Buet wins Imagine Cup Bangladesh 2013

IT & TELECOM DESK

The grand finale of Microsoft Imagine Cup Bangladesh 2013 was held last Saturday at the American International University Bangladesh (AIUB) auditorium in the capital.

Buet 101, a team from Buet (Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology) won this year's Imagine Cup Bangladesh competition with their project Happy Watch, a Windows phone app that instantly helps to monitor heart rate and status of physical well-being far away from the user of the app.

Team Blue from AIUB became the 1st runner-up with a gesture and speech recognition based Windows Phone app that helps a regular person to communicate with a deaf-mute person.

NerdCats from Khulna University of Engineering & Technology stood 2nd runner-up with an amazingly fluent phonetic Bangla keyboard for Windows Phone.

The winning team received Doel laptops and Nokia Lumia 620 handsets. The 1st and 2nd runners-up teams also received Doel laptops

Microsoft Bangladesh called students from all over the country to take part in the Imagine Cup Bangladesh 2013 by March 15.

One hundred and thirty five teams registered for the Imagine Cup competition and 12 teams were chosen for evaluation at the preliminary round. Four teams among them advanced to the local finals.

Buet101 will participate in an online contest to qualify for the worldwide finals of Microsoft Imagine Cup which is going to be held in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Minister Mostafa Faruque Mohammad was present at the finale as the chief guest and Nazrul Islam Khan, secretary,

Members of the winning team BUET101 pose with crests.

ICT ministry was present as the special guest.

Judge panel consisted of Zakaria Swapan, editor of Priyo.com, Tapan Kanti Sarker, president of CTOForum, Radi Chowdhury, country manager of Nokia Bangladesh, Shah Ali Newaj Topu, chief technology officer of Selise, Tafsir M. Awal, managing director of Multimode, Tareen Hossain, executive editor of Daily Ittefaq, and EPG Leader of Microsoft Bangladesh Mohammed Asif.

Microsoft has been organising this world's biggest IT Olympics 'Imagine Cup' for the last 11 years.

This is the third time Microsoft

Bangladesh is hosting such premier student technology competition in Bangladesh.

In the first attempt, in New York worldwide finals, Bangladeshi students surprised the whole world winning the 'People's Choice' award among 189 countries by developing an app for visually impaired population.

Last year, Bangladeshi winning team competed in Sydney worldwide finals as well.

ICT minister has expressed his heartfelt hope that this year, the Imagine Cup Bangladesh 2013 winner, will win the ultimate glory and recognition for the country in the Imagine Cup worldwide finals.

D.Net to celebrate 12th anniversary

IT & TELECOM DESK

D.Net, a social enterprise is going to celebrate its 12th anniversary with an exhibition where all the significant ICT initiatives of Bangladesh will be showcased at Drik Gallery on April 14-16.

D.net is celebrating this 12 years' journey with the theme '12 years of innovation and opportunities.'

During its journey, the social enterprise has emerged as an institution fostering fusion of social and technological innovations for improving the lives of marginalised people of Bangladesh.

Initiating activities in many areas of development, D.net has consolidated its endeavors in healthcare, education, livelihood and social accountability. While a number of initiatives launched by D.net has been scaled up and replicated by government and partner institutions.

D.net has also invested in building

new institutions with ideas initially nurtured within D.net. It has taken a proactive role in building 5 institutions, which are now well known within their own arena.

The primary focus of D.net has been creating new opportunities through the fusion of technology with social development models. The stories of 'ripple effect' and creating opportunities for woman, children and other members of the marginalised communities, originating from Dnet will be show-cased in the celebration at Drik Gallary.

Dnet is also hosting all the significant ICT initiatives of Bangladesh at this exhibition. The other ICT oriented initiatives that are participating in the event are Mpower, BDJobs, Rokomari.com, BBC Janala, Champs21, Clickbd, Jago, Nokia App Center, Computer Jagat, Lemon24, Aponjon, Multimedia Content & Communications Ltd.

