



Best

travel

gadgets

Rethinking Digital Marketing



Monitors

that are

easy on

your éyes

### UNBOX

### AUST organising Inter-University and College Tech-Business Competition 'MindSpark 2.0"

AUST Innovation and Design Club (AUSTIDC) of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology is going to organize "MindSparks 20", an Inter-University and College Tech-Business Competition at AUST campus for the 2nd time on March 14 & 15. This event is going to include almost

all the fields of engineering through its 12 segments this year: MATLAB challenge, Engineering Olympiad, Techno CAD, Truss challenge, Innovation challenge, Quad Racing, Soccer Bot, Tex Maestro, Poster Presentation, Hardware Project Showcasing, Software Project Showcasing, and Roborace.
The centre of attraction of
MindSparks is that the winners of
five of these segments will have
direct access to participate and
represent Bangladesh in Cognizance
2020 of the renowned IIT, Roorkee
of India

### New cars this week



#### Aston Martin v12 Speedster

If you love the Ferrari Monza SP1/2 but a die-hard Aston Martin fan on the inside, then great news! Inspired by the US F/A-18 fighter jet, their V12 Speedster amalgamates bits from LeMans winning Astons from the vault. Powered by a mid-mounted 5.2 liter twin-turbo V12 churning out 700hp through an 8 speed ZF gearbox, the absence of a windscreen is sure to warp a helmetless driver's face, Jeremy Clarkson style. They are only making 88, one of which can be yours for the price of 3 well-furbished apartments in Dhanmondi.



#### Koenigsegg Gemera

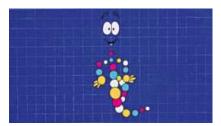
The Swedish car maker with a tongue twister of a name wanted to make it's first 4 seater, 2.0 liter 3 cylinder hybrid. Something akin to a Prius. Except for Mr. Koenigsegg completely missed the memo, and has made a family car for The Jetsons instead. As the first in a new segment, the Gemera Mega-GT with its 1.27 megawatts of power (that's 1700bhp) and 3500 Nm of torque, it is likely to hurl itself back to the future with its 100 km/h of 1.9 seconds. Fun for the whole family!

# Dinosaur DNA discovered in 75-million year old preserved fossils

Paleontologists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and North Carolina University have discovered fragments of a preserved 75-million year old dinosaur fossils that still contain traces of dino DNA. The dinosaur, a Hypacrosaurus, was unearthed from the 'Two Medicine Formation' of Montana in the US. The duck-billed herbivore lived during the Cretaceous period and was a 'nestling',

meaning it was still very young when it died

The fragments contain preserved organic material, such as, cartilage cells, proteins, chromosomes, and DNA. The last one surprised scientists as modernday thinking suggests that DNA will only survive for about a million years. These new exciting results add to growing evidence that cells and some of their biomolecules can persist in



deep-time,' said paleontologist Alida Bailleul of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He also added, "They suggest DNA can be preserved for tens of millions of years and we hope that this study will encourage scientists working on ancient DNA to push current limits and to use the new methodology in order to reveal all the unknown molecular secrets that ancient tissues have".

### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

### Saving the Editor's Note

Our editor constantly wants to scrap the Editor's Note section. And we are relentlessly keeping him at bay from doing so and keeping this little column we all love from getting lost in oblivion. One of us is once again taking up the burden of responsibility to keep it alive and just like that; the Editor's Note survives another week.

In this issue, we talk about coworking culture. Because we believe this relatively new trend is relevant enough to be a cover story on Toggle. And we throw shade at local brands for missing the memo on digital marketing. We are borderline woke this Friday and we hope you are as well.

Also, we talk about pets. Finally.

- Zarif Faiaz, Sub-editor

### TOGGLE

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# TechBits



Facebook bans face mask ads to fight coronavirus price gouging.

Microsoft commits to paying wages for hourly employees affected by Coronavirus.





Short-form video service Quibi will launch on April 6 with 50 new shows.

Twitter bans dehumanizing speech around age, disability and disease.





Mars 2020 rover has a new name: Perseverance.

