

# IT & TELECOM

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## EATL Mobile Apps Development Contest Gathering the brightest talents

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It was a momentous occasion for Bangladesh where hundreds of innovative and brightest talents of youths gathered together to participate in Mobile Apps Development competition on February 8 at North South University in the capital.

Jury board met over 200 contestants from different universities, organisations and companies from all over the country.

Each team presented their concepts on their mobile apps in development and business perspectives for bringing innovations and opportunities in using mobile technology.

The mobile apps are categorised as health, education, agriculture, life style, security, tourism, utility and games.

Amazing enthusiasm was observed among participants. They confidently presented their concepts for mobile apps development. There were many Bangla mobile app concepts that would uphold the image of Bangladesh and also provide opportunity of economy.

The jury board examined this competition and commented that "It was unbelievable intelligence, energy and innovations that came out through this competition from the young generation that will hit the world mobile apps market."

Ethics Advanced Technology Ltd (EATL) has launched the first ever Mobile Apps store 'EATL Apps' in Bangladesh and announced a six-month long campaign and competition in November last year.

The purpose of this initiative is to encourage and search the brightest talents for creating opportunities and connecting Bangladesh with global market



and innovations that will support the national goal of Digital Bangladesh.

It will build awareness on ICT opportunity and mobile app store that will end with grand finale on March 30, 2013. The key features of this initiative are: Bangla language app development, bringing local context and culture, easy payment gateway, creating opportunity for Bangladeshi talents for uploading their products in EATL Apps platform and get their revenue and expanding the utilisation of mobile accessibility for development and business endeavour.

This kind of ICT exposure has stimulated the youths and happened for the first time in Bangladesh.

Government officials from different sectors, development partners, donors, UN agencies, ICT professionals, educational institutions, NGOs, civil society organisations participated at the launch-

ing ceremony.

This competition was launched through website (www.eatlapps.com).

EATL received 188 mobile app concepts which is the largest submission in the ICT industry. Eighty-eight concepts have been listed through preliminary screening. They were then invited to present their concept in front of the jury board.

Top 30 contestants have been selected by the jury board for next level.

Finally top ten contestants will be selected for the winning prize and developing best mobile apps in Bangladesh.

Top ten finalists will be mentored by jury members for making the world best mobile apps and top three winners will be selected at final level.

The first prize winner will be awarded with five lakh taka. Second and 3rd prize winners will receive two lakh and one

lakh taka respectively.

Moreover top ten winners will get smart phones and job opportunity at EATL.

This initiative has mobilised ICT sector, talents and youths of walks of life for building better image of Bangladesh, thinking ahead with innovations and technology for social and economic development and going to appear in global landscape.

The overall vision of EATL Apps is to bring Bangladesh and Bangladeshi talents in global innovations and market for learning, positioning and contributing in economic development and knowledge sharing strategies soon in the future. Bangladesh brightest pools of talents will be the sources of inspiration for the generation and upholding the utilisation of mobile technology in our lives for impact.

## Nokia brings Lumia to Bangladesh

IT & TELECOM REPORT

Nokia has launched its flagship model Lumia 920 in the Bangladesh.

Nokia introduced Nokia Lumia 920 and Nokia Lumia 820, the first devices in Nokia's Windows Phone 8 range, at an event on Tuesday.

Nokia has introduced these two Windows 8 smartphones for Bangladesh market in partnership with Grameenphone.

The Nokia Lumia 920 is the flagship Windows Phone 8 smartphone, including the latest advances in Nokia PureView imaging innovation.

Using advanced floating lens technology, the camera in the Nokia Lumia 920 is able to take five times more light than competing smartphones without using flash, making it possible to capture clearer, brighter pictures and video indoors and at night. It also compensates for hand movement while the photo is being taken.

"Nokia PureView continues to deliver cutting-edge technology to make it possible for a smartphone camera to take the kind of images usually only seen on a standalone SLR camera," said Radi Ahmed Chowdhury, country manager of Nokia Emerging Asia.

The Nokia Lumia 920 also comes with Nokia City Lens, the latest addition to the Nokia location suite. By pointing the camera at a city street, City Lens overlays information about restaurants, shops, hotels and more on the surfaces of buildings, for the most intuitive way to explore surroundings.



It also comes with Nokia's largest ever battery (2000mAh) and, for the first time, built-in wireless charging for an easy, convenient way to get more out of every day.

