

Great escapade with N97

IMRUL KAYES CHOWDHURY, back from Sylhet

It was a memorable evening of June 26, 2009. Seventeen journalists participated in a unique expedition organised by Nokia to launch their latest product, N97 in Bangladesh. Objective of the expedition to take in the scenic beauty of the rich and natural bounty called Sylhet and glide through a series of competitions, games and activities using the advanced and user-friendly features of the new Nokia N97.

All 17 of us thrilled and excited journalists made our journey towards Zakaria Resort, Sylhet not knowing what to expect and completely unaware of how much more enriched we were going to return from this voyage.

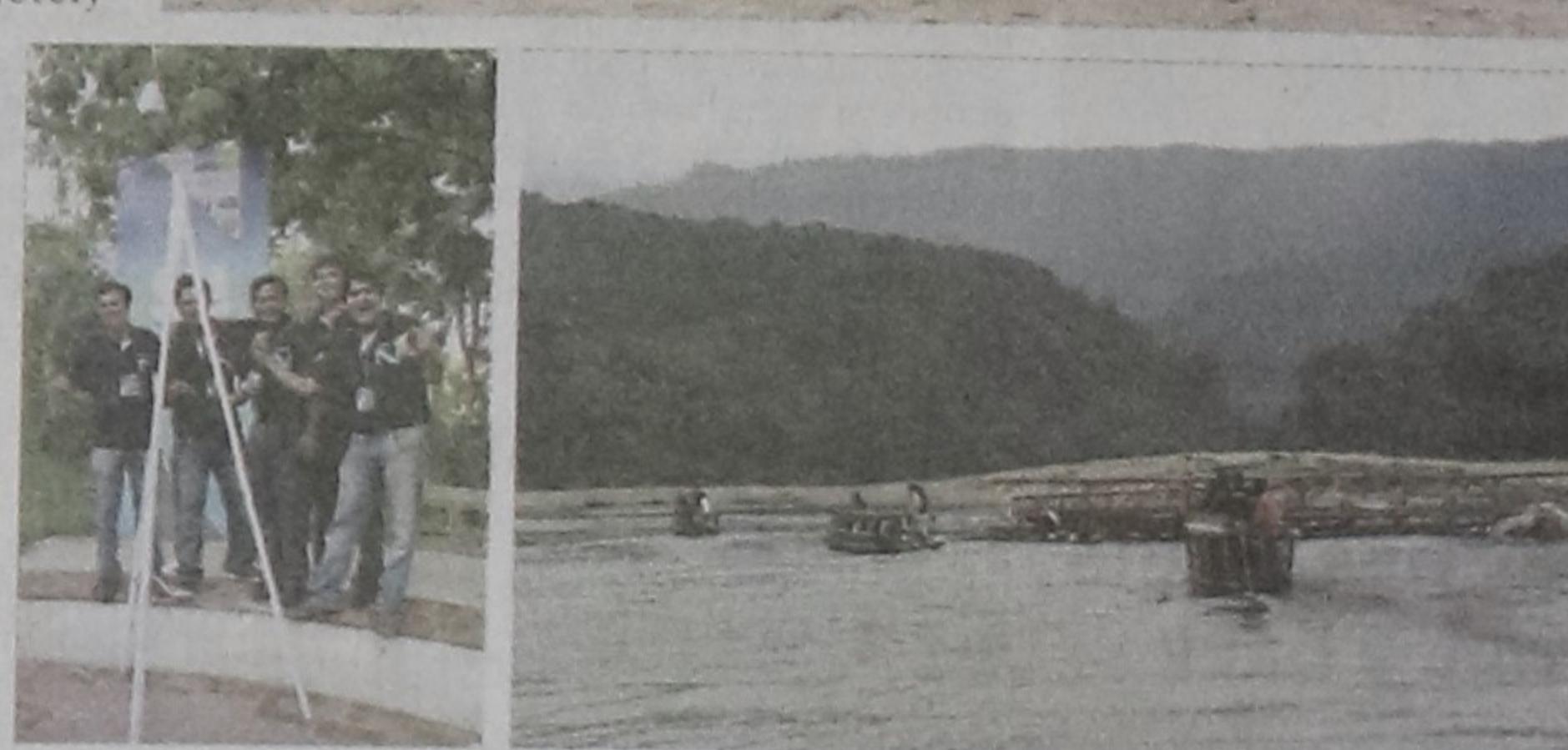
True to its slogan 'Connecting People', the representatives of Nokia tried in every way possible to get us all 'connected' through dialogues, discussions and ice-breaking sessions. Moreover, before getting us started with all the competitions, as if they had read our minds, they reassured us that they would not just dump us with an N97 and leave us on our own to figure out our way through.