### **NEXT STEP**

### Digital marketing is more than just witty Facebook posts

MUHAMMED ASIF KHAN

A curious trend is taking place in the digital landscape of our country's brands. Firms, big and small, are increasingly taking to social media to post witty, cheeky and sometimes risqué creatives in their Facebook pages. Sometimes, it is being done as a response to an ongoing meme trend. For example, when the iPhone 11 with its triple back cameras was first released, a lot of people began making funny memes mocking the trypophobia-inducing back cameras. In no time, at least 25-30 Bangladeshi brands also waded into the conversation, trying to post hilarious creatives about the triple cameras and tying their brand along

Such creatives, when done right, can generate considerable noise in the digital world and boost brand awareness via shares. However, it is also quite important for marketers to realize that a one-off viral creative Facebook post is just a small part of an overall digital marketing strategy for a brand. Firstly, creating a viral post is extremely difficult. No active Bangladeshi brand can claim to be making viral posts consistently. I say active, because, the only notable brand which did succeed here is George's Café, which is no longer operational. On an empirical level, you can realistically expect to have a creative of yours turn viral maybe once a year. So it is not wise to spend all your time trying to achieve that once-a-year success, especially when it leads to modest marketing gains overall (if not, George's Café would have still been in business).

Unfortunately, that is what some brands are trying to do. In recent times, we are seeing a serious uptick of online brands trying to post funny or witty creatives every chance they get. In most cases, they are failing. A friend who works in an agency mentioned that a new firm they are trying to on-board cited "making viral contents like Madchef and Cheez" as the top priority for their digital strategy. Few things will sound as ridiculous if you are a proper digital marketer.

Because the overarching aim of any brand's digital marketing strategy is not to post witty creatives but to engage



in proper content marketing instead. You should not alternate your digital efforts between endlessly talking about your products and trying to go viral with cheeky memes. A digital brand is supposed to talk about customers and their needs. It is supposed to spend time trying to inform, educate and engage online customers. That forms the heart of content marketing in today's digital marketing landscape.

Content marketing is about creating and sharing content that can educate and enlighten customers. It is a longterm strategy of delivering high-quality content to customers consistently, which can help them solve their everyday challenges. In a world where brands keep talking just about themselves all the time, content marketing helps you show

to your customers that you care about them and their pain points instead.

Content marketing can also be about great entertainment. One of the best local brands I can think of in this regard is Tasty Treat. Their YouTube channel is quite popular because it releases short films featuring renowned actors consistently. These 10-minute films do not talk about the brand at all. Some of these films are romantic, some are comedy. But the recurring theme is that, at some point in the film, the protagonists will dine inside a Tasty Treat outlet and carry out their conversations. It is subtle and not at all intrusive, but it is a brilliant way to incorporate their brand into a short movie. And best of all, the audience overwhelmingly enjoys the films. Many of the videos have

1-1.5 million views, so you realize how popular they are. Rather than trying to create one viral witty post on their Facebook page once a year, Tasty Treat is keeping its customers thoroughly entertained throughout the year through their brilliant content marketing strategy.

In conclusion, today's digital marketers must think beyond the allure of a viral Facebook post to create meaningful online engagement. If George's Café is any indication, simply producing funny creatives will not help you stay in business. To stand out from the noise, you need to deliver real value consistently to your customers. And that is what content marketing is all about.

Muhammed Asif Khan is CEO of Alpha Catering



### Future ultra rare garage queens



Bugatti's Chiron Pur Sport emphasizes aerodynamics, weight reduction, and power distribution. Dose this mean more people will take them to the track? Unlikely.



The Bentley Mulliner Bacalar is a hand-built bespoke Grand Tourer with a W12 engine developing 650 HP and 667 lb ft of torque. They are only making 12 of them, one can be yours for 1.9 million USD.



The Pininfarina Battista Anniversario is an even more limited edition of an already limited supercar. They are only making five. Half a million USD for 10kg of weight reduction over the normal car.

### Automophiles Tuner Meet 2020







The meet held on the helipad area was organized and managed by the Automophiles crew and sponsored by Speedfire motorsport, Global Automotive, Dnk Customs BD and Bengal Corporation. The cinematography and photography was done by Dream Weaver, Greasy Gaskets along with Autochasseur. The meet ended with a quiz competition testing the knowledge of the collective enthusiasts.







