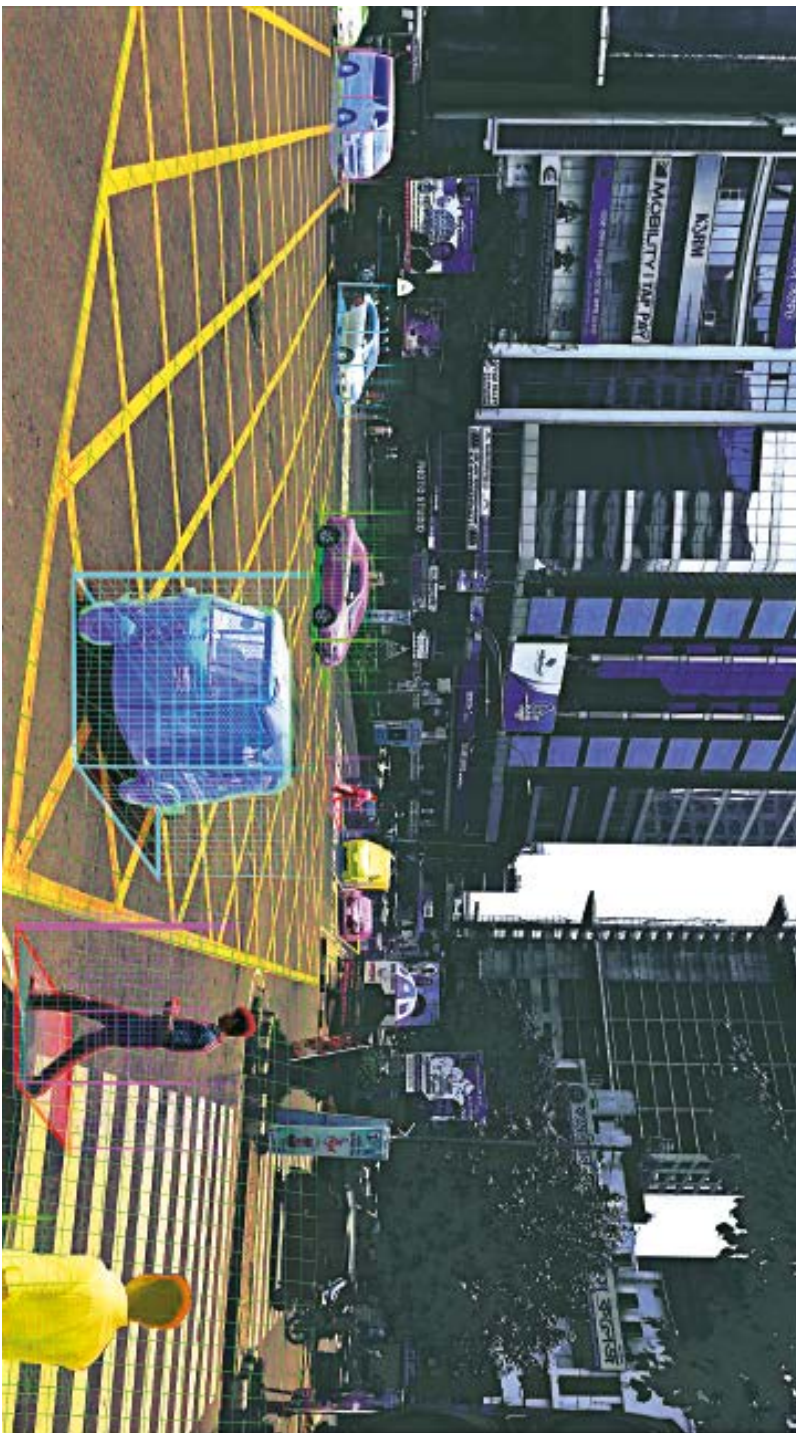


TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of The Daily Star



IS THIS SKYNET?

5 earth friendly
cars on sale in BD
- PG4



Redmi Note9
Pro reviewed
- PG6



Conditions Apply

**MD. SOLIMAN HAQUE GOT
TK. 10 Lac Buying Walton Fridge From
Walton Plaza, Niamatpur, Naogaon**

WON!