At first, they gave us a hands-on demonstration on the usability and special features of the N97 so that we knew exactly how to operate it when needed. In addition, after dividing us into groups, they provided each group with a Nokia representative provide first-hand guidance in operating the device, just in case.

Competitions were numerous and thrilling, with treasure hunts, mathematical quizzes and even dance competitions.

In one of the challenges, groups had to open a Facebook account each using the Internet on N 97. With its easy and fast connection to Internet, the winning team did it in no time! During the boat racing competitions, many of us used the N97's cool 5 mega pixels and Carl Zeiss Tessar lens camera to take high quality and perfect shots of the exotic locations right from a fast moving boat! These we later uploaded on our Facebook accounts to show our friends what a great time we were having and all this instantly using N97s.

Throughout the journey, many of us ardent fans of Michael Jackson used the High Speed Wireless Internet service provided by N97 to keep in touch with the latest news about the King of Pop. We just couldn't get enough of all the wonderful features that this set had to offer! Its QWERTY keyboard and touch



screen, along with its 3.5 inch sliding display made its operation a piece of cake. Its home screen, which can be personalized with desired widgets allows users to keep their favorite social networks, news sites and other pages on the home screen so that the user can connect by a simple touch.

Other features include high quality video output on a 16:9 widescreen, 3.5 mm jack headphones and built-in stereo speakers for a great audio experience. Its digital music player supports playlist editing, equalizer and categorised access to the user's music collection. We exploited this feature to the fullest by listening to our favorite mp3s during the journey. And of course, storage of music is of no concern. With

its storage capacity of up to 48GB - 32 GB and on-board memory expandable to 16GB by micro SD memory card slot, you can store all the songs and even movies that you want!

What's more, its WLAN IEEE 802.11b/g and UPnP support, Micro-USB connector, Hi-Speed USB 2.0, 3.5mm stereo headphone plug and TV-out support (PAL/NTSC), Bluetooth wireless technology 2.0 with A2DP stereo audio, enhanced data rates (EDR) and GPS receiver with support for assisted GPS (A-GPS) Nokia N97 is a perfect traveler's choice, as it's always ready for use on-the-go.

The expedition ended with a musical performance by a band and one of the participants and we were left with a feeling of the highest ecstasy, having completed such a thrilling and hi-tech adventure.

with operating levels of only 25dB almost imperceptible in a quiet room; and caters to users who require maximum cooling without excessive fan rotation noise.

The graphics card has a price-tag of Taka 11,000/-.



TECH NEWS

New graphics card from Asus

STARTech Desk

In order to cater to users who require excellent graphical performance boosts and exceptional cooling from their graphic cards, Asus, producer of top quality graphic solutions has introduced the world's first overclocking version of the latest Nvidia GeForce 9600GT GPU the ASUS EN9600GT/HTDI/512M graphics card, says a press release.

Users will enjoy 10 per cent engine clock improvements for gaming experiences with the EN9600GT/HTDI/512M graphics card, incorporated with newest thermal solution the Glaciator Fansink.

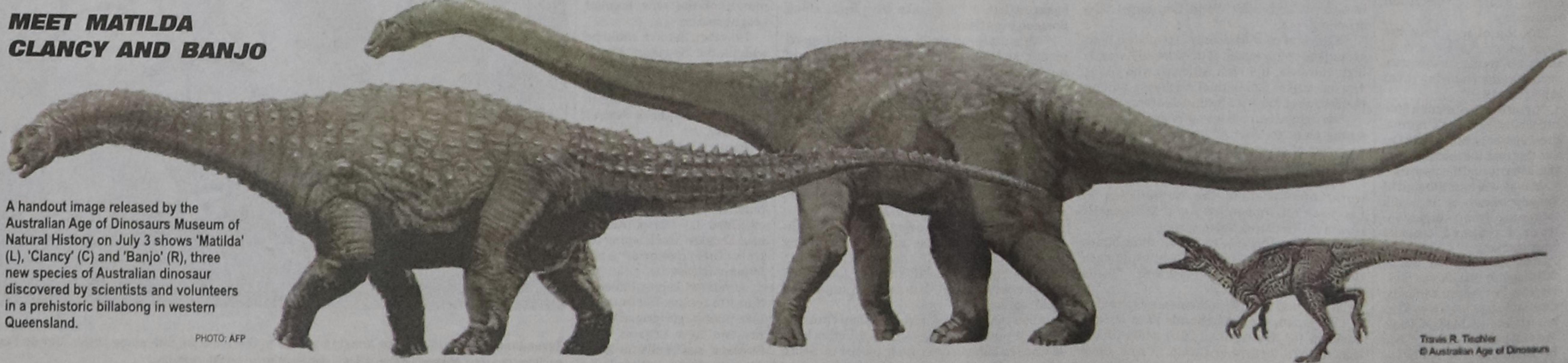
Besides the extreme cooling capacity, it is also ultra quiet

