Tech Focus

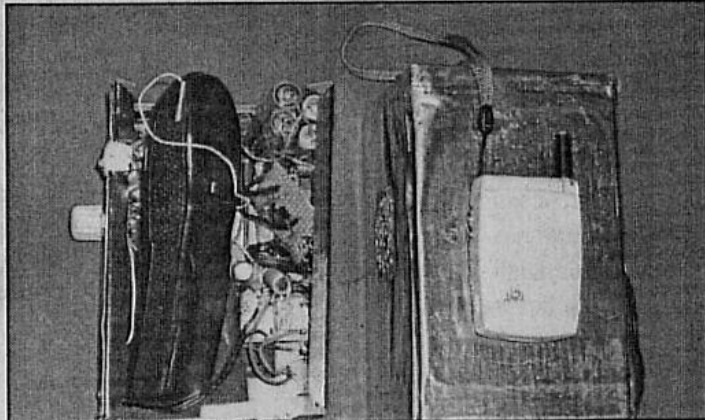# Innovative ventures from young scientist

STAR TECH DESK

LIMITATIONS in the country's IT sector and marketing ventures has not stopped young, innovative Anwar Shahadat Angur from remote Sherpur making his ideas a reality.

Bangladesh harvests quite a number of endeavouring minds that are continuously designing new innovations in the IT fields and thus contributing in establishing prospective productions in the local IT markets.

Shahadat Angur has always been curious. While studying in high school, his remarkable prying nature on electronics led him make academic analysis on several everyday circuitry. He thus started his prospective ventures on building a range of them. Studying in grade nine, his first design was a security system that claimed the first prize in the district of Sherpur. Later he was recognised with a national award, which was an encouraging pat on his back.

In practice, Shahadat is quite a technician. In his own laboratory in Sherpur he fixes broken electronic equipment, which has lent a hand in taking his practical knowledge on electronics a step above. The money that he has earned from this source has later been used for his scientific experiments and also to set up the current fully loaded laboratory in the capital of Dhaka.
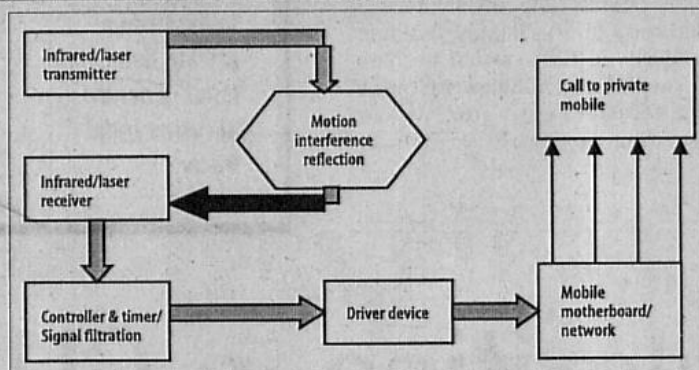
"I have also sold a few of my designs to some local entrepreneurs in exchange for a fair sum," said Shahadat. These funds have contributed towards establishing

Shahadat's security device

PHOTO: RIDWAN A. KABIR

Shahadat working at his lab

the tech-lab in Dhaka. A private twenty-five-station laboratory with full access to assorted amounts of basic electronic elements (e.g. resistors, capacitors, voltage sources, transformers and more) is quite a venture in today's time for the country. Remarkably, he also offers training to a unit of twenty-four young men, who also nourish dreams likewise. Instead of charging any tuition fees, he actually offers them board and lodging and hopes of establishing an electronic industry.

Shahadat Angur claims to have personally designed innovative circuits on different everyday aspects of life. His innovative designs include rechargeable television sets, electric shock controllers, different security devices, electronic equipment safety circuits, remote-controlled door and window shutters and many more. The most recent from his tech-lab in Dhaka is a security device that alerts one on the

Block diagram of the mobile security device

mobile if a circuit at some restricted location is set off by any unwanted interruption.

This product uses infrared radiation for short ranges and laser radiation for long ranges. Shahadat asserts usage of this device in private locations (e.g. houses, banks, shopping malls, storage locations, and private vehicles).

