

Doel Our own laptop



PHOTO: COURTESY

A worker assembles a Doel notebook at its production facility at the Telephone Shilpa Sangstha.

FAUZIA SULTANA

Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS), Bangladesh, where analogue phone sets were manufactured long before the digital dominance, will now be the hub for assembling Doel netbooks and laptops.

Named after the national bird, Doel is the first ever laptop brand to be assembled in Bangladesh, which is believed to revolutionise the

Advanced. The first three models are netbooks, and the Advanced model is a laptop. While the primary model is designed for simpler applications like e-booking or playing games, the advance model comes with all kinds of modern apps, at an attractively low price.

There are also variations in design and the netbooks and laptops come in four different colours: red wine, silver and the usual black and white. Starting from Taka 10,000 (less than

Financed by the Government of Bangladesh, these netbooks and laptops are being assembled at the state-owned telecommunications manufacturing unit, TSS. Gonona Technologies Limited, a local IT company has been providing IT solutions and consultancy services, designed the product and is assisting the set up of the manufacturing line at TSS in co-operation with TFT, a Malaysian based company.

On asking Nazmul Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of Gonona, why should someone buy a Doel netbook/laptop, when there is a variety of choices in the market, he shares, "Not only are Doel netbooks and laptops cheap, but they are sophisticated too. Besides, every netbook or laptop comes with a warranty of one year. And since it is assembled here, quality control of the laptops can be monitored closely and efficiently."

The unique feature of Doel netbooks and laptops is the operating system (OS). The OS is designed in both Bangla and English. "Since computer literacy in the rural areas is low due to incompetency in English, we decided to design the OS in Bangla to help people in the rural areas learn easily. However, it can always be changed to English, when needed," adds Nazmul.

Be it for educational purposes, business or simply because it's a fashion statement, everyone wants to own a stylish netbook or laptop. And many a times this longing is conquered by the price tags. But with the launching of Doel netbooks and laptops in Bangladesh, this scenario will soon be history!

DOEL MODEL SPECS

Specifications	Primary Model 2102	Basic Model 0703	Standard Model 2603	Advanced Model 1612
Display	10.0" LCD 1024x600	10.1" WXGA LED Backlight 1024x600	12.1" WXGA LED Backlight 1360x768	14" WXGA LED Backlight 1360x768
Processor	VIA 8650 800 MHz	Intel ATOM N455 1.66 GHz	Intel ATOM N470 1.8 GHz	Intel P6200 2.13 GHz
Memory	512 MB	1 GB DDR3	2 GB DDR3	2GB DDR3
Storage	16 GB NAND Flash	SATA 250 GB HDD	SATA 320 GB HDD	SATA 320 GB HDD
Bluetooth	N/A	N/A	V 3.0 High speed	V 3.0 High speed
OS Compatibility	Windows CE 6.0 / Android	Windows / Linux	Windows / Linux	Windows / Linux
Price (Taka)	10,000	13,500	20,000	26,000-27,000

high tech industry of the country. With the aim to bridge the communication gap between our people and ICT, by providing laptops at an affordable rate, this initiative provides scopes to build capacity, train local manpower and strengthen the country's ICT expertise.

Doel netbooks and laptops come in four different models: Primary, Basic, Standard and

\$150)-27,000, the prices of the different models are well within the reach of the average and low income population of the country.

Compared to the laptops and netbooks available in the market within this price range, Doel netbooks and laptops come with a better configuration of components that are imported from Malaysia and China.

BlackBerry says services have improved

AP, London

BlackBerry services buzzed back to life Thursday across Europe, the Middle East, Africa and India, after a three-day outage that interrupted email messages and Internet services for millions of customers.

Research In Motion Ltd., the Canadian company that makes the phones, posted a statement Thursday that says services are better. BlackBerry users around the world have faced huge problems over the past few days getting and receiving emails and messages, as well as launching Internet services.

The company says it will monitor the situation around the clock to make sure there's no repeat.

Research In Motion said a crucial link in its European infrastructure failed Monday, and that its backup also failed. Although the underlying issues have been repaired, the system had built up a backlog of emails and messages that needed to be wound down.

The failure in Europe soon spread to regions all round the world, including the U.S. and Asia.

Users fumed and confidence in the brand was strained, at a time the company is fighting a big battle with Apple Inc. the timing of the outage was particularly unfortunate as it came on the launch of Apple's new iPhone.

