

Tech News

Aptech turns five

Programming contest and software display with festivity

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

THE IT training scenario in Bangladesh changed when Aptech first stepped in. Before that there was limited opportunities to improve and acquire IT skills.

Contest, seminar on different IT topics and an award giving ceremony. Programming Contest The day started with a programming contest among the students of 43 centers of Aptech all over the country.

Each team having two members had to resolve 5 problems in a specified time. A panel of internal & external judges evaluated the contest. The contest was coordinated by Zakir Hossain Sarker, Country Academic Head, Aptech Worldwide BD Ltd.

Software Display Software developed by Aptech students from all over the country were displayed as a part of the celebration programme. Students developed these software as part of their project. The best twelve software were on display. It was indeed a rare

Award Giving Ceremony

The daylong celebration programme came to an end with the award giving ceremony. Minister for Science and Information & Communication Technology, Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan was present as chief guest and gave away the awards to the winner of the Programming Contest. Sabur Khan, President of Bangladesh Computer Society and Habibullah N. Karim, President, BASIS were also present as special guests.



Teams trying to solve the problems, a fight against time.

A new gateway

Weeny Soft launches education portal

STAR TECH DESK

WEENY Soft Ltd has formally launched an education portal of the country www.educationdesk.com on November 16 at IDB Bhaban

tion related information is available in this portal. www.educationdesk.com is developed and maintained by Weeny Soft Ltd, a local IT solutions company that develops software products and provides outsourced R&D



Dr. Jafor Iqbal speaking at the inauguration ceremony

auditorium. Dr Jafor Iqbal inaugurated the portal as chief guest while managing director Hasmat Alam and chief technical officer Nazrul Islam of Weeny Soft Ltd was also present. The main purpose of www.educationdesk.com is to traverse the entire present education sector into e-Education. All kinds of educa-

solutions to companies all around the globe. This portal is expected to open a vast new opportunity in the field of education for all. It has information and technical implementation for students, teachers as well as IT professionals. The portal is a knowledge house where everyone can share knowledge and information.

Tech Snaps

Style & Beauty

Web portal www.bangladeshinfo.com has organised an online "Eid Fashion Exhibition" ahead of the coming Eid-ul-Fitr, showcasing well-designed wears of different fashion houses, says a press release. With names of models and designers, descriptions of dresses and addresses of the sales centres, the Eid Fashion Exhibition site contains photographs and prices of 91 Salwar-Kamiz, 76 Panjabis and 93 Sarees, designed by 12 fashion houses. Visitors of the show in Internet will vote to choose the best design from each fashion house and the names of the winners will be put on display on the site under Bangladeshinfo's fashion channel Style & Beauty. Updated on November 13, the Eid Fashion Exhibition will cater to the needs of the customers until the Eid day. Participating fashion houses are Banglar Mela, Pride Textile, Grameen Uddog, Anjan's, OG, Grameen Samogree, Perfect Textile, Rang, Tant, Sada Kalo, Bibiyana and Bunan.

Photo Tech



PHOTO: AFP

An employee of the Coruna Marine Aquarium, created following the Egea Sea tanker in 1992, cleans the rocks 20 November 2002, in La Coruna. The first sign of trouble at the huge marine aquarium on Spain's oil-slick threatened coast, come on Sunday, when the resident seals clambered out of the water and refused to get back in, staff said. Staff is now fearing for the 2,000 fish from 150 species it houses, as more oil from the sunken tanker Prestige threatens to wash up on the coastline

Dr. Tech

Dear Dr. Tech, I uninstalled some windows programmes from Control Panel's Add/Remove Programmes, some of them are gone but the entry is still there. Please tell me what to do. Arafat

Hit Enter. 2. Your registry editor should now be up and running. Now would be a good time to back up your registry by hitting the File menu, Export Registry. Just in case. 3. OK, now navigate to: HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall

Dear Arafat, This is a common problem. Most people click the program, hit the Add/Remove button and end up with an error. And the program is still stuck on the list. It may have been removed from your computer, but its ghost seems determined to stay on. So, is the program listing there forever? Can you ever get rid of it? YES - but you have to play around in your system registry. Before we go any farther, I want to say that messing with your registry is not for everyone and should only be attempted by advanced users. If any of the information below doesn't make sense to you, it's probably NOT a good idea for you to be trying this tip. Here's the procedure: 1. Run your registry editor by hitting the Start button, Run, Then type: regedit

4. Under this Uninstall folder, you'll see all the stuff that's listed on the Add / Remove programs list. Find the folder for the program that's stuck in your Add / Remove programs box, right-click, and select Delete from the resulting menu. Now, go back to your Control Panel, Add / Remove programs area and you should find that extra program is now gone. Bonus Tip You may have already figured this out, but there's another use for this tip. If you have a program listed in the Add / Remove programs section that you DON'T ever want uninstalled, you can delete its folder from the Uninstall folder list mentioned above. That way, you (or someone else) won't accidentally remove it. dailystartech@yahoo.com

Brain speed Supercomputer

IBM in \$290 million supercomputer deal

REUTERS, New York

IBM Corp. on Tuesday said that it had signed a \$290 million federal government contract that includes a supercomputer called ASCI Purple that is eight times faster than its current computer used for nuclear testing.

The contract also includes a second supercomputer that the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Agency's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory announced last year, called Blue Gene/L. It will be used in weather modeling, such as simulating an entire hurricane.



