

WORKING IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS





Apps to help you in lockdown Pg-8



Vintage Expo 2020 Pg-4



Organising your desk Pg-3

ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

Basic LED TV

тк. 11,990 W24D19 Exchange Price: TK. 9,900 тк. 16,500 WD1-EF32-SV110 Exchange Price: TK. 14,300 тк.23,990 WE396AFH-150 Size: 991mm Exchange Price: TK. 20,490 тк.27,990 WD1-TS43-FV100 Size: 1.09m Exchange Price: TK. 23,990



Grab the Deal to Get

Television





















5i and C2 smartphones launched locally by realme

Smartphone brand realme launched two new phones, realme 5i and realme C2 for the Bangladesh market through an online event on March 14, 2020, at Six Seasons in the capital.

The company has brought realme 5i from the series 5 family with a 5000 mAh battery. Priced at BDT 12,900/-, realme 5i has the longest 30-day standby in the price segment. realme 5 adopts the latest "Sunrise Design" in its slim body and comes in two colours - Aqua Blue and Forest Green.

The phone also packs a quadcamera setup with a 119° ultrawide-angle lens (8MP), main camera (12MP), portrait lens (2MP) and ultramacro lens (2MP). With an upgraded



algorithm, Nightscape 2.0 is now available in the ultra-wide-angle lens, suitable for shooting night photos with a wider view.

The C2 comes with a dewdrop display and a diamond-cut design, equipped with MediaTek Helio P22 (12nm) chipset and octa-core processor. The full-screen body offers a 19.5:9 HD+ display. Its AI-powered dual camera setup with Chroma Boost can help take balanced pictures. It also offers 1080p video recording and slow-mo videos. With 2 GB RAM and 32 GB internal storage, this phone seems appealing to the entry-level smartphone users with a price of BDT

Both phones will be available on Daraz.com from March 18, 2020, with a Flash-sale price of BDT 7,990/- for

Rakuten Viber doubles the maximum number of group call participants to 20

In an effort to focus on remote working and combating communication breakdown, Rakuten Viber has recently doubled the maximum number of participants of a group call and now supports up to 20 people at once.

Regarding this, Ofir Eyal, Chief Operating Officer, Rakuten Viber said, "We are committed to finding more ways for people to connect in groups during this challenging time without having to be physically in the same place. With more people working remotely, in response to the spread of the Coronavirus, we want to do our part to ensure that people have a safe and secure environment to stay connected with loved ones and to be able to continue to do their jobs from wherever they are.'





New car this week

Chinese premium SUV manufacturer Haval have finally released the H2's facelift for Bangladesh's market. The facelift eliminates much of the droopiness of the previous design, with the new streamlined hood, grille and headlight giving the car a much more handsome look. On the interior, the car still punches above its price range with options, with items such as powered driver's seat, parking sensor, tire pressure motor and more being offered as standard in the Dignity trim. For power, it has a turbocharged 1.5 litre Mitsubishi derived 4-cylinder putting out 147 HP and 155lb-ft of torque. Haval is offering the H2 in two flavours—City and Dignity, both priced in the sub-30 lakh Taka segment. For this month only, Haval is offering an early bird discount on the City trim, with the limited-time discounted price coming in at BDT 27, 50,000/-. Keep an eye on the Shift page for a full review in the near future.

EDITOR'S NOTE

My nephew came home grinning ear to ear

"Got early vacation this year. Woohoo." They are not even worried about keeping in touch with friends because Minecraft. Or Roblox. Connection is digital now.

Kids love a break from school especially now that the coronavirus threat is becoming more serious. The message is simple. We don't know how bad the situation is at present in Bangladesh. We don't know how much worse it will get. If the option is there to stay home and work or study,

Many bosses will hate the fact that their white-collar employees can actually get the work done without being at the office. It's a reality of 2020. Apps and software take care of both the monitoring and the coordinating of tasks. That's what we cover this week. Your desk job can do without you.

