News published in different media worldwide

World Media Coverage on the Launching of Doel Laptop





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B B C NEWS SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh unveils \$130 'Doel' laptops

By Anbarasan Ethirajan

BBC News, Dhaka



Critics say that poor internet connectivity may affect the usefulness of the laptops

Bangladesh has unveiled a domestically made laptop which officials claim is one of the cheapest in the world.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina launched the computer, named Doel, at a ceremony in the capital Dhaka on Tuesday. It is the first laptop made in the country. The state-owned telecoms company Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) is producing four models of the laptop. The most basic one is priced at 10,000 taka (\$130/£83). The primary model runs the android operating system.

"This is a big step towards building a digital Bangladesh. When villages get laptops at a cheaper price they will be connected to the internet and that will bring lots of benefits," TSS managing director Mohammad Ismail told the BBC.

Initially, the laptop will be distributed to various government departments. But later on they will be made available to the public and to tens of millions of students. Mr Ismail said that at the moment Bangladesh is producing 10% of the components for the laptop and the rest are imported. "But within six months we will be able to produce 60% of the components," he said. However, the country's internet connectivity remains poor and critics have raised doubts whether the distribution of laptops alone will help the country to connect digitally. The government has launched an ambitious plan, known as Digital Bangladesh, with the aim of digitally connecting the country by 2021.

"Every part of the country will be brought under e-governance, while the telecommunication system is being modernised to cut the digital divide," Sheikh Hasina said during the inauguration.

Source: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-15261076



AUSTRALIA

Bangladesh unveils \$130 laptops

3:35am AEST Wednesday 12 October 2011

Bangladesh unveils a domestically made laptop, the Doel, which officials claim is one of the cheapest in the world.

http://www.australia-times.com.au/asiapacific/article.php?id=54237



USA

Cheap Laptops: It's Bangladesh's Turn

By Jeff Bertolucci, PCWorld Oct 11, 2011 2:56 PM



India isn't the only nation building low-cost computers. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday introduced the Doel, an inexpensive, Android-based laptop priced as low as 10,000 taka (US \$130), the BBC reports.

Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS), Bangladesh's state-owned telecom company, will produce four models of the Doel, which will initially go to government officials. The long-term goal, however, is to distribute the low-cost laptops to tens of millions of students in the South Asian nation.

The computer is named after the <u>doel</u>, or magpie robin, which is Bangladesh's national bird. According to <u>ITProPortal</u>, the Doel's specs are pretty much what you'd expect from a \$130 laptop. The "primary model" features an 800MHz VIA 8650 processor, 512MB RAM, 16GB flash memory, Wi-Fi, and a 10.1-inch (1024x600) LCD screen, webcam, SD card reader, and two USB ports.

By comparison, India's <u>much-touted tablet</u>, which may cost as little as US \$35, has a 7-inch (800-by-480) display, 256MB RAM, 2GB flash storage, and a 366MHz Connexant processor. It runs Android 2.2.

The Doel is a key component of Digital Bangladesh, an ambitious plan to bring most of the nation online within a decade.

"When villages get laptops at a cheaper price they will be connected to the Internet and that will bring lots of benefits," Mohammad Ismail, TSS managing director, told the BBC.

Critics, however, point out that Bangladesh's Internet infrastructure is inadequate, adding that low-cost, readily available laptops may not be enough to help the country advance into the Digital Age.

Source: http://www.pcworld.com/article/241712/cheap_laptops_its_bangladeshs_turn.html



France

Bangladesh launches \$130 laptop for schools



Bangladeshi school girls (AFP/File, Munir Uz Zaman)

DHAKA — Bangladesh on Tuesday unveiled a \$130 locally made laptop that it hopes will help bridge the digital divide in the impoverished South Asian country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the Doel -- or magpie -- laptops at a ceremony in the capital Dhaka, saying the computer, made by state-owned telecom company TSS, would help Bangladesh become a middle-income nation by 2021.

"(There are) four types of Doel laptops, the most basic one is priced at 10,000 taka (\$130). The highest price is 26,000 taka," said government spokesman Shefayet Hossain.

Hossain said the idea of the cut-price laptops came from the education ministry, which aims to distribute them to tens of millions of poor students.

TSS has struck joint venture deals with two private companies to produce and market the laptops across the country, he added.

The Doel is Bangladesh's national bird.

Despite a booming economy, which has grown at an average six percent each year over the last decade, Bangladesh ranks low on Internet and information technology penetration.

The government has said it hopes that the inexpensive laptop will aid in closing the digital gap in the country.

Digital inclusion has the potential to bring education to people in countries where educational infrastructure is limited, experts say.

Access to the Internet is also seen as a way to bolster health care, banking and other services and help lift millions of Bangladeshis out of poverty.

Last week, neighbouring India launched what has been dubbed the world's cheapest computer -- a \$46 tablet device. The government is planning to buy 100,000 of the tablets to be given away for free to student

Source

 $\frac{\text{http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gmN7IAcgfKgWgNqjvOHpwHVPyEgA?docld}{\text{d=CNG.c12f3c43916904a6f399b9c9c858913c.981\&index=0}}$



USA

Bangladesh launches one of the world's cheapest laptops

By Trevor Mogg | Digital Trends - Tue, Oct 11, 2011

A week after India <u>unveiled</u> what it claimed to be the world's cheapest tablet computer, the country's eastern neighbor, Bangladesh, has launched one of the world's cheapest laptops.

The country's prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, unveiled the 10,000taka (\$130) Android-powered machine at a special ceremony in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Named after the country's national bird, the Doel (magpie) has been produced by the stateowned telecom company TSS in partnership with two private firms.

Government spokesman Shefayet Hossain said, "(There are) four types of Doel laptops, the most basic one is priced at 10,000 taka (\$130). The highest price is 26,000 taka."

According to <u>ITProPortal</u> (via <u>PC World</u>), the most basic Doel machine comes equipped with an 800MHz VIA 8650 processor, 512MB RAM, 16GB flash memory, a 10.1-inch 1024×600 LCD panel, a webcam, Wi-Fi, an SD card reader and two USB ports. That sounds pretty good for \$130 and should be fine for simple computer tasks.