Big venture firms eye opportunity in Google Glass

Marc Andreessen of Andreessen Horowitz (L to R), Bill Maris of Google Ventures and John Doerr of Kleiner, Perkins Caufield & Byers

REUTERS, San Francisco

Venture firms Andreessen Horowitz, Google Ventures, and Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers are teaming up to provide funding for startups working with Google Glass, the hybrid eyeglasses and smartphone developed by Google.

The firms aim to provide funding to startups working on applications and hardware designed to work with the glasses, they said on Wednesday.

"There's a potential for a paradigm shift here, like there was with browsers, PCs," said Bill Maris, partner at Google Ventures, referring to personal computers.

The firms will evaluate opportunities concurrently, and may invest collectively or individually. Funding for glass-related ventures will be carved out of the firms' existing funds.

Having three firms involved will increase the chance of success, the venture firms said, because the entrepreneurs they fund will benefit from three points of view. Google Ventures regularly co-invests with Andreessen and Kleiner, Maris said.

Kleiner was an early backer of Google.

There should be no shortage of developers willing to experiment with the technology.

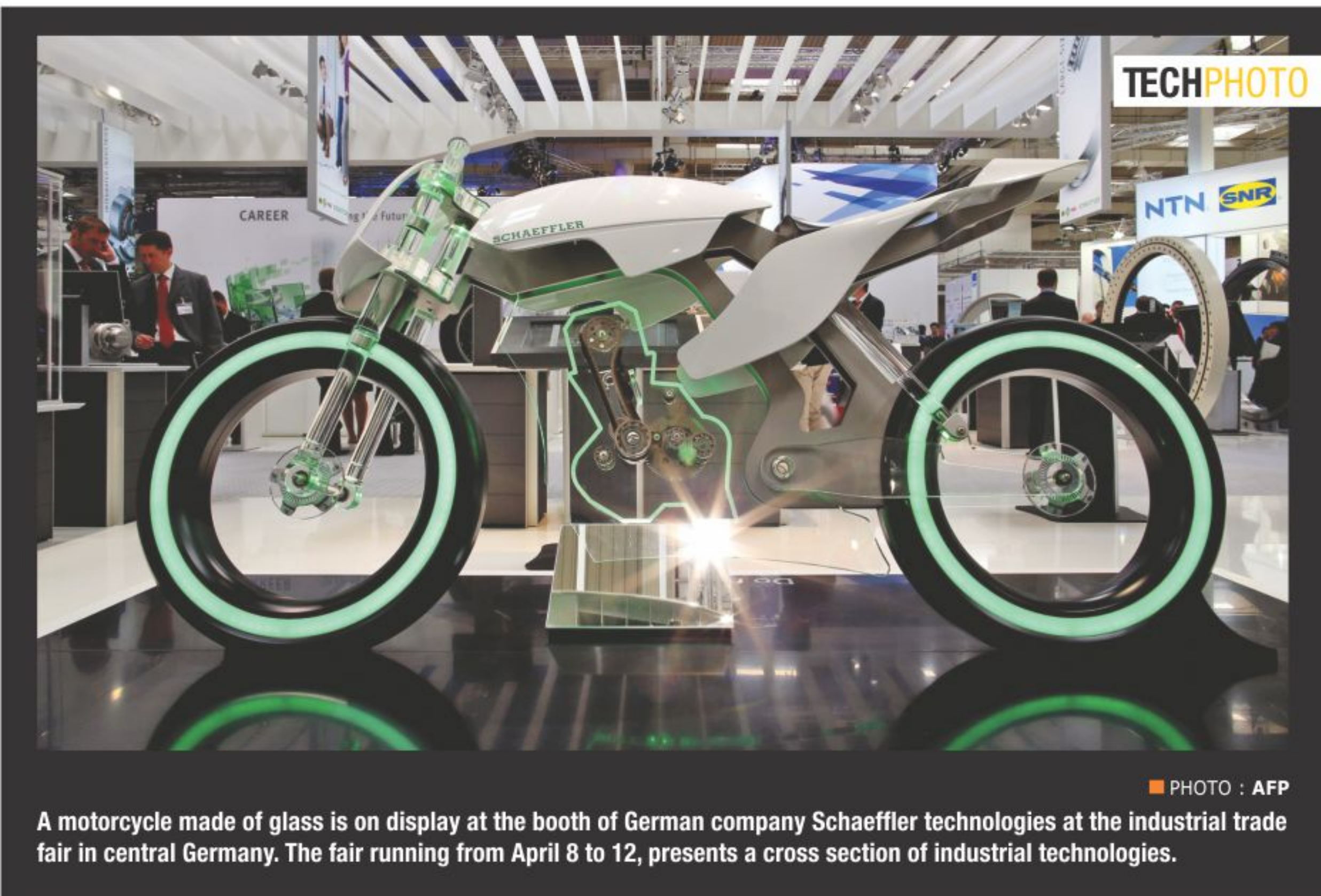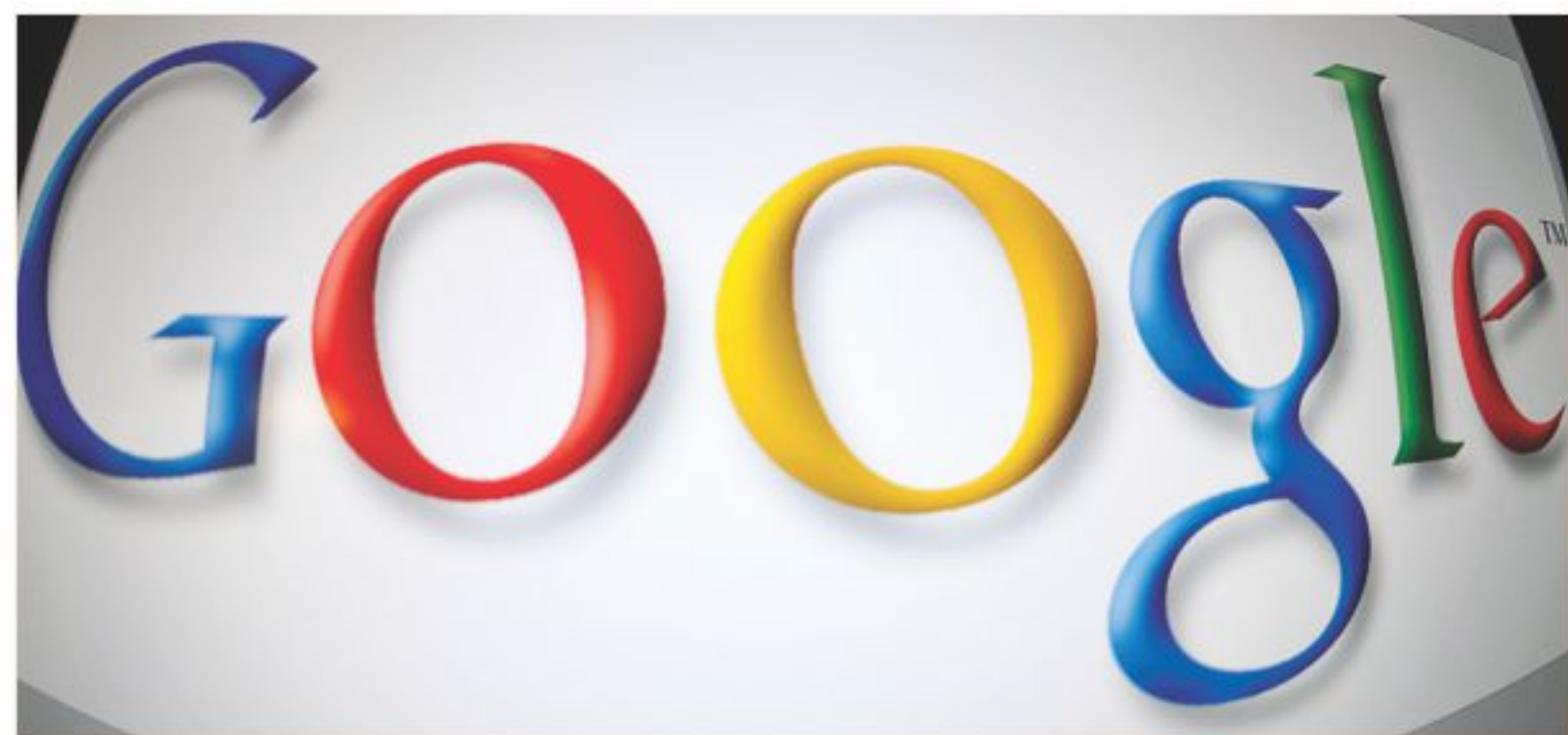"The tool set and the feature set that developers have to work with is very attractive," said Ben Arnold,

