

'iPad Is It!' New Device Wows Many, Bores Some

San Francisco: (DPA) Apple wowed many in the tech world with the launch of a new tablet computer - the iPad - that could pioneer a new style of media use in the digital age.

But some critics said Apple's new device fell short of expectations.

Hopes for the device had been high. In the words of The Wall Street Journal: "The last time there was this much excitement about a tablet, it had some commandments written on it."

Amazingly, Apple's iconic chief executive Steve Jobs managed to blast those expectations out of the water by showing a device that users cannot but crave.

Like the company's other revolutionary breakthrough, the iPhone, the iPad is trying to define a

the digital age. Small enough to be handled comfortably on the couch or in the car, yet with a large multi-touch screen that offers many advantages over the mouse and keyboard - the iPad could define a new category of casual computing.

With his characteristic lack of modesty, calling it a "magical and revolutionary device", Jobs said: "iPad creates and defines an entirely new category of devices that will connect users with their apps and content in a much more intimate, intuitive and fun way than ever before."

Email, web browsing and media tasks like music playing, photo sharing or video viewing appeared to work beautifully with hand gestures on the screen and the large on-screen keyboard. Utilising the built-in accelerometer turned the iPad into an impressive game machine.

The New York Times crowed about its own iPad edition of the paper developed in just three weeks, that it called "the next generation of digital journalism".

Like other news sites, the NYT is hoping that the quality of the iPad experience will enable it to charge readers who have largely accessed content for free on the plain old Internet. Book publishers are also excited about the iPad, which will feature a store called iBooks that is like iTunes for books.

Apple had some pleasant surprises about the price of the 1-centimetre thin device.

The base version, which features 16 GB of flash memory and a wi-fi capability, will cost 499 dollars. The top of the line device will offer 3G and wi-fi connections and 64 GB of flash for \$829.

Consumers have been able to buy tablet computers for years, but largely ignored the often clunky devices that never really distinguished themselves from cheaper laptops. With its innovative design and fairly low price, Apple has the best chance of creating a new market, experts say.

But there were critics, too. "Yawn," one poster wrote on the tech site Gizmodo. "I was hoping for something revolutionary."

"Will people buy it in droves? Is there actually room for a device between smartphones and laptops?" wondered Ryan Block, who covered the unveiling for popular gadget blog gdtg.com. "That I don't know - I've always been sceptical there's room for a third category in there. But if there is a contender for this space, the iPad is it."



new category of digital devices by giving customers something they didn't even know they needed before Apple came up with the idea.

Analysts had predicted that the device could cost as little as \$600 and sell 5 million units in its first year. But Apple outdid that with units starting at just \$499, and a device that could appeal across a huge audience.

"It's a mainstream device, not a geek gadget," Apple enthusiast Mark Jaro said as he watched a live stream of the invitation-only event.

Some of the enthusiasm that rocketed over the blogosphere can be put down to Jobs' legendary presentation skills, known in tech circles as the RDF, or reality distortion field. But even the most pragmatic of tech users had to be watering, if not outright drooling, over some of the iPad's capabilities.

Functioning something like an iPhone on steroids, the iPad is designed to perfectly execute the everyday tasks that have become so common in

We Didn't Attack Google, Says China

Beijing: (IANS) China has denied participating in a cyber attack on Internet giant Google and said that the accusation was "groundless and aims to denigrate China".

"Accusation that the Chinese government participated in cyber attack, either in an explicit or implicit way, is groundless and aims to denigrate China. We are firmly opposed to that," spokesman of the ministry of industry and information technology told Xinhua Sunday.

"China's policy on Internet safety is transparent and consistent," he said, adding that Internet security was a global concern which required international coordinated efforts.

China was willing to deepen cooperation with other countries and learn from their experiences to make Internet a better place, he said.

The spokesman's remarks came a fortnight after search engine giant Google said it might quit China citing disagreements with government policies and attacks targeting Google's services in China.

"China is the biggest victim country of hacking as its Internet has long been facing severe threats of hacker and online virus attacks," the spokesman said. According to the Internet Society of China, the number of cyber attacks from abroad saw a year-on-year increase of 148 percent in 2008.

