

Game Tech

Tech Snaps

A new hangout for game junkies

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of the US, Canada and for the last five years, India and Pakistan, Bangladesh is now offering its own gaming zone with up-to-date gaming consoles and games, at a reasonable price. 'Gamesworld', of Kalabagan, is the first of its kind for the video-game-lovers of Dhaka city. Gamesworld has been in operation for the last one and a half years and already has a membership of 1000. Anyone can obtain free registration once at the shop and with the receipt of a card, their journey at Gamesworld will begin. The shop organizes and arranges for game contests with attractive prizes as well as provides the latest games such as PlayStation 2, Xbox, Gamecube and so on, at a very reasonable price. The charge for the each game varies according to their type. For example a gamer playing a strategy game pays less than a gamer playing an arcade game. The charge for

playing a game with doubles is obviously lower and with the recent introduction of standby power supplies, the Gamesworld members, are extremely satisfied. In terms of what is more popular, most players prefer PS2 and Xbox to Gamecube. "We have more games to offer in PS2 than in the other two gaming consoles, since there is a high demand for PS2 games in Bangladesh," says one of the authorities of Gamesworld. The shop also sells games, gaming consoles, modchips and other electronic gaming products at reasonable prices. Many gamers have a hard time understanding the reason behind the varying prices of gaming consoles at different shops of the city. These shops buy second hand gaming consoles from Malaysia and Dubai, which they later sell to the gamers of the city at a considerably lower price. The gamers therefore do not receive adequate warranties from shops in which gamesworld has been



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Glued to the Games: Kids find enough incentive to escape from the daily class workloads and have some fun time.

providing merchandise to for the last one and a half years. "All our gaming consoles arrive from United Kingdom and thus are sold with warranty," said the authority of GamesWorld. Currently, some of the most popular games offered in Gamesworld for both playing and sales are WWE Smackdown 4, Grand Theft Auto: Vice City, X-men: Next Dimension, Midnight Club 2, Tomb Raider from PS2. As per Xbox, the most popular games are Halo, Splinter Cell, Colin McRae Rally 3 among others. In Gamecube, gamers mostly play Super Mario Sunshine, Wrestlemania X8 and so on. Upcoming attractions in the next few months for wrestling game lovers are games such as WWE Raw2 for Xbox, Wrestlemania X9 for Gamecube and WWE Smackdown 5 for PS2. Gamesworld intends to

maximize its entertainment facilities and possibly relocate in another area. Previously during the initiation, Gamesworld wanted to locate itself around the private university area of Banani. But because the concerned authorities were unaware of the demand that such a facility would yield, they found it advisable to begin at Kalabagan opposite to the Dhanmondi field. At the moment, Gamesworld provides only two players simultaneous game play, which they intend to increase. "For better enjoyment and satisfaction of our customers, we are ready to provide the latest releases of games, gaming consoles, and other gaming products so as to promote such indoor entertainment facilities in the city," says a member of the authority in conclusion.

Getting Dressed

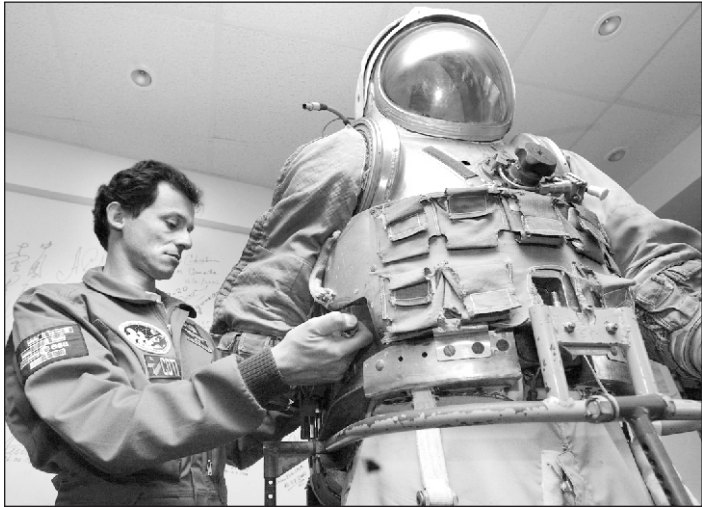


PHOTO: AFP

Spanish cosmonaut Pedro Duque inspects a space suit at the Star City space training center outside Moscow on September 18. Pedro Duque will take a flight to International Space Station (ISS) on October 18 from Baikonur cosmodrome as a member of the international space crew.

