

Tech Interview

## Sylhet enjoys the first BCS computer fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

**S**EVEN year-old Sadman Sakib forgot everything around him. His eyes were glued to the screen playing a computer game. So was six year-old Abrar Siddik Annab.

These kids were seen at the computer fair at the ABC Tower at Dhopadighirpar.

Many like them were unhappy that the fair ended on Monday. There was rush of kids every day during the five-day fair.

The first such fair out of Dhaka, organised by Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS), drew large crowds irrespective of age and profession.

The most enthusiastic of them were school and college students.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman inaugurated the fair on April 29 with BCS President SM Iqbal in the chair. Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury MP and Mohammad Kamruzzaman, Convenor of the fair and Muhibul Hasan, Manager of Computer Source Limited, one of the sponsors, also spoke.

The fair was successful in providing first hand computer knowledge. Students from middle class families believe a computer is within their reach, said

Kamruzzaman to this correspondent on the concluding day.

A number of firms sold clone computers at only Tk 17,500 at the fair.

Many visitors showed interest on multi-media computers of Intel Celeron with 1.7 Ghz processors.

Computer & Engineers of Sylhet displayed software on medical, ERP, academic, library and jewellery management. Information & Computer Technologies displayed spares/accessories of all types.

Lexmark printers of different prices were put on display by

Sales were good. Many stall owners said such fairs should be arranged every year.

The Red Crescent Society took the opportunity to collect blood in a blood donation camp at the fair.

"We did it within two months of formation of BCS's Sylhet unit. We will try to make it a regular event", Kamruzzaman said.

The fair was open for nine hours from 12 noon every day. Students had free access. Entry fee for others was Tk 10.

Many firms 33 in all including 21 from Sylhet took part in the fair.

A daily seminar was an additional attraction, said Anwar Hossain, a student of MC College.

"I have requested the authorities to organise such fair once a year", he added. Others were of the same opinion of many others like Shamsi Chowdhury, a student of Mohila College and Bipul Sarker, a banker.

Mayor of Sylhet City Corporation Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran attended the concluding function as chief guest.

Mostafa Jabbar of Ananda Multimedia hosted a quiz while Dr. Toufique Rahman Chowdhury, President of BCS Sylhet unit chaired the function and winners were given prizes.

Businessland Limited displayed Licos UPS while RM Systems did Sparkle brand AGP cards. Global Brand Private Limited exhibited flat screen AOC and LG monitors.

Flora displayed flat Creative monitors and Epson printers.

Computer Source Limited, one of the sponsors of the fair.

To attract customers, different stalls offered discounts and gifts. Nanobite Computers provided free internet browsing facilities on seven computers. The stall attracted large crowds every day.



Hundreds of enthusiasts gather at the first ever computer fair organised by Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS) at Sylhet

Tech News



Journalists work at Agence France Presse in Paris, left, as a new Internet worm that attacks computers with certain Microsoft operating systems by shutting them down has been spread ing rapidly. And fact file on the Sasser Internet worm, right, the virus attacked computers running Microsoft's Windows 2000, Windows Server 2003 and Windows XP systems.

**The Sasser Virus**  
infecting millions of computers worldwide

**File name**  
W32/Sasser.worm:  
a worm virus

**Systems targeted**  
Microsoft's Windows 2000, Windows Server 2003 and Windows XP systems

**Means of access**  
Automatic if computer is on and connected to Internet

**Effects**  
Shuts down and restarts computer  
Does not effect files

Source: Symantec  
200504  
PHOTO: AFP

## Sasser Worm strikes PCs, spurs hoax 'Fix'

REUTERS, San Francisco

**A** fast-spreading computer worm called "Sasser" hit personal computers around the world on Monday, causing infected systems to reboot without warning and disrupting banking and other business in one of the biggest virus-like attacks on the Internet since last summer.

The worm, which first struck over the weekend and is already on its fourth variant, exploits a flaw in Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system identified in mid-April, computer security experts said.

Unlike previous Internet worms, Sasser enters and infects vulnerable PCs without any action on the part of the user, allowing it to spread quickly, they said.

By Monday afternoon, computer security companies were also warning of a new twist on the virus: an email, claiming to be from an antivirus company with an attachment purporting to fix Sasser infections, that was actually a new form

of the widespread, email-clogging Netsky virus.

Investment bank Goldman Sachs said its Asian and U.S. trading operations were back "at close to normal" by early afternoon on Monday after the worm disrupted some its systems by forcing computers to automatically reboot.

Lucas van Praag, a Goldman Sachs spokesman, declined to elaborate on the extent of the disruptions.

In Australia, Westpac Bank (WBC.AX) said it was hit by the worm, and branches had to use pen and paper to allow them to keep trading. The Australian newspaper reported.