**NOW YOU KNOW** 

### Growth of automobile fan clubs in Bangladesh

A tuner meet is where all the cool petrolhead crowd hangs out these days. One such recent collective involved Evo owners and enthusiasts. Members brought in their fully built and upgraded Mitsubishi Evos all the way from a solitary Evo III, a Bangladesh built 800+ bhp EVO VI and dozens of Evo Xs. The love for Mitsubishi AWD performance vehicles saw a Galant VR4 and Airtek Turbo show up. Given their capabilities and proven durability in races worldwide, it's no wonder performance enthusiasts in Bangladesh have such an affinity for these monster rides. Watch this space for exciting news on Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross and Xpander fan clubs.

### COVER STORY

### Co-working spaces and the convenience of sharing

In the era of entrepreneurs and start-ups, Bangladesh is experiencing a growing need for convenient working spaces. This is where co-working spaces come in.

Co-working spaces are basically shared spaces where people, working in different fields, work independently or cohesively in groups. The first co-working space was in fact a hackerspace called C-Space, founded in 1995, where coders and digital enthusiasts worked together in a common space. Since the inception of the idea, it has spread worldwide to such an extent that August 9th 2010 has been declared as 'International Co-working Day'. While start-ups and freelancers are most commonly seen using these spaces, large companies and non-profit firms have used them all the same. Over 1.2 million people have worked at co-working spaces globally as of 2018.

Over the years, the number of coworking spaces has increased exponentially with some of the top companies worldwide generating some of the best brands in the world out of them. For example, WeWork in New York, gave rise to companies like Uber and Airbnb. Kaos in Berlin provides workshops and exhibitions alongside a workspace. There's Crew Collective in Montreal, which is arguably



#### Ink Studio

"the most beautiful co-working space" in the world. With the emergence of mass travel, co-working spaces in exotic getaway locations like Selina in Latin America and Impact Hub in Asia, it undoubtedly offers an enhanced networking opportunity unlike any other with the obvious pro being that you get to travel while at work.

Keeping up with the changing demands for workspaces, several co-working spaces have emerged in Bangladesh over the years with some notable examples being, HubDhaka, Bonik Co-working Space, Ink Studio, Colab Dhaka, and Moar. These co-working spaces are also located conveniently in places like Gulshan, Banani, Uttara, and Dhanmondi.

Ink Studio, a co-working space in Uttara, offers an assurance of community for start-ups and entrepreneurs in a city where such a space does not come cheap. Ink Studio acts as a venue for academic and creative professional courses and workshops in addition to being an affordable space for aspiring entrepreneurs.



Arka Basak, founder of Ink Studio says, "As a co-founder of 212 Ink (a creative studio start-up), I had the first-hand experience of the immense pressure and struggle of finding a convenient and cost-effective office space in Dhaka. Hence, Ink Studio was founded both as a home for 212 Ink as well as a place for others to come and pursue ventures of their own."

Another well-known space, Colab



#### Colab Dhaka

Dhaka, aims to provide a dynamic mix of individuals a platform to connect and create. Located in Dhaka's diplomatic zone, it is placed 5-minutes' away from European embassies and American Centre. Shah Mohammad Adnan Haroon, the founder of Colab Dhaka, says, "Colab is designed to provide 360-degree support for a startup to grow with the help of communities, investor access, networking events, legal and technical support".

One of the core features which makes co-working spaces worthwhile is their cost-effectiveness and cost-division feature. When asked about the positives. Fahim Murshed, CEO of Symbl who once worked at a co-working space, said, "Co-working spaces help save costs through its sharing model, such as, splitting rent, bills, and costs of various commodities which would have otherwise been added to your start-up capital. It allows you to focus your efforts much more on your company's operations." Other advantages include flexibility in terms of freedom from longterm lease commitments, convenient location, and sense of community as well as more networking opportunities. Companies also tend to book conference rooms in these spaces for private meetings. Overall, co-working spaces act as a convenient alternative, especially for freelancers and independent workers whose alternate options are often coffee shops or their homes.