director of industry analysis for consumer technology at the NPD Group, citing Google Glass features such as voice activation and augmented reality.

There is no dedicated sum set aside for Google Glass, making the project different to Kleiner's $200 million iFund, which Kleiner started five years ago to back entrepreneurs building applications and services for iPhones, iPods, and iPads. But the timing of the initiative-- coming before it is obvious that a big ecosystem will grow around Google Glass-- is similar, said John Doerr, a partner at Kleiner.

Google Glass can live-stream video and audio and perform computing tasks through a stamp-sized electronic screen mounted on the side of a pair of eyeglass frames. It can also record video, access email, and retrieve information from the internet.

Chinese search engine Baidu said earlier this month that it was working on its own prototype of digital eye wear that is similar to Google Glass.

The technology started getting noticed around a year ago, when Google co-founder Sergey Brin began wearing Google Glass out and about. In February, Google invited members of the public to apply to test a version of the glasses in its Glass Explorer Program. Successful applicants must pay $1,500 for the glasses.

A motorcycle made of glass is on display at the booth of German company Schaeffler technologies at the industrial trade fair in central Germany. The fair running from April 8 to 12, presents a cross section of industrial technologies.

PHOTO : AFP

NEW PRODUCTS

Asus K45A notebook

The Asus K45A notebook delivers uncompromised performance with 2.6 GHz of 3rd generation Intel Core i5 processor, 4 GB RAM, 750 GB hard disk, integrated Intel HD

Graphics 4000 to provide all the computing power users will ever need.

Its Asus SuperBatt Technology feature provides an extended battery charge-cycle lifespan that is up to 3x that of normal notebooks.

The notebook has a price tag of Tk 49,900.

Asus O!Play

Asus has recently released O!Play Mini, its new compact HD mini digital media player in the local IT market.

This media player is small and lightweight, making it easy to tuck away anywhere.

Apart from watching high definition videos on an LCD television using the HDMI interface, the media player can also be used on regular LCD and CRT TVs using the composite A/V output.

It has USB port and memory card reader.

The product has a price tag of Tk 7,000.

It fits a wealth of high

definition content and features in a single small device. It supports all most all popular and widely used video, audio and image files.

BDJobs releases Android app

IT & TELECOM DESK

BDJobs.com, the pioneer online career management portal in Bangladesh, has their new app for Android.

With the increasing proliferation of smartphones in the hands of the public, mobile apps have become a great new way for service-oriented businesses to engage people. BDJobs is the latest to take advantage of the flexibility of app-based business and their new app is a first step towards normalising their services for smartphone use.

The app has been developed by MCC Ltd. (Multimedia Content and Communications Limited), a app developer with over 5 years of experience and over 3 million app downloads under their belt.

