

Tech News

New IT wizard on the block

Wills Intech and Cosmopoint of Malaysia offer a new paradigm of IT education

SHAHIDUZZAMAN SHUVRO

WILLS Intech Ltd, a local IT education provider, has become the exclusive partner of Malaysia's leading IT education giant Cosmopoint Institute of Information Technology in Bangladesh, which means it will now market and run Cosmopoint programmes here.

Wills Intech recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Cosmopoint. Cosmopoint President Dato' Idrus Mohd Satha and Chief Executive Officer of Wills Intech Ltd. Ahmed A. Zahid signed the agreement at a ceremony in Malaysia recently. Under the agreement, Wills Intech will run Cosmopoint's Certificate and Diploma programmes in Information Technology, Multimedia Applications, Graphic Design, E-secretaryship and more than 150 customised package programmes. All diploma programmes lead to Bachelor and Master's degrees.

At a press conference at the National Press Club on May 19, Wills Intech officials said they want to share their experience and expertise with Cosmopoint to make Bangladesh an IT hub in the region.

The distinctive phenomenon of the proposed paradigm of IT education by Wills Intech is that the education system is not designed for Dhaka or any major metropolitan city. Rather, it is eyeing to impart education in rural areas, to start with -- from Thana level, to be precise. However, it will gradually aim to curve a niche in the urban market in district towns and then make its way to Dhaka.

Wills Intech will be offering programmes at a cheap rate and facilitating the underprivileged boys and girls, the officials said.

Should need be, a limited number of students would be given the opportunity to expand their education at Cosmopoint institutions in Malaysia.

Thana level courses will be

conducted by Regional Channel Partners (RCP) and district level courses will be conducted by Strategic Channel Partners (SCP). Both the RCPs and SCPs operate their activities under direct supervision of Wills Intech Dhaka Centre.

The one-year diploma courses at district level will entail three months of extensive training at the Wills Intech Centre of Excellence, Dhaka. Based on their eligibility and excellence, 1,000 to 1,500 students will get the chance to go to Malaysia every year to learn directly from the Cosmopoint.

Course materials and Training of Trainers (ToT) are provided by Cosmopoint for nationwide Wills Intech centres. Wills Intech will provide Bangla version of some technical books.

The press briefing was followed by a question-and-answer session. Ahmed A. Zahid, Badrul Alam, chairman of Wills Group, and Syed Al Mamun, vice-chairman of Wills Group, were also present at the press conference.



(From left) Ahmed A Zahid, CEO and director of Wills Intech Ltd., speaks at the press conference. Syed Badrul Alam, chairman and Syed Mamun, managing director, are also seen.

Tech Analysis

Prospects of high-tech manufacturing in Bangladesh - I

A Case Study

MIR NADIA NIVIN

IT is an acknowledged fact that there are several Southeast Asian economies that are emerging quite rapidly. Several of our neighbours are doing really well as far as economy and living standards are concerned. So this causes us to ponder as to what exactly is the economic trends in this part of the globe.

Interestingly we find that the latest trends in the economies of the Southeast Asian countries is to go for manufacturing-specifically high tech manufacturing- as opposed to agriculture that was prevalent even a mere decade back. It is quite interesting to observe how this manufacturing industry, high tech and otherwise, has captured significant portions of the GDPs of the countries.

Thus the question arises What part will Bangladesh play in high technology development, manufacturing and utilization as we move well into the 21st century?

It might seem, initially, that the gradually emerging economy of Bangladesh is not an ideal place to go for high technology manufacturing as such. But if we see slightly beyond the dry surface, we might be surprised to find lush green pastures and prospects for more.

If Bangladesh were indeed to manufacture high-tech, we might as well try to find out what exactly are high tech industries, what should Bangladesh's approach be towards it, and finally what relevant resources are there in hand.

As far as definitions go, although high tech industry is a term used frequently, there is no unanimous consensus regarding it. To put it simply, it can be said that industries are designated to be high tech based on the perceived degree of technical sophistication of the product. High-tech industries are those that are involved in introducing new products and processes through the systematic application of scientific and technical know-

ledge. They are identified largely on the basis of their level of research and development intensity in relation to value added.

