

# Bangla SMS a reality

CITY CORRESPONDENT

A group of computer science students have developed the first ever short messaging service (SMS) in Bangla. The group called 3SM Systems consists of freelance programmers of the Computer Science and Engineering Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). Their Bangla SMS has been developed for cellular operators CityCell.

The students are Hasan Shihab Uddin, Sujoy Kumar Chowdhury, Nahid Mahfuza Alam and Md Mahbubur Rahman. The system was a Java-based one. Design and implementation was completed in around two weeks.

"Initially we got the information from a

forwarded e-mail where CityCell expressed its interest in developing Bangla sms as its value added service (VAS)," said Sujoy Kumar when asked how the idea had unfolded. 3SM Systems then competed with five other interested parties before getting selected. As text based hardware support for Bangla sms is not yet available in mobile phones, they have created the Bangla fonts as picture based items.

The work was divided into phases. The first phase was prototyping – the process of quickly putting together a working model (a prototype) in order to test various aspects of the design, ideas or features and gather early user feedback for that component. The first prototype was developed in just four days.

Next, they ran the server test. Using a simulator they showed how the sys-

tem would appear on mobile phones. Then the Bangla fonts were transformed into pictures. The sms system is still limited to only 26 Bangla characters because it is using picture messaging system. The English text messages on the other hand can easily support 160 characters.

"It is still difficult to send Bangla sms as they are picture-based and there is a chart which you need to follow to bring out the Bangla word. Otherwise, it is a matter of pride that this system has been developed," said a CityCell user.

"To write barsha for example, one has to spell it like 'BARSSAA'. There are separate vowel codes and consonant codes for the proper word to come out. It is a little complicated and a lot of hassle will come down if Bangla fonts can be introduced in special mobile

phone sets," said another user.

"The project is a success. It was released on the first day of the Bangla calendar and the response has been good since. Especially the younger generation loved it," said CityCell's manager of value added service Ahmed Arman Siddiqui.

"We have given a handset with free connection to 3SM Systems so that they can come up with a device to put Bangla fonts in the sets. They are working on that right now and when it will be done, the existing problems will be solved and Bangla sms can be sent using fonts in the mobile sets specifically supplied by our network," added Ahmed Arman.



The four pioneers of Bangla SMS at work.

## useful telephone numbers

### COURIER SERVICES

#### International

Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724  
 Air Couriers Intl (BD) Ltd.- 8815970  
 Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075  
 Airtel Express- 9563494  
 Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543  
 Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606  
 Banmgladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114  
 Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989  
 Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666  
 Bangladesh Intl Courier- 953636  
 Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425  
 DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057  
 Enem Express- 9330699  
 Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114  
 Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884  
 Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169  
 Pacific Courier- 9568446  
 Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249  
 Sky International service- 9660442  
 Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184  
 TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155  
 Union Courier Service- 9341722  
 United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd.- 8826429, 8810223

#### National

Asian courier Service Ltd- 8313543  
 BAE- 9884851  
 Central Courier Service- 9881118  
 Confidence Courier Service Ltd. 9567036  
 Chisty Courier- 7110177-9  
 Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975  
 Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

Dolphin Courier- 9558802  
 Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975  
 Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759  
 Probashi Courier Services- 9346359  
 Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703  
 Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249  
 Sundarban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656  
 Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751  
 World Runner Express Ltd. 9112068, Fax - 880-2-9112068

#### TIPS

Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm

### LIBRARY & INFO-

#### Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

Central Public Library- 8626001-4,  
 Shishu Academy- 9564128  
 Shilpakala Academy- 8614673  
 Bangla Academy- 8619550  
 Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 955640  
 The American Centre (IRC)-8813440-4, 9886395  
 The Nazrul Institute- 9114602  
 Ford Foundation- 8116133  
 Alliance Francaise- 8611557  
 British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7  
 Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604  
 Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6  
 Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141, 8850142  
 The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314  
 Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

### OUTING

#### Museum and Zoo

National Museum- 8619396-9  
 Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday 3 pm- 8 pm, Thursday closed  
 Muktiyuddha Jadughar- 9559091  
 Open: 10:30 am 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed  
 Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar- 8110046  
 Open: 10 am 5 pm, Wednesday closed  
 Ahsan Manzil  
 Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed  
 Shishu Jadughar- 9666466  
 Open: 10 am- 6 pm, Sunday Closed

### CITY BUS ROUTE

#### Bus No. Route

1 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12  
 2 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2  
 3 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur  
 4 Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi  
 5 Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur  
 6 A Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2  
 6 B Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2  
 6 C Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2  
 7 Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2  
 8 Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtohi  
 9 Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12  
 10 Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge  
 11 Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge  
 11/A Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge  
 12 Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur  
 13 Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur  
 14 Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12  
 15 Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12  
 24 Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile

#### Starts from

Golap Shah Mazar  
 Phoolbaria bus station  
 Phoolbaria bus station  
 Shyampur  
 Sayedabad  
 Kamalapur  
 Kamalapur  
 Motijheel Shaplachattr  
 Sadarghat  
 Chittagong Road  
 Demra Ranimahall  
 Sadarghat  
 Sayedabad  
 Sayedabad  
 Shanir Akhra  
 Motijheel  
 Signboard (Chittagong Road)  
 Chittagong Road  
 Gulistan

10x4

10x2

10x2