The country currently produces only 10 percent of the components for the laptop although it's thought that in the next six months that figure will rise to 60 percent.

Bangladesh's education ministry is planning to distribute the cut-price laptop to millions of poor students around the country.

Speaking to the BBC about the new machine, TSS managing director Mohammad Ismail <u>said</u>, "This is a big step towards building a digital Bangladesh. When villages get laptops at a cheaper price they will be connected to the Internet and that will bring lots of benefits."

Through its Digital Bangladesh initiative, the country's government plans to have the entire country digitally connected within the next 10 years.

http://news.yahoo.com/bangladesh-launches-one-worlds-cheapest-laptops-013717335.html



Qatar

Bangladesh launches \$130 laptop

Publish Date: Wednesday, 12 October, 2011, at 12:29 PM Doha Time

AFP/Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday unveiled a \$130 locally made laptop that it hopes will help bridge the digital divide in the impoverished South Asian country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the Doel — or magpie — laptops at a ceremony in the capital Dhaka, saying the computer, made by state-owned telecom company TSS, would help Bangladesh become a middle-income nation by 2021.

"(There are) four types of Doel laptops, the most basic one is priced at 10,000 taka (\$130). The highest price is 26,000 taka," said government spokesman Shefayet Hossain.

Hossain said the idea of the cut-price laptops came from the education ministry, which aims to distribute them to tens of millions of poor students.

TSS has struck joint venture deals with two private companies to produce and market the laptops across the country, he added.

The Doel is Bangladesh's national bird.

Despite a booming economy, which has grown at an average 6% each year over the last decade, Bangladesh ranks low on Internet and information technology penetration.

The government has said it hopes that the inexpensive laptop will aid in closing the digital gap in the country.

Digital inclusion has the potential to bring education to people in countries where educational infrastructure is limited, experts say.

Access to the Internet is also seen as a way to bolster health care, banking and other services and help lift millions of Bangladeshis out of poverty.

Last week, neighbouring India launched what has been dubbed the world's cheapest computer — a \$46 tablet device. The government is planning to buy 100,000 of the tablets to be given away for free to students.

Source: http://www.gulf-

 $\underline{times.com/site/topics/printArticle.asp?cu_no=2\&item_no=463305\&version=1\&template_id=44\&parent_id=24$



Thailand

Bangladesh launches \$130 laptop for schools

Published: 12/10/2011 at 02:32 AM

Online news: Gadget

Bangladesh on Tuesday unveiled a \$130 locally made laptop that it hopes will help bridge the digital divide in the impoverished South Asian country.



Bangladeshi school girls are seen at a school in Dhaka, July 2011. Bangladesh on Tuesday unveiled a \$130 locally made laptop that it hopes will help bridge the digital divide in the impoverished South Asian country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the Doel -- or magpie -- laptops at a ceremony in the capital Dhaka, saying the computer, made by state-owned telecom company TSS, would help Bangladesh become a middle-income nation by 2021."(There are) four types of Doel laptops, the most basic one is priced at 10,000 taka (\$130). The highest price is 26,000 taka," said government spokesman Shefayet Hossain.

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The Doel is Bangladesh's national bird.

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http://www.bangkokpost.com/tech/computer/260924/



France

Bangladesh launches \$130 laptop for schools



Bangladeshi school girls are seen at a school in Dhaka, July 2011. Bangladesh on Tuesday unveiled a \$130 locally made laptop that it hopes will help bridge the digital divide in the impoverished South Asian country.

AFP - Bangladesh on Tuesday unveiled a \$130 locally made laptop that it hopes will help bridge the digital divide in the impoverished South Asian country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the Doel -- or magpie -- laptops at a ceremony in the capital Dhaka, saying the computer, made by state-owned telecom company TSS, would help Bangladesh become a middle-income nation by 2021.

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http://www.france24.com/en/20111011-bangladesh-launches-130-laptop-schools



India

Bangladesh unveils 'cheapest' \$130 'Doel laptops'

By ANI | ANI - Wed, Oct 12, 2011

Dhaka, Oct 12 (ANI): Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has unveiled the nation's first domestically made laptop named 'Doel'.

The state-owned telecom company Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) has produced four models of the laptop.

The most basic model that runs the android operating system is priced at 10,000 taka (130 dollars), and is the cheapest laptop in the world.

TSS managing director Mohammad Ismail said that the new laptop would bring lots of benefits to the nation.

"This is a big step towards building a digital Bangladesh. When villages get laptops at a cheaper price they will be connected to the internet and that will bring lots of benefits," the BBC quoted Ismail, as saying.

Sheikh Hasina also said during the inauguration that, "every part of the country would be brought under e-governance, while the telecommunication system is being modernised to cut the digital divide".

Ismail said that Bangladesh is currently producing 10 percent of the components for the laptops and the rest are imported, adding that within six months they would be able to produce 60 percent of the components.

The laptops will initially be distributed to various government departments, and later on they will be made available to the public and to tens of millions of students. (ANI)

http://in.news.yahoo.com/bangladesh-unveils-cheapest-130-doel-laptops-060423400.html



UK

Bangladesh unveils \$130 laptops

Posted on 12 October 2011.

11 October 2011 Last updated at 10:55 ET

By Anbarasan Ethirajan BBC News, Dhaka

Bangladesh has unveiled a domestically made laptop which officials claim is one of the cheapest in the world.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina launched the computer, named Doel, at a ceremony in the capital Dhaka on Tuesday. It is the first laptop made in the country.

The state-owned telecoms company Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) is producing four models of the laptop.

The most basic one is priced at 10,000 taka (\$ 130/83). The primary model runs the android operating system.

"This is a big step towards building a digital Bangladesh. When villages get laptops at a cheaper price they will be connected to the internet and that will bring lots of benefits," TSS managing director Mohammad Ismail told the BBC.

