

Buet students make 'combat robot'

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

A group of five students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) has made a robot which can move and detect objects.

The makers of the robot claim that the robot vehicle, if and when developed further, can be an efficient tool to be used in a battlefield by the army.

Mahmudul Haque Azad, Saddam Hussein, Sadeka Islam, Kazi Abdullah Saikat and Rizwana Rizia named their creation 'RTSS' or Real Time Surveillance Spybot.

The five students, currently in their 4th year, have created the RTSS as an innovative project on computer inter-facing.

"At the primary stage when we informed our faculties about our plan to make a spybot, most of them felt that such a complicated tool cannot be built in such a

short period of time," said Saddam.

However, they successfully completed the project in 10 weeks and minimised the cost to Tk6,000," said an ecstatic Azad.

The RTSS is a miniature robot vehicle with a camera. It has the ability to move within a 20-metre radius area.

"We have installed an Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the vehicle which can store information and later take decisions based on the information," said Abdullah while explaining the mechanism of the spybot.

"In detecting any colour it tries to match the pattern already inside it as a reference image and then takes decisions based on whether the colour matches or not," explained Sadeka.

Once the vehicle finds a match between the colour of an object and the reference image inside it, it

begins to follow that object.

The robot can be transformed into a remote controlled device. "In such a case, the vehicle can also be used as a tracker," said Rizwana.

The makers of the robot said the RTSS will be able to detect sounds inside a room or even in a huge space once sonar sensors are installed in the vehicle.

"And if we install a thermal sensor, it will be able to detect a specified temperature and follow according to the heat," said Azad.

The makers feel that with the maximisation in size, installation of sensors and addition of proper armaments, the RTSS can be turned into a remote controlled tank for the use of the army in the battlefield.

"It can also help the police and Rapid Action Battalion," said Azad.

He explained that the vehicle may be able to follow criminals, if

the system is equipped with a cell-phone.

"The photograph of a criminal can be fed into the system as a reference image. Then the vehicle will scan the faces of people in a given spot or area till it finds the matching face of the criminal," he said.

At this point, if the vehicle is programmed and equipped with a cell-phone, it will dial a certain phone number to notify the police about the whereabouts of the suspect, Azad added.

"The vehicle can also prove to be quite helpful in excavations where there may be the danger of toxic gases. The RTSS can be sent to detect the presence of harmful gases before sending a personnel," said Sadeka.

The group wants to improve their creation and hopes that the concerned authorities will come forward to help them.



The five students (from left) Rizia, Azad, Saikat, Sadeka and Saddam.



A child hawker on the DU campus sells flowers to make a living.

The cute and the irritating outsiders of DU campus

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

A three-year-old boy, who can barely tell his name, sells chocolates on the Dhaka University campus. The bare-footed tot is called Akash who just stands silently in front of students with his packet of chocolates and lozenges.

He does not have any idea about the actual price of the items and it is very easy to deceive him but he somehow gets by thanks to his cute innocent face.

His mother also roams around the campus and keeps watch on Akash from a distance. She never even tries to sell the chocolates herself. "Nobody will buy from me. But as my son is small, people feel sorry for him and buy stuff out of compassion," she revealed.

Akash's mother arrives on the campus everyday from Chan Khar Pole with the boy. She said the students never pay less. Rather they often give him more than the actual price of chocolates.

Like Akash there are at least 30 hawkers and beggars of different ages who are regular visitors to the campus. Sometimes their activities and relentless pleading make the students irritated.

"Whenever we sit to gossip they come to us one after another. The situation is only different at Curzon Hall where the security guards do not allow hawkers or beggars in," said Mamun, a student of journalism who was sitting near the Kala Bhaban.

"If the Dean is sincere about it then it is possible to stop the disturbances of the

hawkers. About three or four months ago, the authorities had taken an initiative and the harassment stopped for a few days," said Imran, a student of sociology.