The next logical question that arises is high-tech manufacturing in what view? This arises because there are two very important concepts- Technology Innovation and Technology Transfer.

Technology innovation can be defined as the initiation of a technical idea, the acquisition of necessary knowledge, its transformation into usable hardware or procedure, and its introduction into society and its diffusion and adoption to the point where its impact is significant.

Technology transfer, on the other hand, is a process that permits the flow of technology from the source to another place. For instance, the transfer of technology from industrialized countries to developing countries.

Now, technology manufacturing can occur under both of the above cases. Countries, or industry that develop a technology can manufacture it, or countries and industry that transferred the technology can manufacture it.

Speaking on the innovation of technology, the standing of a country as far as technology innovation is concerned is gauged on several factors as National orientation, Socioeconomic infrastructure, Technological infrastructure and Productive capacity.

Moreover, there are other aspects of intensive Research and Development (R &D), that require extremely ultra modern laboratories, research facilities, huge R&D budget and other infrastructure supports.

As a result, we may safely conclude that Bangladesh has yet to attain much before it can go for technology innovation, but it can actively transfer technology and then go about manufacturing that transferred technology.

Then comes the turn to examine exactly what relevant resources are there at hand for this mission. It is

very interesting to note that Bangladesh has some highly viable launching pads for the manufacturing of certain types of high technology.

Such an organisation is the Telephone Shilpha Sangstha (TSS) at Tongi. The TSS has huge potential but somehow remains quite neglected with its utilisation nowhere near to what can actually be done. It can be used as a vital launching pad to embark upon large scale involvement in the manufacturing field.

It can be used to manufacture and assemble telecommunications equipments. These will be geared up for local consumption as well as competition in the external market. The use of local products of acceptable standard and competitive price can be made obligatory through regulations for all the service providers. Moreover, incentives can also be provided to encourage growth of the local telecommunications industry.

Focus can be brought in on the capability of TSS to manufacture mobile telephone sets. The local manufacturing of such will not only lower the price of the sets and thus make it affordable more widely but they can also be exported to other countries once the local consumption limit is met.

So we see that we have a potential resource at hand to go almost immediately into high tech manufacturing. There are of course some changes that has to be brought to the organisational structure of TSS and other in depth analysis is required. But these are few and small compared to setting up an entire industry all anew for high tech manufacturing.

It is the objective of this study to analyze the reformation, viability and to some extent the restructuring of TSS to utilise it as a base for manufacturing mobile telephone sets.

To be continued...

Tech Snaps

HP brings greater choice of features

HP, one of world's leading companies in consumer printing and imaging solutions launched some of its new products in the country on May 13 at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. The event "Running the Next Mile with You" encapsulated the concept of a cohesive partnership between HP and its partners.

Making its debut are the PSC1210, OJ5110 and OJ6110 from the All-in-one (AiO) range, LJ1150, LJ1300 from the Personal Mono LaserJet range and the LJ2300 from the Workgroup Mono LaserJet.

The AiOs range is a reliable solution to consumers and small office/home office customers as they are multi-functional, saves space and easy to use. It combines the four functions of print, scan, copy and fax into one product and they are gaining popularity in the market.

HP has also introduced the HP LaserJet 1150, 1300 and 2300 printer series. These printers are ideal for the budget-conscious businesses that require quick, reliable monochrome output.

"We are continually talking with consumers to learn how we can improve and offer the most valued printing features and functions," said Shabbir Shafiqullah, Business Development Manager- Bangladesh, Imaging and Printing Group, HP.

Photo Tech



PHOTO: AFP

Japan's electronics giant Matsushita Electric Industrial employee Wilson Solano displays the new heavy duty notebook computer "Toughbook CF-18", which enables to flip up its 10.4-inch LCD display over the keyboard to change shape as a tablet PC at the company's headquarters in Tokyo on May 20. The new Toughbook is fully water, dust, shock and vibration-resistant.

