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IT & TELECOM

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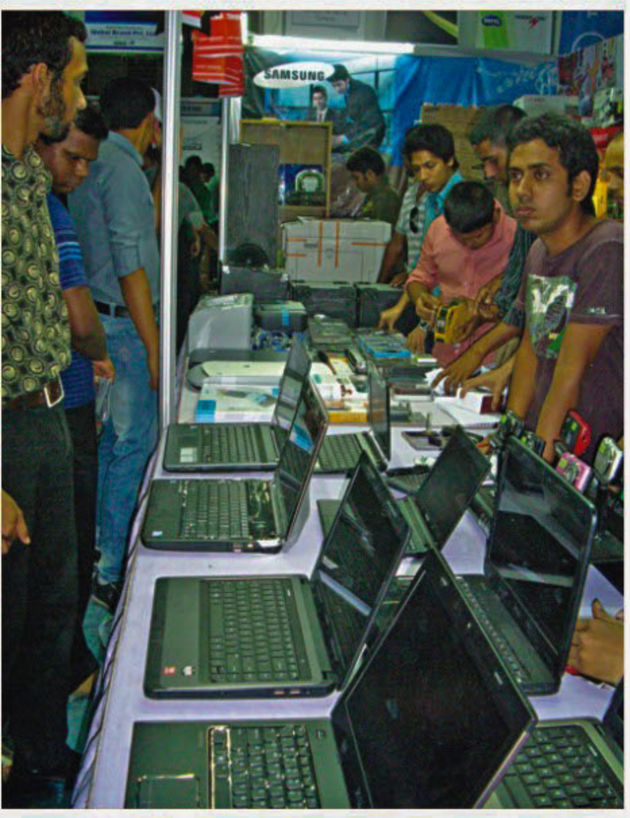
Digital expo fires up tech enthusiasts in Mymensingh



PHOTOS: AMINUL ISLAM

Laptops and other digital devices are on display at a stall at the fair attended by local tech enthusiasts.

AMINUL ISLAM, *Mymensingh*

The first ever digital exposition in Mymensingh ended on a promising note on April 9.

Visitors thronged the expo venue on the concluding day at Mymensingh Gymnasium. The first of its kind five-day ICT fair began on April 5.

The fair styled "BCS Digital Expo Mymensingh-2012" was organised by Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS) Mymensingh branch with assistance from Mymensingh district administration and ICT Business Promotion Council, sources said.

A total of 28 computer firms including 15 from Dhaka participated at the fair. They showcased latest ICT products of different brands at the event.

The five-day event included seminars on different aspects of computer and information technology, painting competition for children, gaming zone and cultural shows. The fair authority also offered discounted prices for different computer items and accessories which drew a huge number of visitors, mainly youths.

The fair was organised with a view to making people aware, mainly the young generation, of computer use to increase the number of computer users in the country, organisers said.

Mahbubur Rahman Palash, senior sales executive of Smart Technologies in Dhaka said through such fairs, the customers should avail of the opportunity to choose computer, laptops and other electronic devices of different brands and compare the prices of the products. The companies also get the opportunity to advertise their products ensuring promotion of their business.

"I attended many such fairs outside Dhaka but the response here was very impressive," said Palash.

Mohammad Mamun of Com Valley Ltd, another firm from Dhaka said they were satisfied with the visitor turnover and sales during the fair and it would be an encouragement for them in future.

Shamsul Alam Sujon, proprietor of Active Computers and Engineers in Mymensingh said the fair, first of its kind in Mymensingh will surely inspire the organisers to arrange more such fairs in future. He also expressed his satisfaction with the overall sale situation and presence of visitors of different age groups.

Masud Rana, manager of RMJ Computer of Mymensingh also expressed his satisfaction about the fair.

Prof. Afzalur Rahman of Govt Ananda Mohan College who visited the fair said the youths would be benefited a lot from such fair. The computer has become an essential part of our daily life and the inspired younger people can get the opportunity to earn better incomes to lead a better life, he added.

Rashed Mamun, a student of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) said the local people mainly the youths do not get a chance to visit such fairs as they are mostly held in Dhaka. Thanking the organisers, he expressed hopes that if such fairs are held in district towns on regular basis, the vision of building a Digital Bangladesh would eventually be fulfilled.

Taking to The Daily Star, the secretary of BCS Mymensingh branch Md Ismail Hossain said the numbers of visitors at the fair impressed the organisers and exhibitors.

"The visitors' response was very promising which will inspire us to go for more fairs in Mymensingh," said Ismail adding that they are successful in organising the fair.

Joyprakash Mandal, convenor of the fair said the event concluded successfully and the rush of visitors was beyond their expectation. "Our initiative was lauded by different quarters and we are inspired to hold such fairs next year," said an exuberant Joyprakash.

Earlier, Principal Motiur Rahman MP inaugurated the fair as the chief guest on April 5.

Among others, Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Lokman Hossain Miah, ICT expert and director of BCS central body Mustafa Jabber, President of BCS central unit Fayzullah Khan and President of BCS Mymensingh unit Shawkat Sarwar Hossain, addressed the inaugural session of the fair.

They speakers told the audience that we have a large population and if we want to transform this huge population into valuable human resource, we must need computer skills. The unemployed people and youths could be 'digital resources' through grabbing out-sourcing jobs, they said.

In future, all kinds of information including those on agriculture would be available through the internet. So knowledge of the computer and the internet would be needed for different sections of people. People with computer expertise have also job opportunity in foreign countries, they added.

