

# CES 2012 Gadgets, techs everywhere!

FAUZIA SULTANA

Of stylish gadgets, promising technologies and scintillating stars the International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2012 runs from January 10-13, drawing 149,000 attendees to more than 2,700 exhibitors.

The tech trade show held each January in the Las Vegas Convention Center, CES is the hub where thousands of devices and future generation technologies make their debut. From ultrabooks to digital health products to connected TVs, the innovation at the 2012 CES is nothing short of amazing, as attendees witness ground-breaking products spanning one of the largest show floors in CES history.

One of the notable segments of CES 2012 was Microsoft President and CEO Steve Ballmer's keynote address, supposedly the company's last planned keynote at the event, where Ballmer announced that Microsoft Kinect will come to Windows on February 1, 2012.

The first day of CES 2012 was a mobile one, with dozens of new smartphones and tablets exhibited at the event.

Without an Apple presence at CES, it's a chance for other manufacturers to shout about their tablet devices. Toshiba has also jumped back into tablet waters with the new Excite 10, a stylish 10.1-inch Android slab that boasts a 1.2GHz dual-core TI processor and a 1,280 x 800 pixel display.

But it's Lenovo that has turned heads and widened eyes with its two new tablet models. There's the Asus Transformer-alike IdeaPad S2 running Ice Cream Sandwich and the quad-core Tegra 3-powered IdeaPad K2, which looks like a supercomputer pretending to be a clipboard.



PHOTOS: AFP/REUTERS

Rather than unveiling a new Playbook model, the beleaguered Blackberry builder has upgraded its tablet software to version 2.0.

Several new smartphones have been spotted on the plush Vegas carpets. Having absorbed Ericsson into the Sony hive mind, the newest Xperia handsets are the first to break cover without any Ericsson branding.

Elsewhere, HTC has upgraded the Titan for duty on AT&T. The HTC Titan 2 is the same 4.7-inch, 1.5GHz Windows Phone that you might be indifferent to. But it's

been souped-up with a 16MP snapper, wide angle lens, dual LED flash and LTE support.

What else? The Nokia Lumia 900 that is LTE-powered, larger screened (4.3 inches) and has a better front camera. The LG Spectrum catches the eye with a 4.5-inch IPS LCD that rivals the Retina display on the iPhone 4.

A highlight of the event, ultrabooks are one of the 'in-things' of 2012. Acer launched the 13.3-inch Aspire S5 during its CES 2012 press conference and promised Windows 8 Ultrabooks in the

second half of the year. Lenovo, for example, has unwrapped its good looking IdeaPad U Series ultrabooks at this year's show.

HP's Ultrabook effort is the Envy 14 Spectre, which incorporates a roomier 14-inch panel and is only 21mm thick.

Under the hood there's an Intel Core i5 or Core i7 processor, and a 128GB hard drive.

Samsung, meanwhile, joins the Ultrabook club with its Series 5 devices. Samsung also rolled out the second generation of its Series 9 laptops with a refined

'aerodynamic design'.

But the prize for strangest laptop surely goes to Intel's Nikiski see-through notebook, with a glass touchpad that doubles up as a touch screen when you close the lid.

Despite the popularity of tablets and smartphones, CES has always been about TVs. One of the stars of the show is LG's new OLED HDTV. Only 4mm, this TV is thinner than your smartphone. Samsung also promises a 55-inch OLED TV of its own. As for Sony, it impressed guests with its prototype Crystal LED technology.

Say Cheese! Photographers will doubtless be intrigued by Fujifilm's newly designed X-Trans 16-million pixel APS-C CMOS sensor. Canon G1 X boasts a 14.3MP CMOS sensor, 4x optical zoom, raw shooting and Full HD video recording. CES 2012 is also overflowing with compact cameras. Panasonic has introduced five new models to sit in its Lumix range, while Sony has added three new cameras to its enduring CyberShot range. Olympus, meanwhile, has announced five new compact cameras, including a rugged "Tough" camera.

One has to choose between looking weird and playing 3D games with Sensics' SmartGoggles.

Dubbed "smart" because they run Android 4.0, these goggles are still in prototype form. Among the gadgets on show was the Wi-Spi- a remote-controlled helicopter providing video surveillance and night-vision capabilities.

Stars including Justin Timberlake, Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi, Eliza Dushku and many others lighted up the tech crowd in Las Vegas this year's CES, promoting technology products and services and making CES 2012 glamorously successful.