Initially, the laptop will be distributed to various government departments. But later on they will be made available to the public and to tens of millions of students.

Mr Ismail said that at the moment Bangladesh is producing 10% of the components for the laptop and the rest are imported.

"But within six months we will be able to produce 60% of the components," he said.

However, the country's internet connectivity remains poor and critics have raised doubts whether the distribution of laptops alone will help the country to connect digitally.

The government has launched an ambitious plan, known as Digital Bangladesh, with the aim of digitally connecting the country by 2021.

"Every part of the country will be brought under e-governance, while the telecommunication system is being modernised to cut the digital divide," Sheikh Hasina said during the inauguration.

http://www.theissue.co.uk/tech/bangladesh-unveils-130-laptops/



India

Cheap Laptop Launched In Bangladesh

Gadget Guru

Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 16:41 [IST]



Bangladesh regarded as one of the poorest nations in the world has finally launched one of the cheapest laptops in the world. The laptop has been named Doel laptop. The laptop was launched by the Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in an official ceremony in the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka. The laptop is manufactured by the Government owned Telecom Company named TSS. The Doel laptop comes with four variants. They are primary, basic, standard and advanced.

The release of the Doel laptop is expected to help millions of people in Bangladesh by providing greater connectivity and integration among the rural and the urban population. The laptop comes with a lot of features. The primary model of laptop makes use of the popular android operating system. It also comes with a 10 inch LCD screen which makes use of VIA 8650 processor which has 800 MHz. It makes use of 512 MB of RAM. The web cam specification of this primary model of laptop is 0.3 mega pixel. It also consists of a USB 2.0 port. Bangladesh as of now has a very poor internet connectivity record and there is a greater need of integration if the country has to move forward as a developing nation. The introduction of this cheapest laptop is seen as a step forward in achieving the dream of this nation that has a huge population.

Doel basic, standard and advanced laptop makes use of the efficient Intel processor and the operating system these three models make use of is a Linux based operating system which is known for its user friendly nature. The basic model comes with a 10.1 inch display where as the standard model comes with 12.2 inch display and finally the advanced model come with a 14 inch display with a screen resolution of 1366*768 pixels. The basic, standard as well as the advanced model comes

with 2GB of RAM and also 1.3 mega pixel of camera resolution. All the four models come with 802.11b/g/n. Doel laptop will be made available to the government offices and the government controlled offices initially and it will be made available to the people as well as the stronger student community which is millions in count in the coming months. As of now the government is producing only 10% of the total components of this laptop. It is expected to reach to a close of 60% within a six month time period.

The price in India of Doel primary model is Rs.6, 650 whereas the price of the basic model is Rs. 8,800. Price of the standard model will be approximately Rs. 14,400. And finally the price of the advanced version will be an approximate of Rs.17, 000. Doel laptop has been introduced as part of the Bangladesh government's ambitious plan named as Digital Bangladesh. The main intention of this plan is to make the whole country internet connected by the year 2021. The telecom system is also being modernized rapidly as part of this ambitious plan implementation. Even though there are several critics who points out that the incapability of poor internet connectivity is directly proportional to the success of this laptop. But as far as the government is concerned they think that the release of this cheapest laptops is going to help millions of Bangladeshi people who cannot afford to buy a laptop. The government seriously thinks that it will be a dream come true for the users who are from a poorer background.

http://living.oneindia.in/gadgets/computer/cheap-laptop-launched-in-bangladesh-121011.html

TechHindi

India

Bangladesh 'Doel' Affordable Laptop

by Jatin | posted: October 13, 2011



Bangladesh has unveiled a domestically created laptop namely the "Doel". It is claimed to be the cheapest laptop in the world. The state-owned telecoms business Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) is producing four models of the laptop. The high-finish model runs on the Google Android operating technique. The simple model is priced at 10,000 taka or only \$ 130.

http://www.techhindi.in/2011/10/13/bangladesh-'doel'-affordable-laptop/



Pakistan

Laptop production takes off in Bangladesh today

Manufacture of low-priced laptops takes off today

The manufacture of low-priced laptops kicks off today in Bangladesh, Telecoms Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju said in parliament.

The much-discussed laptops will hit markets by the end of the month, he added.

"I will inaugurate the laptop manufacturing factory [today] and the honourable prime minister will launch marketing of the laptop by the end of this month," the minister said, in response to gueries placed by lawmakers.

Under the country's first initiative to make laptops, the minister said there will be four types of laptop, priced at Tk 10,000, Tk 12,000, Tk 21,000 and Tk 25,000.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Raju had earlier said the locally made laptops would hit the market by May or June, which would contribute to building a 'Digital Bangladesh'.

The telecoms minister's speech yesterday renewed hopes for the first laptops made in the country.

In response to another query, the minister also informed parliament about the government's steps to turn the 8,500 post offices in Bangladesh into e-centres, by supplying laptops, computers, generators, printers, internet modems, digital cameras, photo-printers and mobile phones.

 $\underline{\text{http://www.defence.pk/forums/bangladesh-defence/119044-laptop-production-takes-off-bangladesh-today.html}}$



Qatar

<u>First Bangladesh-made laptop to hit markets today:</u> Report

Tuesday, 11 October 2011 02:57



Dhaka: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the first ever Bangladesh made laptop this morning, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The Daily Star said the inaugural function will be held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre at 10:30am.

The laptop branded as Doel (pictured) with four different models priced at Tk10,000 (\$132), Tk13,500 (\$178), Tk22,000 (\$290) and Tk26,000 (\$345) are made by the state-run Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) in collaboration with 2M Corporation Ltd, Dhaka and TFT Technology, Penang, Malaysia.

A telecommunication ministry official said the date for marketing of the laptop has not been fixed. "At first, several thousand laptops would be supplied to various government institutions for public services," the official said. He also said in future, the government has a plan to export the laptops after meeting the local demand. Agencies

http://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/s.-asia/philippines/168648-first-bangladesh-made-laptop-to-hit-markets-today-report.html



Bangladesh Made First Domestically Laptop Named Doel

Posted by Usman 12 October, 2011

Bangladesh has unveiled a domestically made laptop which officials claim is one of the cheapest in the world. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina launched the computer, named Doel, at a ceremony in the capital Dhaka on Tuesday. It is the first laptop made in the country.