"The laser device will have a maximum range of 5,000 kilometres, thus opening a totally new angle of border security at

national levels," added Shahadat. He also spoke of how he plans to add a closed-circuit camera with this system, which will detect any motion in a range and thus activate capturing the photograph of the intruder.

In experimental stages are several ingenious products like step-up voltage controllers where Shahadat does not make use of any transformers thus setting an example for the endeavouring engineering industry of Bangladesh.

"This device will cost me about Tk 15, and a sale for Tk 30 will allow me to take the production to the next level," said Shahadat enthusiastically.

Various private and national organisations have awarded Shahadat Angur nine awards in recognition of his design-crafts from 1991 to 2002.

At present he focuses on creating a production team and marketing his available designs on a major scale, but with a financial backlash his attempts will be limited and often suppressed.

Shahadat dreams high to make Bangladesh a well established ground for IT production and innovation. "I hope to attain financial help from the different private and government sectors to make my dreams come true," said Shahadat Angur finally, reflecting on ways to make his circuitry available to the general public.

Tech News

NSU to host ACM International Programming Contest

STAR TECH DESK

THE department of Computer Science & Engineering of North South University (NSU) will be hosting the annual Asia Regional ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) for the fourth time on October 8, 2004. The event, which will take place on campus grounds of NSU, will be sponsored primarily by IBM, the world's leading computer manufacturer. Any remaining expenses will be met through fund collection rendered by NSU.

Dhaka has been hosting the Asian regional contests since the year 1997, the single exception being the year 2000. In the past six years of the local hosting, three of

stated that nine foreign teams have already registered for the event, where the first event in Dhaka in 1997 had none. The Executive Committee for the event will judge eligibility of the contestants, where selections will be made on a per team basis and each team will consist of three students and one teacher from the same institution. A total of 80 selected teams, including foreign teams, will be selected for the competition. A total of more than 80 teams and the final participants will be selected from a preliminary round (an internet contest also to be judged by the Executive Committee), which will be held on NSU campus on September 30th.

A Tk 12 lakh budget is held for the event, the majority of which will be met by IBM, which has made commitments of USD 10,000 for the contest. "The remaining finance is expected to be met through registration fees, sponsorships from local IT institutions (e.g. Grameen Phone,

BCS) and grants from the private banking sector of Bangladesh", states Dr Abul L. Haque, the event director.

Dr Haque believes the series of ACM-ICPC events in Dhaka has summoned tremendous interest from academicians and students and thus a healthy culture of programming contests is developing in our country. He also mentions that inter-university and national programming contests being organised these days are expected to contribute towards the development of programming skills among our nation's youth. Haque believes Bangladesh holds world class skills in programming, arguing that a majority of

Executive committee members at the press event

the events were hosted by NSU and the remaining three by Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology (BUET).

Interested teams are required to register online at www.icpc.baylor.edu/icpc by September 25th for the Dhaka site event at NSU. The registration fee for local teams is Tk 3500, while foreign teams will be required to pay a fee of USD 60.

The Dhaka Site Steering Committee will be headed by Dr Hafiz G. A. Siddique, vice chancellor of NSU. Organisers at the Saturday press conference

Participants who do not have access to internet facilities are asked to reserve a space at NSU prior to September 25th to make use of the university internet. The day before the event NSU will hold an on-campus practice contest for selected teams.

Bangladeshi IT students are currently working for Microsoft, Intel, and Dell, to name a few of the internationally-reputed companies.