The Nokia Lumia 920 is available at Tk 52,500.

On the other hand, the Nokia Lumia 820 is a stylish, mid-range smartphone that delivers high-end performance in a compact package. While the Nokia Lumia 820 has the same unibody look and feel as the high-end Lumia smartphones, it comes with an exchangeable shell design. Exchangeable shells not only make it possible to select from a range of colours, but also to add wireless charging.

It is available at Tk 38,300.

The two Lumia devices are available for Grameenphone customers only for the first one month from yesterday.

## Intel taking on cable TV with set-top box

AFP, San Francisco

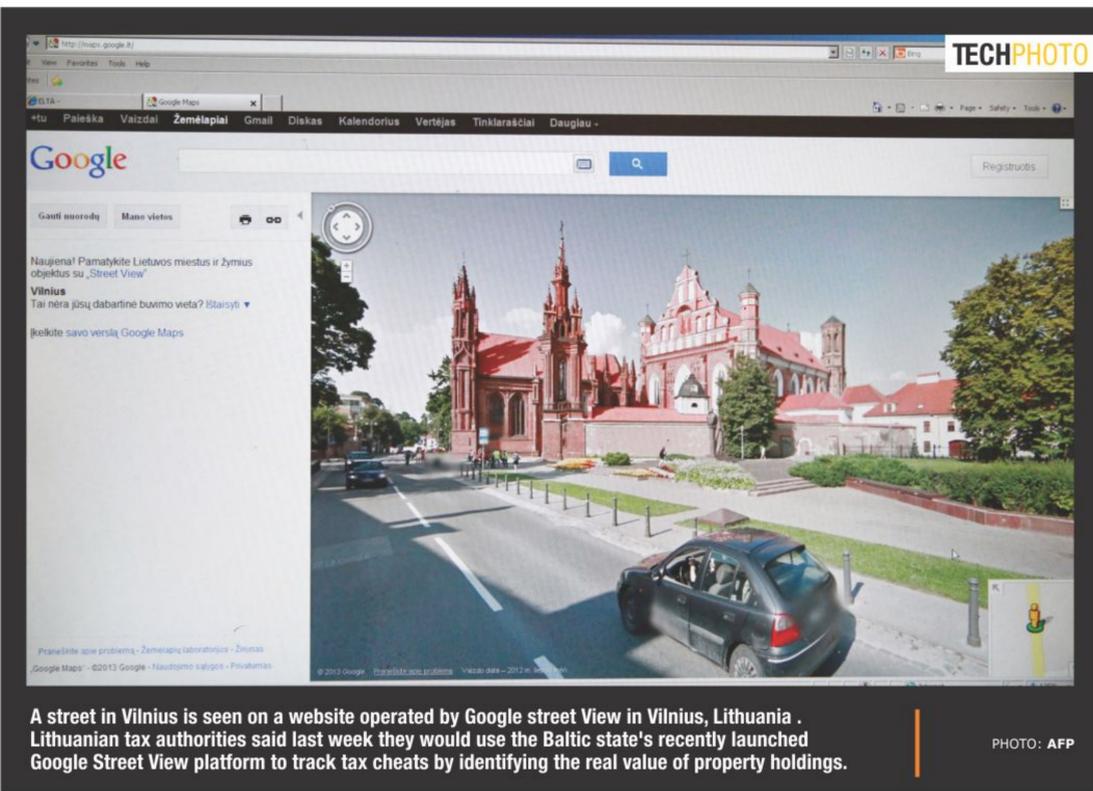
Computer chip giant Intel said Tuesday it is making a set-top box for delivering movies and more to televisions in an Internet-based challenge to traditional cable services.

Intel spokesman Jon Carvill told AFP that the California company later this year will "bring an offering to market that brings together live television, on-demand content, and a new user interface."

Intel media group head Erik Huggers confirmed the long-rumored foray into television during an on-stage interview at an All Things Digital Dive into Media conference in Southern California.

He vowed that Intel's hardware for routing digital entertainment content from the Internet to televisions would far outshine offerings by cable companies.

The box powered by Intel technology was expected to have camera capabilities that let it "recognize" users to better personalize the service. Such a feature would likely raise concerns about the privacy of users.



A street in Vilnius is seen on a website operated by Google street View in Vilnius, Lithuania. Lithuanian tax authorities said last week they would use the Baltic state's recently launched Google Street View platform to track tax cheats by identifying the real value of property holdings.