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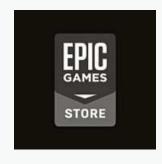
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U.S. government is investigating ZTE over bribery charges.

Epic Games buys UK facial mapping startup Cubic Motion.





GitHub launches new tools for teachers, including autograding.

Airbnb extends no-charge cancellation policy due to coronavirus.





Reporters Without Borders uses Minecraft to sneak censored works across borders.



Digital bullet journaling

Embrace the untraditional ways of maintaining a bullet journal

Bullet journaling noticeably comes with significant benefits, such as, ensuring less pressure on your memory while relaxing your brain by helping you stay organised in your daily life.

Bullet journal consists of various sections which include Planners to plan your goals smoothly that keeps on motivating you to work on your manifestation, To-Do Lists to help you remember your daily, weekly or monthly tasks, Habit-tracking sections to keep your life on track and sometimes even a diary to jot down your inner thoughts to help you clearly understand your mind.

Bullet journaling is completely flexible where it gives you full freedom to include many sections. The key, especially for beginners, is to take a minimalistic approach on the



maintenance and not going overboard initially since that can overwhelm someone who has just started exploring this province. Nevertheless, once you get the hold of it, you can gradually change the way you maintain your journal with the utmost use of creativity.

However, people who are non-writers and are not willing to carry a physical journal often find it challenging to maintain a bullet journal and stop utilising this alternative midway. A perfect solution for this problem is giving digital bullet journaling a try. Digital bullet journaling can save time, energy and money while ensuring you get to take your bullet journal with you everywhere, at all times which will not get reckoned as extra baggage and as a bonus is environment-friendly.

There are many bullet journaling apps available on Play Store and App Store which include Daylio, Journal it, Day One, GoodNotes, Elisi, etc. to name a few. All of these apps offer more features compared to traditional bullet journals. They present amazing interfaces suitable for diverse choices

of people who are not very fond of pen and paper, who like to pack light and everything to be in one place.

You can also use various Note-taking apps which include OneNote, Google Keep, Evernote, Notion, Simplenote, Todoist, Samsung Notes, etc. and customize your bullet journal according to your preferences. You can also use the built-in calendar app to plan your upcoming events ahead of time and be prepared for them and even set reminders if needed which can ensure that you are aware of your plans.

Bullet journaling at first can look daunting and an extra hassle, but giving it a chance to organise your life a little better will not harm. Let the extra effort of maintaining a bullet journal take care of your endeavours and take a step forward to lead a stress-free life.

Feng Shui for your desk

Making your drab desk more productive to work on

JOYITA FARUK

Just like a breath of fresh air, an organised and stylised desk can considerably bring up our moods and release the brain juices that help us focus on work. Even the position of our desks can matter. In a style relevant to the classic feng shui animals, it is best to have the front of your desk be facing open space and having something concrete like a wall or cabinet to your back. This way you will be looking forward and not have to worry about someone looking over your shoulders and be able to enjoy your privacy.

Not all of us have the privilege of relocating our desks however, so here are some easy DIYs to instantly upgrade your

Vision Board

You can fashion something that will help you keep updated on your tasks with a simple vision board. Take two pieces of cardboard of the same size and superglue it to each other. Then take some fabric of your choice, you can even use old clothes with nice patterns, to cover one side of the board and glue it on the back so the front looks neat. You can put reminders and deadlines on the board with pins and even put encouraging quotes or cute pictures to look at and get energized throughout the day.

Potted Indoor Plants

Having a spot of green can help you relieve all the stress. Getting a few low maintenance miniature houseplants is the quickest way to spruce up your



workspace. What makes this a DIY is that you can paint the pots to your liking with colours that you like and make simple patterns with washi tape. You can even repurpose some old biscuit containers or cups so you'd be killing two birds with

Use Colour Coding

If done right, this could change your

game. It's really like a stop sign. Try choosing a colour each to get it done: "right now", "as soon as possible" and "at your own time" and then apply it to your files, sticky notes, etc. to instantly get a quick overview of your progress at work. Make Bookends

You can make bookends out of practically anything heavy. For example, you can take two large rocks and spray paint it golden, then put your books upright between them so that the rocks are holding them up. You could use jars filled with pebbles too. This strategy can easily be applied to make paperweights

Organising Tray

as well.

