

Brain-powered

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The research team from Nankai University, in the north-eastern Chinese port city of Tianjin, has spent two years bringing the mind-controlled vehicle to reality.
By wearing brain signal-reading equipment a driver can control the car to go forward, backwards, come to a stop, and both lock and unlock the vehicle, all without moving their hands or feet.
Researcher Zhang Zhao told Reuters the equipment comprises 16 sensors that capture EEG (electroencephalogram) signals from the driver's brain. They developed a computer program that selects the relevant signals and translates them, enabling control of the car.
"The tester's EEG signals are picked up by this (brain signal-reading) equipment and transmitted wirelessly to the computer. The computer processes the signals to categorise and recognise people's intention, then translates them into control command to the car. The core of the whole flow is to process the EEG signals, which is done on the computer," said Zhang.
Associate Professor Duan Feng, from the university's College of Computer and Control Engineering, led the project. He emphasised that the technology is aimed at better serving human beings, and that it might soon be possible to combine brain controlled technology and driverless cars, such as the Google Self Driving Car (SDC).
"Driverless cars' further development can bring more benefits to us, since we can better realise functions relating to brain controlling with the help of the driverless cars' platform," said Duan. "In the end, cars, whether driverless or not, and machines are serving for people. Under such circumstances, people's intentions must be recognised. In our project, it makes the cars better serve human beings."
The researchers say their initial idea was inspired by helping disabled people who are physically unable to steer cars.

Spanish man

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was hidden inside a specially made chamber of his luggage," Syed Towfique Uddin Ahmed, DNC director (operations), told The Daily Star.
"He had been on alert after receiving information that a Spanish national carrying cocaine was coming to Dhaka from Brazil via Dubai."
DNC officials identified the luggage by a tag number provided by the informants from the US and waited for its owner. Around two hours later, Julian collected the luggage and tried to leave hurriedly, he said.
The officials detained him and scanned his luggage but could not detect anything. Later, they broke open the luggage and found the cocaine in a hidden chamber.
According to the DNC officials, the drug might have been brought to Dhaka for smuggling it to another country.
With the latest seizure, six kilograms of cocaine has so far been seized this year, said Towfique.
A case would be filed over yesterday's haul. Under the Narcotics Control Act, death penalty is the highest punishment for possessing or smuggling more than 25 grams of cocaine, said the DNC director.

SC verdict

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of the hearing, Khandker Mahbub Hossain, principal counsel for the Jamaat-e-Islami ameer, urged the SC to acquit his client of all the charges brought against him.
He, however, prayed to the court to commute the death sentence of the 75-year-old to life term if the apex court finds him guilty of wartime offences.
His client was neither a military officer nor a high profile civilian officer in 1971 and so the doctrine of command responsibility is not at all applicable to him, Mahbub said.
The SC at one point said Nizami's speeches during the war could be considered as materials of instigation for crimes against humanity, which were then published by the daily Sangram.
Having ties with the Jamaat, Nizami was not fully innocent and the might have committed offences since he had moral support for the Pakistan army, for a united Pakistan, said Mahbub in reply.
He added that Nizami had been a collaborator of the Pakistan army but there was no specific charge against him of committing war crimes.
The Defence lawyer continued saying his client should not be punished for abetting the Pakistan army, as the main offender, the Pakistan army, had not been tried.
The International Crimes Tribunal in October last year awarded Nizami the capital punishment on four charges of war crimes, including the killing of intellectuals.
Attorney General Mahbub Alam argued that the judgment was proper and based on documents, evidence and statements of the witnesses.
He prayed to the court to uphold the death penalty of Nizami, saying the Jamaat chief had instigated war crimes, including killing of intellectuals, through delivering speeches and writing articles published in newspapers.

