

Tim Berners-Lee, the 'father of the world wide web' was born in London. He studied Physics at Oxford, where he built his first computer. In 1982, while working as a software consultant for CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, he began to plan how online data and media files could be more easily linked. Berners-Lee still heads the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, but is one of the least recognised gurus in the world.



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BCS Reunion 2005

Digging for manpower with brainpower



RIDWAN A KABIR

"Now they know that we are digging into our soil for knowledge," said the Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS) President SM Iqbal, mentioning how the international enthusiasts are no longer considering Bangladesh as just a labor-supplier nation and referring to the growth achieved in recent years in the private university scene. Iqbal was speaking at the 'BCS Reunion 2005' at a city hotel on April 12.

The BCS president also mentioned how the country's ICT infrastructure has been attaining an exponential growth towards a solid establishment with the combined efforts from all sector. "We carry a strong growing market for all kind of goods," he said, which he termed as very crucial for creating a panel of skilled-hands required for

enhancement.

With only eleven members on board, BCS started their journey back in 1987. At present, the organisation carries four hundred and thirty-one ICT companies from all corners of the country. From the very beginning, the organisation has tried to comprise ICT companies towards a common environment of growth and versatility, involving foreign interactions, expositions, training and many more.

Citing the present time as a very acute and significant moment towards a technological outburst throughout the world, Iqbal mentioned that each ICT company needs to work towards a common goal of methodical expansion and skill enrichment. He stated that recently held *South Asian Network Operator's Group (SANOG) V* organised by Internet Service Provider Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB), has

provided the local network operators with a very updated package on network solutions. SANOG has brought in speakers and trainers from renowned international companies, such as Cisco, to evaluate and provide the present network infrastructure with a basis of currently used technology worldwide.

According to Iqbal, at present the country might use a little more of the government's positive intention towards the expansion of the ICT sector. He then spotted out some crucial industry factors such as the VoIP license and ICT-Tast-Force, which is being delayed and neglected for quite a long time.

The BCS president urged the local universities along with Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) to work together in the field of Nano-Technology, promoting research opportunities.

Science and ICT Minister,

Moyeen Khan admired BCS, Bangladesh Association of Software Information and Services (Basis) and ISPAB for their contribution to the industry. While chairing the event, he also mentioned how ICT is not just a technology in use; it is much of a new way of life for the whole world in today's time. "We are currently going through a silent revolution in the ICT industrial growth," he said regretting how the nation had lost its chance to join the world's gateway of information through connectivity with submarine cable ten years back. "These ten years have caused the world to go at least twenty-five years ahead of us," he stated, while hoping such misjudgment should not repeat in the future.

"I do not think food-for-work is the only way for a nation to liberate itself from poverty," Khan said, citing how ICT sector can take charge in poverty dismissal of Bangladesh. "If we look into allowing ICT creativity among the population aged between 16 to 30, we may be looking at a well expanded nation in the long run," which he thinks as a very crucial step to follow in the days to come. He hoped that the policy-makers and the financiers understand the realm of investments in ICT sectors.

The event came to an end through the distribution of awards and certificates among the winners of on-spot Programming and Multimedia Contest the *BCS Computer Show 2004*, held in December 2004. Winner of the gaming contest, Roger Modhu, won a return ticket to Malaysia-Dhaka.

TECHNEWS

World's lightest and thinnest notebook in town

Samsung X05 Ultra and P28 unleashed

STARTECH DESK

SMART Technologies (BD) Ltd, the local resellers of the Korean giant Samsung Electronics has introduced the world's lightest and thinnest laptop to the local market recently, expanding the ever-growing horizons of nation's consumer electronics zone.

Samsung X05Ultra and P28, two separate models having the same tagline, that goes, 'world's thinnest and lightest' laptops, weight 2 kilo each and measure around 15 inch diagonally. These lightweight products have been equipped with Centrino processors with hyper-threading technology and holds price-tags of Tk 1,05,000 and Tk 1,10,000 respectively.

"Samsung has compiled two very high-end products with the introduction of these two

laptops," mentioned Sadik Noor Chowdhury, a corporate executive of Smart Technologies. Prior to this, the company has always endeavored into assembling computer requisites such as LCD displays, monitors, compact disk and digital video drives and many more.