As with all businesses, some disadvantages persist. Co-working spaces in Bangladesh have limited understanding of the different types of businesses, for instance, those working in creative or sports-related fields end up having to function in the same commercial drab spaces which are also utilised by 9 to 5 businesses. In terms of flexibility, companies often hesitate to provide extra working hours to their client companies and even if they do, it is often coupled with hidden costs. Moreover, clients that book conference halls in the spaces for meetings have to do so in time-based slots. Hence, while it isn't easy to predict

the duration of such internal meetings. the timely slots often cause complications Zarif Faiaz, Business Development Executive at HiFi Public, while sharing his experience of working at a co-working space in Dhaka said, "A few disadvantages included a lack of individual freedom to a certain degree with the honest truth being that impressing clients through co-working spaces rarely work. Regardless, the pros outweigh the cons in several aspects including convenience and costeffectiveness."

While the aforementioned characteristics exist, this newly emerging business can improve in various aspects. For starters, while most first-entrants of this industry aimed to cater to big businesses, the growing trend of focusing on young entrepreneurs and start-ups shows renewed promise and opens up new opportunities. Newer co-working spaces should try to branch out their ideas instead of following the conventional business template of the existing ones in

Co-working spaces act as a convenient solution for start-ups, with its variety of offerings, providing one-stop solutions to Dhaka's lack of convenient and affordable workspaces. The upside of networking and collaboration opportunities act as further motivators for using these spaces. Co-working spaces in the country still have a long way to go in terms of a few aspects, but the track they've embarked on shows promise of lasting growth.

### Beating humans at their own game

### MD. SAIFULLAH JAMIL

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been a hot topic in popscience for a while and there are valid reasons behind such popularity. But what's made AI more compelling to follow has been the triumphs of the computer over humans and mankind's silly games. Today, we take a look at a few instances where AI overpowered humans and pawned the noobs.



Deep Blue Beats Garry Kasparov In 1997, IBM's Deep Blue beat Garry Kasparov, the world champion chess player. While there are speculations about the move that gave the game to Deep Blue, there have been speculations that it was either a glitch or that human intervention was involved. Regardless, by

the early to mid-2000s, technology had improved to the point where machines had beat a chess grandmaster with more triumphs to follow.



### AlphaGo Beats Ke Jie

In May of 2017, AlphaGo "Master" took on Ke Jie, the world's highest-ranked Go player. Over the course of three games the machine comprehensively dominated the world champion. While AlphaGo had proven to be the superior Go player on the night, a new challenger emerged courtesy of Google in October of last year named Alpha Go Zero, a more sophisticated version of AlphaGo Master.



AI Masters Poker While Go is a complex game in itself,

poker requires an entirely different set of skills which includes deception and trickery. Carnegie Mellon University's Libratus AI system spent 20 days playing 120,000 hands of No Limit Texas Hold'em Poker against four poker professionals. The human pros were no match for the machine and after nearly a month of full-time gameplay, Libratus was up by US\$1.7 million, with every one of the four professionals having lost thousands of fictional dollars.



### OpenAI's Bot Beats World's Best DOTA Players

In 2017, a bot developed by OpenAI beat DOTA 2 pro Danylo "Dendi" Ishutin in a game where the demonstration was highly limited to a few variables of gameplay. In 2018, two teams of pro gamers overcame a squad of AI bots that were created by the Elon Muskfounded research lab OpenAI. After that OpenAI's DOTA 2 AI crushed world champion e-sports team with back-to-back victories.



#### Deepmind's AI Agents Beat Human Pros at Starcraft II

AI agents developed by Google's DeepMind subsidiary have beaten human pros at StarCraft II. AI players beat the humans 10 games in a row. However, humans were able to secure one victory against the AI in the final match.

While most of AI's dominance has happened in games with fixed unit values with no chances for random encounters, it has brought forth a significant research challenge. Games like StarCraft Hare harder for computers to play than board games like chess or Go. In video games, AI agents cannot watch the movement of every piece and calculate their next move while also having to react in real time. The only limitation to AI's growth was the limitation of how much a human could teach. But with self-learning systems being implemented, theoretically there are no limitations to how much AI can learn. So, what does the future hold? Only time will tell.

### Gadgets to keep your pets entertained

### SADMAN SAKIB PANTHO

If you have a dog or a cat at home, it's natural to feel anxious when you have to leave them alone and head outside. Even when you are home it's not always easy for you to keep them entertained. So, let the techy world of pet gadgets make things easier for you.



