



The power to do more

TECH TRENDS OF 2016

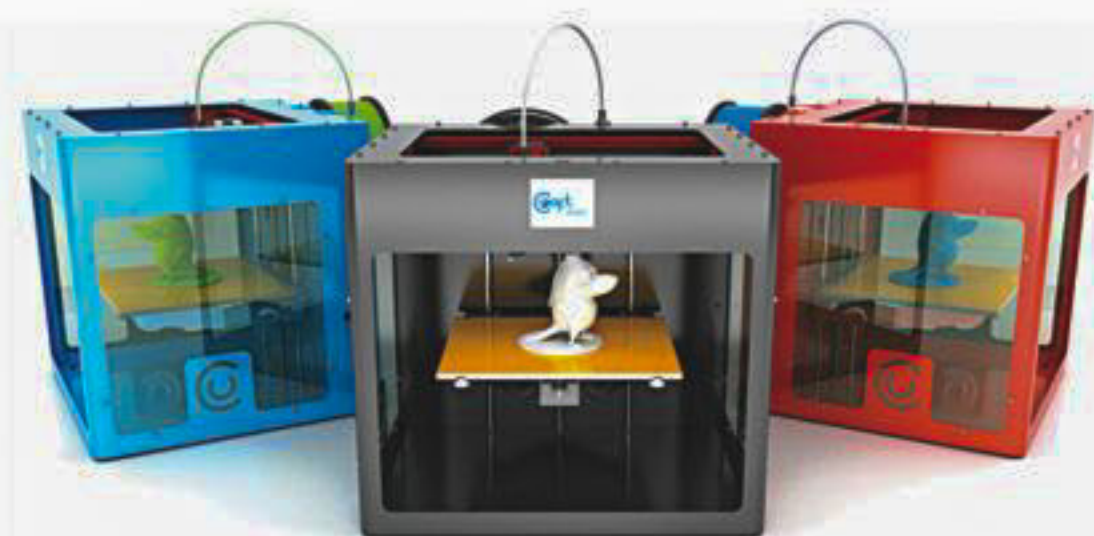
The world of tech is anything but boring. New ideas turn into new products and that leads to a brilliant rush of upgrades. 2015 has been a wild journey and we hope the same for this year. Here are some of the trends that we predict will dominate the global tech scene in 2016:

BY ABHIK HASNAIN



NEW WAYS TO INTERACT

One of the best things about 2015 was all the new ways to interact with existing devices. Microsoft HoloLens showed us the wonders of hologram, Intel's RealSense brought gesture tracking, while Apple introduced the Force Touch. And then there are home based products such as the Amazon Echo that focuses on voice control. 2016 will undoubtedly, see the bloom of these new methods of interaction in upcoming devices.

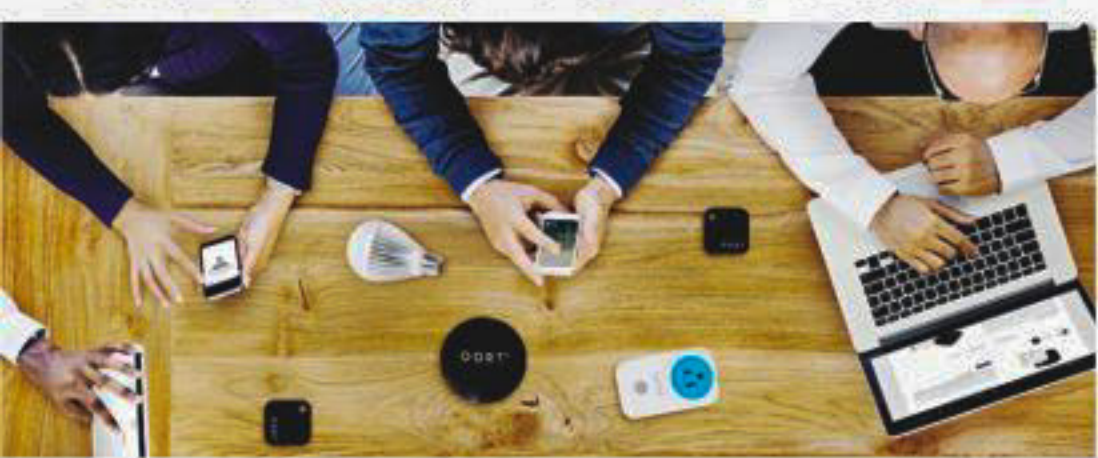


CHEAPER 3D PRINTERS:

3D Printing is anything but new but the consumer versions are constantly changing and the race to lower the price is more intense than ever. You can already get one for less than \$200 but it sacrifices quality. One of next year's biggest challenges will be to come up with 3D printers for the masses that can match other high grade printers when it comes to performance.