**TODAY I AM
MILLIONAIRE**

Digital Campaign 2020
Season-7

Mega Festival

In this Eid buying Walton Fridge, Washing Machine & Microwave Oven you may be the Millionaire or owner of Tk. One Lac. Crores of Taka Cash Voucher Assured

Getting Million Lac Taka may vary depending on Sales

WALTON Smart Fridge

Conditions:

- have to complete product registration through SMS after buying Walton Fridge, Washing Machine & Microwave Oven
- This campaign is conducted by fully computerized system fairly
- Digital campaign facilities will be void in case of more than 3 registration of fridge from the same mobile number in a year
- In case of cash payment, customer will be paid through cheque after deduction of Source Tax at the rate determined by National Board of Revenue (NBR)
- The authority reserves the right to change the campaign anytime

This initiative is taken to ensure maximum customer facilities through research & development of products and digitalization

Return SMS may be delayed for the technical network problems

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COMPRESSOR

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WALTON

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WALTON

MD. SOLIMAN HAQUE, Father: Late Bashir Uddin
Village: Bhajain Ghat, Post: Balair, Niamatpur, Naogaon

iOS 14

6 new features worth highlighting

Home screen widgets

Apple is finally allowing users to add widgets to their home screens. Widgets can be dragged from the Today view right onto the Home screen, and can be pinned in different sizes.



App list view

Similar to Google's app drawer, Apple's "App Library" is a list of every app on the phone, regardless of its visibility.



Third-party default email and browser apps

iOS 14 will finally allow users to choose their own default email and browser apps, provided the third-party app uses Apple's rendering engine.



Picture-in-picture

The new update will give iPhone a picture-in-picture mode, which can be used to play videos on top of whatever other apps you're using.



Discreet voice assistant and calls

Instead of taking over the entire display, Siri will now appear with a "discreet" small icon at the bottom of the screen. Results of queries and calls will similarly appear in smaller windows at the top of the screen.



Digital car keys

An NFC-based feature that lets users unlock their car with an iPhone or Apple Watch. So far only the new 2021 BMW 5 Series works with this feature.



NEW CARS THIS WEEK



Subaru offers more mud wrestling options
Subaru's new all wheels drive station wagon got an update, which came with a major boost in power. The XV now has a new optional 2.5 liter four-cylinder engine that generates 182 HP and 176 pound-feet of torque, which is not bad considering it's a naturally aspirated boxer. There are now also two new paint options, named plasma Yellow and Horizon Blue. The interior is mostly left as it is though, with changes being limited to trim pieces offering unique new stitching and accents.



Ford reintroduces Mach 1 after 17 years
The iconic Mustang Mach 1 is once again back to break the proverbial sound barrier. Claimed by Ford to be "the most track-capable 5.0-liter Mustang ever," the new Mach 1 is an angry beast. Its 480 HP 5.0-liter V8 can be had with a Tremec six-speed manual, with gearing that matches the Shelby GT350. Speaking of Shelby, the car borrows heavily from that lineup, taking heat exchangers from the GT350 and rear-axle coolers from the GT500. Is the new car just a Shelby parts special? We honestly don't care, except for the fact we want one.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Can we get close by staying far, far away?

The new normal is taking some getting used to. Like all unknowns, this is scary. Are we ever going to be the way we were? Some will say, let's hope not. Technology was the bane that distracted people from real human interactions. But now, that same technology is helping bridge people with an intensity we haven't seen before. It's ramped up efficiency for those that care to appreciate it. There is not time to delay and so the doers get things done while having a nice, clean trail of records. Cool.

This week we bring you ways to get back to work safely. But employers have an equal duty to ensure wellbeing and appreciation if they expect a quick growth out of this economic decline. We've got that too. Let's bridge that distance.

