Asus' new laptop

IT & TELECOM DESK

Asus has introduced Asus A55A laptop from its A series in the local market.

The A55A comes with a 15.6-inch display, Intel Core i5 2.50 GHz processor, Intel GMA HD Graphics, 2 GB DDR3 RAM, 500 GB hard drive, DVD Writer, HD audio, gigabit LAN, Wi-Fi(802.11b/g/n), Bluetooth with HDMI support, webcam, USB 3.0 port. The laptop has a price tag of Tk 49,500.

Monico Technologies' security device

IT & TELECOM DESK

Monico Technologies Ltd has introduced locally made FINDER Door Informer, a security device for home and office.
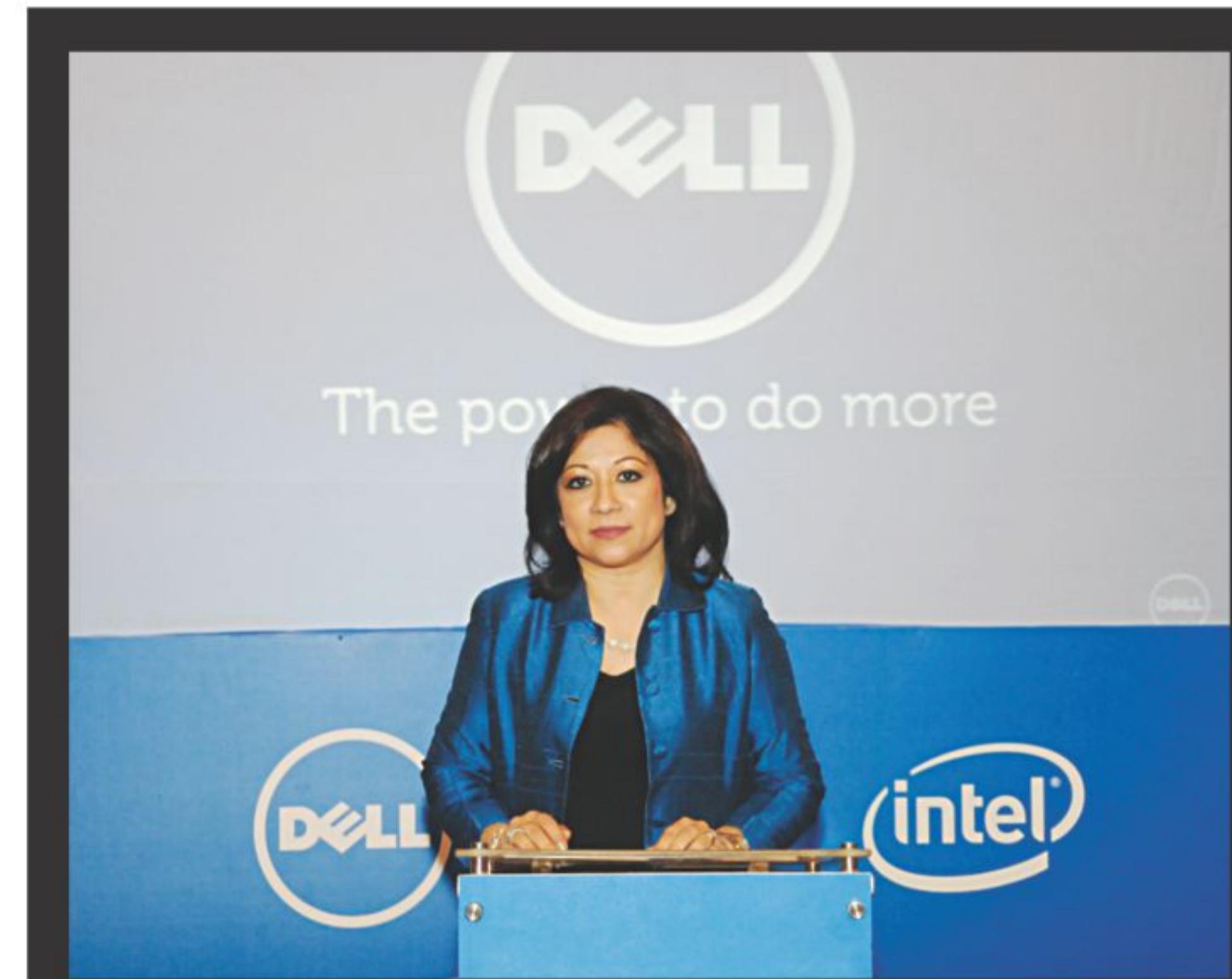
The easy-to-install device sends SMS or calls to its users whenever the door is opened or closed depending on its settings.