237 arches to greet home

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According to an aide of the MP, the arches would be there till the minister returns to Dhaka today.
Speaking at a meeting with Feni district and upazila AL leaders at the circuit house, Asaduzzaman thanked party men for the reception accorded to him, meeting sources said.
The minister lauded Hajari for his assistance in maintaining law and order in the district. He also thanked the MP for making sure that no party rebels filed nominations for mayoral posts in Feni, Parshuram and Dagonbhuiyan municipalities.
At the meeting, AL mayor hopefuls Nizam Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury and Haji Alauddin from Feni and Parshuram municipalities separately showed party's nomination papers to the minister.
The two are set to get elected uncontested as their rivals from the BNP were disqualified from running in the polls.
The minister left Feni for Khagrachhari around 1:00pm.
After reaching the hill district, he attended a wedding ceremony and inaugurated Ramgor Police Station. He is scheduled to hold a view-exchange meeting today before leaving for Dhaka, reports our correspondent.

Hajari, a former mayor of Feni Municipality, hit the headlines after the gruesome murder of Phulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haque in May last year. Different media pointed the finger at him for the killing.
Feni Jubo League leader Shakhawat Hossain Bhuiyan had filed a writ petition with the High Court claiming that the lawmaker, elected uncontested from Feni-2 constituency in the last year's national election, had resorted to forgery to get early release from jail and take part in the polls.
Quoting a newspaper report, the petitioner said a Chittagong court had sentenced Hajari to 10 years' imprisonment in an arms case on August 16, 2000. He surrendered to the court on September 14, 2000, and was sent to Chittagong jail.
But he was in jail for only five years and was released on December 1, 2005, Shakhawat claimed, adding that Hajari was supposed to be behind bars until September 13, 2010, and he was not supposed to be eligible for running in any parliamentary polls before September, 2015.
Two High Court judges felt embarrassed to hear the petition.
A correspondent from Feni contributed to this report.

Municipal polls

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She complained that ruling party men with the help of police were involved in irregularities, including snatching away nomination papers from opposition candidates.
The BNP chief said his party had all information about the Awami League's "evil plans" to manipulate the elections.
She also claimed that the government was planning to show its mass popularity by snatching victory from the opposition parties by voting frauds.
"Quit power and hold a national election under a neutral government if you really want to prove your popularity. Only then it would be proved which party has people's support."
Accusing the government of resorting to repression, killing and forced disappearances, Khaleda called upon the government to stop it immediately.
"I would like to ask Rab to stop killing and forced disappearances. I also want to warn Benazir [DG of Rab] of not doing excesses further. The consequences of it won't be good. Remember that you also have families and children."
Claiming that it was her previous government that did a lot for the development of the armed forces, Khaleda said the AL did not feel the necessity of having the armed forces in the country.

election will not be free and fair. One can question [us] why are we in the election race under the circumstances? The reason is we believe in democracy. The BNP is a liberal democratic party. We want to bring changes through a democratic way," the BNP leader said.
The briefing was held after a joint meeting of the party and its associated bodies to work out programmes to mark the Martyred Intellectuals Day and Victory Day.
Fakhrul said the objectives and spirit of the Liberation War, including people's democratic rights, rights of expression and economic freedom, are now at stake due to the government's "repressive acts."
The opposition political parties now cannot hold any public meeting due to "the government's autocratic attitude", he added. "Even our grassroots leaders and activists can't hold any programme at the party's district offices."
He hoped that the government will allow them to hold their party programmes without causing any obstruction.

CLAIMING THAT IT WAS HER PREVIOUS government that did a lot for the development of the armed forces, Khaleda said the AL did not feel the necessity of having the armed forces in the country.
FAKHRUL BRIEFS PRESS
The BNP is participating in the December 30 polls "for the sake of democracy" despite their concern that the local body election would not be free and fair, party acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told a press briefing at the chairperson's Gulshan office yesterday.
He alleged that over 5,000 BNP men were picked up across the country since the announcement of the polls schedule on November 23.
"We're repeatedly saying that the

California shooters 'radicalised for quite some time': FBI

AFP, San Bernardino
The husband and wife behind the shooting in California that left 14 people dead were radicalised for "quite some time" and both went for target practice before the massacre, authorities said Monday.
The update from the FBI on the terror probe into the December 2 rampage in San Bernardino came after President Barack Obama vowed to destroy the Islamic State group and hunt down its followers, in an address to a jittery nation.