Instead of cramming everything into your drawer, you could place small items that you use often such as tape and staplers on a small tray. Using some wrapping paper or paint, the tray can easily be stylised to your liking, too.



Shiny old cars you can't have

Millennium Vintage Expo 2020

PHOTOS BY AHBAR MOHAMMAD AND AKIF HAMID

The classic car expo was held at the Millennium Motors showroom on March 13 and 14 showcasing some true oneoffs in the country. A dumpy small slowpoke of an American sat near a fast sleek Italian. A few feet away there's a Brit powered by Japanese. It's mostly a mix and match of cars we'd love to have but can't. This was a rare occasion where people got to see cars that rarely see the daylight.



The most beautiful and also the most controversially phallic shaped car in the world, which put together, raises more questions than it's V12 does during servicing time.



Metal, wood and pointy bits all come together to form art as well as a dangerous place during a crash. But what a glorious way to go.

NOW YOU KNOW

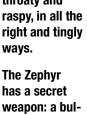


The Datsun 120Y is the only car that can actually call this showroom a home. Popular in the late 70's to very early 80's, this is one of 3-4 surviving examples running ever so slightly bruised.



The MK1 Mini took 7 years to restore. It sounds quite throaty and









The 328 is the first Ferrari to enter Bangladesh. Looks gor-

our restomod loving editor super happy.

geous with those oversized wheels making purists angry and

A dedicated curvy topless icon from 1965

Classic car - An ode to a bygone era

A "classic car" is a vehicle made thirty or more years ago. Designed to attract people of past generations, they embody the trends and styling cues of that era. Although mechanically inferior to their modern counterparts, these cars are a romantic nod to a bygone era of automobile design and

have a spartan simplicity. This combined with their ever-diminishing numbers, cause many to seek them out for various reasons -- from nostalgia, beauty to historical value. For example, this 1978 Mitsubishi Lancer in Bangladesh is revered for its testament to Mitsubishi's build quality, and retains the original wheels, paint, interior and even toolkit -- 42 years after it left the factory.

COVER STORY

Remote working in the age of technology and pandemic

In these trying times of the coronavirus pandemic, one buzzword has been in circulation now more than ever — Remote working or working from home. Many countries, including major European economies like Italy, Spain, France and Germany are either in a complete lockdown or heading towards it. The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has infected over 170,000 people worldwide so far, killing over 6,500 with the death toll rising rapidly. As the world braces for an economic downturn, one question remains, what is the future of working in a locked down world? We try to look for

Remote working or working from home, is in fact not a novel concept after all. In the age of technology and digital nomads, remote working has been the norm in many small-medium businesses around the world for quite some time now. 10up, for example, is an internetbased web development and content creating firm with no physical office at all and with teams working in from New York to a dozen countries across Europe. They even have an impressive portfolio under their wing with clients ranging from the TIME magazine to Microsoft, and many more.

Like 10up, most of these businesses are largely software based firms comprised mainly of coders. But many traditional companies are also adopting this model slowly as we become more technology dependent with each passing day. With growing open source tools like Google Drive for file sharing, Slack for team management, all you really need in order to get work done is a stable internet connection. Throw in the added advantage and flexibility of working from home, or from anywhere you prefer, and you find that many organisations are starting to find the remote working model to be more productive and beneficial for employee morale.

In a 2014 study by PGi, it was found that 69% of remote workers reported lower absenteeism than their non-remote counterparts. In another study conducted by the Royal Society for Public Health in the UK, it was found that 55% of the participants felt more stressed as a result of their daily commute and lack of flexibility. By giving them an opportunity to work remotely, employers would be essentially investing in less-stressed out and more productive employees who can balance their work and personal life, according to their individual preferences A study conducted by Flexjobs also found out that employers in USA can save \$22,000 per remote worker per year, without losing any productivity.

