

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is the trademark for the popular wireless technology used in home networks, mobile phones, video games and other electronic devices that require some form of wireless networking capability. In particular, it covers the various IEEE 802.11 technologies (including 802.11a, 802.11b, 802.11g, and 802.11n). Wi-Fi technologies are supported by nearly every modern personal computer operating system, most advanced game consoles, laptops, smartphones and many printers and other peripherals.



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TECH ROUNDUP

Tech 2008, at its best



SAMIUL ISLAM RIKTH

TODAY is December 26. Five days from now we will be bidding farewell to 2008 and welcoming 2009 with open arms.

This year the world saw Barack Obama being elected as the first African-American President of the United States. We saw a series of dreadful terrorist and bomb attacks throughout the world with the most recent one taking place in India injuring and killing hundreds. The much-awaited and much-talked-about 2008 Summer Olympics took place in Beijing. Bhutan held its first ever general elections while Bangladesh is looking forward to holding the 9th parliamentary elections. Also our newspaper, The Daily Star, has given its website a brand new look making it more interactive and informative.

Throughout the year, different incidents in various walks of life evoked different kinds of emotion within us. But it is the discoveries in one particular sector that has always made us smile and be happy and proud. That is the world of technology which once again has created wonders and magic.

Lets have a quick run down the memory lane and see what this year had to offer for all the tech addicts.

I assure you none of us ever expected that fitness and fun would ever go hand in hand. But in 2008, Nintendo surprised us by presenting Wii Fit. This is a highly interactive training programme through which weight loss becomes almost effortless.

This device is built-in with different kinds of hardcore and gruelling exercises. Does that scare you? Well, I guess it shouldn't, since all of the activities have been designed in such a manner that you will definitely enjoy working out with Wii Fit.

Its sleek and elegant balance board peripheral measures the distribution of your weight and pressure. It allows you to shed a tonnes of kilos and pounds and that too at only \$90 approximately without even going to the gym.

Up next we have peek, which has been referred as this year's "Gotta-have gadget!" It's been designed for everyone, literally, especially people who have a constant job of sitting upright and sending and replying to e-mails 24/7.

Peek is only a mobile phone dedicated solely to e-mail. By spending only \$100 on the phone itself along with a low monthly fee of \$20, you can have access to your e-mail day and night through peek.

Each year Apple Macintosh has something up it's sleeves. And this year it was no different.

This year Apple brought you the new, amazingly thin and stylish Macbook Air. It's regarded as the tinniest notebook (12.8 x 0.16-0.76 inch) that exists in the world. This notebook has got immense storage capacity and the graphics are simply breathtaking.

The gadget is built-in with a bigger and better multi-touch technology and built-in with an iSight camera that is hardly noticeable making your life simpler, ensuring a completely wireless lifestyle.

This device is simply beyond imagination. It has almost everything that you desire. And it can be all yours from \$1,799 to \$2,499.

Following the Macbook Air notebook we have got the Livescribe Pulse Smartpen, a device developed to help everyone especially students not miss a single thing while taking notes.

The Livescribe Pulse smartpen uses an integrated microphone and a radical method to record and retrieve audio. All you do is write down your notes on a custom microdot notebook and simply tap on the handwritten notes to get the pen to play the appropriate audio. It's that simple.

This device is different and it will change the way of taking notes and will definitely make a difference in everyone's life at only \$149 approx.

If you have a flair for taking pictures and travelling all around, then the next device will definitely grab your attention. We are talking about the Eye-Fi Explore SD Card.

This is a 2GB card with a built Wi-Fi

allowing you to upload pictures you take using your camera to any of your preferred online photo service, anytime and anyplace. Also this allows you to transfer pictures to your personal computer without the hassle of any wires.

One special attribute about the Eye-Fi card is that it allows you to geographically tag the snap clicked by you so that you can go back over the time when you actually had taken the picture. Doesn't retracing your memories sound really exciting?

So if you are a kind of person who just takes picture and forgets to share, then you better get the Eye-Fi Explore SD card for only \$130 now, before people start haunting you for making lame excuses.

Intel is always trying something different so that they can take the entire computer system to another level. And this year they have come up with the Intel Atom Processor.

The Intel Atom processor is the smallest chip built using the world's smallest transistor (47 million transistors on a single 26x26 mm chip).

Tech addicts were amazed at the processor, which was based on an entirely new design, built for low power (ranging from below 1 watt to 2.5 watts) and designed specifically for a new wave of Mobile Internet Devices and simple, low-cost personal computers.

Regardless of its size, the Intel Atom Processor has the capacity of reducing the power levels of computers to highly portable devices creating wonders.

The past few years has been partially dedicated to smartphones. And how could this year not follow the same trend.

T-Mobile brings you T-Mobile G1- the first smartphone using Google's Android operating system.