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TOGGLE

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TechBits



Microsoft to permanently shut down most of its retail stores

Facebook to warn users when sharing outdated stories

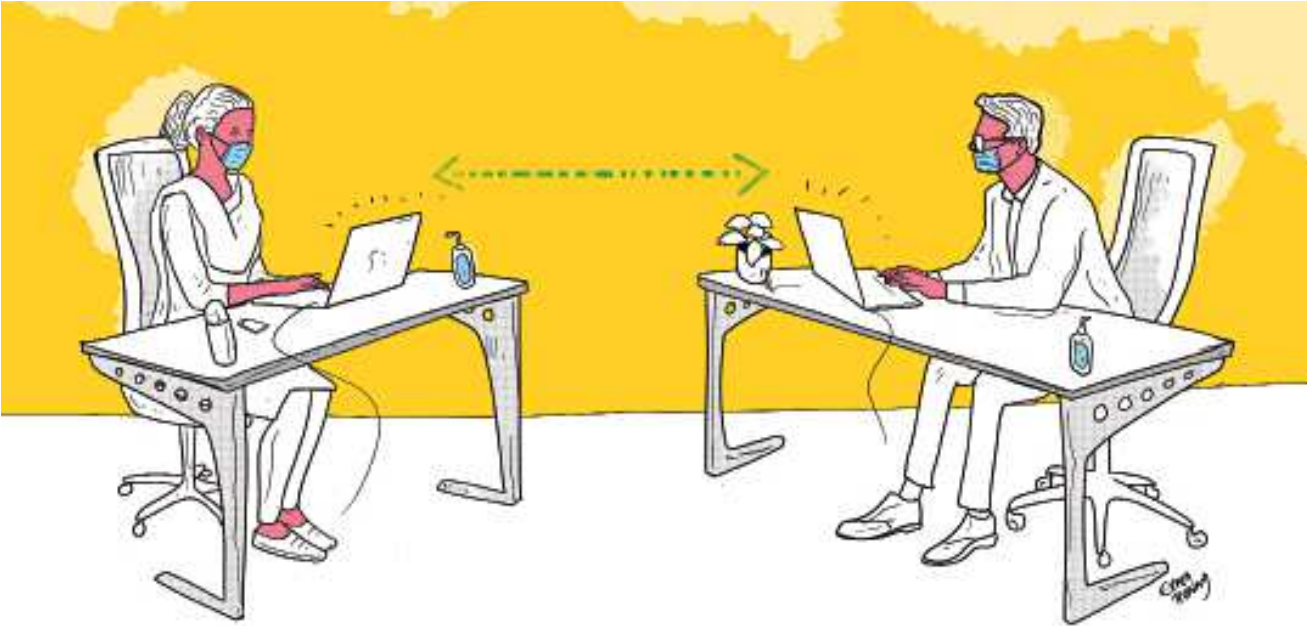


Mercedes-Benz partner with Nvidia to build 'software-defined' vehicles

TikTok launches "TikTok For Business" for app marketers



Facebook to discontinue Oculus Go VR headset



5 steps to surviving the return to your workplace

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

Returning to regular work is imminent for many employees, though there is a lot of anxiety and health concern right out there. A reintroduction to office life will not be like the previous one. To limit the exposure of the employees to the strain of coronavirus, everyone must follow the protection guidelines. Here are some suggestions on how to stay protected while working during the new normal.

Practice 'one-hand-distance' while meeting with your colleagues

Remember, we used to stand keeping a 'one-hand-distance' for the morning assembly in the school? It's time to restore this practice in the office. Always have at least one hand distance while talking or interaction with your colleagues. This is also applicable for greeting purposes. Forget the good firm handshake to show your professionalism. Stick to "No handshake" and practice to saying 'Hello', 'Salam' or 'Namaste' from a distance.

Disinfect your workstation more often

There should be a bunch of dedicated housekeeping staff who will clean all

the common surfaces, for example, doorknobs, work desks, coffeepots, remote controls, keyboards, tables etc. from time to time. According to the CDC, these frequently touched surfaces should be disinfected every 3 hours. Employees can also be provided with disposable wipes to wipe down the surfaces frequently whenever they need. All should carry disinfectant wipes to stay protected from the virus.

Rebuild physical setup

The six-feet rule is a must to ensure the safety of the employees during this COVID-19 crisis. That means individual seating arrangements and shared spaces are needed to be arranged in such a way that everyone can fulfil the requirement for 6 feet distance. Changes in the office spaces such as transparent shields dividing the work desks and floor markers to direct foot traffic or to show safe distance should be considered. Restrict the number of employees in each meeting or the commonly used places at one time.

Stop sharing stuff

'Sharing is caring', but not always. If

possible, don't share your frequently touched stuff like smartphones, pens with your colleagues during this pandemic. These can be the best carriers of coronavirus, but most of the people are reluctant to clean these. Even if you need to use someone else's things such as their laptops or files, don't forget to wash your hands afterwards when you are done with your work. Change yourself if you have habits like using saliva to turn the pages or to lick the nib of a pen.

Don't be a potential carrier of coronavirus

The best thing you can do for now is to be conscious as much as it is possible. You may carry the deadly coronavirus without your acknowledgement. Keep a separate room to change the clothes after reaching home and disinfect the clothes every day with reliable disinfectant agents. Don't touch the things before you clean yourself. If you are feeling sick or you have any of the symptoms of being COVID-19 positive, inform your employer and take leave immediately. Your negligence can put many people's lives in danger. So always be conscious.



**4-LANE DHAKA-BHANGA
EXPRESS HIGHWAY
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building a safer nation

Five environmentally friendly cars for the woke petrolhead

RAHBAR AL HAQ

Cars function through burning the last remaining life out of long dead dinosaurs and releasing the noxious fumes into the open air. But there are some cars out there that are less dirty than the others. Here are a few cars a green-minded petrolhead in Bangladesh should consider before going down the route of a CNG-fied PremAllion or SUV.

Maruti Suzuki Alto 800

Unlike all the other car on the list, the humble Alto does not get its gas mileage though clever use of hybrid battery technology. Instead, it does its duty to the environment by being light on features and using a really tiny engine. The 0.8-liter three-cylinder engine manages only 35.3 HP and 44.2 lb-ft torque, just enough to move the 1,185 Kg car around. However, this combination of lightweight body and small engine results in a really good fuel economy, around 22.05 km per one liter of petrol. Moreover, the engine is compliant to Bharat stage emission standards 6 (BS6), meaning it has a CO2 emission of less than 98g/km.