The majestic ASCI White

ASCI Purple will run at 100 teraflops, or 100 trillion calculations per second, eight times faster than its current supercomputer ASCI White and at a speed equivalent to the human brain, IBM said. ASCI Purple will include 12,000 Power 5 computer chips, the next version of IBM's proprietary PowerPC chip.

That's 4,000 more chips than ASCI White, which used Power 4 chips, and whose 12.3 trillion calculations per second once made it the fastest computer in the world. It will include 50 terabytes of memory, or 50 trillion units, and two petabytes of storage, or two

quadrillion units, about the content of one billion books. ASCI Purple will be delivered in stages between now and 2005 with the first IBM computer server arriving next year. Blue Gene/L will focus on research in areas such as predicting global climate

change and studying the interaction between atmospheric chemistry and pollution. When completed in 2005, Blue Gene/L will run at 360 teraflops, or 360 trillion calculations per second based on sets of two microprocessors working simultaneously.

Tech Toon



"No matter how many times I empty the trash, when I go out to the kitchen the can is still full!"

Star Tech Quiz 18

- Check the box beside the correct answer 1. Which video resolution is not correct? 640 x 480 800 x 680 1024 x 768 1152 x 864 2. Which of the following is currently a hard disk drive manufacturer? Dell Microsoft Conner Seagate 3. What does the term IRQ stand for? Input Request Que Interrupt Request Que Interrupt Request Input Request

Name: Occupation: Address: Contact Number: E-mail: Last week's answers 1. MS-DOS 6.222. Internet Relay Chaß. Netcßg Winner: Murshed 64, Shukrabad, Dhaka 1207 The winner is requested to contact Star Tech and collect his/her prize. Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by November 20, 2002.

Future Tech

Much-hyped 'Human Transporter' for sale on Amazon

REUTERS, New York

SEGWAY LLC, makers of a much-hyped electric-powered scooter that has captured the imagination of many technophiles, said on Monday that consumers could begin ordering the pricey vehicles on Amazon.com. Two years after rumors of its existence set the high-tech world abuzz, the Segway Human Transporter has gone on sale for \$4,950 on Amazon.com, the companies said in a statement. Deliveries start in March on a first come, first served basis.

The Human Transporter is a self-balancing, high-tech chariot compact enough to be driven on sidewalks. The device looks like a lawn mower, but it is driven instead of pushed. "The Segway Human Transporter is one of the most famous and anticipated product introductions of all time," Jeff Bezos, chief executive and founder of Amazon.com, said in heralding the availability of the vehicles on the online retailer's site.

Bezos was one of the high-tech leaders whose blessing for the mysterious device once known as "It" helped spark widespread anticipation of what advocates said could represent a revolutionary breakthrough in human transportation: one that could eventually replace cars, scooters,

even bicycles. A spokeswoman for Segway, which is based in Manchester, New Hampshire, said customers who order before Dec. 16 will be entered into an "early delivery contest." Thirty winners will receive the vehicles in time for Christmas. Segway believes it has enough manufacturing capacity to meet demand because the company relies on standard industry components from suppliers such as Michelin MICP,PA and Delphi Corp. DPH.N. However, it only guarantees shipment by August. And while the move puts consumers closer to stepping on the electric-powered scooters, a variety of hurdles remain to gaining mainstream acceptance, including the vehicle's hefty price tag and a tangle of state legal restrictions.

Thirty-two states have passed laws approving so-called personal mobility devices like the Human Transporter. Eleven states have yet to act, including New York, Massachusetts, Illinois and Oregon. Seven mostly rural states have no prohibitions on the use of powered vehicles on sidewalks. The Segway Human Transporter is the brainchild of prolific millionaire inventor Dean Kamen, whose innovations include a stair-climbing wheelchair and a portable insulin pump. Further details can be found at (http://www.segway.com).



Boston police officers Vincent Stancato (L) and Kevin Griffith try out the Segway device

Best 10 Websites Category: Children Books

- Reader's Digest Store The world's preeminent publisher and direct marketer of distinctive products that inform, enrich, entertain, and inspire people of all ages and cultures around the world. URL: http://www.readersdigest.com Bookonline.com A vast selection of educational, fun and exciting books for children of all ages. URL: http://www.bookonline.com amazon.com Amazon.com is the place to find and discover anything you want to buy online. We're very proud that 10 million people in more than 160 countries have made us the leading online shopping site. URL: http://www.amazon.com Just For Kids Who Love Books Provides links to sites about favorite books and authors. Also includes book reviews written by kids. URL: http://www3.sympatico.ca/alanbrown Coloring World - Kids Coloring Pages Coloring books for children to color. All the pictures are categorized. URL: http://rivalquest.com/color StarBooks Personalized children's books and a personalized baby book. Over 30 titles, including an Easter and Santa letter. URL: http://www.starbooks4u.com Kids Courier Official internet newspaper for kids. Features up-to-date information on news, sports, weather, games, books, movies and kids' writing. URL: http://www.kidscourier.com/kc/index.php3 Tetramedia's Story Books A fun collection of illustrated, online stories for children of all ages including Silly Stories, Becky and Beans, and The Ecology Kids. URL: http://www.tetramedia.com/storybooks Books for Kids Includes K-12 book reviews, author and illustrator information, publishing news, young writer's tips, publisher-sponsored book giveaways, contests, fun tie-in activities, and book-related weblinks. URL: http://kidsbooks.about.com Kids' Corner Featuring the stories of Beatrix Potter in text, RealAudio, streaming media, and multimedia slide shows. URL: http://www.tcom.ohio.edu/books/kids.htm