PHOTO TECH

MEET MATILDA CLANCY AND BANJO

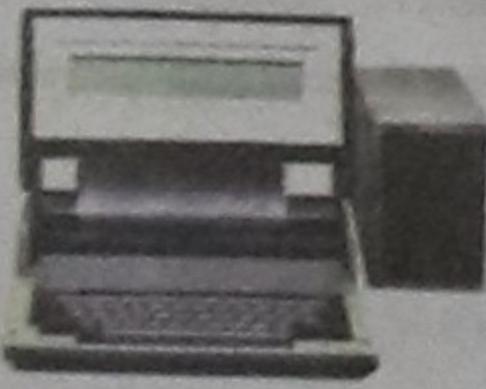
A handout image released by the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum of Natural History on July 3 shows 'Matilda' (L), 'Clancy' (C) and 'Banjo' (R), three new species of Australian dinosaur discovered by scientists and volunteers in a prehistoric billabong in western Queensland.

PHOTO: AFP



Sharp PC-5000

The Sharp PC-5000 was a pioneering laptop computer, announced by Sharp Corporation of Japan in 1983. Like the GRID Compass, which preceded it, and its contemporary the Gavilan SC, it employed a clamshell design in which the display closes over the keyboard. The PC-5000 was largely IBM PC-compatible, with the same 4.77-MHz Intel 8088 processor as the PC, and ran MS-DOS 2.0 (in ROM). It had 128 kilobytes of internal memory. A notable feature of the computer was its built-in thermal printer, which could also be purchased separately and attached to the machine.



startech@thethedailystar.net

TECH NEWS

Google's new operating system to take on Microsoft

AP, Sun Valley, Idaho

GOOGLE Inc. is working on a new operating system for inexpensive computers in a daring attempt to wrest away Microsoft Corp.'s long-running control over people's computing experience.

The new operating system, announced late Tuesday night on Google's Web site, will be based on the company's nine-month-old Web browser, Chrome. Google intends to rely on help from the community of open-source programmers to develop the Chrome operating system, which is expected to begin running computers in the second half of 2010.

The Mountain View, Calif.-based company disclosed its plans for the operating system shortly after an online technology news service, Ars Technica, and The New York Times telegraphed the news on their Web sites.

Google is designing the operating system primarily for "netbooks," a lower-cost, less powerful breed of laptop computers that is becoming increasingly popular among budget-conscious consumers primarily interested in surfing the Web.

The operating system represents Google's boldest challenge yet to its biggest nemesis Microsoft.

A high-stakes duel between the two technology powerhouses has been steadily escalating in recent years as Google's dominance of the Internet's lucrative search market has given it the means to threaten Microsoft in ways that few other companies can.

Google already has rankled Microsoft by laying away some of its top employees and developing an online suite of computer programs that provide an alternative to Microsoft's top-selling word processing, spreadsheet and calendar applications.

Meanwhile, Microsoft has been trying to thwart Google by investing billions of dollars to improve its own Internet search and advertising systems to little avail so far. In the past month or so, though, Microsoft has been winning positive reviews and picking up more users with the latest upgrade to its search engine, now called "Bing." Microsoft is hurling the makeover with a \$100 million marketing campaign.

Now Google is aiming for Microsoft's



financial jugular with Chrome its operating system.

Microsoft has drawn much of its power and profits from the Windows operating system that has steered most personal computers for the past two decades.

Google's chief executive, Eric Schmidt, and its co-founders, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, have made little attempt to conceal their disdain for Windows in recent years.

Schmidt maintains Microsoft sometimes unfairly rigs its operating system to limit consumer choices something that Microsoft has consistently denied doing. Google fears Microsoft could limit access to its search engine and other products if Windows is set up to favor Microsoft products in the default settings.

Page and Brin have frequently derided Windows as a clunky operating system susceptible to computer viruses and other software problems.

Google made a veiled reference to Windows' perceived shortcomings in its blog posting.

"We hear a lot from our users and their message is clear: computers need to get better," wrote Sundar Pichai, Google's vice president of product management and Linus Upson, Google's engineering director.

A Microsoft spokesman didn't immediately respond to an e-mail request for comment sent early Wednesday morning.

Schmidt and Brin are expected to

discuss Google's new operating system later this week when they appear at a media conference hosted by Allen & Co. at the Sun Valley resort in Idaho.

Despite its own power and prominence, Google won't have an easy time changing the status quo that has governed the personal computing industry for so long.