What You Eat After Exercise Shapes Or Misshapes You



Sydney: (IANS) The benefits of exercise can be greatly affected by the food we eat after it, a new study says. "Differences in what you eat after exercise produce different effects on the body's metabolism," said the senior study author, Jeffrey F. Horowitz of the University of Michigan (U-M).

The study follows up on several previous studies that demonstrate that many benefits of exercise are transient: one exercise session produces benefits to the body that taper off, generally within hours or a few days.

"Many of the improvements in metabolic health associated with exercise stem largely from the most recent session of exercise, rather than from an increase in 'fitness' per se," Horowitz said.

Specifically, the study found that exercise enhanced insulin sensitivity, particularly when meals eaten after the exercise session contained relatively low carbohydrate content. Enhanced insulin sensitivity means that it is easier for the body to take up sugar from the blood stream into tissues like muscles, where it can be stored or used as fuel.

Impaired insulin sensitivity (i.e., "insulin resistance") is a hallmark of Type II diabetes, as well as being a major risk factor for other chronic diseases, such as heart disease.

But the study also found that one does not have to starve after exercise to reap its benefits.

Women Put On Weight After Marriage: Study



New York: (IANS) Married women can now blame their husbands for that extra flab as a new study has found that those living with a partner put on more weight than the single ones.

Married women were two kg heavier than their unmarried counterparts and they become four kg heavier after having a baby, said the research published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

The researchers attributed the weight gain to cohabiting women eating unhealthier food because of their partners, while they also have less time to exercise. Annette Dobson, who co-authored the study along with Wendy Brown and Richard Hockey, said: "This is a general

health concern as obesity rates continue to increase. Getting married or moving in with a partner and having a baby are events that trigger even further weight gain. We must look at ways to prevent health risks by focusing on the times when women need to be especially careful."

The research, conducted by the Queensland University in Australia, followed 6,000 women aged between 18 and 23 over a period of 10 years ending in 2006. Each woman periodically completed a survey with questions about weight, height, age, physical activity and alcohol consumption among others, the Daily Telegraph reported. It found that 10 percent of woman gained five kg when she was single, but she would be seven kg heavier while living with a partner and 10 kg heavier if she had both a partner and a baby.

Magnesium Is Good For Your Memory



Toronto: (IANS) Magnesium plays an important part in improving memory, says new international research. The research by Canadian, Chinese, American and Israeli universities shows that an increase in magnesium levels in brain can boost learning and memory.

After their study on old and young rats which were administered higher levels of brain magnesium, the researchers said they have come to the conclusion that increasing magnesium intake can play be vital for those complaining of fading memory.

On the other hand, inadequate levels of magnesium impair memory, the researchers said in a statement released here by the University of Toronto. Since it is difficult to boost brain magnesium levels with oral supplements, the researchers used a new magnesium compound called magnesium-L-threonate (MgT) to increase magnesium in rats of different ages. After administering the compound, they studied changes in their memory.

"Magnesium is essential for the proper functioning of many tissues in the body, including the brain and, in an earlier study, we demonstrated that magnesium promoted synaptic plasticity in cultured brain cells. "Therefore it was tempting to take our studies a step further and investigate whether an increase in brain magnesium levels enhanced cognitive function in animals."

Pill That Tells Brain To Stop Eating In Offing

Washington: (IANS) Researchers are working to develop a pill composed of leptin, the protein that tells our brain to stop eating and, hence, reverse obesity.

Leptin regulates appetite in mammals and its levels decrease when fasting and rise during meals. It has been proven to be an appetite suppressant when administered intravenously to pathologically obese people. Post-doctoral student Philippe Cammisotto from the University of Montreal is leading the charge for a leptin-based, appetite suppressing pill with Moise Bendayan and yymile Levy, University de Montreal (U-M) professors in pathology and nutrition, respectively.

"Taken orally, such a pill would provide obese people with the sensation of being full. They would eat less and in turn lose weight," says Cammisotto.

"We hope to start animal testing in 2010," says Bendayan. "The molecule is easy to synthesize and the protocol is ready."