The SMS or call feature can be set up for three mobile phones. The numbers can be changed or deactivated anytime.

The device helps monitor the entry or exit of unauthorised people in a given time and control access in the office or house round the clock.

Monico Technologies believes the device will be very useful for institutions like banks, jewelry shops, IT server rooms, education institutions and homes.

The device has the price tag of Tk 4,499.

Microsoft shows its new technology

IT & TELECOM REPORT

Microsoft Bangladesh recently organised 'Microsoft Technology Roadshow' to showcase the latest devices and solutions of Microsoft to the IT industry and experts of the country.

The event was designed to take Bangladesh IT professionals and administrators on a journey to help them look beyond the traditional IT environment and seek better business returns with new tools and technologies that are reshaping the global IT industry.

The products showcased during the Technology Roadshow focused on how these new innovations are redefining the management and delivery of IT services in an organisation.

At the event Microsoft showcased 13 new products including new versions of Microsoft Office, SharePoint, Microsoft Lync, Exchange Server and System Centre.

All the products are set to launch in the country soon.

A comprehensive description on the business value of each and every new product was delivered at the Roadshow.

Audience also got the chance to experience the touch and feel of Windows 8 for the first time in Bangladesh, as well as be the new touch devices displayed by Microsoft Bangladesh's

Pubudu Basnayake speaks at Microsoft Technology Roadshow 2012.

hardware partners.

In an interview with The Daily star at the event, Pubudu Basnayake, chief operating officer Microsoft Bangladesh, said the launching of Windows 8 started in October. "People are excited about the product and there is a good response for the windows 8."

"Windows 8 will be officially launched in Bangladesh soon. We are getting our partners and distributors trying out the product. Although It's not officially launched, consumers in Bangladesh should be able to place orders through the resellers."

When asked he said they have not yet thought about lunching Surface, Microsoft's tablet, in Bangladesh market. It's actually available in few markets in the world.

Microsoft has been closely working mainly with enterprise customers in Bangladesh.

"Most of the enterprise customers are using key technologies like Active Directory, Exchange, Share Point, Lync. But what I have seen is that there is a significant amount of customers who haven't tried our products, so there is quite a lot of potential. On the top of that we need to do more work with the government and also with the NGOs."

"For Microsoft this has been one of the biggest launch years. We are launching more than 30 products, services and hardware devices in the market. We are almost reengineering the way we will be selling our products. There will be lot of products out in the market with a load of new feaures."

Google enters debate on UN internet control

AFP, *Washington*

Google has jumped into the debate over a UN telecom gathering set to review regulations affecting the internet, claiming it is "the wrong place" to make decisions about the future of the Web.

In a posting on its "take action" blog this week, Google said the December gathering of the UN's International Telecommunications Union comes amid "a growing backlash on internet freedom."

The ITU's World Conference on International Communications opening next month in Dubai will update global telecom rules for the first time since 1988, and some countries see this as an opportunity to set up new rules for the internet.

US officials and lawmakers, along with a number of internet activists, have expressed concern that proposals from China, Russia and other nations could threaten the open model of the internet by giving the UN agency a greater role.

Google's statement said "the ITU is the wrong place to make decisions about the future of the internet" because "only governments have a voice at the ITU," including some "that do not support a free and open internet."