Cost rises more

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As per the latest project design, two large 36-inch pipelines would be built there to pump the oil to a storage facility 16km away on the Matarbari island in Maheshkhali.
One pipeline would pump crude oil and the other diesel.
The length of each of the pipelines would be 110km.
According to the project proposal, there would be six tanks in Maheshkhali.
Presently, large tankers anchor in deep sea and smaller ships unload and bring the oil to storage facilities of Eastern Refinery Ltd (ERL) in Chittagong. This process called lightering is an expensive operation and it takes 11 days to unload 1 lakh tonnes of oil. Other than time and cost, a lot of oil is systematically stolen during the process, officials said.
But if a pipeline was installed, it would take just two days to empty a vessel carrying such a volume of oil. This would cut cost and stop the pilferage.
After the Ecneec meeting yesterday, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told reporters that the project would save the government Tk 1,000 crore every year and that the project cost would be recovered in five to six years.
The Islamic Development Bank was expected to finance the project but as the cost shot up, it withdrew.
According to the project proposal, Chinese government expressed its interest in financing the project and nominated China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau for the job.
The Bureau has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation in this regard.
The Chinese company has vast experience in installing pipeline on land but not in the sea.
China would be giving Tk 3,903 crore as loan at 2 percent interest with 15 years repayment and five years of grace period.
However, the unsolicited selection of the company raised many questions.

The Ecneec yesterday gave the nod to 9 other projects involving a total cost of Tk 2.341 crore.
Questions had been raised about some of these projects by the media as those might influence the upcoming municipal elections. The issue was discussed and the questions were binned in yesterday's Ecneec meeting.
Planning Minister Kamal said the projects were national projects and there was no scope for those influencing the polls.

5-yr-old boy

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empties into the Buriganga river.
He was whisked off to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.
Locals alleged that a cover slab had for long been missing at the spot through which Nirob fell down.
The industries' owners association of Shyampur Industrial Area is responsible for the maintenance of the sewer, said Officer-in-Charge Kazi Wazed Ali of Kadamtali Police Station.
"We are checking if there was any negligence on their part," the OC told The Daily Star last night.
Local lawmaker Abu Hossain Babla visited the spot and said stern actions would be taken against those responsible for the incident.
Nirob's father Rezaul, who works at a Pran-RFL factory in Gawsia of Narayanjanj, said he was all set to move from the area next month.
"But what's the use of it now!" he wailed.
On December 26 last year, a four-year-old boy named Jihad fell down a 300-foot well-shaft while playing with other children in the capital's Shahjahanpur Railway Colony.
His body was pulled out by a group of volunteers around 3:00pm the following day, shortly after the government agencies called off the rescue bid, saying there was no sign of the boy inside the well.

Ministers tackle

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described the complex negotiations as being akin to a 12-dimensional Rubik's Cube.
Taking effect in 2020, the Paris accord would seek to limit emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases driven by coal, oil and gas -- the backbone of the world's energy supply today.
The goal is to limit global warming to under two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) from pre-Industrial Revolution levels.
Negotiations are making headway on every front, said France's top negotiator, Laurence Tubiana. "We are advancing on everything," she said. "There is no issue where we are blocked. None."
One potential deal-buster is money.
Rich countries promised in 2009 to muster \$100 billion (92 billion euros) a year from 2020 to help developing nations make the costly shift to clean energy, and to cope with the impacts of global warming.
But how the pledged funds will be raised remains unclear -- and developing countries are pushing for a promise that the amount will be ramped up beyond 2020.
Meanwhile, rich nations are insisting that developing giants work harder to tackle their greenhouse gases, noting that much of the world's future emissions growth will come from their fast-growing economies.
Small island states at risk of being swamped in a warmer world are also part of a big coalition of vulnerable nations pressing for a more ambitious accord of limiting planetary warming to less than 1.5C.
Ministers including US Secretary of State John Kerry were battling to formulate broad conclusions on those toughest issues by the evening, Tubiana said, after which they will examine the entire package.
French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, presiding over the talks, has charged the world's ministers to deliver a draft accord by today, setting out clear options on the divisive issues.
Warning of the price of inaction, Kerry said the United States spent \$126 billion last year undoing the damage of eight huge storms.
In the Philippines, Kerry said he had seen the splintered wood strewn across the mountains in the path of Typhoon Haiyan that struck in November 2013.
"That's the future, folks, unless we tame this monster that we have unleashed," he said.

