TECHFAIR

IT extravaganza in city

EDWARD APURBA SINGHA

IF you are a novice computer user, you certainly need a unique place where you will get almost all stuffs to full fill your requirements. On the other hand, veteran users also desire a right place where they can get the chance to explore cutting edge technologies to upgrade their technical knowledge.

From this realisation Bangladesh Computer Society (BCS) this year organised the yearly exposition of computer accessories, 'City IT 2007', at BCS Computer City. The aim of the fair was to introduce general people with new age technologies and at the same time create opportunities to enrich their buying experience.

City IT 2007 started its journey on April 5 and continued till April 13. The whole computer city was decorated with balloons, banners and colourful papers to celebrate the festival. Vendors of computer accessories offered discount prices to attract customers. Visitors enjoyed free internet browsing and took part in blood donation campaign. Disable people and school students got free entrance during the fair.

"The construction work of hi-tech park is underway and in future it will turn into a Silicon Valley of Bangladesh", Tapan Chowdhury, adviser, Ministry of Science and ICT told at the inaugural ceremony of City IT 2007. Mahafuzur Rahman, chairman ATN Bangla on the same occasion stressed the necessity of proper steps from government to promote local software in global market.

One of the exciting attractions of the fair was the Intel quad core processor. This ultra high-speed processor dramatically improves PC's performance. Quad core QX6700 extreme processor was unveiled with its compatible Intel 975XBX motherboard.

Existing shops at computer city amplified the craze of the fair by showcasing new technologies at a reasonable price. Daffodils Computers lined up an array of products for the fair including HP's colour laser printer, photo scanner etc. Offered price of HP colour laser-jet printer was Tk. 68,000 whereas photo scanner price started from Tk. 10,500 to Tk. 35,000.

JAN. Associates Ltd. came up with verities of Canon printers at the fair. Printer models include Pixma iP 17000, Pixma iP 4200 and Pixma iP 1300. All these models had a discounted price

tag.

Business Link Computers Ltd. offered multimedia PC at Tk. 18,900. In addition, they exhibited different PC packages ranging from Tk. 21,250 to Tk. 39,900.

Smart Technologies (BD) Ltd. gave away scratch cards with each Samsung monitor. Prizes included 100 cc motorbike, CD-DVD sound system, microwave oven, Samsung gold coins and

many more.

Computer Village bundled flash drive with Asus laptops for free and issued two years of global warranty. On the other hand, HP offered 'Bangla New

Year' special which encompassed sopping voucher for customers.

Computer Source Ltd. offered verities of gifts such as T-shirts and watches with Lexmark products. In addition, they also offered travel bag with Philips LCD monitors.

Outside regular vendors other companies also took part at the City IT 2007. Grameen Phone (GP) installed their stall in order to demonstrate their mobile internet technology. Basically, they highlighted the EDGE technology by which users will be able to connect to the internet from any place within the coverage of GP network.

A portal bdcomputer bazar.com also participated at the fair. Imagine Graphics developed this portal to access computer vendors, publish company profile and sell other computer accessories.

One of the interesting incidents at the fair was drive against fake products. The fair authority nominated a watchdog to protect customers from fake products and root out all illegal activities.

There was regular talk show at the centre stage of the fair. These talk shows included comprehensive discussion on burning issues such as submarine cable and common issues such as Small Office Home Office (Soho) and others. Visitors actively participated this session any many of them won exciting prizes.

Cultural programs also took place at the central stage. These programs comprised celebrities and tech professionals along with huge turn out of visitors. In addition, Liteon organised drawing contest for the children during the fair.

Visitors expressed their mixed reaction to star Tech regarding the City IT 2007. Mustafa Jabbar, a well known IT personality told StarTech that the fair has gradually deviated from its mission as it failed to create true IT trend in the country.

Other visitors showed their satisfaction but some one raised question against the ten-taka entry fee. Liteon, Lexmark, Gigabyte and ASUS sponsored the fair and the media partners were ATN Bangla and Radio Today FM 89.6.

Renowned ICT personality Mustafa Zabbar talks to journalists (bottom right) while techno savvy people are seen visiting different stalls at the City IT 2007 fair at IDB Bhaban at Agargaon in the capital.

PHOTOTECH

TALKING GLOBE

Japan's toy giant Tomy employee Nozomi Saeki displays an educational gadget called the 'Talking Globe', which has 20cm diameter globe with LED pointer, and can speak the country's name, local time, brain twisters for the country and other information about the country, in Tokyo on April 12. Tomy will put it on the market in October with a price of USD 110.

PHOTO: AFP

TECHNEWS

Sony to sell TVs with organic screens

AP, Tokyo

JAPANESE electronics giant Sony Corp. plans to start selling small televisions this year using a screen technology that is a contender for the next-generation screen of flat-screen TVs, a company spokeswoman said Thursday.

Sony plans to begin selling an 11-inch television using an organic electroluminescent screen by the year's end, spokeswoman Mami Imada said.

Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED) screens are already used in smaller applications such as mobile phones, personal digital assistants and camcorders. Sony believes their product would be the first such television to come to market, Imada added.