U.S. carrier Delta Air Lines also suffered a computer glitch on Saturday that caused delays and cancellations of some flights in its system. The company's computer systems were back to normal Monday but the cause of the weekend problem is still being investigated, said Peggy Estes, a company spokeswoman.

Sampo (SAMAS.HE) temporarily closed all of its 130 branch offices on Monday as a precaution.

"Compared to what happened with Blaster ... last August ... this virus has all the same features," said Mikko Hypponen, Anti-Virus Research Director at Finnish data security firm F-Secure, noting that both worms exploited relatively new holes in Windows and frequently caused computers to reboot.

**HOME USERS SEEN AS MOST VULNERABLE**

But because the virus seeks out infectable computers automatically and does not use email to spread, experts said personal machines may be most vulnerable.

"I think this is more likely to hit home users than businesses," said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos, adding that those at the most risk were people who had not installed a personal firewall. "They're basically going out there with a sign on their head saying 'punch me.'"

Cluley said the fake email is

actually spreading a virus called Netsky-AC, which includes a message buried in its code that seems to indicate the two viruses share the same author.

In the message, the virus writers refer to themselves as "Skynet," which may be a reference to the computer system that caused a nuclear war in the "Terminator" movies.

Virus experts said Sasser also contains a hole of its own, in the file transfer protocol server that it installs, which could be either a second way into an infected system or author error.

"Either the author brilliantly included a very difficult to detect backdoor or the author himself wrote vulnerable code," said Chris Roulund, vice president of X-Force, the research and development arm of Internet Security Systems Inc.

Stephen Toulouse, a manager at Microsoft's Security Response Center, said the software company was working with the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation to track down those responsible for the

worm.

The Sasser worm exploits a flaw in a part of Windows known as the Local Security Authority Subsystem Service, or LSASS, which had been targeted in a Microsoft security update released on April 13.

A link on Microsoft's home page instructs users to make sure that they have installed a protective firewall, updated Windows to close the security loophole the worm exploits and then remove the worm from their hard drives.

Experts said that while the Sasser worm does not seriously damage infected computers, hackers could try to spin off more malicious variants in the coming days.

The impact of the fast-spreading virus was also seen tempered because of holidays that closed many offices on Monday in places like the United Kingdom, parts of Europe and Japan, analysts said.

Best 10 Websites Category: Security Resources

- The Register**  
Windows Security Flaw  
Yet another serious Microsoft security problem for the world to deal with.  
URL: <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/1/12951.html>
- Commerce Times**  
File Sharing Vulnerabilities  
HP labs initial research reveals Kazaa file sharing on the web is risky business.  
URL: <http://www.commercetimes.com/perl/story/18136.html>
- News.com**  
How Hackers Escape  
Reasons to be most careful about who to trust with your private details.  
URL: [http://news.com.com/2009-1017-912708.html?tag=fd\\_lede](http://news.com.com/2009-1017-912708.html?tag=fd_lede)
- Wired News**  
Security Faults in Web Mail  
More good reasons to protect your privacy & use only top quality e-mail providers.  
URL: <http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,21498,00.html>
- McAfee Security**  
AVERT  
Excellent service of the anti virus emergency response team.  
URL: <http://www.avertlabs.com/>
- Trend Micro**  
Trend Micro  
Virus identification & management resources.  
URL: <http://www.antivirus.com/>
- Antionline**  
Fight Back  
AntiOnline tool kit & tips to enhance online security.  
<http://www.antionline.com/fight-back/>
- SecurityFocus**  
Security Focus  
Internet security news, vulnerabilities & resources.  
URL: <http://www.securityfocus.com/>
- SANS**  
Help Net Security  
Fresh security news, vulnerabilities & alerts, bookstore, articles & tips.

Tech News

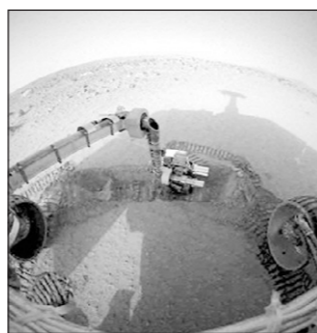
## Nasa releases new view of Mars Crater

AP, Los Angeles

**N**ASA released Monday a sweeping 180-degree view of a broad crater punched in the surface of Mars that was photographed by the space agency's Opportunity rover as it perched on the rim of the 430-foot-wide depression.

"I don't think it's disappointed anybody," mission manager Matt Wallace said of the first peek into Endurance crater.