Petcube Bites 2/Furbo
Petcube Bites 2 and Furbo are appcontrolled pet camera and treat-tosser
gadgets you can use to interact with your
pets when you aren't home. Bites 2 was

designed for both cats and dogs whereas Furbo was created specifically to be used with dogs, although some pet parents also use it for cats. The Bites 2 can be mounted to a wall that gives a better view via the camera. Both Bites 2 and Furbo have an ultra-wide-angle 160-degree view camera, 1080p HD video and built-in night mode. Both gadgets allow twoway communication between the pet and the owner. The Bites 2 sends push notifications whenever it detects motion or sound. For the gadget to recognise barks, meows, pets, and humans, a paid subscription is necessary. Furbo's sensor can sense dog barking and can't figure out cat noises. Using Bites 2, you can choose to schedule the dispensing of treats for your pets and choose how long the treats can be flung. Furbo can store more treats but doesn't allow scheduling and is often slow to respond. Both gadgets cost around

#### Smart water fountain

Water fountains always seem to pique the interest of dogs and cats and are a great



way to keep them entertained. Moreover, if your pet is a reluctant or picky drinker, a filtering water fountain is perfect to make the act of drinking more fun for them. It is especially beneficial for cats and can go a long way in keeping them hydrated. The Catit Flower Fountain and Petkit Eversweet are some of the most efficient smart water fountains available. The latter has a number of versions and starts at around \$60. The Catit fountain has LED lights and is available at around \$30.

### Playdate Smart Ball

The Playdate Smart Ball allows you to

interact and play with your pets from any corner of the world. The Playdate smartphone app acts as a joystick which you can use to remote control the ball around the house and your pet is sure to chase after it. The built-in microphone, speaker and wide-angle camera on the smart ball allow you to talk and see your furry friends as they play. The ball itself is pretty sturdy and has a replaceable outer covering. The Playdate smart ball comes in a smaller version for cats and the starting price is \$189.



### Monitors that are easy on the eyes

### RAHBAR AL HAQ

When we were young, almost all of us had a limit to how much TV we were allowed to watch in a single day. For many the cautionary tale was "watching too much TV will make you blind". After we grew up, we realized the "limit" was less about preserving our vision and more motivated by a combination of other things. Still, while it has been scientifically proven that watching too much TV will not make us go blind, starting at a screen for an excessive amount of time will cause other issues, such as, eyestrain, headaches, blurred vision and dry eyes. And with the advent of the digital age and start of new trends such as "paper-free" offices, staring at a screen has become a large part of our daily lives. With that in mind, here is a list of monitors that are designed to mitigate some of the ill-effects of long-term screen

#### BenQ GW2480 Price: BDT 15,300

BenQ is one of the few brands that actively looks after protecting its users' eyes from long term screen usage. Their budget offering, the 24-inch GW2480, comes with low blue light filter and flicker-free technology, designed to minimise damage, such as, eye strain and headache. In addition to these, the monitor also comes with an ambient light sensor which automatically adjusts the screen brightness based on the ambient light of the surrounding environment. A great general-purpose monitor, especially if you have a small budget.



### Asus Designo MZ27AQ Price: BDT 48,280

If you are a creative person looking for a large monitor that looks good even when turned off, then the Asus Designo MZ27AQ might be just for you. This 27-inch frameless monitor is fitted with Asus eye care technology, a TUV certified system that comes with four different blue



light filters and flickerfree screen. As an added bonus, the monitor comes with multiple eye check software, allowing you to self-diagnose your vision if you want to. Do note that this monitor is geared towards professionals, as indicated by the eye-watering price tag.



### Asus VP28UQG Price: BDT 43,500

While the MZ27AQ is great for creative use, its 60Hz refresh rate makes it illsuited for gaming. Asus's answer to this glaring problem is the VP28UQG, a 28-inch 4k gaming monitor with 1 ms response time. It comes standard with their proprietary eye care technology and AMD FreeSync, which is designed to eliminate screen tearing, motion chop, and input lag. The only downside to this amazing screen is the price, which actually costs more than some decent

gaming PCs. Still, getting this monitor means the only thing that is stopping you from dominating an online PvP match is your internet connection .... and lack of personal skills

#### BenQ GW2283 Price: BDT 10,300

Taking a step back from the form enthusiast specials, BenQ's GW2283 is another of budget offering that more comes with a quirky feature. The 21.5-inch monitor is fitted with BenQ's proprietary Brightness Intelligence Technology, a system that detects overly bright or dark scenes and adjusts them for greater clarity, allowing its users to observe details that would otherwise go unnoticed. The monitor still retains all the other standard eye protection features found in all BenQ products so if you want a standard monitor that will literally show you what more than meet the eye, there aren't many alternatives to this one.