The state-owned telecoms company Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) is producing four models of the laptop.

The most basic one is priced at 10,000 taka (\$130/£83). The primary model runs the android operating system.

"This is a big step towards building a digital Bangladesh. When villages get laptops at a cheaper price they will be connected to the internet and that will bring lots of benefits," TSS managing director Mohammad Ismail told the BBC.

Initially, the laptop will be distributed to various government departments. But later on they will be made available to the public and to tens of millions of students.

Mr Ismail said that at the moment Bangladesh is producing 10% of the components for the laptop and the rest are imported.

"But within six months we will be able to produce 60% of the components," he said.

However, the country's internet connectivity remains poor and critics have raised doubts whether the distribution of laptops alone will help the country to connect digitally.

The government has launched an ambitious plan, known as Digital Bangladesh, with the aim of digitally connecting the country by 2021.

"Every part of the country will be brought under e-governance, while the telecommunication system is being modernised to cut the digital divide," Sheikh Hasina said during the inauguration.

http://www.columnpk.com/tag/bangladesh-laptop-doel/



Bangladesh Announces National Laptop Line Starting At \$130



posted on October 11th, 2011



Nationalized technology efforts are becoming more common as countries begin to question their reliance on foreign powers for the means to participate in modernity. China is starting to <u>design</u> <u>its own processors</u>, India is <u>subsidizing a national tablet</u>, and now Bangladesh (working with fewer resources, but similar intentions) has taken the wraps off <u>a new line of ultra-cheap</u> <u>laptops</u>.

The computers are branded Doel, after the country's national bird (the magpie), and the cheapest comes to around \$130, and runs Android. You scoff, but it's a free and popular OS with plenty of room for extensibility and customization. Sure, it won't run *Crysis* and the media player sucks, but it's more than sufficient for basic computing: browsing, word processing, and document management.

They're manufactured by contractors managed by ISS, the state-owned telecom over there. At the moment only 10% of the parts are made in Bangladesh, but ISS managing director Mohammad Ismail was confident that within six months they would be able to produce 60%.

Naturally the processor and RAM and such are imported. The project was announced several months ago, but today marks the official launch of the devices.

The 10,000 Taka (\$130) Model 2102 has an 800MHz VIA 8650 processor, 512MB of RAM, and a 10" 1024×600 display. There's no internal storage, but there's an SD card slot. Not the hottest piece of hardware on the market, no. I would actually advise people to upgrade to the 12,000 Taka (\$160) Model 0703, which brings in a better screen, Atom N456 with twice the clock speed, double the RAM, a 250GB HDD, and a better webcam. It runs a "Linux Based OS" but that can be adjusted. There are more specs and pictures at DotNews.

So basically, they've got their own locally-designed set of netbooks. Sure, the richest countries in the world are entering the "post-PC era," but when generations need to be introduced to the rudiments of computing, netbooks are still a good idea. Hopefully this program gets a little traction and Bangladesh succeeds in its push for a more digital nation.

http://techcrunch.com/2011/10/11/bangladesh-announces-national-laptop-line-starting-at-130/



UK

Bangladesh Showcases £83 Android-based Doel Laptop



Written by Desire Athow

11 October, 2011



The Bangladeshi Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, has launched one of the cheapest mass produced laptops in the world, the Doel, which will go on sale for 10,000 Taka, that's \$130 or around £83.

The laptop will be produced by homegrown telecoms firm Telephone Silpa Sangstha, and four models are expected to be released with the cheapest one having almost the same specifications as a tablet.

The so-called primary model, codenamed 2102, comes with a VIA 8650 CPU and is clocked at 800MHz. There's 512MB RAM, 16GB flash memory, a 10.1-inch 1024x600 LCD panel, a webcam, Wi-Fi, an SD card reader, two USB ports, audio in/out and runs on Android (we're not sure which one) or WIndows CE 6.0.

There's no HDMI, VGA, optical drive or Bluetooth features and the 1800mAh battery, which is less than that of the Motorola Atrix, will power the laptop for a mere two hours.

The country has an ambitious plan called Digital Bangladesh which aims to digitally connect the country, one of the poorest in the world, by the beginning of the next decade.

A tenth of the components that make-up the laptop are produced locally with the Bangladeshi government aiming to boost that to 60 per cent.

http://www.itproportal.com/2011/10/11/bangladesh-showcases-83-android-based-doel-laptop/



Asia

Bangladesh unveils \$130 Android laptop

By Liau Yun Qing, ZDNet Asia on October 12, 2011

Government announces launch of four local-made laptops, with the cheapest priced at about US\$130, as part of efforts to drive digital connectivity in villages.

The Bangladesh government has announced plans to launch a series of locally assembled, low-cost laptops running on Google Android in a bid to drive digital connectivity in villages.

According to a <u>BBC article</u> Wednesday, the country's prime minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the four new devices--named "Doel"--at an event held on Tuesday. State-owned telecoms company Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) will produce the laptops, slated to be available from next week, which include an Android-based system, noted the report.

The Daily Star reported that the four models will be priced at Tk 10,000 (US\$132.3), Tk 13,500 (US\$178.6), Tk 22,000 (US\$291.1) and Tk 26,000 (US\$344).

TSS managing director, Mohammad Ismail, told the BBC that the laptops were a "big step toward building a digital Bangladesh". He added that when villages had access to laptops at a cheaper price, the people would be able to connect to the Internet and enjoy "lots of benefits" from this access.

However, BBC cited market observers who noted that the country's lack of network infrastructure might hinder the government's plans to digitally connect its citizens.

Last week, the India government launched its own <u>low-cost Android tablet</u>, priced at US\$45, targeted at the education sector.

http://www.zdnetasia.com/bangladesh-unveils-130-android-laptop-62302470.htm

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES

USA

Bangladesh Releases \$130 Laptop Computer

October 12, 2011 9:06 AM EDT

Bangladeshi officials have announced that they have developed one of the cheapest laptop computers on the market.

