

60-inch Apple  
iTV to launch  
this year

AP, New York

It's no secret that Apple wants to get into the living room by making its own TV set, and there have been plenty of rumors and reports about how and when it's going to happen.

Now, an analyst says he's learned that the set will go on sale late this year, for \$1,500 to \$2,500.

In a research note Wednesday, Brian White of Topeka Capital Markets says the "iTV" will be 60 inches on the diagonal, but could also come in 50- and 55-inch versions. Apple will also release a small "iRing" that fits on the viewer's finger, allowing the user to control the screen by pointing, White says.

In addition, the set will come with tablet-like "mini iTVs" with 9.7-inch screens, the same as the full-size iPad, White said. The "iTV" will be able to send video to the smaller screens wirelessly around the house. The concept is similar to the way in which cable and satellite TV companies are starting to let their set-top boxes send video to iPads and other tablets.

White says his report is based on gleanings from visits with unnamed Chinese and Taiwanese companies that supply Apple with components.

BUET team wins EATL  
app contest

## IT &amp; TELECOM DESK

Dalvik Coders, the team from BUET (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology) with their 'Course Mate' app won the first prize of EATL (Ethics Advanced Technology Limited) Mobile Apps Development Competition.

The winners' name was announced at the grand finale of the competition on March 30 at a hotel in the capital.

Team Logic Spinners from Dhaka University and American International University (AIUB) won the first runner-up position with 'Find for Me' app while team The Aim from Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) with their app 'Save Life' won the second runner-up position.

EATL organised the competition to encourage some of the brightest talents, ICT and Development professionals in Bangladesh.

EATL launched the first ever Mobile Apps Store and its development competition in Bangladesh in November last year.

One hundred and eighty-eight teams participated from different universities, institutions, NGOs and private organisations in the talent hunt programme.

Dalvik Coders, the two-member team, submitted their winning app 'Course Mate' in education category.

CourseMate aims at providing a rich experience and guidance for the students of Bangladesh universities.

The app works as connectiv-



Dalvik Coders receives the first prize at the event.

ity between students, teachers and institution, it helps manage academic activities, planning and scheduling for students

The app features user friendly UI and the user will enjoy university specific experience, automated and customisable grading system.

With the app, users can keep in touch with instructor, track of progress per semester/courses, view schedule and data in intuitive and share schedule/course data via connectivity and social media.

Logic Spinners, the four-member team submitted their app 'Find for Me' in utility category.

Find for Me is a map based application that communicates with nearest police station, fire service, hospitals or even the user's relatives.

Using this app victim can call

or SMS to pre-defined relative's phone number which includes location of the victim and the emergency phone numbers of victim's nearby and also creating emergency shortcut buttons on home screen.

The app also features Shake detection function. With this function, if anyone in need of help h/she just needs shake the mobile set and automatic call will start, proximity alert.

The app can also find ATM booth, filling station, and mosque.

It not only shows distance but also shows the path from source destination. Moreover, the app also runs on tablet PCs.

The second runner-up two-member team, The Aim, placed their app 'Save Life' in health category.

Save Life finds the blood donor in a certain area when

blood is needed.

With the app user can locate the donor on the map and also request them to donate by sending a message. This app provides the information and exact location of blood banks as well.

The winning teams were awarded with 5 lakh, 2 lakh and 1 lakh taka respectively.

At the grand finale, the organisers also announced 7 more top apps of the competition.

Fourteen teams presented their innovative mobile apps from AIUB, RUET, BUET, NSU, Ahsanullah University of Science & technology, Jahagirnagar University, MIST, Dhaka University, Mangoes Mobile Inc., CUET, and SUST at the event.

The competition was divided in Agriculture, Education, Health, Life Style, Tourism, Games and Utility categories.

## Microsoft Imagine Cup

## IT &amp; TELECOM DESK

Microsoft Bangladesh will hold the grand finale of Microsoft Imagine Cup Bangladesh 2013 tomorrow at American International University - Bangladesh (AIUB) auditorium.

Preliminary selection of Imagine Cup Bangladesh 2013 contest took place last week at Microsoft Bangladesh office.

One hundred and thirty five teams from across the country submitted their projects to participate in the contest. Twelve teams were selected for the preliminary round.

Teams advanced to the preliminary round were Apollo from Khulna University, BUET101 from BUET, darkHorse from BUET, Fractal from BUET, NerdCats from KUET, NOFA from Brac University, Silent Shadow from AIUB, Team ASRRO from CUET, Team Blue from AIUB, Team Inferno from BUET, Team Phoenix from AIUB, Team Pixelizard from Brac University.

They submitted their projects in three categories: World Citizenship, Innovation, and Games.