So what's stopping us from adopting this model, especially in the wake of



the looming outbreak of coronavirus in Bangladesh? We asked Ishmam Ahmed Chowdhury, Specialist-Strategy of Grameenphone, what he thinks about remote working. He thinks that a lack of organisational structure in the local companies and a lack of adaptive mindset are to blame for this

"Most employees exhibit a very slow nature when it comes to doing work based on just an email. You will need to initiate a phone conversation most of the time for it to be taken seriously and also have physical meetings to explain the work requirement." He says.

When asked about his opinion on remote working, he says, "Working in an organisation in my opinion shouldn't be just about getting done with the day to day work. Interacting with peers and superiors, managing emergencies and building interpersonal skills are also a part of working. As such, working from home will not allow great increase in this

Navid Imtiaz, a reporter of Ezportz Network says that a formal workplace is an expense that is no longer necessary in the modern world. When asked about

what is stopping Bangladeshi workplaces from adopting a remote working policy, he replied, "An unhealthy obsession with cubicle culture that most countries got over in the nineties.'

To get a perspective of the other end of the spectrum, we asked Arman Rahman Khan, Business Development Executive of NewsCred Bangladesh, a content marketing company based in Dhaka who are allowing their employees to work remotely for the next two weeks, for his take on the matter.

"I'd say remote working isn't having an effect on productivity in general as NewsCred has provisions for working from home even without the Coronavirus ordeal." he says when asked if remote working is hampering their usual productivity or not.

Arman also thinks that the global working culture is slowly shifting towards remote working. "There are quite a few organisations that operate without an office. Other than that, some companies do have offices but also hire remote talents. For example, NewsCred has remote workers around the world. even in locations where the company

doesn't have an office." He says.

Despite widely varying opinions on

remote working in Bangladesh, many small-medium businesses can take a look into it, especially in these times of growing worries about the outbreak of Coronavirus. To get the most out of a remote working situation, consider using platforms like Slack for communication among teammates and co-workers, Zoom for video conferencing and webinars, G-suite for web based documentations and file transfers. Trello (a web-based list-making application) for helping to keep track of ongoing projects in a stylish and organised way. For employers who wish to track time stamps of their remote employees. Toggl is a great tool which offers online tracking and reporting services through their website, and a desktop and mobile

With the proper infrastructure and an adaptive mindset, remote working can bring the best out of an organisation with employees having a flexible worklife balance. And in the case of recent developments, a healthy environment in the safety of their own home.

Retro Gadgets roundup

Yearning for simpler days



Leica M10 Camera Price: BDT 6, 82,999/-

The M10 has all the makings of grandad's old camera. The high ISO performance and incredible dynamic range outperform its non-relic looking competition and it also helps that the camera looks like it's built to last.







Apple Watch Elago W3 Stand Price: BDT 1,099/-

No Apple Watch is complete without a mini original Macintosh stand. You can own a piece of computing history to hang your Apple Watch on with the Elago W3-just make sure to have a white Apple Watch band to match the aesthetics of the beautiful piece of computing



GPO Retro Empire Classic Vintage Style 3-Speed Record Player

Price: BDT 8,756/-Drop the DACs audiophiles because this 3-speed record player is what you really want for your music listening needs. No classic pieces of vinyl ship with the unit so you can make an evening out of foraging through the storage room for your father's cherished old records.

GPO Retro Rydell Portable DAB

Price: BDT 5,737/-

A radio that actually looks like one. Have this bad boy on your person (or your home, like a normal person) and you'd be dialling your personality up to 9, literally because the front of the device comes with a dial for stations.



Remax Floppy Disk Power Bank Price: BDT 1,150/-

Floppy disks were neither floppy nor disks but it is, however, nostalgic to see one these days. While floppy disks and even its descendants have passed on, Remax brings back the look in the form of a 5000mAh power bank.



