



The power to do more

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INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY

BYTES

A GLIMSE OF ROBOLUTION 2018



MIST Robotics Club of Military Institute of Science & Technology recently hosted "ROBOLUTION-2018", the one of the biggest robotics events of the country. Following the footsteps of its past success, this year's event hosted almost one thousand participants from all over the country. Among the eight segments of the event were line follower bot challenges, bot fight, quad copter challenge, poster presentation, CAD designs, idea contest, project show & gaming contest. The chief guest was the renowned Professor Kaykobad of Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

and as chief patron of MIST, Maj Gen Abul Khair, NDC, PENG. Leading scientist Professor Khondkar Siddique-e-Rabbani adorned the closing ceremony along with high officials from Bangladesh army, navy & air force. This year, almost 250 contestants participated in the line follower event. Besides, there were almost 200 contestants in bot fight, 70 in quad copter challenge, 60 in CAD designs, 90 in idea contest, 50 in gaming fest, 60 in poster presentation & 110 in project show individually or by forming a team. "PI-RATES OF MIST", a team from the hosting institution secured the runners up position in the competitive bot fight segment.

Is renewable energy on the rise in Bangladesh?

Despite the falling price of crude oil globally in the last 3-4 years, there has been a steady rise in the production of renewable energy globally. Some countries have switched 100% to renewable energy will some others are on track of shedding off fossil fueled energy production plants. In Bangladesh, the renewable energy scenario has been a bit stagnate as the proportionate growth on renewable energy hasn't been seen in last couple of years. According to the Sustainable & Renewable Energy Development Agency of Bangladesh (SREDA), renewable energy contributes to approximately 3.10 % of our national energy power mix. Even for a country that graduated recently to the LDC category, the figure is simply too low. The main source of Bangladesh's renewable energy till date are solar and hydro-electricity. Although Bangladesh is a pioneer in installing Solar Home Systems (SHSs). Most of these installations were

made by IDCOL and other NGOs. To expand these installations even further, after a very long time, another significant investment is being made by The World Bank recently. The World Bank last week approved \$55 million to expand use of clean renewable energy in rural areas of Bangladesh where grid electricity cannot reach easily. This additional financing to the Second Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development (RERED II) Project will install 1,000 solar irrigation pumps, 30 solar mini-grids, and about 4 million improved cookstoves in rural areas. This additional financing will help construct another 30 solar mini-grids. These will provide about 28,000 connections to households and businesses, including small and medium-sized enterprises. So if implemented on time, this project is certainly going to take thousands of families out of the clutch of fossil fuel.



TOO MANY STARTUPS TOO LITTLE INVESTMENT

INFOGRAPHIC: RAHIN SADMAN ISLAM

One of the biggest bottlenecks in the entrepreneurial ecosystem is a shortage of venture capital, bank loans, and other funding facilities.

85% of founders contend that it is difficult or impossible to secure venture capital or bank finance. None of the six to 10 local private equity and venture capital funds specialize in seed funding.

22% of founders said it is possible to get funding from angel investors, and those who do tend to receive a small amount (US\$10,000-20,000). Bangladesh does not yet have a culture of angel investing at all.

18 disclosed venture capital investments in Bangladesh-based start-ups since 2012. Foreign investors regularly scan Bangladesh, but entrepreneurs face intense competition for funding from their counterparts in India, Pakistan, and Indonesia.

50% of investments in large-scale programs, such as the countrywide launch of mobile financial services in 2009-2011 and the emergence of e-commerce in 2013, were from foreign institutions.

TECH HAPPENING

e-Courier ties up with five marketplaces for warehouse service



e-Courier has recently signed agreement with top five marketplaces to provide warehouse services. These five marketplaces are Ajker Deal, Bagdoom, Kiksha, Priyo Shop and Othoba. This is the first time any online order processing service has brought a warehouse and fulfillment centre. So from now on, the e-commerce services will be getting product stocking, packaging, labeling and nationwide courier service. The quality of the product can also be checked directly from e-courier too. In the last 2 months nearly 30 merchants has signed up for these services of e-courier.

Visa & SSLCOMMERZ brings special bangle new year offer

Visa & SSLCOMMERZ in collaboration with partners has brought another huge discount offer 'Boishakhi Dhamaka' for different products & services at this Pahela Boishakh festival (the first day of

Bengali New Year). Multiple partners of SSLCOMMERZ are participating in this campaign to attract online shoppers by offering discounts. The 'Boishakhi Dhamaka' campaign launched by Visa & SSLCOMMERZ

will run from 12th April 2018 to 11th May 2018. To enjoy the offers, the customers need to visit the partner websites, save their card details and pay with Visa card using the SSLCOMMERZ payment gateway.

Russia will invest 100M USD in Bangladeshi ICT sector

Russia will invest 100 million US dollar for the development of ICT section of Bangladesh. A MoU was signed on yesterday 11th April at Confidence Centre at Shahjadpur, Dhaka between Russia's state-owned apex IT company RITE and country's IT company Unicom Bangladesh. Md. Shahid-ul Munir, CEO of Unicom Bangladesh and Mr. Aleksei Chugunov, Director Technical signed the MoU on the respective sides. Under this agreement, Russia will work for development of IT security in banking sector, enhancement of government IT services, equipped country's public service providing institutions with IT-technology, establishing Smart City, development of education sector, insurance and overall IT services and improve development of providing hi-tech facilities by government.

JUST IN

Prolink 4G Wi-Fi hotspot on the go



Prolink has brought an ideal portable 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot for travelers who need a fast-speed, compact and light-weight device to share a 4G network. This Prolink PRI7011L portable 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot provides high speed data transfer of up to 300 Mbps and Wi-Fi sharing of up to 11 users or devices concurrently. The device also comes with a built-in rechargeable battery that allows you to stay connected for up to 10 hours on a single charge. Aside from that, the device comes with 3 LED lights on its front panel which displays a clear indication of the current battery status, Wi-Fi strength and 4G signal strength at a glance.

Price: Tk. 6,500/-

iLife brings three new sleek notebook

iLife has brought three new laptop in the local market. The laptops are Zed Air, Zed Air H6 and Zed Air 3. The laptops come Quad Core Intel Processor, 3 GB RAM, Genuine

Windows, 32- 500GB HD, and comes with a battery backup of 5-7 hours.

Price: Starting from 26,300 to 29,500/-

Walton launches another 'Made in Bangladesh' smartphone

Walton has launched another 'Made in Bangladesh' labeled smartphone 'Primo F8' which has been manufactured at the mobile phone plant of Walton Digi-Tech Industries Ltd. in Chandra of Gazipur. The 5-inch FWVGA big and bright IPS screen, 3G-enabled dual SIM, 1.3 GHz Quad Core



Processor, 1 GB of RAM with 8 GB ROM (expandable up to 64 GB), the Primo F8 features Mali-400 as GPU. It has a BSI 5MP rear camera with LED flash while bears another BSI 5MP front camera for selfies.

Tk. 5,099/-

TECH BITS
Zuckerberg denies knowledge of Facebook shadow profiles



Marketing platform Punchh raises \$20M Series B



Firefox updates its iOS web browser to turn Tracking Protection on by default



ESPN launches its streaming service ESPN+



LG promises to speed up bringing Android updates to its smartphones