As an example of how difficult it is to topple a long-established market leader, Google estimates about 30 million people are now using its Chrome browser a fraction of those that rely on Microsoft's market-leading Internet Explorer. And there have been various attempts to develop open-source software to undermine Microsoft with relatively little effect.

The Chrome operating system will run in a new windowing system on top of a Linux kernel computer coding that has been the foundation for the open-source software movement for nearly two decades.

Google has already introduced an operating system for mobile devices, called Android, that vies against various other systems, including ones made by Microsoft and Apple Inc.

Google, though, apparently believes a Chrome-based system will be better suited for running applications on netbooks.

"We believe choice will drive innovation for the benefit of everyone, including Google," wrote Pichai and Upson.

TECH NEWS

Jackson fans worldwide say farewell to star online

AFP, San Francisco

ILLIONS of Michael Jackson fans from around the world flocked online to celebrate the King of Pop's life and mourn his death in an unprecedented, interactive global farewell.

Even before Jackson's shimmering gold casket made it to downtown Los Angeles for his memorial, legions of his fans worldwide -- from New York city street corners and Tokyo bars to remote villages in Kenya -- were watching live coverage streamed online at myriad websites.

Messages in an array of languages were fired off to Jackson memorial forums at Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, and online haunts where video or news of the event were shared.

Live online video event specialty firm Ustream reported hosting nearly 4.6 million streams of Jackson memorial service coverage to the star's fans worldwide to meet demand unprecedented at the firm.

Mountains of Jackson memories are posted at an official Sony Music website in tribute to the sequine-gloved entertainer.

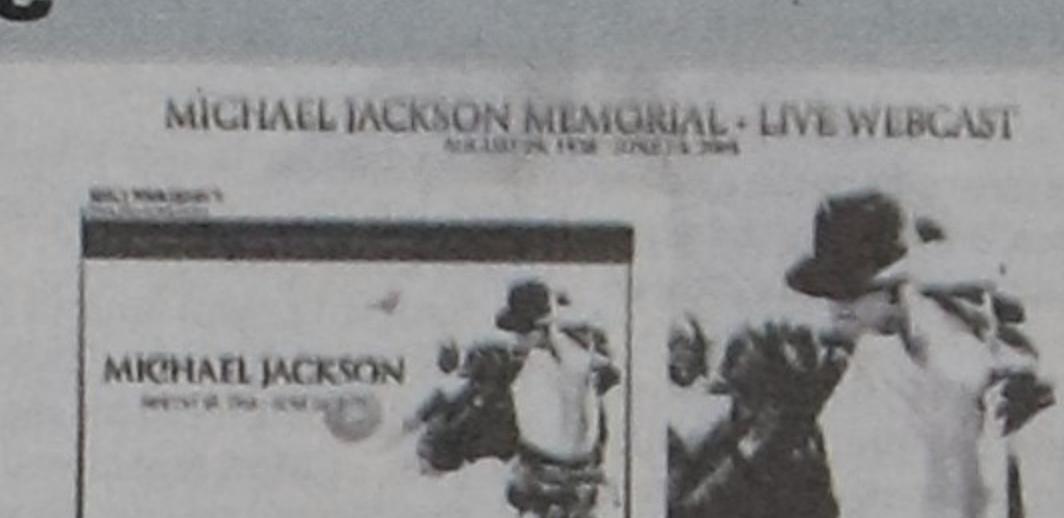
"Rest in peace now Michael... I'm glad you went out a record breaker, a hero, and a fantastic performer the world will never be the same without," said a message signed with the name James Cleave.

"As a kid I used to dance to your music from your 'Bad' album on my parents' LP player and everyone knew me to be one of your biggest fans on the island of Cyprus."

A posting from Swee Kim recounted being only 10 years old when seeing Jackson perform in Brunei in 1996.

"I will always remember this moment and will always remember you," Kim wrote. "No one else can ever take your place. You're the one and only King of Pop."

Comments, condolences, and memories from Facebook



users scrolled rapid-fire in a constantly updated chat box posted next to a CNN Live stream of memorial proceedings.

Facebook said that about a million members worldwide weighed in online with comments while watching live online video of Jackson's memorial.

Facebook users were at times firing off 6,000 comments per minute as they watched memorial video at CNN Live.

"The 6,000 is just for CNN Live," said Facebook marketing director Randi Zuckerberg.

"The most interesting thing is how many people are writing in internationally," Zuckerberg said, referring to Facebook updates from Switzerland, Israel, Britain and Barbados posted just seconds earlier.

Jackson was also crowned the most popular celebrity at Facebook, with more than seven million fans at an official profile page and another four million fans signed onto unofficial pages dedicated to the music icon.

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