



The power to do more



Apple's keynote event 2016: more colours, less wires

As we approach the final quarter of 2016, it's that time again when Apple makes all their announcements and lets their fans know all about all their products that will be hitting stores. With two new iPhones, lots of weird changes and massive updates that everyone's been waiting to hear, Apple held their 2016 keynote event at San Francisco earlier this week. Here's all you need to know straight to the point without the fillers.

Apple's Best iPhone Yet, Minus the Headphone Jack

Yes, you read that right! Along with the announcements of the iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 plus, it's time to say goodbye to the headphone jack welcome the era of Bluetooth earphones. This is a bold move from the tech giant which is sure to turn some heads, but they aren't completely abandoning the 'old school' users who still prefer the 3.5mm jack for headphone support, Apple will be providing a converter to help its users during the transition from wires to wireless. Good going guys!



But let's not let the lack of a port overshadow the upgraded specs and aesthetics of the new devices. The iPhone 7 and 7 Plus comes with beefed up RAM, an A10 chipset with a six core GPU and a great bright and powerful display which is bound to deliver great overall performance.

But that's not it; Apple's got more in their bag of goodies!

The Clock Keeps Ticking for Apple

Apple went on ahead and announced the release of the second generation of their smartwatches which should be giving users faster and smoother performance than the previous models while maintaining the same shape and size. Its new features include GPS, Pokemon GO playability, water resistance and availability of the watches in ceramic form.

Last, But Not Least, The iOS 10

Apple can't give its fans so much new hardware without a new operating system on the horizon. The new iOS 10, named the Sierra was introduced at the keynote event. The new iOS is to come with multiple updates, more widgets, new notification settings, greater developer accessibility etc.

With so many new products coming in, there's no doubt that the upcoming year is to be an exciting year for Apple with more innovation, heightened competition and the never ending debate on who deserves the number one spot in the smartphone game.

SAFWAN MAHFUZ

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ICT HELPING UNDERPRIVILEGED SCHOOL-GOERS TO BE HEARD

In a developing country like Bangladesh, there are still a lot of regions within our borders where school going children are not getting all the resources needed for a healthy and hygienic educational environment. But how does ICT play a role here? Well, you are about to find out!

The school we visited was the Doshaid AK School and College where they had formed an 11 member National Children's Task Force (NCTF) like many other schools have as part of this initiative. The NCTF is made of 11 students, usually senior grade students who work together in assessing their water, sanitation and hygiene facilities at school and report it accordingly. The WASH report is passed on through an application called NCTFVOICE which is used via a tablet computer.

What makes this initiative amazing is that, the NCTF is not only completely handled by the senior students of the school, but these students have a say regarding the budget allocated to WASH facilities and are being empowered. Also, once these students graduated, they will be training the future seniors so that this process lives on. By accessing the site: www.myschoolvoice.org one can see the current stats of the complaints. This site also shows what sort of problems the students in the schools are encountering.

It also shows the resolution time of the complains. So everyone can get an overview and accountability is ensured.

Before the implementation of this initiative, the students were either embarrassed or too scared to address the issue with their teachers, but with the help of this app, the students are not only more open with their authorities but are also actively taking part in the budget.

The NCTF for the Doshaid AK School and College is led by its President, Suraiya



Akter Papiya along with the Vice President, Abdul Malik, who are both studying in grade 10. When asked about the changes before and after the implementation of proper WASH facilities, the bright students acknowledged that before the facilities were implemented, the students did not even know that they had the right to speak up on the lack of these facilities. It is unilaterally accepted by both the students and authorities, that since they've been working together along with this initiative, they've had improvements in terms of WASH facilities with painted up wells and more taps for better access to clean water.

One of the members of the National Children's Task Force, Mashiha Jahan Arifa explained how the process of reporting the situation of the facilities works through the tab. She explained that every month, the task

force would go around the campus asking other students for their feedback and whether or not they had anything that needs to be replaced, added or fixed within the sanitation facilities.

She further added an interesting piece of information, where this initiative that was created to improve the school's WASH situation turned into empowered children. They are now child rights activists; they had been taking action to protect children from being forced into labour within the communities that they live in. It is fascinating how the solution to one problem grew to become a solution to another greater problem.

Speaking about all the improvements once the students started voicing their opinions to the school authorities led to proper budget allocations to provide a better educational environment. Task force member,

Tanvir Ahmed Shuvo added, "We now have more toilets and taps. Previously there was 2 male WASH facilities and 4 female WASH facilities which is now 11 and 6 respectively. More girls have been attending school, and as students are an integral part of this initiative, they feel more responsible to maintain the cleanliness of their facilities. They've also added in a suggestion box on campus where anyone can put in suggestions of what needs to be improved that is reviewed every month by the appropriate authorities."

What's so special about what Save the Children has done here? After speaking to the students and school authorities, we've learned that this WASH project that began in July of 2014 started as a means to fix WASH facilities but ended up creating student leaders; fighting for children's rights in their community. These very children who were previously unheard, were able to incorporate ICT to use an app to address their problems and work together to find solutions to current and relevant problems.