'Go to hell'

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Less than 24 hours later, Trump's bombastic bid for the White House plumed what critics called a new low and triggered calls for him to be barred from taking power after he urged a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on."
In a speech late Monday, the 69-year-old billionaire real estate mogul and reality television star doubled down on his initial statement.
"We have no choice," Trump said, saying that Islamist radicals want to kill Americans.
"It's going to get worse and worse. We're going to have more World Trade Centers," he said, referring to the deadly attacks on September 11, 2001.
His comments were condemned by the White House as "totally contrary" to American values and similarly slammed as far afield as London and Cairo, where Egypt's official religious body Dar al-Iftaa denounced them as "extremist and racist."
The strongest reaction came in the United States, including from Trump's rivals in the race to run for the White House in 2016.
The White House yesterday challenged Republicans to denounce their party's presidential frontrunner.
Painting Trump as a "carnival barker" with "fake hair" whose campaign has a "dustbin of history" quality, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said "what Donald Trump said yesterday disqualifies him from serving as president."
Senator Lindsey Graham branded the remarks "un-American" and said Trump was only fueling radical Islam.
Trump was the "ISIL man of the year," said Graham, referring to the extremist Islamic State group.
"Do you know how you win this war? You side with people in the faith who reject this ideology, which is 99 percent," Graham told CNN, before invoking Trump's campaign slogan -- "make America great again."
"And do you know how you make America great again?" asked Graham, who is lagging badly in the nomination race.
"Tell Donald Trump to go to hell."
Other Republican contenders including Marco Rubio, John Kasich, Chris Christie and Jeb Bush, as well as Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan, also rejected Trump's proposal.

Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential frontrunner, tweeted: "Declaring war on Islam or demonizing Muslim Americans is not only counter to our values -- it plays right into the hands of terrorists."
And Rick Kriseman, the Democratic mayor of Saint Petersburg, Florida, tweeted: "I am hereby barring Donald Trump from entering St Petersburg until we fully understand the dangerous threat posed by all Trumps."
Muslim leaders in the United States also hit out at Trump.
Sohaib Sultan, Muslim Life Coordinator and Chaplain at Princeton University, was scathing drawing parallels between Trump and the radical ideology of the Islamic State group.
"ISIS is to Islam what Donald Trump is to American values: a complete distortion of everything that we as a country and a society stand for."
He added: "I think he's clearly disqualified himself from being the president of the United States."
Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, added: "Donald Trump sounds more like a leader of a lynch mob than a great nation like ours."
But Trump was characteristically unrepentant yesterday, comparing the proposed ban to "presidential proclamations" made by Franklin D Roosevelt during World War II.
Asked in an interview on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program if his proposal went against treasured American values, he responded: "No, because FDR did it!"
But that failed to quell the firestorm, with Jeff Bezos, the Amazon founder who also set up the space company Blue Origin, tweeting: "Will still reserve him a seat on the Blue Origin rocket. #sendDonaldtoSpace."
The British government also weighed in.
Prime Minister David Cameron "completely disagrees" with the remarks, which are "divisive, unhelpful and quite simply wrong," a spokeswoman for the Conservative leader said.
In Geneva, the United Nations refugee agency -- though not directly responding to Trump's remarks -- warned that rhetoric in the US presidential campaign was threatening a key refugee resettlement program in the United States.