Vinyl Record Wireless Charger Price: \$17.53

This wireless charger is one of those things that can really tie a room together. Its charm is in its design and what else could be a better gift for friends who have better phones than you. The only shame is that the design gets covered every time you use it for its intended purpose.

Retro Mini-TV Box Smartphone **Amplifier**

Price: \$22.50

The Mini-TV Box is a magnifier for your phone screen, which will turn your phone into a TV that would fit into any diorama of the 70s. We just wish there was a Mini-TV Box modelled after the Sony Trinitron TVs—that's the real retro TV for us.

All prices quoted according Backpackbang price listing



An introduction to the goblet of blood

If you are a vampire, congratulations you have been clickbaited. However, if you are a female, who got yelled at by your mother for staining the bed sheet or had your favourite dress painted red, there is a magic cup that will save you and the

Menstrual cups are bell-shaped silicone/latex/rubber with a stem at the bottom, which is inserted through the vagina and remains sealed against the vaginal walls below the cervix. There are multiple cup sizes to cater to women with different vaginal structure. Pads/tampons absorb blood and super-absorbent tampons cause vaginal dryness, whereas cups only collect the blood.

The menstrual cup is folded and inserted, which unfolds once inside. The cup is greased with water or any waterbased fluid to reduce friction during insertion. If placed correctly, the suction allows no leakage, no restriction on physical activities and even prevents the bloody odour from wafting through, which is a common case with pads/

A menstrual cup can hold 3 times the blood absorbed by a tampon and can be worn up to 12 hours, whereas



tampons/pads have to be changed after 4-6 hours depending on the flow. The cup is removed by gently pulling on the stem until the base of the cup can be felt with the index finger. The seal is broken by pinching the base and then pulled out.

The blood is rinsed out and the cup has to be washed with soap every time before

re-insertion. It is of utmost importance to wash your hands thoroughly, to prevent vaginal bacterial infection. Disinfecting the cup by boiling is necessary before and after every monthly cycle.

If we do the math, the average woman uses at least 5 pads per month, 60 pads a year, and 300 pads in 5 years. The local

woman spends 60-80 taka per month, amounting to 3,600 - 4,800 taka in 5 years, depending on the brand of pad used.

In this era of eco-consciousness, we cannot ignore that disposable hygiene products cause excessive landfill waste. Not only are menstrual cups eco-friendly, but they are also cheaper in the long run. A branded menstrual cup is worth \$25-\$40, roughly 2,000 - 3,200 taka, which is a hefty amount but can be used for 1-5 years and even last up to 10 years if maintained properly.

Popular brands include DivaCup, OrganiCup, Lunette, and FlexiCup. OrganiCup has detailed videos on YouTube worth checking. Non-branded cups are also available but aren't recommended since they could be made from cheap materials.

The most important step here is accepting your bodily fluids and being okay with blood. The first few tries might be tricky but once comfortable, there is no going back. Menstrual cups have revolutionized the period experience for those who have given it a shot. New decade, new you, new product worth exploring to make life easier.

How to travel the old fashioned way

ZARIF FAIAZ

Travelling has changed quite a lot over the last few years. Maps on paper have shifted to Google Maps. TripAdvisor is now our best guide. Instagram, our new journal. Everything is designed to make our travels as hassle-free and as easy as

But travelling is more than just packing your backs and just going somewhere. The beauty of travelling is also in its intricacies. The journey, the planning that goes into it, the small details of how we do it. There's a certain charm to the old school ways of travelling and it's time we rediscover the taste of it.

Maintain a journal

When was the last time you actually wrote something with a pen on paper? Do you even remember your own handwriting? Or the smell of a fresh blank notebook? Although Instagram and vlogging have taken over the job of old school journaling, nothing beats the feeling of writing down small stories in your ragged notebook, attached with photos, small tokens of your journey, rough sketches and making a scrapbook journal that speaks louder than your



Instagram stories. It shows that you cared little about what filter to use or what angle to take a photo from or how many likes you'll get. Rather you just wanted to live in the moments and carry those moments with you forever, in your own

Ditch TripAdvisor, talk to people It is borderline blasphemous these days to head out somewhere without gathering everything you need to know beforehand. TripAdvisor, Lonely Planet, Travelers of Bangladesh, all of these have taken the hassle out of planning trips. But in the

process, they have also taken out the opportunity for us to truly engage with people, with the locals.