'NGO Connection Day' held



IT.TELECOM DESK

D.Net (Development Research Network) yesterday organised a seminar on 'NGO Connection Day' at a hotel in the capital, says a press release.

The NGO Connection Day took place under D.Net's initiative styled 'Enhancing Efficiency and Effectiveness of non-government organizations (NGOs) through Capacity Building on ICT (EEE-NGO-ICT)'. The initiative is supported by

Microsoft Bangladesh, Microsoft India, and Nasscom Foundation, India.

The general objective of the initiative is to provide ICT education to NGOs for institutional capacity building in internal management, program management and evaluation, outreach and communication, and right to information compliance.

More importantly, the NGO Connection Day is likely to produce specific results, for instance, identification of specific opportunities for integrating ICTs in development and rights.

The seminar had two plenary sessions and four parallel technical sessions.

Prof Sadeka Halim, commissioner of Information Commission was present as the chief guest at the inaugural session.

Dr. Ananya Raihan, executive director, D.Net presented the Key notepaper. KAM Morshed, assistant country director, UNDP-Bangladesh and Syed Almas Kabir, treasurer, Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) discussed on the key notepaper.

Steve Jobs documentary "iGenius" to debut on Discovery

REUTERS, Los Angeles (TheWrap.com)

Discovery Channel has announced a quickly-produced new documentary that will look back at the many ways Apple visionary Steve Jobs influenced modern life.

"MythBusters" hosts Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman will host the documentary "iGenius: How Steve Jobs Changed the World," which will premiere on Discovery Channel on October 16.

Immediately following its debut on Discovery, the special will air on the network's sister channels in more than 210 countries and territories around the world.

Interviewees lined up for the documentary include John Draper, an engineer who helped start Jobs' career;

Daniel Kottke, a friend who traveled to India with Jobs and became an early Apple employee; Lee Felsenstein, a founding member of the Homebrew Computer Club; journalists Tom Brokaw and Toure; and musicians Stevie Wonder and Pete Wentz, who talk about how Jobs' musical innovations added to their career successes.

"Someone once said that to follow the path that others have laid before you is a very reasonable course of action, therefore all progress is made by unreasonable men," Adam Savage said.

"Steve Jobs was an unreasonable man. He didn't simply give the public what they wanted, he defined entirely new ways of thinking about our lives in the digital space: productivity, creativity, music, communication, media and art. He has touched, directly and indirectly, all of our lives."



Steve Jobs at a press conference in 1992

PHOTO: REUTERS

Nokia N9 offer for Icons

IT.TELECOM DESK

Icon, the premium telecom brand of the country from the house of Orascom Telecom Bangladesh Ltd, has joined hands with Nokia Bangladesh in an exclusive promotion of Nokia's flagship smartphone N9 only for Icon subscribers, says a press release.

The promotion will start from November. The Icon subscribers will be the ones to own the Nokia N9, two weeks prior to everyone else, at only half the recommended retail price.

The first 50 Icon subscribers to preorder the device will be eligible for this concession. In addition, limited number of attractive genuine Nokia accessories will also be available for Icons.

Those who are Icon subscribers for at least two months are eligible for the offer.

The N9 smartphone is fully loaded with blazingly fast mobile browsing, the best free navigation out there and quick fire Carl Zeiss optics 8 megapixel camera.

The Nokia N9 introduces an innovative new design where the home key is replaced by a simple gesture: a swipe.

The phone has 3.9-inch AMOLED screen is made from scratch-resistant curved glass.



Irum Iqbal, head of marketing, Nokia EA, and Solaiman Alam, deputy director, marketing, Orascom Telecom Bangladesh Ltd. pose with N9 at the event.

Laptop bazaar opens

IT.TELECOM DESK

A marketplace for laptops and other similar mobile devices only has been opened yesterday on the 5th floor of Eastern Plus Shopping Complex at Shantinagar in the capital, says a press release.

First of its kind, the 'Eastern Plus BCS laptop bazaar' is an initiative taken by Bangladesh Computer Samiti (BCS) and Eastern Plus Shop Owners' Association.

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad inaugurated the bazaar yesterday morning while State Minister for Science and ICT Yeafesh Osman and Rashed Khan Menon, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on education ministry were also present among others.

To mark the occasion, a 9-day fair kicked off from yesterday at the same venue.

Fifty two ICT companies and various renowned brands are taking part in the 9-day fair. The fair will remain open for all from 8am-10am every day.

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