## Three-day laptop fair begins

KAZI ZIAUR RAHMAN

With the slogan 'Light the Lamp of Technology', the three-day 'Qubee Laptop Fair 2012' kicked off yesterday at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel in the capital.

Yeafesh Osman, state minister for science and technology, inaugurated the fair as chief guest, while Syed Ashique Rahman, head of brand and communications of Qubee, Mustafa Zabbar, president of BCS (Bangladesh Computer Samity), Munir Hasan, consultant, Ministry of Science and ICT and Shahidul Munir, general secretary, BCS were the special guests at the event.

Maker Communication organised the fair for the 10th time and Qubee is sponsoring the event for the third time. The fair is also co-sponsored by Asus, Acer, HP and Samsung Bangladesh.

Yeafesh Osman, in his speech said that the technological advancement in Bangladesh is increasing day by day and young generation can make it more rapid.

Keeping that in mind, government is taking some initiatives for the youths. The minister also said in the recent years the selling of laptops has increased remarkably and he thanked the organisers for these fair initiatives.

Munir Hasan in his speech mentioned some statistics regarding laptop sells in the country. He said in 2008 only 48 thousand laptops were sold, however, in 2011 notebooks, Eee PCs etc. alone were sold over 2 lakhs.

According to the organisers this is one of the biggest laptop fairs in the country. More than 20 local and international brands are participating in the fair with their latest laptops, net-books and notebooks.

There are 60 stalls and 12 pavilions in the fair. The fair is open from 10:00am 8:00pm every day.

The entry fee has been fixed at Tk 20.



Yeafesh Osman, state minister for science and technology ministry visits a stall at the fair.

## Cyberbullying a problem around the globe: poll

REUTERS, New York

More than 10 percent of parents around the world say their child has been cyberbullied and nearly one-fourth know a youngster who has been a victim, according to a new Ipsos/Reuters poll.

And more than three-quarters of people questioned in the global survey thought cyberbullying differed from other types of harassment and warranted special attention and efforts from parents and schools.

"The data clearly shows an appetite among global citizens for a targeted response to cyberbullying," said Keren Gottfried, of the global research firm Ipsos, which conducted the poll.

But, she added, whether or not schools live up to this mandate is in the hands of educators.

The online poll of more than 18,000 adults in 24 countries, 6,500 of whom were parents, showed the most widely reported vehicle for cyberbullying was social networking sites like Facebook, which were cited by 60 percent.

Mobile devices and online chat rooms were a

distant second and third, each around 40 percent.

While the report showed that awareness of cyberbullying was relatively high, with two-thirds saying they heard, read or had seen information on the phenomenon, cultural and geographic differences abounded.



In India, 91 percent said they knew about cyberbullying, in which a child, group of children or younger teen intentionally intimidates, threatens or embarrasses another child or group through the use of information technology such as social media or mobile devices.

Australia followed at 87 percent, while Poland and Sweden trailed slightly behind. But only 29 percent in Saudi Arabia, and 35 percent in Russia, had heard of cyberbullying.

## Oracle Big Data Appliance now available

IT &amp; TELECOM DESK

Oracle announced the availability of Oracle Big Data Appliance to help customers in the country get maximum business value from big data, says a press release.

This new engineered system scales by connecting multiple racks together via an InfiniBand network enabling it to acquire, organise and analyse extreme data volumes.

This Big Data Appliance with the Oracle Big Data Connectors software delivers everything customers need to acquire, organise and to analyse big data within the context of all their enterprise data. It also helps reduce the IT costs of the clients.

Oracle also announced the availability of Oracle Big Data Connectors, a software product that helps customers easily integrate data stored in Hadoop and Oracle NoSQL Database with Oracle Database 11g.

## Android-powered watches get internet savvy

AFP, Las Vegas

The internet was strapped to wrists at the Consumer Electronics Show on Wednesday in the form of Android-powered "smart watches" that serve up online content along with telling time.

Japanese consumer electronics titan Sony and venture-backed Italian startup i'm Watch were each sporting spins on timepieces that use the Google software to connect wearers with email, music, websites or other

online content.