Culture of Cuchia (Mud eel) and Crab in the Selected Areas of Bangladesh and Research Project (Component-B, BFRI-Part)

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute
Mymensingh-2201
Invitation for Tender (IFT)

Memo No.: 33.04.0000.109.01.09.15.517 Date: 07-12-2015

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock			
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Mymensingh			
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director			
4.	Procuring Entity District	Mymensingh			
5.	Invitation for	Works			
6.	Invitation ref. no.	33.04.0000.109.01.09.15.517; Date: 07-12-2015			
7.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
8.	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget (GoB)			
9.	Project Code	5018			
10.	Project/Program Name	Culture of Cuchia (Mud eel) and Crab in the Selected Areas of Bangladesh and Research Project (Component-B, BFRI-Part)			
11.	Tender package No.	W-4			
12.	Tender package Name	Supply & installation of 4" dia deep tube well with pump house & construction of 60.0 cm dia R.C.C underground drainage system at Freshwater Station, Mymensingh under Culture of Cuchia Project (Component-B, BFRI Part)			
13.	Tender Publication Date	: 07-12-2015			
14.	Tender Last Selling Date & Time	28-12-2015 up to 5:00 pm (Office hour)			
15.	Places of Selling Tender Documents	i) Account Section, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Mymensingh. ii) Member-Director (Fish), BARC, Farmgate, Dhaka.			
16.	Tender Receiving date & Time and place	29-12-2015 up to 12:00 noon, Office of the Executive Engineer, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Mymensingh. (According to PPR-2008 law 96 by-law 9 & 10). Tenders may be posted by registered mail or sent by courier services to the Procuring Entity at the address specified in the TDS and no later than the date and time specified in the TDS. Tenders received after the deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened to the Tenderer (ITT Sub-Clause 29.2 & 30.1).			
17.	Tender Opening date, Time and place	29-12-2015 at 12:30 PM, Conference Room, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Mymensingh.			
18.	Eligibility of Tenderer	i) The tenderer shall have minimum of five years of overall experience in the repair, renovation & construction works. ii) The tenderers shall have average annual turnover for works not less than 300 lakh (three crore) over a period of last three years. iii) The tenderer shall have similar type of work experience for underground R.C.C/Brick Drainage work in a single work order not less than 45.00 lakh and Installation of deep tube well not less than 10.00 lakh. iv) The tenderer shall have to submit updated valid Trade License, latest Income Tax Clearance (TIN) Certificate, VAT Registration Certificate, Bank Solvency Certificate, Experience certificates and original Money Receipt for tender documents. v) The tenderer shall have liquid money (60 lakh) or credit facilities 60 (sixty lakh) vi) The Tenderer shall have to fulfill other required eligibility and conditions shown in the TDS & PCC of tender documents. vii) Analysis of all quoted items to be submitted. viii) The tenderer shall have 1st class enlisted license from Govt., Semi Govt. or Autonomous body. viiii) All submitted documents must be signed by the tenderer or his authorized representative; if not signed, it will be treated as non-responsive.			
19.	Package No.	Name, location and description of works	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	Work Completion Time (Days)
	W-FS-4	Supply & installation of 4" dia deep tube well with pump house & construction of 60.0 cm dia RCC underground drainage system at Freshwater Station, Mymensingh under Culture of Cuchia Project (Component-B, BFRI Part)	3500.00	2,50,000.00	270
20.	Tender security is to be submitted in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft of any scheduled Bank in favor of the Project Director, Culture of Cuchia (Mud eel) and Crab in the Selected Areas of Bangladesh and Research Project (Component-B, BFRI-Part), BFRI, Mymensingh.				
21.	Name of official Inviting Tender		Md. Razibul Karim		
22.	Designation of official Inviting Tender		Executive Engineer		
23.	Address of official Inviting Tender				
24.	Contact details of official Inviting Tender				
25.	Notification of award will be issued subject to the availability of fund.				
26.	If it is not possible to receive and open the tender on the schedule date due to any unavoidable circumstances the same will be received and opened on the following working day at the same time and same place.				
27.	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever				

GD-3818

Md. Razibul Karim
Executive Engineer