From the 12 teams, four were selected by the judges as the Imagine Cup Bangladesh 2013 local finalists.

They are: NerdCats for their phonetic Windows Phone keyboard, Team Blue for an app that aids conversations with the people with speaking and hearing inability, Team Phoenix for their app that measures and tracks nicotine severity, and BUET101 for developing a



Windows Phone based solution to track heart rate from a distance.

The winner of the Microsoft Bangladesh Imagine Cup 2013 will receive high-end Doel laptop and Nokia Lumia smartphone.

The first and second runners-up will receive Doel laptops.

The winner will also take part in an online qualifier contest to compete in the global Imagine Cup competition.

The global competition will be held in May-June in Russia.

Microsoft has been organising this world's biggest IT Olympics called Imagine Cup for the last 11 years. This is the third time Microsoft Bangladesh is hosting such student technology competition in Bangladesh.



French Minister Fleur Pellerin (R) inspects a demonstration of a humanoid robot HRP-2 in the Japan-France joint laboratory at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology in Tsukuba. The humanoid is controlled by human brain activity with the brain machine interface. The HAL, designed to learn the user's motion and assist the wearer's movement, can be used for the rehabilitation of disabled and assist elderly people.

China's Baidu developing digital  
eyewear similar to Google Glass

## REUTERS, Shanghai

Baidu Inc (BIDU.O), China's largest search engine, is developing prototype digital eyewear similar to Google Inc's (GOOG.O) Google Glass that will leverage Baidu's strengths in image search and facial recognition, a Baidu spokesman said on Wednesday.

Internally known as project "Baidu Eye", the glasses are being tested internally and it is not clear whether the product will ever be commercialized, said Kaiser Kuo, Baidu's spokesman.

Kuo said the device will be mounted on a headset with a small LCD screen and will allow



users to make image and voice searches as well as conduct facial recognition matches.

"What you are doing with your camera, for example, taking a picture of a celebrity and then checking on our database to see if we have a facial image match,

you could do the same thing with a wearable visual device," Kuo said.

Baidu's first foray in wearable technology will draw comparisons to Google's Google Glass product, which is a piece of electronic eyewear that can live-

stream images and audio and perform computing tasks. Earlier this year Google launched the Google Glass Explorer program, opening up the eyewear for early enthusiasts to test.

Kuo said comparisons to Google Glass were premature as Baidu has not decided whether or not to commercialize the product.

"We haven't decided whether it is going to be released in any commercial form right now, but we experiment with every kind of technology that is related to search," Kuo said. Kuo declined to comment on the other functions of the Baidu Eye or whether Baidu is working on other forms of wearable technology.

## Facebook unveils its 'home' on Android phone

## AFP, San Francisco

Facebook unveils its "home" on the Android smartphone Thursday, a move expected to tie the leading social network's services tightly into mobile software.

Invitations to a press event at Facebook's main campus in the Silicon Valley city of Menlo Park rekindled talk of a "Facebook phone," but analysts say the social network wants to spread roots across the Android platform.

Technology news site TechCrunch predicted the announcement would be a modified version of Android with "deep native Facebook functionality" on a phone made by Taiwan's HTC.

Facebook has made a priority

of following its more than one billion members onto smartphones and tablet computers, tailoring services and money-making ads for mobile devices.

"It is really clear from the stats and my own personal intuition that a lot of energy in the ecosystem is going to mobile, not desktop (computers)," Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg said in September.

"That is the future."

Zuckerberg rejected suggestions that Facebook would make its own smartphone, adamant that the company had no intention of stepping into the fiercely competitive handset hardware arena.

"Apple, Google, everyone builds phones -- we are going in

the opposite direction," Zuckerberg said at the time.

"We want to build a system deeply integrated in every device people want to use."

HTC forming an alliance with Facebook makes sense since the handset maker could capitalize on the social network's marketing power in an Android arena dominated by Samsung, according to Silicon Valley analyst Rob Enderle.

"It is not so much a Facebook phone as imagined by Zuckerberg as it is a lifeline for HTC, which needs a champion device and got Facebook to back it," Enderle said.

If Facebook had been eager to build its own phone, it could have

reached out to close partner Microsoft, which owns a small stake in the social network,

Enderle reasoned. A Facebook-focused phone's goal would be to make it intuitive to shop, search, post or do other tasks using the social network's services.

"A main page with a Facebook feel and your news feed nicely displayed, and optimized to allow you to live in Facebook much like you live in iTunes when you are on the iPhone."

If reports are correct, the device will help Facebook more easily connect with mobile users, and -- importantly -- deliver more ads in the fast-growing segment.