"The ITU is also secretive," Google said. "The treaty conference and proposals are confidential."

Google said some proposed treaty changes "could increase censorship and threaten innovation" and others "would require services like YouTube, Facebook,

and Skype to pay new tolls in order to reach people across borders. This could limit access to information -- particularly in emerging markets."

Google's comments backed the US position, which is that the non-government "multi-stakeholder" system of the Internet should remain in place.

"Governments alone should not determine the future of the internet," the Google blog said. The billions of people around the globe that use the Internet, and the experts that build and maintain it, should be included.

The Google response comes a week after Russia submitted its proposal to the ITU, provoking strong reactions from some online activists.

Larry Downes, an analyst with the Bell Mason Group consultancy who follows technology issues, said the Russian proposal "makes explicit" Moscow's desire to bring the Internet under greater control of the UN agency and diminish the role of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, which manages the internet address system.

"The Russian federation's proposal... would in specific substantially if not completely change the role of ICANN in overseeing domain names and IP addresses," Downes said in a blog post.

"Of course the Russian Federation, along with other repressive governments, uses every opportunity to gain control over the free flow of information, and sees the Internet as it's most formidable enemy."

TECHPHOTO

Sonia Bashir Kabir, country manager, Dell Bangladesh speaks at 'Discover Dell end-to-end Enterprise solutions' at a local restaurant in Dhaka on November 20. Dell organised the event to expand Dell's enterprise solutions portfolio to help IT organisations more rapidly respond to business demands, improve efficiency, and strengthen IT services quality in Bangladesh.

PHOTO: **COURTESY**

Global mobile data traffic doubled in year: Ericsson

AFP, *Stockholm*

The amount of data used by mobile devices doubled over the past year, boosted by growth in video streaming services, according to a study released on Wednesday by Swedish telecom group Ericsson.

Data traffic doubled in the third quarter of this year on an annual basis, and rose 16 percent from the previous quarter, it said.

The trend is set to continue, with the amount of information transferred over mobile networks doubling every year for the next six years, driven in large part by users accessing more video content.

Computers and tablets currently dominate mobile traffic, but the high

growth in smartphone subscriptions means data consumption will be split equally between the two in 2018.

"Smartphone traffic is growing faster due to the high growth in subscriptions," the report said.

Around 40 percent of all phones sold in the third quarter of this year were smartphones.

Mobile devices have turned social media into an activity that consumers engage in througout the day, Ericsson noted.

"It has begun to influence and merge with other behaviors, such as watching TV and other video content," it said.

"The two activities are instead done in parallel or even merged into a new kind of behavior."

Sanitation Hackathon
Tapping ICT innovations in sanitation

IT & TELECOM DESK

Young IT professionals, with the help of sanitation experts will go for an intensive brainstorming and programming marathon session to develop innovative IT applications to tackle the poverty in Bangladesh.

More than 150 participants, mostly IT experts and university students have already registered to participate in the two-day Sanitation Hackathon from November 30, 2012 at the Ruposhi Bangla hotel in Dhaka.

