

# A techie treasure-trove

If your life is surrounded by banks of screens, be it on the desk, on your lap, or in your pocket, chances are you have either heard, read, or have been referred to this place at least once in your lifetime. Yes, IDB Bhaban, BCS Computer City, whichever name you know it by, is the place that is important for anyone on the techno highway.



BCS Computer City was inaugurated on the verge of the infamous Y2K, September 1999. Ironic really, considering the Y2K pandemic predicted the end of computers and BCS marked the beginning of the computer boom in this country. While the general consumers of personal computers had seen a slow start in Bangladesh in the late 90s compared to the rest of the world, it sure did take off like a rocket in no time, and IDB was right there feeding this boom from the centre stage.

First things first, the BCS building is the four-storey building, not the high rise that it is attached to. For easier reference, there is a statue of a man and woman made entirely of circuit boards right outside the entrance. The four stories house tons of shops dealing with all things computer and very little else. That also includes spare and salvaged parts as well, although the shops dealing with these are located deeper in the building so as to not overwhelm incoming customers with naked circuit boards and bundles of wires and connectors.

When you walk in, there is a vast open area where you will see almost all the shops from top to bottom thanks to the open architecture. There are escalators very close to the entrance, while the elevators are slightly recessed into the building. Other than the usual vendors, there are also authorised dealer stores which are slightly bigger.

BCS also hosts yearly computer-related fairs where they offer great deals and exclusive fair-only products and services. Unfortunately, this year's fair concluded back in January, so better luck next year.

The range of their computers and laptops goes far beyond the layman presentation in the showrooms. Sure there are nicely laid out brochures so that anyone can end up with a computer they would be happy to own. However, if you know your stuff, you can get the most out of your budget and truly end up with the machine of your dreams.

BCS hosts tons of hardware that you would not normally find anywhere else in the city, meaning there are more options for the budding enthusiast. As for the laptop customers, there are plenty of offers available there from dealers like Computer Source, Flora Limited, Ryans and such, but if you were to take some time and roam around the other shops, you are highly likely to find very rare and capable, albeit slightly more expensive, laptops that you would not otherwise find in the dealer stores. These laptops are just as unique as their discerning customers, sporting 15.6" plus screens, gaming grade GPUs and top of the line processors, coupled with out-of-this-world build materials and designs.

There are tons of computer accessories to be found as well to make your dream machine even more complete. For the professionals out there, there are top of the line printers, scanners, graphic tablets, webcams, etc. For the multimedia enthusiast, there are super powerful processors, GPUs, heavy duty sound cards, extra storage options, professional grade monitors, and top of the line peripherals such as wireless gaming mice and mechanical keyboards.

There are also tons of shops deeper in the building that deal with all sorts of com-

puter spares for the true enthusiast who wishes to take on the challenge of modding and fixing their own machines.

Speaking of fixing, there are very reliable service centres that specialise in fixing laptops and computers, so no need to worry when things go south.

With all this talk of computer and com-

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puter accessories, you can be forgiven for thinking that BCS only deals with these two criteria. That is strictly not true. One small trip will show you that products on offer include other popular and high-demand electronics. Due of the enormous popularity of photography, there are tons of cam-

eras available including the crowd favourite DSLR. You will also find various forms of storage gear like SD cards, pen drives, and external HDDs.

Tablets are also available, including some that are not available elsewhere in the city. Power banks and batteries for various devices can also be found in many of the stores. For multimedia enthusiasts, there is another piece of good news as BCS is also home to very rare and fantastic speakers which can be used to make a home theatre. No, the product line-up does not include things like B&O, Bower and Wilkins, or Klipsch, but in a way that is a good thing, because you will not end up bankrupt as brands like those cost an arm and a leg.

Alongside the speakers, you will also find very good quality branded headphones that you would otherwise not find elsewhere in the city, and even if you did, they are always overpriced. For the gamers out there, there are also tons of gaming gear like gamepads, joysticks, and racing steering wheels available too.

While on the topic of diverse offerings, there is also a nice little cafeteria called Bon Appetit which serves some delicious fast food with which you can ease your body after a long session of tech shopping.

With more and more innovative smart products coming to the market, expect BCS's inventory list to keep on increasing.

BCS computer city is located at E-8/A Begum Rokeya Sarani, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh.

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