There will be special incentive for the best all-female team, which will secure a position among the top ten teams. The Asia Regional Director will award each of the members of the all-female team with USD 100, a step to promote computer literacy among the women of the Asian region. The final round of the contest will be held in Shanghai, China, on April 2 and 3 of 2005.
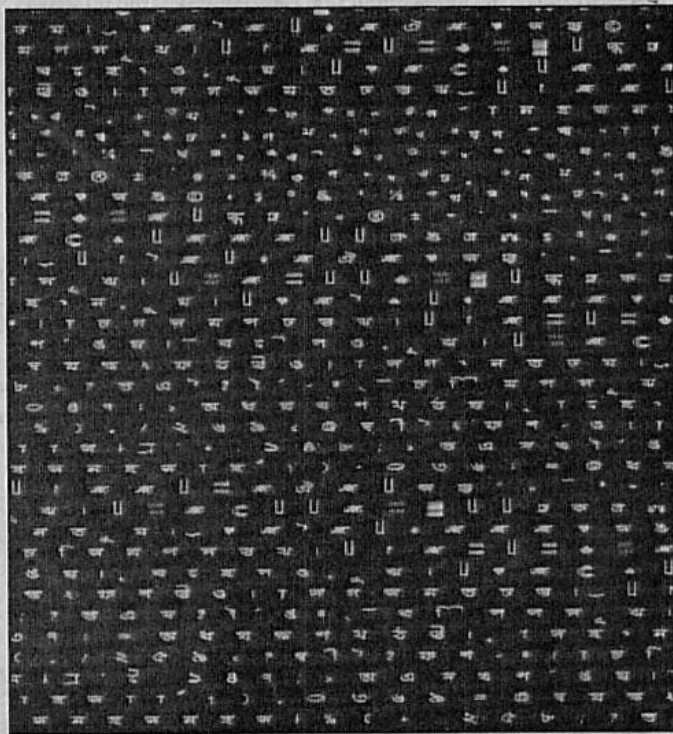
Tech News

Local software developer offers Bangla matrix screensaver

STAR TECH DESK

SUBEDAR Technologies, engineered by Aftab Jahan Subedar, has launched a free version of "Matrix Bangla Screensaver", downloadable from web-address http://www.geocities.com/jahan.geo/matrix.html.

The software research and training company, located at Subedarbag, Bibir Bagicha, Dhaka, provides training in various programming and operating system languages including C, C++, UNIX, WIN32 and embedded systems. The company mainly focuses on software and webpage developments. The official web location also provides the entire source code for the screensaver, a step by the company officials to promote popularity and usage of C++ as a commonly preferred programming interface. The matrix screensaver is entirely in Bengali (Bibir Bagicha Bangla font) where the alphabets and numbers either fall from the top or rise from the bottom of one's computer screen.
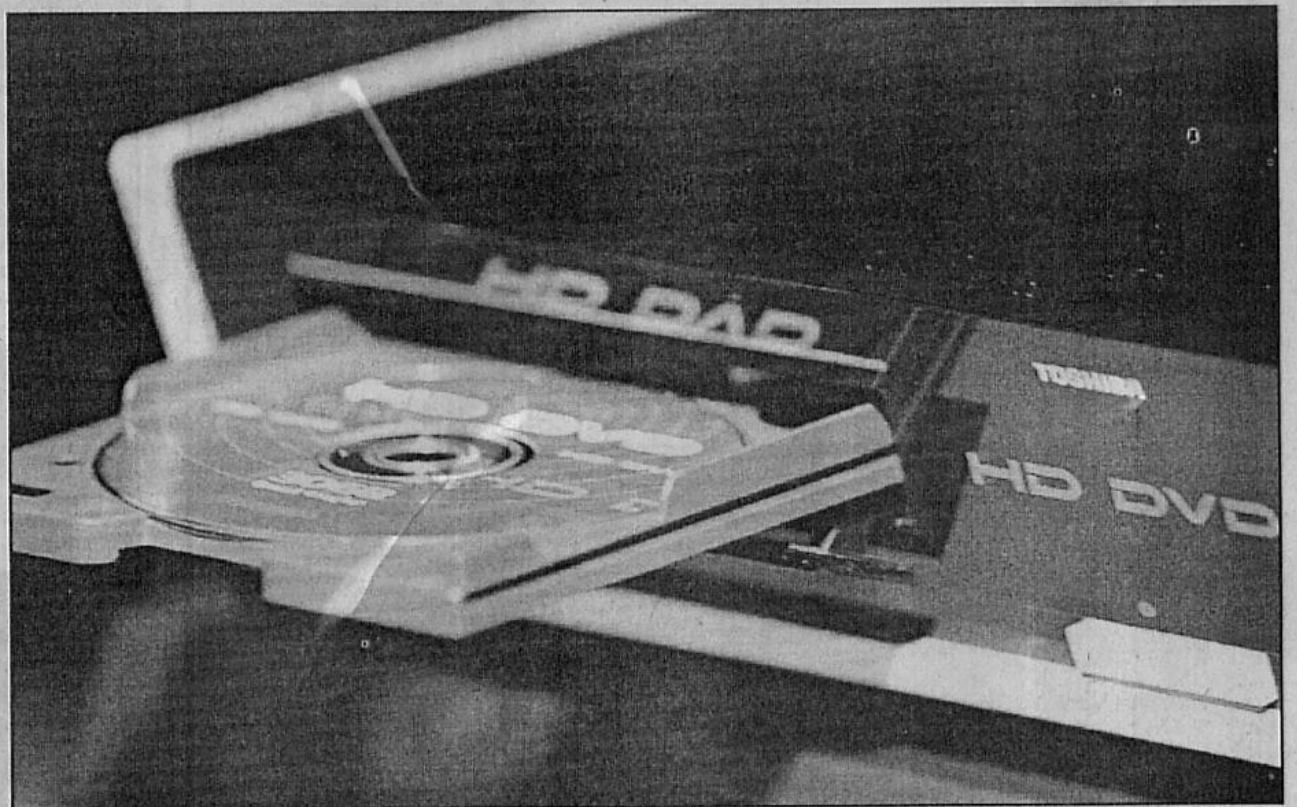