The BDJobs app opens directly to the list of job categories, familiar to any regular user of the website. Each listing indicates how many job offers are available for that category at that time. The user can select a job category. A page with the list of jobs in that single category will show up.
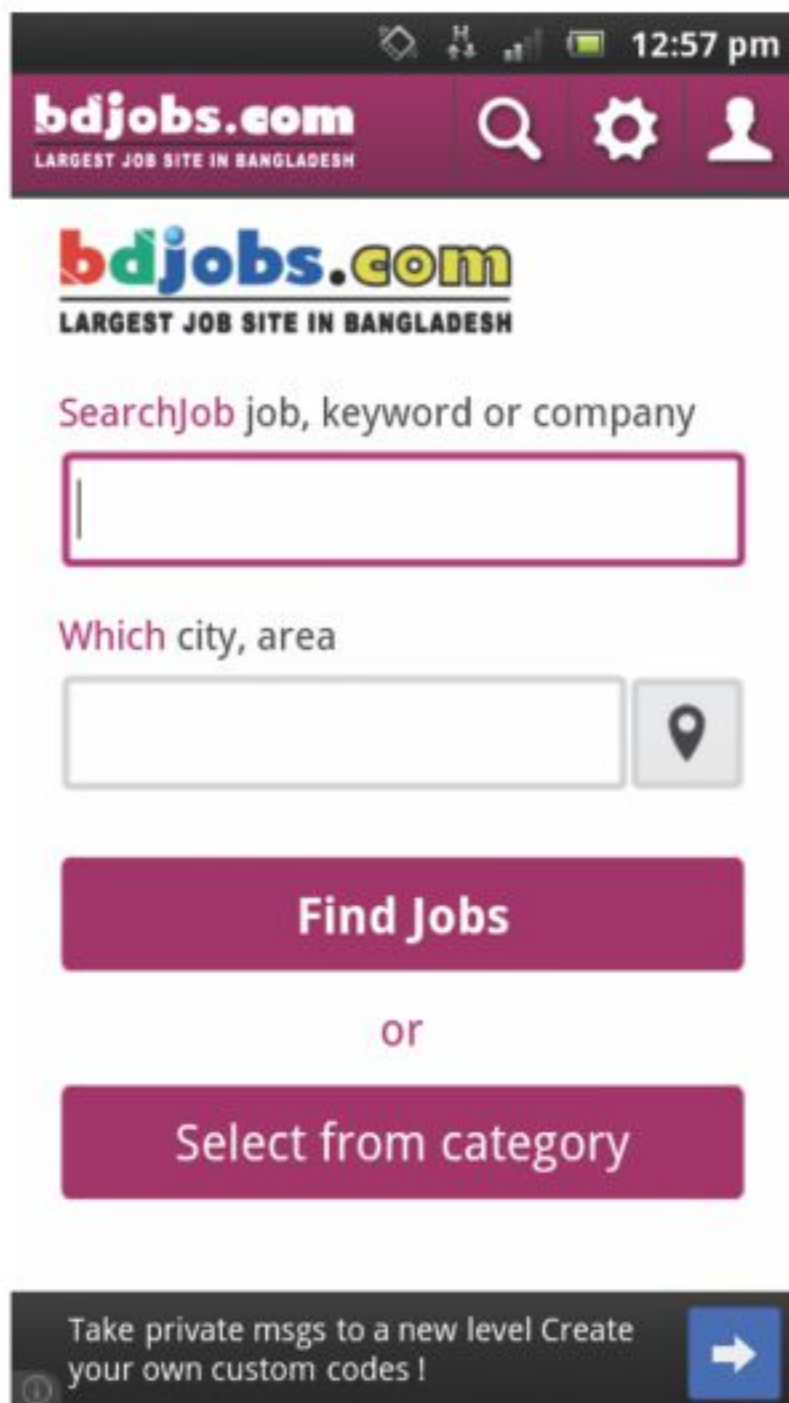
The app offers two ways of

responding to the offers. To use either, the user needs to register an account with BDJobs. The app does not yet have an in-built registration format – clicking the 'Register Account' button leads directly to the registration page on the website. The information provided by the user for the registration is saved by BDJobs in a CV format.

Apart from the main list of categories, the app has a Search function. The search field operates on keywords and can be used to look for specific entry positions and companies, bypassing the need to comb through every entry in a category trying to look for the right fit. The app has the capability to access mobile network data and pinpoint the user's location to automatically fill the relevant area information.

The app generates revenue by auto-fetching advertisements from Google AdSense into an ad box. Users are unlikely to consider this intrusive, seeing as it appears at the bottom of the screen and does not obscure any of the app.

The app is not as rich as the website is. The biggest issue with

the app would perhaps be the fact that, unlike the website, employers cannot use it to upload their job offers. They still have to do that through the BDJobs website.

The app is available at https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.mcc.bdjobs