"Samsung already has a



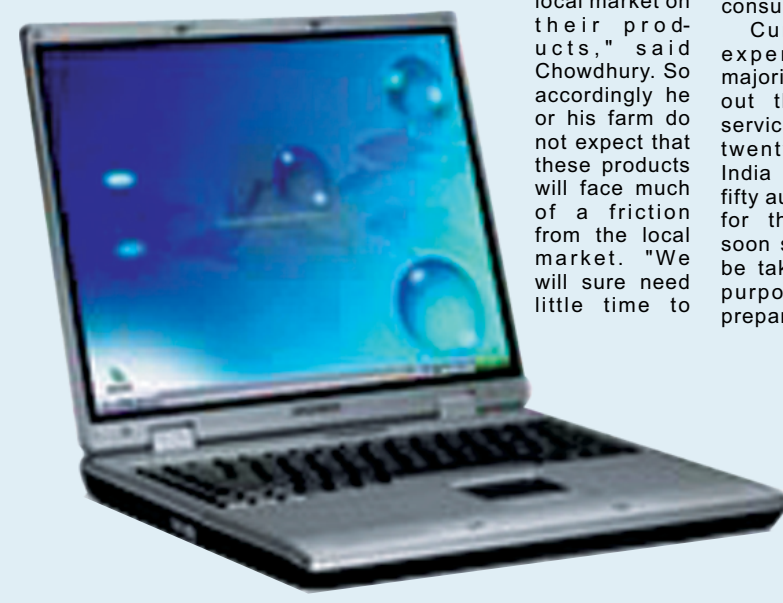
goodwill in the local market on their products," said Chowdhury. So accordingly he or his firm do not expect that these products will face much of a friction from the local market. "We will sure need little time to

see the expected, until a better demand rises from the consumer end," he said.

Currently the Samsung experience has reached majority of countries throughout the world, carrying in service centers into more than twenty countries likewise. India herself contains around fifty authorized service centers for that purpose. "Possibly soon some of our experts will be taken to India for training purposes, but till we are prepared for any fixture on Samsung products, we may always send any malfunctioning item to Kolkata for a fix," Chowdhury cited, while the nearest authorized workshop for Samsung has stood in Kolkata in

the nearest east of Bangladesh. Chowdhury was mentioning the Samsung 1-year International and 3-year essential warranty on the two new laptops.

"Our aim is to make the world's latest technology available to the Bangladeshi customers," says Jahurul Islam, managing director of Smart Technologies (BD) Ltd that promotes Samsung IT products in Bangladesh. Samsung has been designing computer utilities and essentials from 1998 until now, while this remains the first ever manifestation of the company's exclusively individual laptop production for meeting the growing need of the world's computer market trends and its demands.



TECHGURU



British astrophysicist Stephen Hawking smiles during the presentation of his new book "A brief history of Time" in Oviedo, northern Spain, 13 April 2005.

Hawking's first book purports to unravel the fundamental questions of the Universe. But while it has sold millions of copies, the bestseller has become notorious as one of the most commonly unfinished books by readers.

The new book has fewer words and more pictures than the original 1988 blockbuster, according to The Guardian newspaper. It is reported being written by the Cambridge physicist in collaboration with an American scientist, Leonard Mlodinow, who also co-wrote the television science-fiction series Star Trek.

PHOTO: AFP

TECHNEWS

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Toshiba offers flat 3D screens -- without the goggles

AFP, Tokyo

TOSHIBA said it had found a way for a flat screen to show three-dimensional images, opening up the prospect of arcade games, next-generation TVs and even restaurant menus that can zoom out at a viewer even without the use of 3-D glasses.

The Japanese electronics giant said it had improved on standard 3-D technology -- which uses specially shaped screens that must be watched from a fixed point -- by using microlenses that control light emission and special software.

Toshiba demonstrated the invention by showing a flat screen which appeared to have bottles and cans sticking out several centimeters (inches) in the air.

The company set a goal of first using the technology in 2006 in arcade games.

By 2007, Toshiba hopes to be able to develop 3-D menus -- which would come in handy in Japan, where restaurants often show pictures of what's on offer.

Toshiba plans to use the 3-D screens in home video games in 2008 and bring the technology into portable games a year later. By 2010, it wants to use the invention for a next-generation 3-D television.

"Mainstream 3-D technology is limited in terms of the viewing angle at which it can display 3-D images and the images are also tiring to view," a Toshiba statement said.

"Toshiba's new displays employ an integral imaging system that reproduces light beams similar to those produced by a real object, not its visual representation. This overcomes the main problem with a flatbed display: distance," it said.

The software which supports the effect uses 10 or more images of the same object, which can be put to use to develop broader angles. The 3-D effect works for viewers 30 centimeters (12 inches) or more away.



Japan's electronics giant Toshiba researcher Rieko Fukushima displays a prototype model of the new flatbed type three-dimensional (3D) LCD display without special glasses, which enables to show 16 different angles 3D images with a technology of integral imaging system employing semi-cylindrical micro-lenses on its surface at the company's headquarters in Tokyo on April 15. Toshiba is expected to put it on the market at the end of 2006.

PHOTO: AFP