### Unique gadgets to accompany you on your travels

### ZARIF FAIAZ AND ASIF AYON

Tech apparels outside of your phone, laptop and charger are often considered as extra baggage for trips. But it's when there's a product that guarantees a better experience for you, is when we chime in with our picks. These unique gadgets will help you get the most out of travels while ensuring that your daily lifestyle isn't hampered. Buckle up.

Pack your lifestyle in a bag: Deuter AIRCONTACT LITE 65+10 Trekking **Backpack** Availability: Available in Peak69 in Bashundhara City and on their website Price: BDT 19,700





A portable washing machine: Scrubba wash Availability: Available on Amazon and ships to Bangladesh Price: \$41-\$57

Keep your clothes pressed with the world's smallest portable steam iron Availability: Available on Amazon and ships to Bangladesh Price: \$23.99





Communicate with travel mates even without cellular network: goTenna Mesh Availability: Available on Amazon and goTenna official website. Try

Backpack to get it from the USA directly **Price:** \$179

Find your way in darkness with Mpowerd Luci Pro 2.0 Solar Light Availability: Availble on Amazon and ships to Bangladesh Price: \$11.18-22.99



### TO-DO LIST

### Events to knock your socks off



1. Wander Ventures 2020 Time: 8 AM – 10 PM Day and Date: Friday, March 13,

Location: Midas Convention Centre



2. Us Women Exhibition 2020 Time: 9:30 AM- 7:30 PM Day and Date: Monday, March 9-Wednesday, March 18 Location: EMK Center



3. Workshop on Presentation Skills & Content Development - 4.0 Time: 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM Day and Date: Saturday, March 14 Location: Shirajul Islam Lecture Hall, Dhaka University

## Podcasts to help you survive Dhaka traffic

### RAHBAR AL HAQ

#### Past Gas

Despite what the name suggests, this weekly podcast has nothing to do with your gastrointestinal tract. What it is.



however, is an automotive history podcast hosted by Donut Media host James Pumphrey and Nolan J. Sykes. The show covers all the interesting bits about automobile history from significant events to racing legends and interesting cars, with a bit of crude humour thrown in between. If you're considering yourself a petrolhead, this is something you will definitely enjoy.

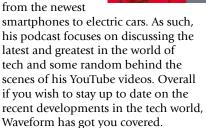
#### The Phillip de Franco show Phillip de Franco is well known among the social media circles who wish to stay up



to date with the world news around them but find the conventional news media too tedious or boring. His daily podcast provides a summary of all the most notable and important events that took place in the

last 24 hours and does so in his own unique energetic and humorous way. So if you want a break from the boring monologue of conventional news anchors, his podcast might be just the thing you are looking for.

### Waveform: The MKBHD Podcast Marques Brownlee, better known as MKBHD is a tech reviewer who covers everything



### Extremities

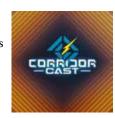
Popular tourist destinations are all well and good but have you ever wondered how people live on earth's most



isolated and extreme settlements? You can find your answer to that question on this podcast. Hosted by the cast of YouTube channel Half as Interesting and Wendover Productions, their team travels to these faraway lands, interacts with its climate and settlers and provides you with detailed history, culture and lifestyle of these communities that are practically cut off from the rest of the world.

### **Corridor Cast**

Ever had crazy science questions like, "What if the world was run by an AI government?" Well, most of



us would immediately dismiss thoughts like that because of their sheer improbability, but that's not stopping the cast of this podcast. Hosted by well-known VFX artist and hyper-geeks of the Corridor Crew, they discuss absurd sci-fi ideas and go to great lengths in speculating how close we are to implementing them. So if you have a knack for crazy sci-fi concepts, you should give these guys a listen.

# PLAYLIST

### **NEW WAVE BANGLA**

Some of the most unique Bangla music released in 2019 and 2020 all share something common and it's that they're ushering in a new age of Bangla music, a synth-pop and psych-rock future which melds electronic elements with the ever-familiar Bangla rock melodies that we are acquainted with.