Priced as low as 10,000 taka (about \$130), the Doel laptop was unveiled at a ceremony in the capital city of Dhaka on Tuesday by the country's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.



(Bangladesh's neighbor India recently released a tablet priced as low as \$35).

Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS), the state-controlled telecommunications firm, will produce four models of the laptop, with the most basic version – which runs on the <u>Android</u> operating system -- costing \$130.

BBC reported that the laptop will initially be distributed to government employees, but eventually will be available to millions of ordinary Bangladeshis, including students.

"This is a big step towards building a digital Bangladesh," TSS managing director Mohammad Ismail told BBC. "When villages get laptops at a cheaper price they will be connected to the internet and that will bring lots of benefits."

http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/229737/20111012/bangladesh-laptop-computer-doel-130.htm



UK

Bangladesh unveils an £83 laptop

First laptop made in the country

By Kate O'Flaherty

Wed Oct 12 2011, 13:27

components.

THE PRIME MINISTER of Bangladesh has revealed a laptop costing £83.

Asserting to the BBC, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Jaunshed the compute

According to the BBC, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina launched the computer, named Doel, at a ceremony in the capital Dhaka on Tuesday. It is the first laptop made in the country. Four models of the laptop will be produced by state-owned telecoms company Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS), with the most basic priced at £83 (\$130). It will initially be distributed to government departments and later to the public and students. Bangladesh is producing 10 per cent of the components for the laptop and the rest are imported, but within six months the country will be able to produce 60 per cent of the

The government has launched Digital Bangladesh, a plan with the aim of digitally connecting the country by 2021.

Last month, we reported that nearby India is preparing to unveil a \$35 tablet device developed by British outfit Datawind. The subsidised device will be sold to students in a bid to increase India's take-up of technologies such as the internet.

http://www.theinquirer.net/inquirer/news/2116640/bangladesh-unveils-gbp83-laptop



San Francisco, USA

Bangladesh unveils first domestically made Android laptop

Updated 12:55 pm EDT, Tue October 11, 2011

Doel Android model may be cheapest in the world

Officials in Bangladesh have unveiled the first laptop made in that country, the Doel. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina launched the computer at a ceremony in the capital Dhaka on Tuesday. The state-owned telephone company, Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS), will produce four different models of the Doel. The primary model will run the Android OS and cost 10,000 taka (\$130).

The government has launched an ambitious plan known as Digital Bangladesh. TSS managing director Mohammad Ismail hailed the Doel as a big step towards the goal of connecting the country digitally by 2021. Critics point out that the country's internet connectivity remains poor and that merely distributing laptops will do little to address the issue.

The laptop will be distributed to government departments at first. Eventually they will be made available to the tens of millions of students in Bangladesh and to the general public.

Ismail said that Bangladesh is producing ten percent of the components for the laptop. He claimed that 60 percent of the parts for the computer would be produced in-country within six months. [via BBC News]

Source:

http://www.electronista.com/articles/11/10/11/doel.android.model.may.be.cheapest.in.the.world/



Chester brook, US

Bangladesh unveils \$130 laptops

by <u>Iftekhar BHUIYAN</u> | On October 11th, 2011

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today unveiled a locally assembled low-cost laptop, which is widely known as "Doel". Interesting enough, Doel is the name of the national bird of Bangladesh. State-run Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) assembled these computers in collaboration with Dhaka-based 2M Corporation and Malaysian TFT Technology. Initially TSS would be manufacturing 10,000 laptops every month of various configuration. It seems like TSS will release four different model of Doel laptops, as we reported back in July 2011. It is being expected that the laptop will be available at the market from next week.

At the launching ceremony at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city, Prime minister said:

Our students at schools should have access to the latest technologies. I want all the students not to go to schools with bags of books on their shoulders, but only with a notebook.

However, political analysts said this event would be a step towards fulfilling her election promises to make the country as a "Digital Bangladesh", even though lot more to be done to improve the IT sector in Bangladesh.

Now, we confirmed the news that the very basic model of Doel laptop would be around \$130 or (BDT 10,000) & Primary model would be running android operating system to keep the price tag lower. TSS was Established in 1967 & currently manufactures telephone sets only, however it has started manufacturing laptops and also plans to make mobile phone handsets in near future.

Source: http://www.e-dirts.com/2011/bangladesh-unveils-130-laptops/



Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia

Buzz-about RM400 laptop



More power to IT.

Bangladesh has launched an Android-powered laptop at the budget price of 10,000 taka (RM406).

The basic model comes with a Via processor and runs the Google operating system on a 10-inch screen, reports *BBC News*.

The advanced model runs Linux on a 14-inch WXGA LED backlit screen, powered by a Pentium processor.

State-owned telecom company Telephone Shilpa Sangstha is producing the laptops as part of the 1.84 billion taka (RM76 million) Digital Bangladesh government scheme.

"This is a big step towards building a digital Bangladesh. When villages get laptops at a cheaper price they will be connected to the internet and that will bring lots of benefits," said Mohammad Ismail, the managing director of Telephone Shilpa Sangstha.

Source: BBC News

Source Link: http://www1.dailychilli.com/happenings/14582-bangladesh-launches-rm400-laptop



Karachi, Pakistan

Bangladesh unveils \$130 laptop

DHAKA, Oct 11: Bangladesh unveiled on Tuesday a \$130 locally made laptop that it hopes will help bridge the digital divide in the country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the Doel — or magpie — laptops at a ceremony in Dhaka, saying the computer, made by state-owned telecom company TSS, would help Bangladesh become a middle-income nation by 2021.

"(There are) four types of Doel laptops, the most basic one is priced at 10,000 taka (\$130). The highest price is 26,000 taka," government spokesman Shefayet Hossain said.

Hossain said the idea of the cut-price laptops had come from the education ministry which aimed to distribute them to tens of millions of poor students.