Members of the \$830 million mission immediately began making plans to circumnavigate the 1,350-foot perimeter of the



crater and, if feasible, send the rover rolling down into it. "The big question is, if we can get down, can we get back

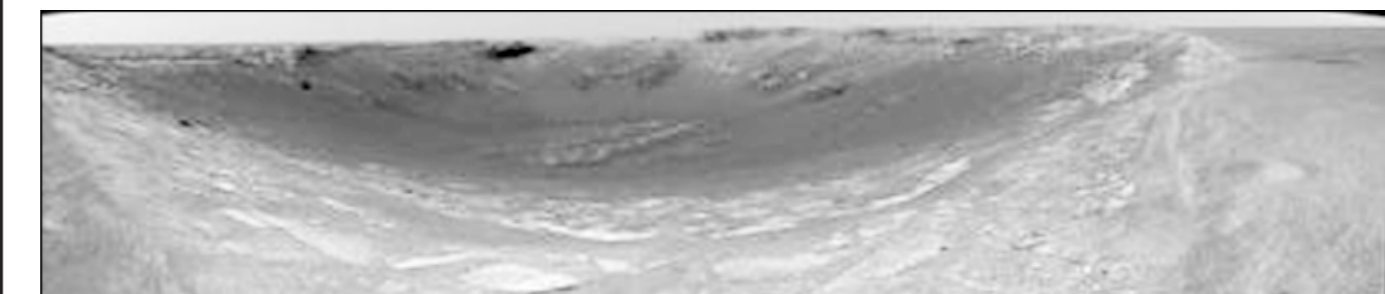
out?" Wallace said. Opportunity arrived at the crater on Friday. It has sat and soaked in the view since then, snapping multiple images of its rocky walls and dune-covered floor.

In the new panorama, stitched together from four separate images, portions of the crater's more gentle slopes appeared to be almost paved with flat rocks, which could smooth the descent for Opportunity, Wallace said. In other areas, steep walls could be seen lining the crater. Scientists planned for

Opportunity to "toe dip" at several locations around the crater's rim to test the soil and measure the steepness of its slopes.

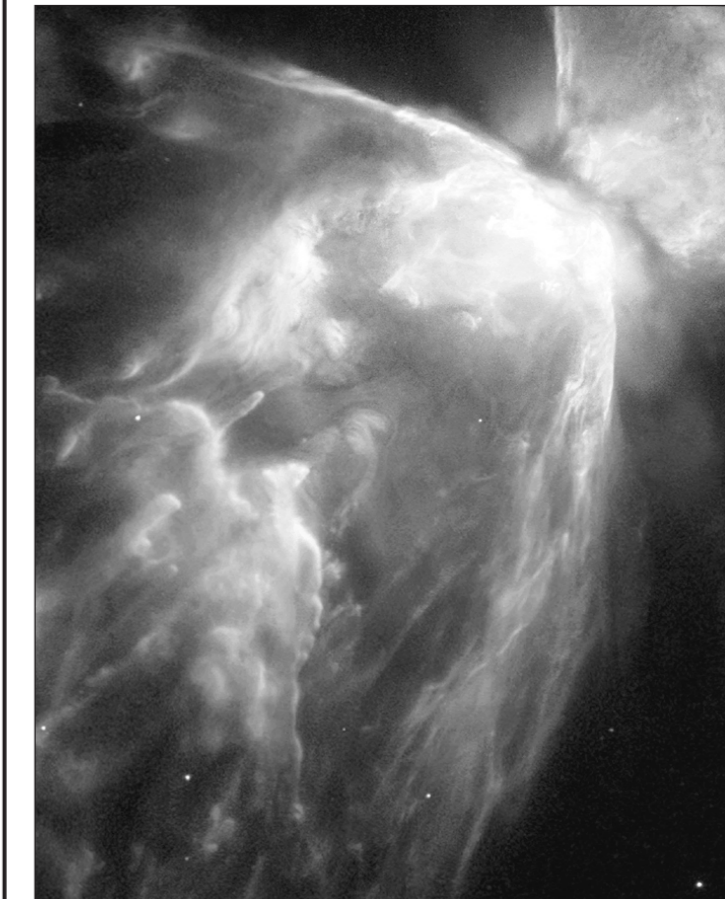
On the opposite side of Mars, Opportunity's twin continued its trek toward a distant cluster of hills. The Spirit rover completed on Monday its longest one-day drive yet, covering just shy of 305 feet.

NASA sent the twin rovers to Mars to prospect for geologic evidence of past water on the now dry and dusty planet.



This 180-degree view from the navigation camera on the Mars Exploration rover Opportunity, released on Monday, May 3, is the first look into Endurance crater. The view is a cylindrical projection constructed from four images photographed by the space agency's Opportunity rover as it perched on the rim of the 430-foot-wide depression.

Photo Tech



This image, released on April 29 of the Bug Nebula (NGC 6302) taken by the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope, shows impressive walls of compressed gas, laced with trailing strands and bubbling outflows. A dark, dusty torus surrounds the inner nebula (seen at the upper right). At the heart of the turmoil is one of the hottest stars known. The star itself has never been seen, as it is hidden by the blanket of dust and shines most brightly in the ultraviolet, making it hard to observe.