Best 10 Websites

Category: International Studies



Studyabroad.com
The on-line study abroad information resource. Here you will find listings for thousands of study abroad programs in more than 100 countries throughout the world.
URL: <http://www.studyabroad.com>



Study Abroad Links
Whether you're young or old, looking for intensive academic study or simply a learning vacation, you'll find resources and opportunities from around the globe.
URL: <http://www.studyabroadlinks.com>



edupass.org
This site provides information for international students who are thinking about pursuing an undergraduate, graduate, or professional education in the United States.
URL: <http://www.edupass.org/finaid>



IIE Online
IIE's programs and services are preparing men and women to fully participate in a world where international cooperation on business, diplomacy, environment, hunger and arms control will be the rule, not the exception.
URL: <http://www.iie.org>



International Education Service
Established in 1983, is an agency dedicated to assisting students from all parts of the world who wish to study in the United States or Canada.
URL: <http://www.ies-ed.com>



The International Education Site
This site is a FREE guide to study abroad information, advice and opportunities for students worldwide who are considering studying overseas.
http://www.intstudy.com/



istc.org
The International Student Travel Confederation is a nonprofit confederation of student travel organisations around the world.
URL: <http://www.istc.org>



ciece
CIEE provides quality programs and services for individuals, employers, communities and educational institutions.
http://www.ciece.org/



IESabroad.org
The Institute for the International Education of Students (IES) blends the best elements of foreign higher education with university requirements.
URL: <http://www.iesabroad.org>



NAFSA
Association of International Educators promotes the exchange of students and scholars to and from the United States.
URL: <http://www.nafsa.org>

Dr. Tech

Dear Dr Tech,

My window scrollbars are too small. I go through a hard time grabbing them with my mouse pointer? I'll be both thrilled and delighted to know if I can adjust their size. I also have a difficult time reading the description under my Desktop icons. The font seem just a bit too small. Can I change this also? Please let me know

Mahtab

or decrease the size of your scrollbars by using the little box to the right of the drop down box (it's labeled "size"). I have mine set to 18.

That's it. You should now be able to make your scrollbars as big as you like.

See Icons Easier

Well, not to worry. Here is how you can change the icon descriptor fonts.

1. Right-click a blank area of your Desktop and select Properties from the resulting menu.
2. Click the Appearance tab and select Icon from the Item drop down box (should be the second drop down box).
3. You should now see a Font drop down box below the one you were just playing with. You can adjust the size from the Size drop down box next to it.

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Tech Toon



Star Tech Quiz

40

Check the box beside the correct answer

1. Some Microsoft officials are concerned about the growing popularity of Linux because:

☐ Better word processor than Microsoft Word

☐ Faster Internet

☐ Offers stiff competition to Windows NT

☐ None of the Above

2. Which one of these translates a high level language to machine code?

☐ Assembler

☐ Compiler

☐ Modem

☐ None of the above

Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Contact Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Last week's answers

1. Function

2. PCMCIA

Winner: Ershadullah
139, Crescent Road, Green Road, Dhaka 1205

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by May 26, 2003.

Web Tech

Einstein papers to be published on Web

REUTERS, Los Angeles

GENIUS goes online next week with the establishment of a new Web site of Albert Einstein's scientific and other writings, the California Institute of Technology said on Friday.

A collaborative effort of the Einstein Papers Project at Caltech and the Albert Einstein Archives at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Web site will allow users access to 3,000 digitized images of the Nobel prize winner's writings, Einstein Papers editor Diana Buchwald said.

Among them are papers on the special theory of relativity, his never-published travel diaries, various humanitarian statements, and his frequent pleas for peace.

Einstein Archives Online will be launched on Monday during a daylong symposium on Einstein's life and work at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

The site also will provide a catalog of the 40,000 pieces of writing and correspondence that make up the body of Einstein's work, much of it written in the scientist's own hand, Buchwald said.

"The most exhilarating

experience is to read the manuscripts," Buchwald said. "He expressed himself very clearly and concisely. He had a very elegant prose and ... very readable and beautiful handwriting, so one has a feeling of intimacy with the material."