Tech Toon



Star Tech Quiz

58

Check the box beside the correct answer

1. Reducing a window until it becomes a button on the taskbar is

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ diminish | ☐ minimise |
| ☐ buttonslip | ☐ collapse |

2. Which of the following is not a keyboard layout?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ☐ QWERTY | ☐ Sholes |
| ☐ Chiclet | ☐ Dvorak |

Name: Occupation:

Address:

Contact Number: E-mail:

Last week's answers

1. the visible screen 2. Interconnected Networks

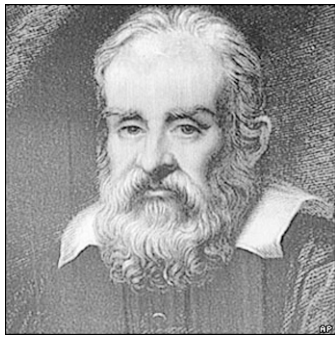
Winners: Shafquat R. Alam
House 21/401, Road 123, Gulshan 1, Dhaka
Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by September 30, 2003.

Tech Tribute

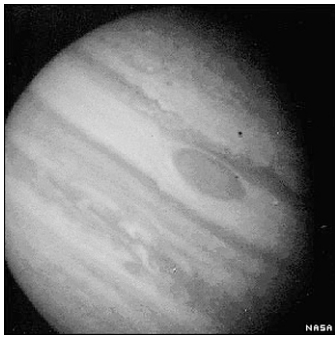
Adios Galileo the Greatest



Galileo is ending its mission by making a plunge into Jupiter's atmosphere, where it will burn up and disintegrate. The craft is running low on fuel and could collide with one of Jupiter's moons, Europa. Europa has saltwater lakes under its surface that could harbour life. Nasa wants to ensure they are not contaminated



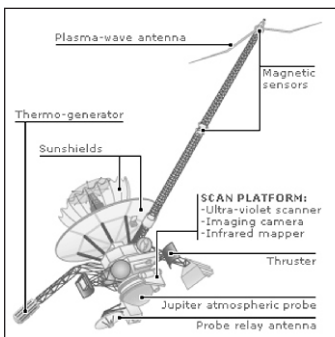
The space probe is named after Galileo Galilei, the Italian astronomer, mathematician and physicist. Galileo perfected the refracting telescope and discovered Jupiter's major moons in 1610. The planet's four largest (Galilean) moons - Io, Ganymede, Europa and Callisto.



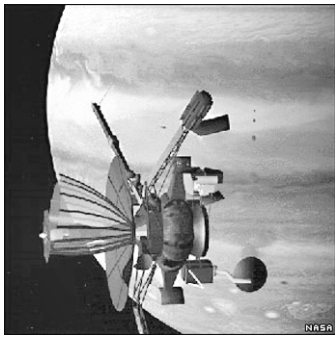
Pioneer 10 and its successor, Pioneer 11, captured close-up images of the largest planet in the Solar System. This picture shows Jupiter's Great Red Spot, which appears to be a huge anti-cyclone made up of swirling clouds of red gases.



The first space craft to visit Jupiter was Nasa's Pioneer 10, launched in 1972. It flew past the planet in December 1973, becoming the first probe to travel through the asteroid belt to encounter an outer planet.



The idea behind Galileo was to get an even closer look at Jupiter by sending a probe to orbit the planet. Galileo was launched from the space shuttle Atlantis in 1989. It encountered several asteroids on the long voyage to Jupiter, arriving at the planet in 1995.



Galileo will bow out with a fiery plunge into the Jovian atmosphere. It will send back some final data about Jupiter's atmosphere before it is torn apart. The death dive will mark the end of one of Nasa's most successful unmanned space missions.