A screen-shot of the screen saver

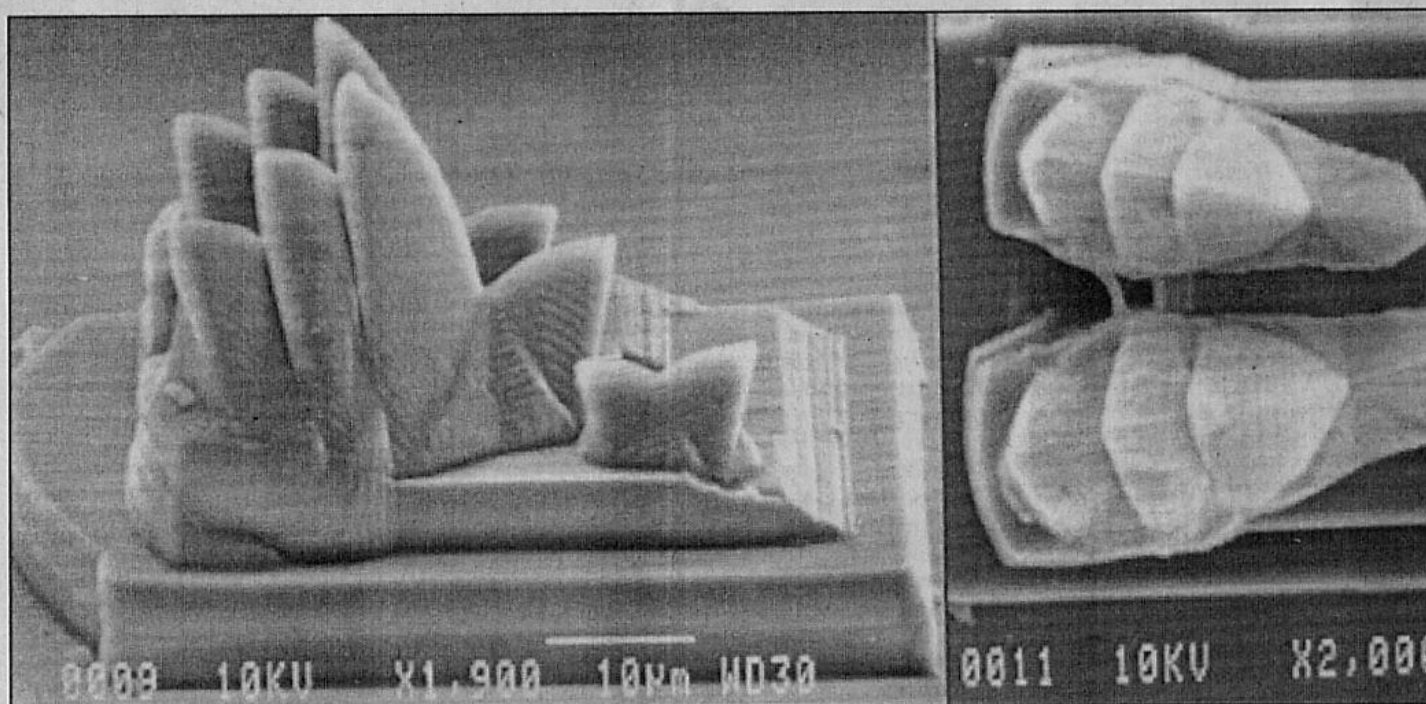## EWU intra-university programming contest