PHOTO: AFP

## NEW PRODUCTS

### Panda Internet Security 2013

Global Brand Private Limited has unveiled Panda Internet Security 2013 in the local.

Panda Internet Security 2013 is specifically designed to protect users' identity while using social networking sites and other internet services. Its Panda Safe Browser module is particularly useful for users who want to preserve their privacy and security.

Additionally, it can encrypt and password-protect private files and folders to prevent theft of personal, banking and financial data or valuable multimedia content.

Panda Internet Security 2013 also includes Identity Protect, a module that provides anti-phishing protection, data leak prevention, and anti-dialer protection against unauthorised charged calls. It also gives real-

time protection against known and unknown threats by harnessing the knowledge and experience of millions of users through Panda's unique cloud-based Collective Intelligence technology.

### Asus A43E core i3 laptop

Asus A43E is now available in the market. The laptop has 14-inch display with a resolution of 1366 x 768. It is powered by Intel 2nd generation Core i3-2330M processor, clocked at 2.20 GHz.

A43E is equipped with Intel HM65 express chipset, Intel GMA graphics, 2 GB DDR3 RAM, 500 GB HDD, 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi.

The laptop is available in four colours and has a price tag of Tk 39,800.

### Acer S7 ultrabook

The Acer S7, the thinnest and lightest ultrabook, from its

Aspire series is now available in Bangladesh.

It has been hailed as one of the most exciting Windows 8-based touch ultrabooks to launch.

As thin as a smartphone, the S7 is an iconic combination of power and beauty. The use of straight lines, glossy white glass, electroluminescent lighting and anodized aluminum has culminated in an Ultrabook that champions cutting-edge technology and innovative design. The dual Torque hinge and Acer Green Instant On/Always Connect features ensure the ultimate in control and seamless usability.

With 13.3-inch, the ultrabook features full HD IPS 10-point displays with 1920 x 1080 resolution, putting touch control at users' fingertips. In addition, wide-viewing angle technology provides consistent and accu-

rate colour from viewing angles up to 178 degrees.

The screen is surrounded by a glossy white Gorilla Glass 2 lid and measures only 11.9 mm thin. It is also scratch resistant and easy to wipe clean.

Taking advantage of the touch benefits associated with Windows 8, the touch-enabled screen on the 13.3" S7 can be laid back flat 180 degrees, and the image orientation reverses for easy touch-and-show sharing.

The Aspire S7 is powered by core i7-3517U processor and features solid state drives in a RAID 0 configurations for extremely fast read and write times and quietness. An embedded Li-Polymer battery provides up to 6 hours of battery life, and an optional second battery doubles computing time up to 12 hours.

It also comes with a micro



HDMI to VGA cable to use with projectors for presentations, and a USB to RJ45 port for connecting to a wired network.

The product is available at Executive Technologies Ltd showroom at Tk 1, 62,000.

## Bitcoin used to pay for pizza



BBC

Pizza can now be bought using the bitcoin virtual currency.

The Pizza for Coins service has been set up by two programmers as a way to boost use of the digital cash. The service acts as a middleman and converts bitcoins into US dollars that are used to pay for food. It charges a small fee to do the currency exchange.

Paying via bitcoins can also delay an order, warn the site owners, saying the conversion can mean pizza takes up to 80 minutes to be delivered.

While orders for pizza are placed on the Pizza for Coins site, once payment is made they are funnelled to the website of Domino's pizza to be made and delivered. Links to other pizza companies, such as Pizza Hut and Papa John, would be added soon, said programmers Matt Burkinshaw and Riley Alexander in an explanatory note on the site.

The site, which only works with US addresses, currently offers a limited range of pizzas and toppings. A medium pizza with two toppings costs about 0.71 bitcoins (£12).

Paying via the digital currency also adds a 0.09 bitcoin (£1.50) premium to the price of a pizza to convert the digital money to real dollars. The service's owners said this conversion charge might change as exchange rates for bitcoins had fluctuated widely. If the service proved successful, charges would be reduced, said its creators.

Bitcoins first appeared in 2009 and are closely linked to the global network of computers that supports the currency and its users. Many people generate or "mine" the coins by participating in that network and a growing number of web stores and online firms accept bitcoins as payment.

They have become a very widely used alternative payments system and one bitcoin is currently worth about £17 (\$26).