As the latest information on different global development are available on the internet, there is no alternative to using the computer and the internet in our daily life, they concluded.

Apple works on Mac malware fix but takes heat

REUTERS, *San Francisco*

The cybersecurity community raked Apple Inc over the coals on Wednesday, saying the company had dragged its heels on eradicating malware that experts say may have infected up to 600,000 Macintosh computers and can be used to ferret out sensitive user information.

The consumer electronics company said it was working on finding and ridding "Flashback" malware that exploits a flaw in Oracle Corp's Java software. Apple has issued patches and is now developing software to detect and eliminate Flashback, it said on its website. The company declined to elaborate.

But Apple is catching heat for not having quickly addressed the issue, even after Oracle distributed its own patch in February.

Several security blogs accused Apple of having not been forthcoming in the past about security issues, but gave the company credit for stepping forward now.

"Someone in Apple has broken ranks following the recent revelations of a Jolly Big OS X botnet," Paul Ducklin at security specialist Sophos wrote. "Apple has -- apparently for the very first time -- talked about a security problem before it had all its threat response ducks in a row."

Trojans and other malware typically target Microsoft Windows, long the dominant PC operating system. Flashback stands out in that it represents one of the largest-scale invasions of Apple computers, which are gaining ground on Windows PCs.

Antivirus specialists Symantec Corp said the malware surfaced last summer or early fall. It said the number of infected computers, which hackers link into botnets to access private information, had dropped to 270,000 as of this week.

Microsoft counting down to the end of Windows XP

AFP, *San Francisco*

Microsoft is counting down the days until it is through with the Windows XP operating system for personal computers.

The US software titan used a blog post to remind the world that in two years it will no longer support the generations-old operating system that people have clung to despite the releases of successors Vista and Windows 7.

"We want to acknowledge the two-year countdown to the end of Windows XP and Office 2003 support," said Microsoft marketing director Stella Chernyak.

"Windows XP and Office 2003 were great software releases for their time, but the technology environment has shifted."

She advised computer users, particularly businesses, to begin "migrating" machines to the latest versions of the programs well before Microsoft puts XP to rest on April 8, 2014.

Baishakhi offers from HP and Akhoni.com

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HP

HP's Imaging and Printing Group (IPG) has launched promotion to celebrate the Bangla New Year for their customers, says a press release.

With purchases of selected HP printers and original HP inkjet and laserjet cartridges, customers can enjoy attractive gifts. This offer is valid until April 30.

Akhoni.com

Akhoni.com, a pioneer e-commerce site of Bangladesh has brought numbers of exclusive offers on wide range of products on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh at major discounts, says another press release.

On the occasion of Pahela Boishakh, Akhoni.com has also brought a 100% free deal worth of 1,000 taka. 10 lucky winners will be given a chance to eat 1,000 taka worth of food with a friend at Pampe restaurant.

PHOTO: AFP

Akie Koh, a stylist from Japan, makes final preparations on the face of Geminoid F (R), a female robot, in Hong Kong on March 28. The Geminoid F robot, developed by Ishiguro Laboratory in Osaka University and ATR Intelligent Robotics and Communication Laboratories in 2010, is on display with other robots at City Plaza's "Robots in Motion 2012" exhibition from March 29 to April 15.

Deadline extended for mbillionth Award nomination

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Nomination submission for the prestigious mbillionth South Asia Award for 2012 has been extended to April 30, 2012.

D.Net, the Bangladesh country partner of the award, invites entrepreneurs and organisations to submit nominations of their project or programs by April 30.

Last year, there were 200 nominations from across South Asia and 21 were winners. From Bangladesh, out of 16 nominations 4 entries won.

One can visit http://mbillionth.in/ and register interest through filling up the first phase nomination form. The 11 Categories for nomination are: m-Education & Learning, m-Health, m-Travel & Tourism, m-News & Journalism, m-Culture & Heritage, m-Environment, m-Entertainment, m-Inclusion, m-Governance, m-Infrastructure, m- Business & Commerce/Banking.

Digital Empowerment Foundation formally launched the mBillionth Award South Asia in the year 2010.

The mBillionth Award acknowledges South Asia as a key hub of the world's mobile and telecom market in terms of penetration and innovation, and promotes the best of mobile-based implementations in the region. It is the most influential & leading platform to explore, recognise & honour the best practices in mobile & telecom industry across South Asia.

Knowledge sharing session for BASIS members

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A day-long knowledge sharing session on 'Executing Commercial Contracts and Intellectual Property Rights' was held on Saturday at BASIS office in the capital.

GPIT and BASIS jointly organised this session for in-house legal counsels, corporate affairs advisers and top management officers of BASIS member companies.

Objective of this session was to have a lively discussion on execution of good contracts and protection and use of intellectual property.

Both execution of commercial contracts and protection of intellectual property right are vital for safe and compliant business practice. Very often companies, partnerships and other organisations have to enter into contracts with others, both locally and internationally for various business reasons.

To achieve intended commercial objectives and also to avoid misunderstandings and disputes, drafting and execution of clear and unambiguous written contracts is essential as a good contract has the potential to eliminate chances of unnecessary adverse consequences.

Jahrat Adib Chowdhury, head of legal & corporate affairs, Grameenphone IT Ltd (GPIT) conducted the session.

A certificate giving ceremony was arranged after the session at BASIS conference room for the participants of the knowledge sharing session.

Sarkar Abul Kalam Azad, deputy secretary and project director of Bangladesh Computer Council distributed the certificates among the participants.