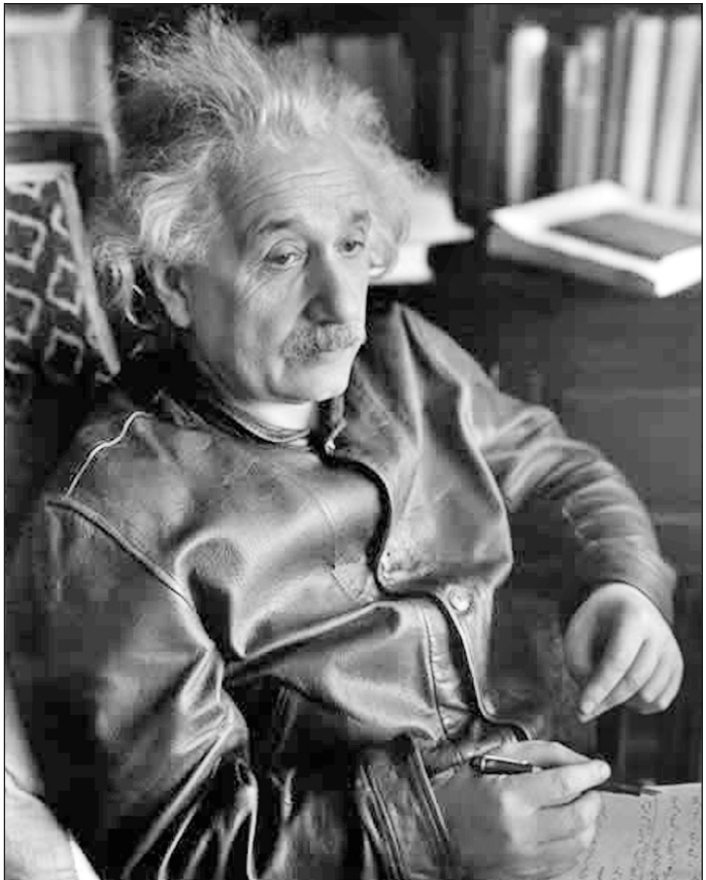
The original papers, collected during Einstein's life and after his death in 1955 by his secretary Helen Dukas, are kept at the University of Jerusalem.

About 25 years ago, the Einstein Papers Project, centered since 2000 at Caltech in Pasadena, California, began publishing the material in chronological order and has completed eight of 25 planned volumes.

His papers show that Einstein was well-regarded in the scientific community and was a strong voice for peace long before confirmation of his special theory of relativity in 1919 made him a household name, Buchwald said.

Nevertheless, many still equate him with "the old frazzled scientist in a worn-out T-shirt," she said.

"It's difficult to get a completely fresh picture of Einstein because he has been such an icon for 75 years," Buchwald said. The new site, scheduled to go live at 3 p.m. EDT, is www.alberteinstein.info.



Mission Mars



PHOTO: AFP

Workers lower the backshell (top) with the Mars Exploration Rover 1 (MER-1) onto its heat shield (below) 15 May 2003 in the Payload Hazardous Servicing Facility at Kennedy Space Center, Florida in preparation for its 05 June launch. The aeroshell will protect the rover on its journey to Mars.

Tech Alert

Internet Worm disguised as e-mail from Microsoft

A new computer worm that disguises itself as an e-mail from Microsoft Corp. is spreading, computer security firms warned on Monday.

The e-mail containing the worm, dubbed Palyh or Mankx, appears to come from support@microsoft.com, but is not from the software company.

When the attachment is opened, the worm copies itself to the Windows folder, scoops up e-mail addresses from the hard disk and starts sending itself out, said U.K.-based Sophos.

The malicious program can spread itself to other Windows machines on a local area network, anti-virus vendors said.

It also can secretly install spyware programs, according

to Moscow-based Kaspersky Labs in a news release.

However, Christ Belthoff, a senior product manager at Sophos, said his firm has found no evidence that it installs spyware, or a program that eavesdrops on computer users.

"This is not a widespread outbreak," he added.

The worm is programmed to expire automatically on May 30, according to Symantec Corp.

It began spreading on Saturday and has apparently infected computers in 69 countries, according to MessageLabs.

A Microsoft spokesman said the company never sends out unsolicited mass e-mails with attachments.

Reuters, San Francisco