Source: BBC Online

Tech News

Oracle aiming high with 10g

STAR TECH DESK

On September 12, Oracle Corporation announced that first quarter net income was up 28% to \$440 million while revenues were up 2% to \$2.1 billion as compared to the first quarter last year.. Earnings per share was \$0.08 compared with \$0.06 last year, which included a one cent impairment charge relating to Oracle's investment in Liberate. New software license sales were down 7% to \$525 million while software license updates and product support were up 14% to \$1,034 million. First quarter operating margin was 30% versus 29% last year. "Once again, the quarter showed positive growth in total revenues, and we expect to see continued improvement in total revenue and new license growth in Q2 led by North America. In addition, Oracle generated over \$1.25 billion in cash as our profitability continues to hit record levels,"

said Oracle CFO Jeff Henley. "We are all very excited about the announcement of the next version of our database and application server called Oracle 10g," said Oracle CEO Larry Ellison. "Oracle 10g is the first database designed to run on a grid of 64 to 128 low-cost Linux Intel servers. An Oracle 10g enterprise grid runs more than 10 times faster than the largest server. That means every existing Oracle application SAP, PeopleSoft, Siebel, custom systems will run faster and more reliably on an Oracle 10g enterprise grid. But if you want to run on an Oracle grid of Intel servers you have to be willing to spend less." For more than twenty years, Oracle Corporation has helped companies grow and succeed by leveraging Information Technology. In the Asia Pacific region, Oracle is a leading supplier of enterprise software and services to large multinational corporations as well as small- and medium-sized businesses.

2nd batch of Dishari-Moulvibazaar completes their course

A dozen students completed their two-month basic IT Education course at Dishari-Moulavibazar, says a press release. They were the second successful batch of British American Tobacco Bangladesh's IT Education Centre in Moulavibazar, Sylhet. BATB launched Dishari as part of its commitment to social development of the country in 2002 at Chechua, Kushtia to spread IT education among the rural youth. Dishari works with a philosophy of providing a platform for the students that can help them grow in future. Learning and experiences derived from Dishari-Chechua, BATB established its second Dishari Centre at Moulvibazaar with evidence of increased facilities. Till date, 102 students passed out from both the centres including 29 female students.

HP lets you 'Travel the World' through the Grand Lucky Draw

Hewlett Packard, the market leader in the Asia Pacific for PCs and printers has recently launched a mega promotion, 'Travel the World with HP' Grand Lucky Draw 2003. HP commemorated this grand promotion with the consumers through a helicopter ride event at Fantasy Kingdom on September 19. HP provided free helicopter rides to the visitors of Fantasy Kingdom on that day. The riders were selected by a lucky draw that was held in the event stage of Fantasy Kingdom. Visitors also enjoyed 50% discount on the entry tickets. The HP Grand Lucky Draw spans a period of three months starting from August 18 to November 30. Shoppers who buy any selected HP product will stand a chance to win air tickets to dream destinations round the world.

Photo Tech

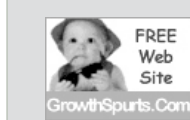


PHOTO: AFP

The Microsoft Corporation announced that the company will put a version of its Windows operating system in mobile phones in North America for the first time on September 15. The Motorola MPx200 phone displayed here will be available to the public before the end of 2003. Microsoft collaborated with wireless provider AT&T Wireless and handset maker Motorola to release the MPx200 with Windows Mobile Software capable of features such as e-mail, instant messaging, web browsing and entertainment media playback.

Best 10 Websites

Category: Babies & infants



GrowthSpurts.com

Track your child's growth and development with GrowthSpurts.com! Growth charts, graphs, guest book and an online photo album. URL: <http://www.growthspurts.com>



genius-babies

All about genius babies. <http://store.yahoo.com/cgibin/clink?genius-babies+LfkYs2+index.html>



babygear.com

Baby Gear is the fastest-growing e-commerce site for baby products. URL: <http://www.babygear.com>



Babies Online.com

For over two years Babies Online has helped parents show off their new babies to friends and family around the world with our automated birth announcement system! URL: <http://www.babiesonline.com>



Carolina Baby Connection

Teamed up with pediatric and obstetric professionals to bring information on a variety of health, safety, developmental, and parenting topics from pregnancy thru pre-school! URL: <http://www.carolinababy.com>



BabyCenter.com

BabyCenter.com is the leading site on the Internet for new and expectant parents. URL: <http://www.babycenter.com>



Baby Ultimate

Baby clothes, baby gifts, clothing for infants, special occasion dresses for Easter, holiday parties, and flower girl dresses...they have it all at BabyUltimate.com. URL: <http://www.babyultimate.com>



The Premie Store...and More!

Since 1989 we have been pampering the tiniest babies and supporting their families with understanding and resources. URL: <http://www.premie.com>



Web Baby Shower

Web Baby Shower is the free, easy way to have your baby shower online. URL: <http://www.webbabyshower.com>



Babies Today

Babies Today is part of iParenting.com is the premier Internet community for parents. URL: <http://www.babiestoday.com>