The screens make use of the self-luminscent properties of organic materials. They use less power than comparable liquid crystal display screens because they don't use a backlight, and are also much thinner the screen in Sony's planned 11-inch OLED TV will be 3 millimeters (0.12 inches) thick.

The quick move into OLED TVs suggests Sony has learned a lesson from its bitter experience several years ago, when it was caught flat-footed by rivals that took the lead in the LCD TV market.

The company fought back. Last year, it overtook Sharp Corp. and Samsung Electronics Co. to become the world's biggest LCD TV maker by revenue, according to market researcher DisplaySearch.

Sony may now be hoping "to steal a march on rivals in terms of technology and make the new technology its own," said Deutsche Securities analyst Yasuo Nakane.

Toshiba Corp. President Atsutoshi Nishida said Thursday his company would begin selling large TVs using OLED screens by 2009, offering both high- and low-resolution models based on the technology.

Sony has not disclosed details on its production plans or pricing for the 11-inch OLED TVs. The company said it will make the OEL panels at a plant operated by ST Liquid Crystal Display Corp., a joint venture it has with Toyota Industries Corp. Larger models are also being developed, it said.

Robots to clean pools

AP, Boston

IROBOT Corp., the maker of robots to clean carpets and hard floors, has decided the water is warm enough in the pool-cleaning market to take a swim there, too.

The maker of consumer and military robots said it will sell two pricey models of lawn-mower-sized pool cleaning devices. IRobot will market the $799 Verro 300 and the $1,199 Verro 600, which were developed by companies belonging to Aqua Products Group, a Cedar Grove, N.J.-based firm that's been in the pool-cleaning market for two decades.

For now, iRobot is selling the Verros only through its Web site, rather than through retail stores, said Nancy Dussault, a spokeswoman for the Burlington, Mass.-based company.

For decades, pool cleaners have employed various automatic features, although more recent robotic models claim greater built-in intelligence to efficiently sift through pools and suck up debris ranging from leaves to algae particles and bacteria. Zodiac

Pool Care Inc. offers cleaners that it calls robotic, rather than merely automatic, and the Verros are next-generation versions of Aqua Products' Aquabot.

In announcing the sales Tuesday, iRobot said the Verros represent a significant advance, with greater cleaning power from internal pumps that can cycle as much as 5,000 gallons of water per hour.

"By pumping that much water, it takes pressure off your pool's filtration system," Dussault said.

The company claims both Verro models can clean pools from floor to waterline in 60 to 90 minutes, rather than the four to six hours typical for most automatic models. The four-wheeled Verro 300 sprays jets of water to scrub concrete pools, while the track-wheeled 600 uses brushes to clean tile, vinyl and fiberglass.

A pool owner plugs the Verro's

electrical cord into a poolside transformer and then drops the device in the drink easier than less expensive models that require use of external pumps and a central vacuum system, Dussault said.

Until now, iRobot's consumer products have been limited to indoor cleaning, such as its Roomba vacuum. IRobot has sold more than 2 million of the dinner plate-sized Roombas in 4 1/2 years. The company also makes robots to mop hard floors and vacuum up heavy-duty messes in garages, as well as military robots used to disarm bombs.

TECHNEWS

Asus WL-600g

ADSL modem, wireless router and more in single device

STARTECH DESK

GLOBAL Brand Pvt. Ltd. (GBPL), recently unveiled WL-600g, an all-in-one device that incorporates ADSL modem, wireless router and ftp/printer server functions, says a press release. The WL-600g is a one-stop solution for establishing home wireless networks the cost-effective way.

All-in-One Home Gateway

With the WL-600g, there is no need for a separate ADSL modem or a standalone ftp/print server. A UPnP IGD compliant device, the WL-600g allows devices within the WLAN to share the same IP address and simultaneously play online games and use IP phones. For quick internet connection, the WL-600g offers Quick Setup feature, which automatically detects local ADSL ISP settings in just a few seconds. No more complicated configurations.

USB Plug-n'-Share

The WL-600g offers a host of Plug-n'-Share functions. Whether its hard drives or printers just plug them in via the USB 2.0 host ports to enable other devices in the network to share their functions without the need to leave a PC or server turned on 24 hours a day.

Plug-n'-Share hard drive is especially worth highlight. It acts as a ftp server, which lets users backup data from their computers and use network neighborhood in Windows to browse external hard drive content. All these functions can be enjoyed without connecting the WL-600g to any computer systems.

Customizable Settings for Online Gaming

Game Blaster, an innovative feature found on the WL-600g, intelligently optimises network resource and prioritises bandwidth for online gaming applications to eliminate action latency when users are battling online.

In addition, the WL-600g also enables customized allocation of bandwidth to better execute time-sensitive applications including IP phone and multimedia applications. IP phone or A/V streaming applications can be executed without interference.

Wireless Distribution System

Wireless Distribution System (WDS) allows users to establish a broad wireless network infrastructure by linking several wireless access points with WDS links. It is especially practical in environments where pulling cables is costly or physically impossible.

The price of this product is Taka 9,000/-.