hunt for it until you come across it. There has to be a better way, right?  
 Right!  
 Instead of scrolling, click a blank area in the folder to give that pane focus then type the first letter of the file you're looking for. Windows will jump to the first file that has that letter. Continue hitting the letter to jump from one file to the next.

If you type fast enough, you can type in a partial name and the first file with those letters will be highlighted. In the example below, I opened Windows Explorer and went to my Windows folder. I clicked on a blank area in the right hand pane and typed "note" (no quotes). You have to type it kind of quick for it to work.

Note that this little trick works on Open dialog boxes too. I don't know about you, but I have folders filled with lots of different documents. If I need to get at one that starts with the letter "T", I click on the document list area and type the letter "T". Just like that I'm zipped to the first file that starts with "T" or "t".

Oh, once you locate your file, hit the Enter key to open it. Hope this will help you.  
 dailystartech@yahoo.com