Proctor AK Firoz Ahmad said making the campus hawker or undesirable element free would not be possible if the students do not come forward to help the authorities.

"The security department also should be a different entity for it to function properly. A total of 51 class four employees work in the Arts faculty. Yet it is tough to find them when needed," he added.

The Proctor also informed that a decision had been taken at the provost committee meeting last month to sweep out all unwanted elements from the campus.

However, with only 14

security guards working in three shifts, it is proving almost impossible to maintain order. At the five entrances to the University, only four guards are available in each shift and they find it difficult to manage the rickshaws, hawkers and the students at the same time.

Dean of the Arts faculty Sadrul Amin said that he has never received any written complaints from the students about the annoyance caused by hawkers and beggars.

"Although access to outsiders is prohibited in the campus, we can not force anybody out as the students have not objected. But I agree that we need to increase the number of security guards and redistribute the duties of the security forces," he said.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

Hospitals

Heart
National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD),
- 9130800, 9122560-59

Burn

Dhaka Medical College Hospital
Burn Unit-8626812-6

Cancer

National Cancer Institute-8014914,
8826561-65
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib
Medical University-8612550-4,
861455-9

Diabetes

Diabetic Research Hospital
(BIRDEM)- 9661551-5,
8616641-50

Mother & Child Care

Shishu Hospital- 9119119,
8116061-62
Azimpur Mother & Child Health

Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

Eye

Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794,
9119315
National Eye Hospital- 8117202,
8114807

Dental

Dental College -9002035

Orthopaedics

National Orthopaedics (Pangu)
Hospital- 9114075, 9112150

General

Dhaka Medical College Hospital-
8626812-6
Rushmono General Hospital-
8317819
Holy Family Hospital-
8311731-25
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib
Medical University Hospital-
8612550-4, 8614545-9
Bangladesh Medical College &
Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,

Shamarita Hospital- 9131901
Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800,
9122560-69
Salimullah Medical Collage
Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6
Cholera Research Hospital
(ICDDR)- 8811751-60
Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061,
7310061, 7319022
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital-
8626812-9

Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank-
8614040

Ambulances For Dead Bodies

Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail)
9336611, Gandaria 7319808,
7318166,
Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
Elephant Road-Friday
Bishal Center-Friday
Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday
Polwell Market-Friday
BCS Computer City-Friday
Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
Stadium Market-Friday
Bangabazar Market-Friday
National Museum-Thurseday
Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.
New Market-Tuesday
Gausia Market-Tuesday
Mouchak Market-Sunday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Eastern Plaza-Sunday
Farmview Super Market-Sunday
Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday
Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

Yellow Cab

Navana 9558065
Salida 9344477, 0171620881
Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191
Cab One 7113282-3
Nihon 8624741-2
Orion 9347277
Anudip 8125285 and 8127611
Capital 9352847

Union 8130485

Kool 0171826731

Black Cab

Cab Ex 9358401
Cabline 8321162
JBS Cab 019364575
Sajan 018126036
Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

Cab One 7113282-3

Palki 0171052500

Cab I 7113282

Jatri 0171540074
Nipun 9572277
R-Cab 8914782
Star Cab 9571919
Shihab 018202477 & 018228675
KGN 8620011

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express
Mahanagar Prabhathi
Mahanagar Godhuli
Turna
Parabat Express
Joyantika Express
Upaban Express
Tista Express
Ekata Express
Upakul Express
Agnibeena Express

Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am
Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am
Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 1-55 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 10-55 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 6-40 am
Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm
Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm
Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am
Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm
Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15
Reaches Noakhali at 5-00 am
Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers
Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakata Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280,
9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
Information Resource Center, The
American Center - 8813440-4,
9886395-9
British Council- 8618867-8,
8618905-7
Community Development Library-
8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka-
9126525-6
Indian Information Centre &
Cultural Library- 8850141-2
The Russian Cultural Centre-
9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125,
8112954, 8123412
Press Institute of Bangladesh
(PIB) 9330081-4