The speciality of the phone is it allows you to experience the web at its best, wherever you go, in conjunction with all the different kinds of applications and features of the phone.

The features of the "Google Phone" are endless and it can be yours to enjoy at only \$180 approx with the additional monthly service fees.

Next in line is a solid state drive.

This is a data storage device that stores data and information using a solid state memory. Because this gadget follows the interface of typical hard disk drives, replacing them is a piece of cake for a solid state drive.

Solid state drive has the ability to change the entire computing frontier as the possibilities revolving around this device are endless.

Passionate drivers will no longer need to have an eagle's eye to drive. And I guarantee you, without a doubt they will love what Nissan has brought to them this year. It's the world's ever first AroundView Monitor.

The gadget offers a bird's eye view of the vehicle and its surroundings in real time. The system has been designed in such a way that it is easy to see, use and understand.

Using 4 separate cameras, the monitor displays an image of the vehicle from above. This gadget will come handy for people who struggle while parking as using the monitor you can precisely and easily park the car making driving enjoyable and less stressful.

Another latest gadget, which is being the talk of the town, is the Amazon Kindle launched by Amazon.com. This is a compact electronic book with instant wireless access to 115,000 books sold by Amazon, an audiobook player, and a wireless Web browser.

Amazon Kindle is all about reading and if you are a person who adores reading then what are you waiting for. Own a Kindle at \$395 and have a pocket full of books and enjoy to the max.

2008 has been a rocking and superb year for the world's technological advancement. The tech of 2008 was catered for all genres of people- both tech addicts and tech amateurs. Time has come to bid adieu to 2008 with a big smile on our face and hope that 2009 is no less.

So lets welcome 2009 and look forward to a year with the hope that technological development and enhancement will be creating a lot of buzz taking the world a few steps closer to an era of digitalisation.

TECH VIEWS

The 21st century elections

MAHDIN MAHBOOB

WELCOME to the 21st Century! For the first time in the history of the United States, majority of the campaign money came through the internet, not from major corporate houses. US president-elect Barack Hussein Obama had collected the majority of his campaign money from small \$5, \$10 and \$20 contributions made by thousands of people all across the country, specially the young, the first time voters.

Bangladesh too is feeling the election fever as the 9th Parliamentary Election closes in. This time, the vote is all about new and innovative uses of technology, to attract the 32 percent first time voters and another 25 percent of young second time voters. That would young people are now 57 percent of the total voters in the country, for many of whom, internet and cell phones are best means for communication.

The political parties in Bangladesh, previously depending heavily on extremely loud use of microphones, flooding the walls with posters and writings, and bishaal jonoshobhas alone, have been quick to adopt the recent trends and have started some very innovative and effective means of campaigning using modern technologies.

We at StarTech have tried to find out some of the more interesting publicity measures and news coverage mechanism which are new in this election:

- **SMS and email publicity:** Many candidates are collecting the cell phone numbers and email addresses of voters of individuals residing in their constituencies and sending them individual emails and text messages, asking for their valuable votes!
- **Facebook:** Fanpages and groups have been set up in Facebook, the most popular online social networking site in Bangladesh, for both the two major political parties and some others.
- **Party Websites:** BNP, Awami League and Jamaat have all put up a fresh look on their websites, complete with election manifestos and election and campaign updates. (No website, however, of Jatiya Party was found after some quick google search)
- **Special Election Pages:** Major national newspapers, including *The Daily Star* and *New Age* have put up special pages for the upcoming elections, including interactive constituency maps, details about political parties and candidates, expert opinions on different issues, and a range of other

features.

So, on the Election Day, do not, by any means, waste your vote! Just remember one thing, if you do not vote, you cannot complain afterwards!



TECH NEWS

Samsung digital cameras in local market

STARTECH DESK

SMART Technologies (BD) Ltd., country distributor of Samsung Digital Camera, introduced various models and types of Samsung Digital Cameras in the local market, says a press release.

These cameras, attractive and lucrative, also include modern features with latest technologies. Recently Samsung cameras received "good design award 2008" in Japan.

Notable features of Samsung digital cameras include - Full Experience HD, Smart Touch, Dual Image Stabilization (OIS + DIS), Self Portrait, Auto Contrast Balance (ACB), Multi Slide Show, Face Detection, LCD Screen, Advanced Movie Mode (MPEG, Optical Zoom, Pause & Recording, Editing) etc.



PHOTO

TWILL N' TAKE

Mina Minami, an employee of Japan's electronics giant Sony displays a new battery-less digital camera "Twill N Take" (L) in Tokyo on December 11. Equipped with a 3-mega pixel CMOS camera unit and a dynamo on the finger, the unit can shoot 1 picture for every 40-second charge, plus it can also display a 20-second digital image per dynamo charge. Sony are currently displaying environmentally friendly products at the annual Eco Style Fair.

PHOTO AFP

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