IIOT ENTERS THE MAINSTREAM:

The whole prospect of IIoT is still confusing since there are so many issues at play when it comes to applying it for solutions at a nation wide scale. But despite that, it'll continue to be one of tech industry's biggest muses. The potential alone is enough to drive innovation and development of new products.



BLOCKCHAIN:

Bitcoin's big brother is going to do what it couldn't do- gain trust. Blockchain creates a history of every bitcoin transaction ever made, making bitcoin more reliable. At a more matured stage, it'll revolutionize online transaction over the next few years.

AUTONOMOUS DRONES:

There are a lot you can do with drones but not much they can do alone. Yes, they can follow you around and snap pictures but it can get way cooler than that. Amazon demonstrated delivery drones. Only a matter of time when you can let drones handle photography for entire events without having to interact with them anyhow. Using them for security measures are also considerable options.



CONVERTIBLES BECOME POWERFUL

Convertibles and 2-in-1s are cool when portability is the main concern. But with the unveiling of devices like the Surface Book, they grab the attention of power users as well. 2016 will see more of these, perfect matches between ultra-portable and powerful computers.

360° VIDEOS:

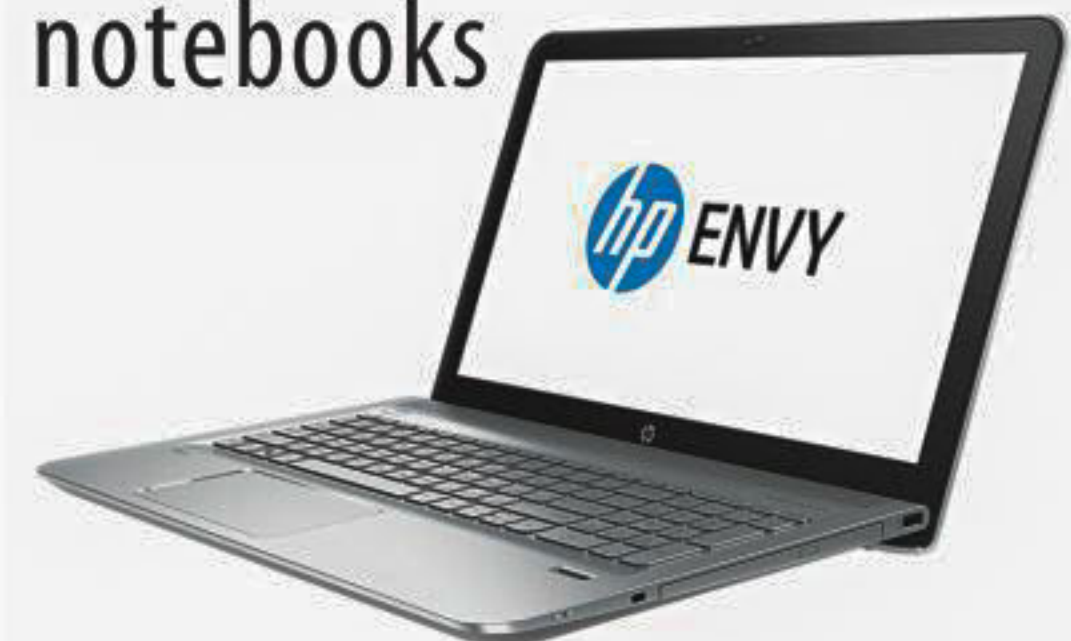
360° videos are all the rage now in the world of videography. The ability to see the entire area of a scene and not just a single perspective is amazing. It opens up

an exciting range of possibilities for journalism and documentaries. While you do need special cameras, we can certainly hope that this will reach the masses this year.



JUST IN

Computer Source brings all new HP ENVY 15 notebooks



HP has recently introduced two exclusive sixth generation notebooks. Both Notebooks has 15.6 inch display, Intel Core i7- 6500U Processor, 8 GB DDR3L RAM and 1 TB 5400 rpm SATA SSHD. One comes with 2GB (HP ENVY 15- AE130TX) and the other with 4GB (HP ENVY 15- AE132TX) dedicated graphics and both run on the latest Windows 10. Customers will get Tk.700 gift voucher each purchase of these laptops till 31st January. **PRICE: TK. 92,000/- and TK. 1,10,000/-** with 1 year warranty.

Finely crafted ASUS New UX303UB ZenBook in the market



ASUS has recently introduced new ZenBook Model UX303. This finely-Crafted ZenBook comes with 6th Gen Intel Core-i7 processor, 8 GB RAM, 1 TB SATA Hard Disk, 2 GB NVIDIA GeForce 940M Graphics, 13.3" IPS Full HD LED Display . For networking it has Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, WLAN, HD Web Cam. It also comes with 2 in 1 SD/SDHC card reader and it is weighs around 1.45 kg with 3 cell polymer Battery. **PRICE: TK. 87,000/-** with 2 years international warranty.