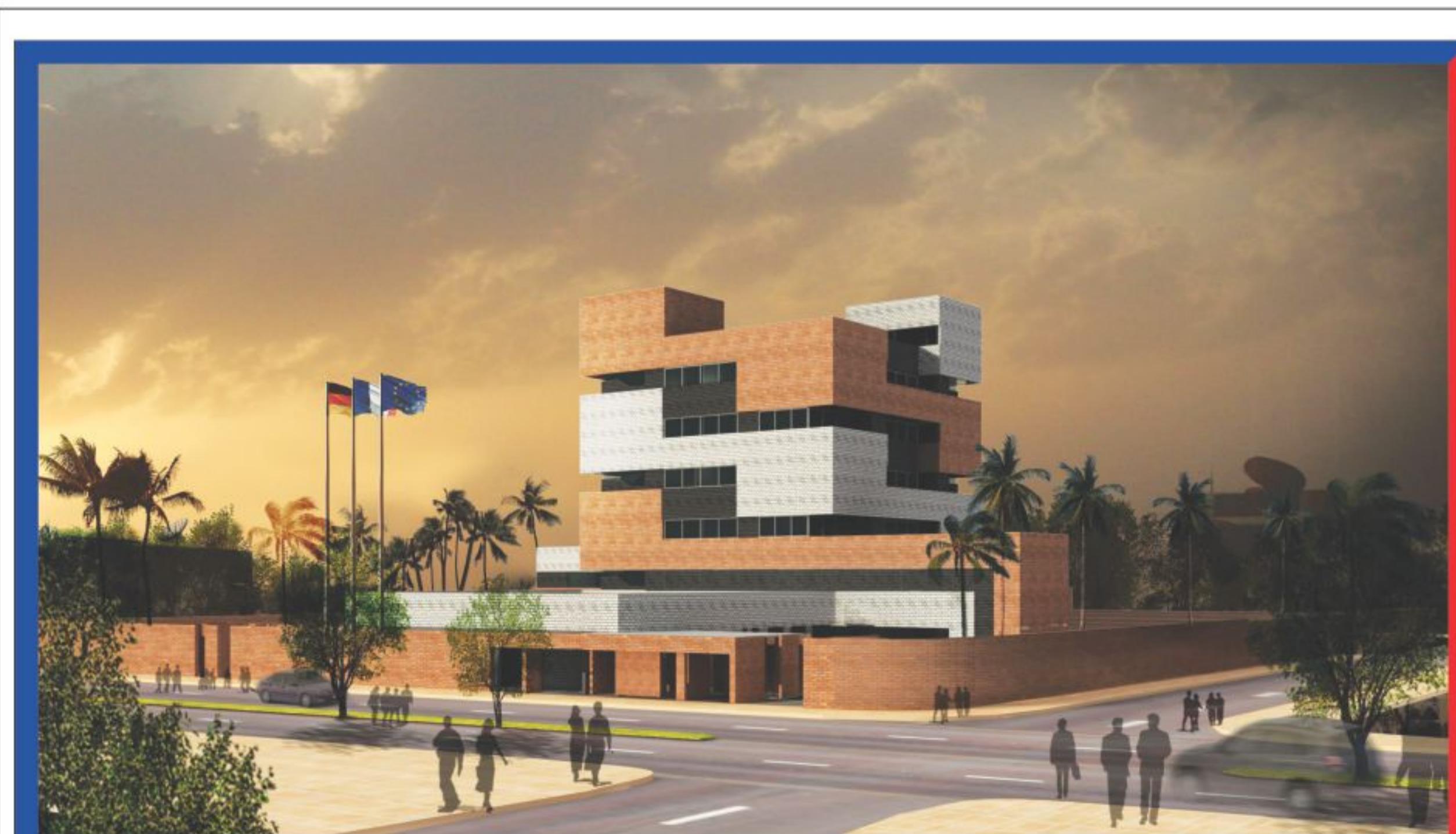The event is being organised by Water and Sanitation Program of the World Bank.

This intensive coding marathon is aimed at finding innovative IT solutions to address the lack of access to basic sanitation by 2.6 billion people in the world. The Sanitation Hackathon follows last year's Water Hackathon which was organised by the World Bank.

The overall goal of the Sanitation Hackathon is to form a community of IT professionals and sanitation experts that will collaborate in future to address challenges in the sanitation sector.

Lack of access to basic sanitation causes the death of approximately 4,000 children a day and billions of dollars in economic losses. Using new technology like data maps, mobile games, SMS services, crowd sourcing and opening up data can also help to solve various other development problems.

Registration form and details are available at its website www.hackathonbd.com.

The Sanitation Hackathon will take place simultaneously on the same weekend in Lahore, Jakarta, Cape Town, Dakar, Lima, Manila, Dar es Salaam, Pune, various locations in North America, Hartford, Helsinki and London.