

Star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2003

2-day software show begins

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A two-day software exhibition, organised by the North South University Computer Club (NSUCC), began at Lagoon Convention Centre at Rifles Square in the city yesterday.

Science and Information and Communication Technology Minister Abdul Moyeen Khan inaugurated the fair, while chairman of the board of governors of NSU ABM Kamal Uddin Khan, NSU Vice Chancellor Hafiz GA Siddiqi and Computer Science and Engineering Department Chairman Abdul L Haque were present.

About the progress in this area, the minister said about 75 per cent of the 'Software Incubator', a computer software development centre set up by the government in the city recently, has been filled up so far.

Moyeen Khan said his ministry will extend necessary support to private universities or organisations for organising such fairs.

According to the organiser, the main objective of the fourth SoftFair 2003 is to expose the potentiality of software developers of the country.

There are 26 participants at the fair, which include some public and

private universities and software developing firms of the country.

Four Dhaka University students have developed a Bangla Typing interface 'Annorup' which is on display at the fair. Another two software of Dhaka University--Library Management System and Management Software for Automobile Dealers--are also on display.

Kaisarul Haque and Mohammad Irfan Hussain have developed a software 'Robo-Eye' that can interact with a human after getting some information from the user. A PABX telephone maintenance software

and software for automation of the railway traffic control and online ticket reservation system are also on display.

Datahead Pvt Ltd is showing the first Unicode supported software of the country at the fair.

Other participants of the fair include Jahangirnagar University, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Brac University, Queens University, Asian University, Daffodil IT and BDCOM Software.

The fair will continue till 6 pm today.



PHOTO: STAR

Transcom Electronics Limited Marketing Manager Arshad Haque shows off a model of newly launched Transtec Power X battery at a press conference at BRAC Centre Inn yesterday. National Sales Manager (lighting) of Transcom A Kader Khan, and Marketing Officer Raunak Ferdous Khan are also seen in the picture.

Transcom launches new battery

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Transcom Electronics Limited launched a new product, Transtec Power X battery, in the country yesterday.

Produced at Ningbo Battery factory in Hong Kong, the pencil size Transtec battery will be sold in the local market at Tk 6 and size-D at Tk 13.

This was announced by Arshad Haque, marketing manager of Transcom Electronics Limited, at a press conference held at BRAC Centre Inn in the city.

National Sales Manager (lighting) of Transcom Electronics Limited A Kader Khan and Marketing Officer Raunak Ferdous Khan were also present.

Arshad Haque said the battery is leak-proof, mercury-free and wrapped in metal jacket that increase the life of the battery by 5 to 10 per cent compared to plastic jacket battery.

The company intends to capture 10 per cent of the market by 2005. At present 200 million pieces of battery are sold in the domestic market a year and the sector is growing at 7 to 12 per cent annually, he said.

Rangs Bird mobile handset launched

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Rangs Electronics Limited has come up with a new lightweight and tiny mobile phone set, Rangs Bird.

The company will market the new handset, manufactured by China's Ningbo Bird Company, through GrameenPhone as well as its own showroom, officials said.

"GrameenPhone Limited will sell Rangs Bird mobile handset through its prepaid package," Aktar Hussain, managing director of Rangs Electronics Limited, told reporters at a briefing organised to mark the launching of the handset at a local hotel yesterday.

Explaining the features, the Rangs MD said the GSM handset has 3.5 hours talk-time while it could standby for more than 6 days.

Hussain said the 'Rangs Bird 8288' will be sold with GrameenPhone's prepaid connection at Tk 10,875 while a set without connection from Rangs showroom

at Tk 8,800.

He hoped the handset with long durable lithium battery would get popularity among Bangladeshi cell phone users.

White Products & Electronics limited (WP&EL), a concern of Rangs Electronics, will provide one-year warranty and after-sales service through its 50 sales and service centres all over the country.

Hussain said the company has a plan to import different models of the Bird handset "if it gets good response from mobile users in the country".

Replying a query, he said his company, which has a track record in assembling and producing local brand colour television sets, would consider assembling mobile handset if there is a bulk demand for it in the country.

Sabur Ahmed, director of WP&EL, also spoke at the launching ceremony.

Dutch FMO, DBH sign loan deal

Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) completed a loan documentation for a Tk 27 crore credit line to Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DBH) recently, says a press release.

Arno De Vette, Asia Department of FMO, and QM Shariful Ala, managing director of DBH, signed the agreement.