HANDS ON REVIEW

Okapia Freedom: The phone with a twist

Okapia has already made a mark locally by bringing in some unconventional mobile devices. Take the Okapia Maa for instance; a phone for elderly people with big buttons and a dedicated SOS button. This season, Okapia has brought another new gadget for you smartphone-dwellers. It's called Okapia Freedom. As the name states, this phone is here to liberate you. Liberate you from what you might ask? Well, it will liberate you from bringing out your bulky smartphone from pocket each and everytime.

This is not the first attempt for any OEM to make a device that will act as a secondary to your original smartphone. Alcatel did it before, so did HTC. But certainly this is the first time from a local mobile brand.

Now let's take a close look at Okapia Freedom: the form factor of the phone resembles an AC remote controller. And we like it. Why? It's compact and makes its way in even in the tightest pockets. The specs are blunt, which it's supposed to be. 1.44 inch TFT monochrome display, 350mAh battery and a single SIM card slot. The phone can connect with any android smartphone easily. And then the magic begins. Basically, after being hooked via Bluetooth, all your calls and SMSs will automatically be forwarded to your Okapia Freedom. The same way any call you make from the phone will be routing through your smartphone. So One SIM - two phones. It can also copy contact list from your phone. But the moment you disconnect the Bluetooth, then everything from the secondary phone will be gone. You can also use the phone as a Bluetooth



speaker.

Okapia Freedom can also function as a stand-alone phone; all you need to do is install a SIM card. But sadly it doesn't tether with iOS or Windows. Priced at Tk. 1,990/- this phone is certainly worth buying if you are a phablet owner or you are tired of your smartphone draining battery like a leaky faucet.

BY SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

TECH HAPPENING

6-month replacement warranty on Walton LED TVs

'Walton' has expanded its facility for its valued customers through offering conditional six months replacement warranty for its produced LED (Light Emitting Diode) televisions started from December 1. Along with the replacement warranty, customers will get two years warranty for panel, spare parts and services of LED television.



Marcel slashes price on LED TVs

Marcel, a local electronics' products manufacturing company, has a promotional price offer. Now 24-inch LED TV are priced Tk 18,700. In addition to that, customers can also buy 28-inch LED TV at Tk 23,700, which was earlier price was Tk 25,100. Reducing the price of 32-inch LED TV by Tk 2,000, Marcel is now offering it at Tk 26,300.



Huawei has launched hot box offer

Huawei has launched a new Hot Box Offer for customers in Bangladesh. The unique offer is in effect from January 1, 2016 to January 31, 2016. Under this offer, customers purchasing a Huawei G7 Plus, Huawei P8, or Huawei P8 Lite between the first and last day of January 2016 will receive gift box containing any two items from an assortment of accessories like USB Flash Drive, Stainless Steel Mug, Car Phone Holder, LED Light, Bluetooth Speaker, and Selfie Stick. Customers can avail this latest offer at one of the Huawei Experience Stores in Jamuna Future Park and Bashundhara City, or other brand shops across the nation.

INTEL PLANS A MORE CONNECTED 2016

Zia Manzur, Country Business Manager of Intel Bangladesh spoke in an event this Monday regarding what will be the company's focus in 2016. Intel plans on taking big steps in the world of IoT (Internet of Things) in the upcoming year. Our lives are surrounded by the devices we use every day but the concept of IoT opens up a wide range of options to interact with numerous objects in our daily lives to create a truly connected world. Manzur gave the wonderful example of small boards on the roadside that can display information based on the passerby's preference by connecting with their phone. Along with the

promise of smarter cities this also brings up the topic of technology controlled by human senses. Intel's RealSense cameras enable devices to respond to hand gestures and so on. And Intel's Compute Stick and NUCs are major players when portability is the main concern; not to mention the ease of setting up a miniature work-station wherever you go. Intel also mentioned that they'll venture into new markets to meet a variety of computing needs along with low-cost smartphones and 10-11 inch tablets and 15-inch notebooks which are popular among middle-class consumers.



TECH BITS US internet speeds triple, but lag behind other countries



LG's 2016 TVs include its first production 8K set



SpaceX's first reusable rocket is back in its hangar



AT&T acquires parts of phone-monitoring company Carrier IQ



CORRIGENDUM

On the 28th December, 2015 issue of BYTES, the price of Samsung Galaxy J5 was misquoted as Tk. 17,640/- instead of Tk. 18,900/-. A picture of an incorrect model of the Samsung device was also printed.