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INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY

# BYTES

# Bangladesh is the next tech hub

## Skype Co-founder Morten Lund on online tech freelancing in Bangladesh

The star of Digital World 2014 was Morten Lund, co-founder of Skype and Coders Trust. Packed with sessions back to back, this serial investor shared with The Daily Star his visions involving Bangladesh.

### DS: What's your venture involving Bangladesh?

Currently we are setting up an office of Coders Trust. Coders Trust is an initiative by Danida, (Danish International Development Agency). It provides microfinance for students in emerging nations who want to upgrade their programming skills. For local support, we have teamed up with Grameen Solutions.

### DS: Tell us how 'Coders Trust' works

Basically what we do is we find out the smart kids from online outsourcing portals like Elance and Odesk. We check out their rating to find how good they are doing. If their ratings are impressive, we hire them and educate them to do even higher quality work at a better rate. We have the first 100 coders on our platform. We are sponsoring \$200 per month. I am in a facebook group with them, I follow them regularly. And the synergy that I experience is really amazing!

### DS: Why Bangladesh?

Due to our access to the Elance and



oDesk insights, we have seen a great number of Bangladeshis working online. Despite their talent and work-ethic, they are lagging a bit behind in terms of payment rate. So we intend to train them and educate them to improve the quality of the work that they are doing.

### DS: Beside Coders Trust what else are you working on?

I am actually working on the banking and finance industry now. Primarily I am working on Tradeshift. It's an invoice network. It is in-fact the largest electronic invoice network of the world. We invoice Nike and British Government among others.

### DS: Has this four-day expo shown any opportunities?

I have seen a huge crowd of hungry and positive and energetic people. I am really impressed. I haven't seen such aggressive competition. Compared to the other parts of this region the kids seem to be a lot more extrovert. They actually grabbed me and asked me how to work on technology. I liked that. Seeing this crowd I believe miracles will happen in this country. There is no doubt that it's going to grow in an exponential rate. I discuss with my kids and my partners that we should move in this region because the growth in the European region has gone down.

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

## TECH HAPPENINGS

### Intel Next Unit of Computing, an ultra-small form factor PC



Intel continues to evolve its ultra-small form factor Intel® NUC PC kit. NUC which stands for "Next Unit of Computing" is a PC in a surprisingly small package that can serve as Home Theater PCs, Media Servers or "Personal Cloud" storage. This new NUC might just be the ticket, if you're looking for an amazingly quiet, low profile computer. Mr. Manzur explained that the Intel NUC is the latest development of computer in ultra-small form factor PC measuring 4-inch by 4-inch. Anything your tower PC can do, the Intel NUC may too and in 4 inches of real estate. From home theater to gaming to running a digital jukebox, the Intel NUC has what you need to power your digital potential. Browse social media, check e-mail, and video chat with a friend, all while keeping your office space uncluttered. The Intel NUC is also the ideal solution for business applications, such as digital signage and kiosks.

### Microsoft appoints Sonia Bashir Kabir as Country Manager

Microsoft today announced Ms Bashir Kabir as the new country manager for Bangladesh. Ms. Kabir's appointment takes effect immediately, taking over the role previously held by Mr. Pubudu Basnayake, who has led operations in Bangladesh since 2012. "Sonia's leadership experience at Dell and her work with enterprise technology providers makes her a great fit for delivering Microsoft's 'mobile first, cloud first' vision in Bangladesh. At the same time, her passion for making a difference through technology will be key in our commitment to raise the national competitiveness of the country," said César Cernuda, President of Microsoft Asia Pacific.



### Okhanei.com to start its operation



To buy and sell products a new site has started its journey. It's called Okhanei.com. From this site a buyer can very easily buy his products online. Besides that a seller can put ads on the site to sell their products. Anyone can buy and sell almost anything from this site.

One can use this site without even opening an account. Recently the site started its official journey. Present at the event were CEO Mr. Rahitul Islam, CTO Mr. Pantha Deb etc.

The press and media personals were informed that Okhanei.com is going big from coming August. Anyone can buy and sell almost anything here. The entire products will be arranged in two categories: New and Old. When ordered the product will be delivered directly to ones door step. The CEO also informed that there is going to be some added features unseen in any classified ads site.

## HANDS-ON REVIEW

### Logitech K400 wireless keyboard

Wireless keyboards and mice have forever been tagged with the bad reputation of being needlessly expensive while being marginally useful, not to mention flimsy build quality and below average designs. So when it came to buying a wireless keyboard and mouse, it was the necessity of it sealing the deal.