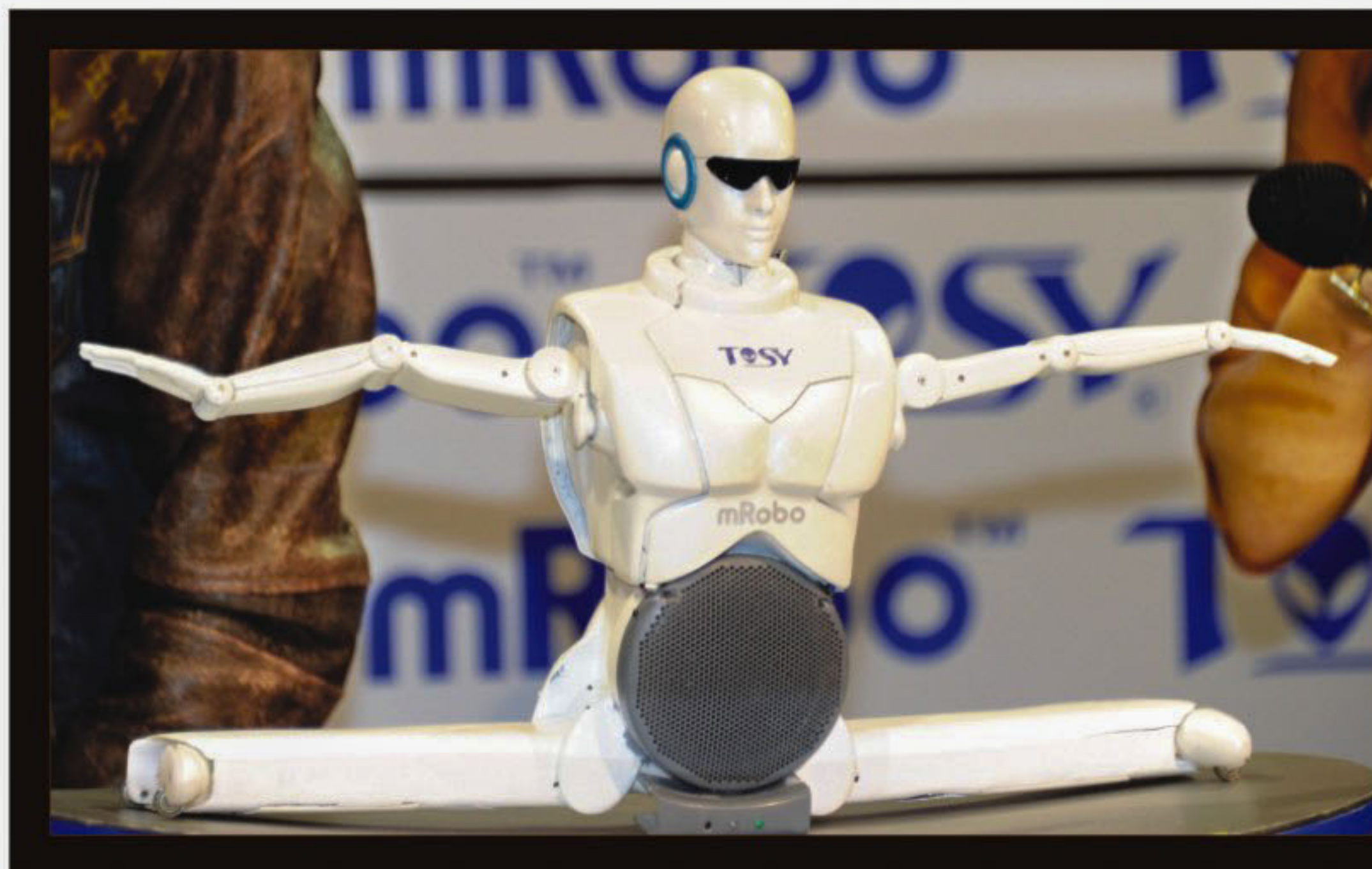
Sony's SmartWatch was promised by the end of March while i'm Watch was released at CES.

"This is the right period for the watch," i'm Watch chief executive and co-founder Massimiliano Bertolini told AFP at the company's booth on the show floor.

"Everybody wants to have technology that is also fashion," he continued. "That is the Apple secret; making devices that people fall in love with."



PHOTO: AFP



TECHPHOTO

## The mRobo

The mRobo Ultra Bass portable speaker and dancing robot at the TOSY Robotics booth is displayed after it was unveiled at the 2012 International Consumer Electronics Show at the Las Vegas Convention Center January 11, 2012 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

PHOTO: AFP

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