This initiative which took off in Savar with a vision to help 26,000 children across 30 schools in the area is now being implemented in other parts of Bangladesh including in Khulna.

In partnership with VERC (Village Education Resource Centre), CSID (Centre for Services and Information on Disability), MMC (Mass Line Media Centre), mPower Social Enterprise (Creators of the NCTFVOICE app) and the NCTF, Save the Children is planning to roll out this programme across the country. The aim is simple and straightforward: better hygiene through provisions of soaps, dustbins, newly appointed cleaner, erection of new toilets, provided menstrual kits and running water systems in schools.

JUST IN

ASUS brings ROG laptop in Bangladesh



International notebook manufacturer ASUS is bringing a brand new gaming notebook for Bangladesh: ASUS Republic Of Gamer (ROG) G701VO. This laptop is one of the newest member of the ASUS ROG series. It comes packed with a high end desktop grade graphics processor unit ready for intense gaming. The notebook uses an Intel Core i7 processor and an Nvidia GTX980 video card with 8GB memory. It also has 64GB DDR4 RAM, a full HD display and a 1TB SSD drive along with many other features. PRICE: TK. 3,00,000/-

D-link brings giga-speed router

D-Link has brought a Giga WAN Router, DIR-842 with faster HD/3D streaming speed in the local market for Ideal users. This AC 1200 Mbps Dual Band (up to 300Mbps on 2.4GHz and 867 Mbps on 5GHz) device's Wireless Data Rates is Up to 1.2Gbps. It has 4 antennas which springs better wider coverage throughout home and Office. It also supports Secure Wireless Encryption, WPA or WPA2 Security. PRICE: TK. 7,000/-



Console wars get mid-life revamp. Here's what you need to know.

PS4 Pro - starts from \$399

Sony's PS4 Pro aims to target the 15 or so people around the globe who haven't decided to get a console to supplement PC gaming with the Pro. Features larger dimensions, a rear USB 3.0 port, 4K ready HDMI 2.0 port, 1 Terrabyte HDD, AMD Jaguar x86-64 8-core CPU with faster clock speed, 4.2 TFLOPS GPU with 4K support. Omitted from the PS4 Pro is the Ultra HD Blu-ray player and Auxiliary connector.

XBOX ONE S - starts from \$299

Microsoft is riding on a wave of success as the current Xbox outsells the PS4 worldwide. To step up the game, they're launching the Xbox One S - 40% smaller than a regular Xbox, 2 Terrabyte HDD, High Dynamic Range graphics, 4K Ultra HD Blu-Ray and streaming, infra-red blaster, and increased range for the standard wireless controller, while featuring backward compatibility. Comes standard in white/black colour combo.



Infographic: Shaer Reaz

TECH HAPPENING

Banglalink & WE launched 3 smartphones with Data bonus offer

Banglalink has brought Data bonus with WE smartphones. The smartphones WE A1, WE L2 and WE V2 were launched recently at Banglalink Headquarters Tiger's Den in Gulshan. Present at the launching ceremony were Taimur Rahman, CCRAO, Banglalink,

Shahriar Ahmed Remon, Head of Device, Banglalink, Shibly Sadiq, Device Senior Manager, Banglalink and Intekhab Mahmud, CEO, Aamra, Ehsan UI Haque, Head of Business Development, Aamra and Towheed Chowdhury, DGM, Aamra.

Payoneer names Emrazina and Shoeb as ambassadors in BD

International cross-coin payment gateway Payoneer has announced two freelancers Emrazina Islam and Shoeb Mohammad as brand ambassadors in Bangladesh. Payoneer is a financial solution that provides online money

transfer and internet based payment services. Emrazina and Shoeb now started working to development the market for Payoneer in Bangladesh. Both of them started their career in freelancing and then turned entrepreneurs.

Bikroy.com announces winners of Qurbani campaign

After a month long campaign, Bikroy announced the winners of Qurbani campaign. The winners are: Md. Ripon from Comilla won Chennai Express cow, Sharmin from Bashundhara, Dhaka has won "Mir Kadim Hasha" cow and Himel from Narayanganj has

won "Mir Kadim Gamor" cow. Each winner has purchased the intended animal at 70% discount off Bikroy's purchase price. Bikroy announced the lucky winners' names at an event held at Chairman Bari field on September, 05, 2016.

Ekhanei.com teams up with Opera Mini to give users a better experience

To give its users a better experience, Ekhanei.com has revamped its website and extended its partnership with Opera's mobile browser - Opera Mini. The new Ekhanei.com mobile website, which lets users register and post ads more conveniently, is significantly faster and more user friendly. The major upgrades include chat-

ting option with buyers & sellers, verified accounts and easy to search option. The interface enables users to open accounts following a few simple steps allowing them to post ads with minimum effort. The search option on the website has also been updated to let users search products using keywords.

US customers can now pre-order the iPhone 7 and Apple Watch Series 2



Hillary campaign gets \$20M from Facebook co-founder Dustin Moskovitz



NASA has successfully launched OSIRIS-REx, their first asteroid sample return mission



Gregory Touhill has been named as the first chief information security officer of USA



Snapchat could buy startups without raising money via new credit line