The TSS had struck joint venture deals with two private companies to produce and market the laptops across the country, he added.

The doel is Bangladesh's national bird.

Despite a booming economy, which has grown at an average six per cent each year over the last decade, Bangladesh ranks low on internet and information technology penetration.

Last week, India launched what has been dubbed the world's cheapest computer — a \$46 tablet device.—AFP

Source: http://www.dawn.com/2011/10/12/bangladesh-unveils-130-laptop.html



Sydney South, NSW 2000, Australia

Bangladesh launches \$130 laptop for schools

by Staff Writers Dhaka (AFP) Oct 11, 2011

Bangladesh on Tuesday unveiled a \$130 locally made laptop that it hopes will help bridge the digital divide in the impoverished South Asian country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the Doel -- or magpie -- <u>laptops</u> at a ceremony in the capital Dhaka, saying the computer, made by state-owned telecom company TSS, would help Bangladesh become a middle-income nation by 2021.

"(There are) four types of Doel laptops, the most basic one is priced at 10,000 taka (\$130). The highest price is 26,000 taka," said government spokesman Shefayet Hossain.

Hossain said the idea of the cut-price laptops came from the education ministry, which aims to distribute them to tens of millions of poor students.

TSS has struck joint venture deals with two private companies to produce and market the laptops across the country, he added.

The Doel is Bangladesh's national bird.

Despite a booming economy, which has grown at an average six percent each year over the last decade, Bangladesh ranks low on Internet and information technology penetration.

The government has said it hopes that the inexpensive laptop will aid in closing the digital gap in the country.

Digital inclusion has the potential to bring education to people in countries where educational infrastructure is limited, experts say.

Access to the Internet is also seen as a way to bolster health care, banking and other services and help lift millions of Bangladeshis out of poverty.

Last week, neighbouring India launched what has been dubbed the world's cheapest computer -- a \$46 <u>tablet</u> device. The government is planning to buy 100,000 of the tablets to be given away for free to students.

Source:

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Bangladesh launches 130 laptop for schools 999.html



Lahore, Pakistan

Bangladesh launches \$130 laptop for schools

Posted on October 12, 2011

DHAKA (APP): Bangladesh on Tuesday unveiled a \$130 locally made laptop that it hopes will help bridge the digital divide in the impoverished South Asian country. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the Doel — or magpie — laptops at a ceremony in the capital Dhaka, saying the computer, made by state-owned telecom company TSS, would help Bangladesh become a middle-income nation by 2021. "(There are) four types of Doel laptops, the most basic one is priced at 10,000 taka (\$130). The highest price is 26,000 taka," said government spokesman Shefayet Hossain. Hossain said the idea of the cut-price laptops came from the education ministry, which aims to distribute them to tens of millions of poor students. TSS has struck joint venture deals with two private companies to produce and market the laptops across the country, he added. The Doel is Bangladesh's national bird. Despite a booming economy, which has grown at an average six percent each year over the last decade, Bangladesh ranks low on Internet and information technology penetration.

Source: http://www.thefrontierpost.com/?p=66694



Film City, Sector 16A, Noida 201301, India

Bangladesh launches USD 130 laptop for schools

Idea of cut-price laptops came from education ministry, aiming to distribute them to tens of millions of poor students, says Hasina

AFP | OCTOBER 12 2011

Bangladesh on Tuesday unveiled a USD 130 locally made laptop that it hopes will help bridge the digital divide in the impoverished South Asian country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the Doel -- or magpie -- laptops at a ceremony in the capital Dhaka, saying the computer, made by state-owned telecom company TSS, would help Bangladesh become a middle-income nation by 2021.

"(There are) four types of Doel laptops, the most basic one is priced at 10,000 taka (130). The highest price is 26,000 taka," said government spokesman Shefayet Hossain.

Hossain said the idea of the cut-price laptops came from the education ministry, which aims to distribute them to tens of millions of poor students.

TSS has struck joint venture deals with two private companies to produce and market the laptops across the country, he added.

The Doel is Bangladesh's national bird.

Despite a booming economy, which has grown at an average six per cent each year over the last decade, Bangladesh ranks low on Internet and information technology penetration.

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Last week, neighbouring India launched what has been dubbed the world's cheapest computer -- a USD 46 tablet device. The government is planning to buy 100,000 of the tablets to be given away for free to students.

Source: http://www.governancenow.com/gov-next/egov/bangladesh-launches-usd-130-laptop-schools



Islamic Republic Of IRAN

Bangladesh launches \$130 laptop for schools



Dhaka – Bangladesh on Tuesday unveiled a \$130 locally made laptop that it hopes will help bridge the digital divide in the impoverished South Asian country.

According AFP, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the Doel — or magpie — laptops at a ceremony in the capital Dhaka, saying the computer, made by state-owned telecom company TSS, would help Bangladesh become a middle-income nation by 2021.

TSS has struck joint venture deals with two private companies to produce and market the laptops across the country, he added.

The Doel is Bangladesh's national bird.

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Digital inclusion has the potential to bring education to people in countries where educational infrastructure is limited, experts say.

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 $Source: \underline{http://english.irib.ir/subcontinent/news/economy/item/80762-\underline{bangladesh-launches-\$130-laptop-for-schools}$



INDIA

Bangladesh announces its first laptop for \$130

lose on the heels of the launch of a \$35 tablet in India, news of the launch of a \$130

laptop being unveiled begun surfacing. According to a <u>BBC report</u>, this time it's not India, but neighbouring Bangladesh who's just witnessed the launch of its first-ever laptop for all of \$130 (10,000 taka), which brings its price in rupees to roughly Rs. 6,500. The laptop, named DOEL was unveiled on Tuesday by the Bangladesh Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, at a ceremony in Dhaka. The DOEL laptops are being produced by the state-owned telecoms company, Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS). For now, the TSS would be producing four models of the DOEL laptops.