Under the agreement, DBH will receive long-term funds, which are repayable over 10 years, from FMO.



PHOTO: DBH

Arno De Vette of Asia Department of Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO), and QM Shariful Ala, managing director of DBH, shake hands after signing a Tk 27 crore loan agreement in the city recently.

Sheba Telecom gets award

Sheba Telecom (Pvt.) Ltd. has received an International Quality Crown Award for corporate excellence and leadership.

Chief Operating Officer of Sheba Telecom, Jefri Ahmad Tambi, received the award during the 14th International Quality Business Initiative Directions Convention in London recently, says a press release.

The award which is part of the annual international programme of Business Initiative Directions (BID), an organisation based in Madrid, Spain, was designed to recognise outstanding companies and entrepreneurs throughout the world.



Jefri Ahmad Tambi, chief operating officer of Sheba Telecom (left), receives an International Quality Crown Award in the Gold category at the 14th International Quality Business Initiative Directions (BID-QC100) Convention held in London recently.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Selling		Currency		Buying	
TT/OD	BC	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer	
59.2500	59.3000	USD	58.3500	58.1814	58.1129
64.7935	64.8804	EUR	61.9490	61.7658	61.6890
98.5271	98.5691	GBP	95.4867	95.2202	95.1656
35.6426	35.6671	AUD	33.5516	33.4591	33.3790
0.4977	0.4978	JPY	0.4821	0.4819	0.4809
43.7734	43.7979	CHF	42.4033	42.3088	42.2243
6.9671	6.9722	SEK	6.7279	6.7103	6.6943
39.1735	39.1981	CAD	38.1488	38.0551	37.9719
7.6039	7.6052	HKD	7.4760	7.4583	7.4409
34.271	34.2925	SGD	33.4542	33.4104	33.2958
16.2631	16.2807	AED	15.7482	15.7283	15.7078
15.9254	15.9438	SAR	15.4419	15.4052	15.3870

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Laotian Rupee	Thai Baht	Newsgiant Kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian Ringgit
47.8	58.05	96.8	42.795	6.9166	0.54455	3.8000

Local Interbank FX Trading:

The local interbank foreign exchange market was subdued Saturday. US dollar remained unchanged against the Bangladeshi taka on Saturday. At the close, taka was quoted at unchanged from Thursday at 58.68/58.70 against the US dollar.

Local Money Market:

Demand for call money was moderate on Saturday. Call money rate eased slightly Saturday. At the close call money rate ranged between 5.25 and 5.75 per cent compared with 5.50-6.00 per cent previously.

International Market:

International market was closed on Saturday. On Friday, the US dollar advanced broadly after data showed that US manufacturing sector expanded in January, with investors momentarily distracted from developments regarding a possible war with Iraq. On

Friday, US President George W Bush was discussing with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, to seek a new resolution from the UN Security Council authorising a military strike in order to force Baghdad to disarm. US currency found some respite as market participants were encouraged by the prospect that America was working to obtain international consensus for a war with Iraq. US dollar bought 119.86 yen, up 0.70 per cent from its previous US close. Yen was roundly weaker after Bank of Japan admitted it had covertly sold yen for dollars during mid-January to prevent its strength. Euro traded near \$1.0760 against the dollar, down half a per cent from its prior US close. At the closing of New York on Friday, euro was at 1.0767/70, GBP at 1.6482/88 and yen at 119.86/92 against the dollar.

ReadyCash Raffle Draw Winners

The latest ReadCash raffle draw was held at ReadyCash Bangladesh office at Dhanmondi in the city on Thursday, says a press release.

Prizes	Name of Winners	Card No
China Junction Chinese free lunch for two	Md Jahangir Hossain	504798000009566
Meal in the Box free lunch for two	Md Mayen Uddin Tanzim	504798000009494
Sticky Fingers free lunch/dinner for two	Md Monsur Ali	504798000009635
Obsession free gift box	Md Mahubub Alam	504798000009634
Wonder Optics free sunglass	Md Sohel Bhuiyan	5047980010009133
Liton's Snacks free meal box	Md Alamgir Kabir	5047980000045720
Kamal General Store	Mohammad Yunus	5047980010009763

Winners can collect their prizes from the Executive, Promotion of ReadyCash, within 30 days of this news circulation by producing their ReadyCash card transaction vouchers. ReadyCash encourages its cardholders to read The Daily Star and the Daily Prothom Alo on every Sunday or call our Customer Service at: 8123850, 8130497, and 8125294-7.

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