Recently the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and Computer Club of East West University (EWU) jointly organised an intra-university programming contest, says a press release. Divided into two groups, the contest was attended by a total of 60 participants. Sohel Hafiz, Shamim Hafiz and Tahseen Mohammad from the senior group and Mohammad Jakaria Habib, Md. Mijanur Rahman and Nizam Uddin from the junior group took the first, second and third position respectively. Led by Professor Dr. Mozammel H. Azad Khan, a group of faculty members of the Department of Computer Science & Engineering formed the panel of judges. Professor Dr. M. Kaykobad of the Department of Computer Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) was present at the contest. Syed Akhter Hossain, associate professor & chairperson, Department of CSE and Mohammad Zakir Hossain Sarker, lecturer and moderator, Computer Club conducted the entire program.

HD/DVD

PHOTO: AFP

Japanese electronics giant Toshiba unveils the prototype model of their new high-definition DVD (HD-DVD) player which enables a user to play next generation 30GB capacity double-layer DVD discs with blue laser diode pick-ups, at a press preview in Tokyo on July 26. Toshiba is expecting to put it on the market next year. US software giant Microsoft's next generation operating system (OS) Long Horn will support this HD-DVD format on its video player.

Photo Tech

PHOTO: AFP

This handout photo received in Melbourne, 22 July 2004, shows a three-dimensional model of the Sydney Opera House which is about half the diameter of a human hair and to the human eye appears as an almost imperceptible dot, but under an electron microscope it contains all the details of the iconic harbourside structure. Created by Dr Martin Straub and Dr Le Huong Hguyen from the Centre of Micro-Photonics at the Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, the micro-Opera House was built from a hybrid material of glass and polymer by firing intense laser light into the matter in a liquid state. Straub said the two photon process could lead to a multitude of applications in micro-engineering, opitcal telecommunications and bioengineering.

Tech News

German clothier introduces wireless jacket

AP, Frankfurt

IF it's simply unbearable to be unable to hear music, here's something you should slip on: a jacket with a built-in MP3 player.

A new jacket from Rosner GmbH & Co., a German clothing firm, incorporates a 128-megabyte MP3 player that is controlled through cloth buttons on the left sleeve. Headphones are built into the collar.

The jacket also has a hands-free cell phone microphone tucked into the collar, which works with phones on the Bluetooth short-range wireless standard.

A tiny electronic module containing the music player and the battery, which the company says is good for up to eight hours per charge, can be slipped out so the jacket can be washed.

Rosner and its electronics partner, German computer chip maker Infineon Technologies AG, said the limited-edition garment is "geared toward technologically progressive, fashion-conscious men."

Priced at 599 euros ($725), it will be available through the Rosner web site starting in August for delivery in February.

Munich-based Infineon has also worked with outdoor clothing maker O'Neill to come up with an MP3-equipped snowboarding jacket.

"We think it makes great sense to build in electronics into clothes, and we are looking forward to develop further clothes with integrated electronic solutions," said Dieter May, responsible for strategy and emerging business at Infineon.

PHOTO: AFP

Model Naike displays the jacket from German label Rosner with integrated mp3 and cell phone technology on July 26 in Duesseldorf, Germany. The mp3blue jacket will be presented at the world's biggest fashion fair cpd woman/man in Duesseldorf next weekend. The headphones are built into the collar, and can be used with the also built in hands-free microphone with a mobile phone using bluetooth. The price for the progressive jacket will be Euro 599 (US$ 725).