Logitech has quite a fan following in Bangladesh, having been around with genuine peripherals and being eponymous with good quality and longevity for a while now. So when it came to buying a wireless keyboard+mouse, Logitech was the brand of choice, despite the availability of a few other cheaper alternatives from the likes of Prolink and Genius.

Unpacked, the Logitech K400 comes with a keyboard and a trackpad rolled into one, and included in the box is the Logitech Unifying USB receiver, a pair of batteries, and an USB range extender.

It's not a whole lot you get for the price you pay. Granted, it is the name and the promise of a good build quality you're paying for, so if the quality of the product is good, it might compensate for the hefty price you pay.

That's where the problem with the K400 lies. Even with the plastic sheet of the



packaging wrapped around it, you immediately notice the keyboard is a little flimsy. The design is pretty slick, a slim profile housing a minimalist keypad and a funky trackpad. It looks good from a distance, but when you hold it, you can tell how flimsy it really is. The edges creak and the plastic feels cheap and seems to be of quite low quality.

Connecting it to a PC or laptop is seamless. Plug in the Unifying receiver into a USB port, turn on the keyboard using the tiny switch at its front side, and you're good to go. The standard range is up to 10 feet, while the range extender, when used, can boost it up to almost 15 feet. However, at anything more than 5-6 feet and when the keyboard isn't pointed towards the receiver, the device experiences issues. The trackpad becomes sluggish, the key presses

sometime fail to register, and overall, it gets a bit annoying.

The usefulness is there, mind you. Its especially useful when you've connected your laptop or PC to a TV or projector, and you don't want the hassle of a wired keyboard. The K400 allows you to operate it all from a sizeable distance, and the wireless experience isn't all that bad once you adjust to the occasional lack of response. It might actually be quite useful in office boardrooms during presentations, where you can leave the laptop close to the projector and keep the sleek looking (from a distance) keyboard close to you.

Does it justify the price? Probably not, in most instances. If you aren't easily angered by laggy electronic devices, then go for it.

SHAHER REAZ

## JUST IN



### ASUS K551LA Extra-slim Notebook

Subtle artistry guided ASUS K551LA development, resulting in a full range of notebooks that offer all-round premium elegance. The K551LA showcases an incredible sleek design, its excellence extending to thoughtful features such as gently rounded surfaces. Stylish and durable design is combined with 1.60 GHz 4th Generation Intel Core i5 processor, built-in Intel graphics, 15.6-inch display, 4 GB RAM, 1 TB hard drive, a VGA port, two USB 3.0 ports, and an HDMI port. Besides 802.11 b/g/n wireless LAN and gigabit LAN as standard connectivity features, you can choose optional Bluetooth 4.0. Enjoy cinematic audio experience thanks to the use of SonicMaster and ASUS Audio Wizard.

Price: Tk. 51,800/-

### MSI Nightblade B85 Now In Bangladesh!

For the first time in Bangladesh, Motherboard and GPU maker

Taiwanese company MSI has offered Nightblade B85

barebone for the gamers of this country. Barebone comes up with compact size, brushed aluminum finish on the front and Dragon logo on the side of the case, gamers won't have to hide their PC beneath their desk anymore. MSI made the Nightblade as quiet as possible by optimizing the airflow and keeping the system running cool. Cool air enters the PC through the front and bottom-vents. In contrast with standard 400-1200rpm case fans, the seven giant blades of the MSI Dragon Fan can produce an air pressure of max. 4000rpm. so even when using the most extreme graphics cards to its max, the Nightblade keeps your head cool and lets you focus on your game. It supports all other next gen peripherals too.

Price: Tk. 35,000/- plus 2 years of warranty



### LG Cured OLED TVs are now available in Bangladesh

Announced earlier this year LG 55EA970T is one of the best TVs out there. It loosed the front-facing speakers in the transparent base. Instead, it comes with a pair of downwards-facing speakers built directly into the TV's casing. It has great 3D image quality with no crosstalk, wide viewing angles, even & consistent brightness levels over the whole display, almost instant screen response time and



infinite contrast. It also has effective motion compensation function; built-in media player supports loads of file formats, ultra-slim design (4.5 mm edges). Currently there are several form factors and sizes available in the showrooms.

Prices: Starting from Tk. 2.99 to 18.4 Lac

## TECH BITS

GP hikes SIM card price



Facebook goes down for a brief period of time



ICT State Minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak has his own app now



This Firefox OS media stick to work like Chromecast



Iran throws tech bloggers in prison for working with 'enemy media'



National Information Portal to be launched today