Bangladesh's \$130 laptop (Image credit: DotNews)

The report further suggests that the primary model of the laptop will run on Android OS. The laptop, in the initial stages of its sale will be distributed to the various governments, and then to the students. It is learnt that at present Bangladesh just produces 10 percent of the components for the laptops, while importing the rest. But, an optimistic TSS Managing Director, Mohammad Ismail hopes to produce 60 percent of the components in Bangladesh itself.



One of the DOEL laptops unveiled (Image credit: DotNews)

Now, getting down to business. What is packed within these \$130 DOEL laptops? According to a report on DotNews, four models of the DOEL laptops, namely - Model 2102, Model 0703, Model 2603 and Model 1612 have been launched.

Here's a lowdown on each of their specifications:

Model 2102

- Google Android Integrated
- 10-inch LCD Panel (1024*600)
- Integrated 0.3 MP Webcam
- Wi-Fi 802.11b/g
- 2 USB 2.0
- VIA 8650 800MHz
- 512 MB RAM
- SD Slot for Max 32GB
- Price 10,000 taka

Model 0703

- Linux-based OS
- 10.1 inches (1024*600), WXGA LED Backlit
- Integrated 1.3 MP Webcam
- 802.11 bg/n
- 3 USB 2.0
- Intel ATOM Processor N455 1.66GHz
- 1GB DDR3
- Samsung SATA 250 GB HDD
- 802.11 bg/n
- Price 12,000 taka

Model 2603

- Linux-based OS
- 13.3 inches (1360*768)
- Integrated 1.3 MP Webcam

- 802.11 bg/n
- 3 USB 2.0
- WXGA LED Backlit
- Intel ATOM Processor D525
- 1.8GHz 2GB DDR3
- Samsung SATA 320GB HDD
- Price 21,000 taka

Model 1612

- Linux-based OS
- 14 inches(1920*1020), LED Backlit
- Integrated 1.3 MP Webcam
- 802.11 bg/n
- 4 USB 2.0
- Intel Celeron Dual-Core T3500 2.1 GHz
- 2GB DDR3
- Samsung SATA 320GB HDD
- DVD Writer (Samsung)
- Price 25,000 taka

Source: http://tech2.in.com/news/general/bangladesh-announces-its-first-laptop-for-130/248582



Ukrain

Bangladesh launches \$130 laptop for schools (2)

Bangkok Post 2011.10.12 11:17

Published: 12/10/2011 at 02:32 AM Online news: Gadget Tweet Bangladesh on Tuesday unveiled a \$130 locally made laptop that it hopes will help bridge the digital divide in the impoverished South Asian country. Bangladeshi school girls are seen at a school in Dhaka, July 2011. Bangladesh on Tuesday unveiled a \$130 locally made laptop that it hopes will help bridge the digital divide in the impoverished South Asian country.

Source: http://uaport.net/en/news/ua/t/1110/12/373848



GERMAN NEWS

Bangladesh enters the laptop market

TECHNOLOGY | 24.09.2011



Bangladesh is on its way to digitalization

Bangladesh has brought four laptops called 'Doel' out onto the market. The cheapest model costs only 100 euros. 'Doel' means robin in English.

The 'Doel' is the result of a joint venture between the state-owned firm Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) and a Malaysian company and is expected to be a bestseller in the impoverished country. Four different models of 'Doel' are expected to be available very soon.

Recently, Bangladesh's Telecommunications Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju announced that the starting price of the laptop would be only 10,000 takas (100 euros). The prime minister still has to give her approval.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's approval is still needed

The telecommunications minister said that the laptop had passed the testing phase with flying colors and predicted that because the price was so low it would be very popular with both ordinary

people and students in schools and colleges. "In future, we plan to export the laptops after meeting local demands," he added.

Affordable laptops for everyone

There will be four models of 'Doel' laptop in total, starting at 10,000 takas (100 euros) and going up to 25,000. The laptop will make a huge contribution to the government's plans to create "Digital Bangladesh" by 2020.

"For the past two-and-a-half years we have been working on this project. The manufacturing process started a couple of months back in Gazipur. Now this test period has been completed and has been judged a success," explained Nazib Hasan from 2M Corporation, which has also played a vital role in the manufacturing process.

Shilpa Sangstha's managing director Mohammad Ismail said that the project would be implemented in collaboration with the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Malaysian Thin Film Transistor and foreign experts.

Sixty percent of the laptop parts, including the motherboard are being manufactured in a factory in Gazipur, Bangladesh.

Author: Debarati Guha / mj Editor: Grahame Lucas

Source: HTTP://WWW.DW-WORLD.DE/DW/ARTICLE/0,,6623848,00.HTML



Cheap laptops: It's Bangladesh's turn

Jeff Bertolucci | Oct. 12, 2011



ShareThis

India isn't the only nation building low-cost computers. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday introduced the Doel, an inexpensive, Android-based laptop priced as low as 10,000 taka (US \$130), the BBC <u>reports</u>.

Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS), Bangladesh's state-owned telecom company, will produce four models of the Doel, which will initially go to government officials. The long-term goal, however, is to distribute the low-cost laptops to tens of millions of students in the South Asian nation.

The computer is named after the <u>doel</u>, or magpie robin, which is Bangladesh's national bird. According to <u>ITProPortal</u>, the Doel's specs are pretty much what you'd expect from a \$130 laptop. The "primary model" features an 800MHz VIA 8650 processor, 512MB RAM, 16GB flash memory, Wi-Fi, and a 10.1-inch (1024x600) LCD screen, webcam, SD card reader, and two USB ports.

By comparison, India's <u>much-touted tablet</u>, which may cost as little as US \$35, has a 7-inch (800-by-480) display, 256MB RAM, 2GB flash storage, and a 366MHz Connexant processor. It runs Android 2.2.

The Doel is a key component of Digital Bangladesh, an ambitious plan to bring most of the nation online within a decade.

"When villages get laptops at a cheaper price they will be connected to the Internet and that will bring lots of benefits," Mohammad Ismail, TSS managing director, told the BBC.

Critics, however, point out that Bangladesh's Internet infrastructure is inadequate, adding that low-cost, readily available laptops may not be enough to help the country advance into the Digital Age.