If you truly want to live the fullest while travelling and plan to do it the old fashioned way, forget about those handy websites. Get your grip on a basic itinerary and just head out. Talk to locals, mingle with them and hang out where the locals do. Get recommendations from them and you'll find that your experience will be far richer than what you'd get out of professional guide websites.

Keep a token of your travels, not

It's no secret that souvenirs are touristy and pricy. Many travellers don't opt for touristy souvenirs, getting something incredibly local to keep the memory of that place with them forever. It could be something as insignificant as a bottle cap, but to you, that bottle cap will remind you of the bustling streets of Saigon where you stopped to have a drink in the hot summer of 2016.

There's no universal guideline on how to travel. To each, their own but in the end all that matters, is if you've truly enjoyed yourself or not. So, get out there. Do what you like. And live.

Apps to help you survive lockdowns

Kindle

You can download the Kindle app and read e-books on almost any tablet or phone. Amazon's "Whispersync" technology stores your progress if you switch between the app and your Kindle. The app offers books that are less expensive than hard copies, with a variety of formats and font sizes. It's free to download for iPhone or Android.





Headspace

Headspace offers meditation courses, ranging from the basics of meditation to others that help you stay positive, along with "Sleepcasts" that are just stories told in a relaxing way. This app has a 7-day free trial and costs \$12.99 per month or \$69.99 a year with a 14-day free trial.

Mario Cart Tour

Mario Kart Tour for iPhone and Android might be fun for keeping the whole family entertained. It takes some getting used to, swiping your finger on the screen to make sure your driver stays on the track. The app is free to download.





Pocketcasts

You can find podcasts for pretty much any topic imaginable, from health and science to politics on this app. Some of these include The New York Times' "The Daily," the BBC World Service's "Global News Podcast" and CNBC's "Squawk Pod." Pocketcasts is free for iPhone and Android

AUST hosts Mindsparks '20

AUST Innovation and Design Club of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST), organised "MindSparks'20" for the second time. This Tech-Event was held in collaboration with IIT, Roorkee, India on 14th and 15th March. Around 1200 Participants from 34 different universities took part in different segments.

There were about 9 segments in MindSparks'20. From these segments, champions of Techno Cad, Quad Racing, Hardware Project Showcasing and Poster Presentation will be competing directly at Cognizance of IIT.

The event was inaugurated on March 14 by flying the event banner with a drone by the President of AUST Innovation and Design Club (IDC), Prof. Dr. Bobby Barua. The Soccer Bot, Engineering Olympiad, Truss Challenge, Techno CAD, Quad Racing, Poster and Innovation Challenge Segment was held on the first day. The other segments, MATLAB and



Hardware Project Showcasing Segments took place on the second day, March 15.

As this year MindSparks took place on March 14 which is Pi day, a new segment

was introduced keeping this in mind. In this segment, participants had to write the values of pi after the decimal point, the one who wrote the highest value was awarded. The event was brought to an end by the speech of the Chief Guest, honourable Vice Chancellor of AUST, Prof Dr Muhammad Fazle Ilahi; and of the special guests, Prof Dr Abdur Rahim Mollah, Dean of Engineering Faculty at AUST; Prof Dr Sharmin Reza Chowdhury, Advisor of Students' Welfare at AUST; and Prof Dr Bobby Barua, President of AUST Innovation and Design Club.

Last year, the MindSparks'19 champion of Techno Cad achieved the championship in IIT Roorkee too and the team from RoboRace segment was Runners-up at IIT Roorkee. This MindSparks'20 got more intense and bigger, thus it is expected that champions of this years' Mindsparks will come back participating at IIT upholding our country's flag.