Ref: http://www.computerworld.com.my/resource/industries/cheap-laptops-its-bangladeshs-turn/



United States

Bangladesh Announces National Laptop Line Starting At \$130

Posted On October 12, 2011, 1:58 AM Under Blogs. 9 Views.

Nationalized technology efforts are becoming more common as countries begin to question their reliance on foreign powers for the means to participate in modernity. China is starting to design its own processors, India is subsidizing a national tablet, and now Bangladesh (something less of a world power) has taken the wraps off a new line of ultra-cheap laptops. The computers are branded Doel, after the country's national bird (the magpie), and the cheapest comes to around \$130, and runs Android. You scoff, but it's a free and popular OS with plenty of room for extensibility and customization. Sure, it won't run Crysis and the media player sucks, but it's more than sufficient for basic computing: browsing, word processing, and document management.

Ref: http://www.hot-news.us/blogs/bangladesh-announces-national-laptop-line-starting-at-130



India

Bangladesh Intros Laptops For Rs 6,500

Bangladesh has introduced laptops for school students for 10,000 taka or Rs 6453. The laptops were manufactured by state-owned telecom company TSS. Four laptops were introduced with the aim to make Bangladesh a middle-income nation by 2021. The most basic model is priced at 10,000 taka (\$130) and the highest price is 26,000 taka. The laptop was named after the country national bird Doel. [Via Physorg]

Source: http://www.efytimes.com/e1/71134/fullnews.htm



Dallas, USA

Bangladesh Announces National Laptop Line Starting At \$130

You scoff, but it's a free and popular OS with plenty of room for extensibility and customization. Sure, it won't run Crysis and the media player sucks, but it's more than sufficient for basic computing: browsing, word processing, and document management. <u>FULL ARTICLE AT TECHCRUNCH</u>

Source: http://topics.dallasnews.com/article/0eWs0WLd4VaRk?q=Android



Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Bangladesh launches \$130 laptop for schools

11 October 2011, 4:44 PM

DHAKA — Bangladesh on Tuesday unveiled a \$130 locally made laptop that it hopes will help bridge the digital divide in the impoverished South Asian country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the Doel — or magpie — laptops at a ceremony in the capital Dhaka, saying the computer, made by state-owned telecom company TSS, would help Bangladesh become a middle-income nation by 2021.

"(There are) four types of Doel laptops, the most basic one is priced at 10,000 taka (\$130). The highest price is 26,000 taka," said government spokesman Shefayet Hossain.

Hossain said the idea of the cut-price laptops came from the education ministry, which aims to distribute them to tens of millions of poor students.

TSS has struck joint venture deals with two private companies to produce and market the laptops across the country, he added. The Doel is Bangladesh's national bird.

Despite a booming economy, which has grown at an average six percent each year over the last decade, Bangladesh ranks low on Internet and information technology penetration.

The government has said it hopes that the inexpensive laptop will aid in closing the digital gap in the country.

Digital inclusion has the potential to bring education to people in countries where educational infrastructure is limited, experts say.

Access to the Internet is also seen as a way to bolster health care, banking and other services and help lift millions of Bangladeshis out of poverty.

Last week, neighbouring India launched what has been dubbed the world's cheapest computer — a \$46 tablet device. The government is planning to buy 100,000 of the tablets to be given away for free to students.

Source:

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticleNew.asp?col=§ion=international&xfile=data/international/2011/October/international October414.xml



South Africa

Bangladesh releases \$130 laptop

First India unveiled a <u>US\$45 tablet</u>. Now Bangladesh has unveiled an Android-powered US\$130 laptop. This locally made laptop, like the uber-cheap tablet will hopefully bring advanced learning into even the most rural of areas.

The prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina released the Doel (meaning Magpie) at an unveiling ceremony in the capital city of Dhaka. Hasina said that by 2021, the Doel would help Bangladesh to become a middle-income nation. The Doel is the national bird of Bangladesh.

Hasina said, "Every part of the country will be brought under e-governance, while the telecommunication system is being modernised to cut the digital divide."

Shefayet Hossain, spokesperson for the Doel laptops said, "(There are) four types of Doel laptops, the most basic one is priced at 10 000 taka (US\$130). The highest price is 26 000 taka (US\$ 344)."

Hossain says that the idea of the budget laptops originated from the ministry of education and it aims to push the laptop to the millions of students across Bangladesh.

A state-owned telecom known as TSS is the producer of the Doel and has entered into joint deals with two privately owned companies wishing to market the cost-conscious laptops across the country.

TSS managing director Mohammad Ismail said, "This is a big step towards building a digital Bangladesh.

When villages get laptops at a cheaper price they will be connected to the internet and that will bring lots of benefits."

Ismail continues by saying that 10% of the laptop components are being produced in Bangladesh at the moment but within the following six months, that number will increase to 60%.

Bangladesh ranks very low in both information technology and internet penetration. This is despite analysts claiming that its economy is "booming". The government hopes that the Doel will cross the digital divide across the country.

Source: http://gearburn.com/2011/10/bangladesh-releases-130-laptop/



Westchester, US

Asia at its best–Worlds cheapest Laptop made by Bangladesh [Review]

India made the world talking by launching cheapest Tablet PC called Akaash, but Bangladesh shocked the entire globe by creating cheapest laptop. Its retail price is only 130\$ or 10,000 Taka (Bengali currency). This Android power wonder machines is named after Bangladesh's national bird Deol or Magpie in English.

The country has already launched four versions of Deol the price range is 10,000 Taka till 26,000 Taka. The idea of these laptops is to create more opportunities of computing education amongst the lower income groups. This is be done by distributing and selling laptop amongst the villagers.

So now everyone in Bangladesh will be a part of Global village and education will prevail there. Looks like developing third world county Bangladesh is turning into Digital Bangladesh.

Good Job Sheikh Haseena and IT experts of Bangladesh!!!

What do you think?

Source: http://thetechnologycafe.com/asia-at-its-bestworlds-cheapest-laptop-made-by-bangladesh-review/