Price: TK 8,65,000



Maruti Suzuki Ciaz Hybrid

Moving from slightly used to brand new, the Maruti Suzuki Ciaz Hybrid is a great compact sedan that somehow flies under everyone's radar. The car is well built, well equipped, and is somehow cheaper than a recondition PremAllion. Its 1.5 liter K15B SmartHybrid engine outputs 103 HP and 102 lb-ft torque. Good enough to get you from point A to B, but nothing more than that. When it comes to mileage and environment; the car has an official fuel economy rating of 20.28 km/l while its BS-6 compliant engine means it has a CO2 emission rating of less than 98g/km, similar to the Alto.

Price: TK 24,00,000 (GLX), TK 21,00,000 (GL)

Toyota Aqua/Prius C

The Prius C isn't the most beautiful vehicle around, nor you can buy it brand new. But, if you are looking for a budget car that is good on gas and friendly to the environment, this will do. The cars 1.5 liter 1NZ-FXE "Hybrid Synergy Drive" engine produces around 76 HP and 85 lb-ft torque, which if we are honest, isn't much. But performance isn't this car ace up in its sleeve. According to official statistics, the car can travel around 15 km per for every liter of petrol and has a CO2 emission of 75 g/km, making it a very efficient and clean little hatchback.

Price: TK 12,00,000 -15,00,000



Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV

When you think of environmentally friendly and fuel-efficient, a 7-seat all-wheel-drive SUV isn't what immediately comes to mind. But the Mitsubishi outlander is just that. The car is powered by a 2.0 liter MIVEC Engine mated to a 12-kilowatt-hour battery plug-in hybrid system, which has a total output of 201 HP and 144 lb-ft torque. The car scores a bit low on the mileage —having an official fuel economy rating of 8 km/l— though its CO2 emission rating of 46 g/km is impressive. It should be noted the relatively low fuel economy is somewhat offset by its pure electric range of 54 km, during which is make zero CO2 emission.

Price: TK 60,00,000 -62,00,000




BMW 745Le X drive

The BMW 745Le is a giant luxury barge with performance figure of a sports car. The opulent Napa leather-covered flagship sedan has the same 3.0 liter straight-six engine found in the new Z4 and Toyota Supra, with an added plug-in electric system for extra measure. The combined hybrid system has a power output of 394 HP and 443 lb-ft and can reach 0 to 100 km/h in 5.1 seconds. However, if you do choose to take things slow, the car will give you a staggering fuel economy of 37.02 km/l while having an emission rating of less than 55 g/km. Oh, and did we mention it will run up to 57 km on battery alone?

Price: TK 2,50,00,000 before options.





NOW YOU KNOW

What fuel economy means for your car

"Fuel economy" is a term used to describe the amount of fuel a vehicle consumes while traveling. The ever-rising price, demand, and environmental concerns of burning fossil fuel has made most automakers shift their focus from power to efficiency. Modern cars are now developed and rigorously tested to be energy efficient and friendly to the environment. When tested by the Automobile Association of the Philippines in a controlled environment, the **Mitsubishi Xpander** achieved a fuel economy of 22.94 km/l, making it one of the most efficient vehicles in its class.



Gaze: Bangladeshi start-up that wants to embed AI in our everyday life

NOMROTA SARKER

Gaze, a Singapore and Bangladesh-based Artificial Intelligence startup, has recently raised US\$830,000 in seed funding led by US-based venture capital firm Anchorless Bangladesh, with follow-on capital from an existing angel investor Mr Mohammad Maaz. Being an ambitious tech startup that focuses on providing API solutions to the global market, Taus Noor (Co-founder & CEO) shares his experience with Toggle.

So, how did Gaze start its journey?

The idea of Gaze came into our minds in 2017 when I was working at IBM and Motasim Rahman (Co-founder & COO) was the product chief at Vancouver-based Fireout. For the first year and a half, we tried to ideate around many different things in the AI space, and in May of 2018 we were invited for an interview by Y Combinator—the same company that incubated the growth of enterprises such as Dropbox, Airbnb, and Reddit. But the idea we pitched at the time didn't work out. Then we realized that if we had to make Gaze a true success, we needed to choose between our jobs and Gaze.

Leaving our jobs, we came back to Bangladesh and set up an office where we could work more conveniently. We just wanted to take the time off and figure out what we wanted to do. Incidentally, one of our team members met Tanvir Mostafa, Director of Meghna Group of Industries, who approached us to develop a vehicle monitoring service for them and that's how they became our first client. This was actually our first stepping stone to realizing that we wanted to continue developing visual recognition systems.

What type of service is Gaze concentrating on developing, and how does it generate revenue?

Since we had previously developed AI-powered intelligent video analytics software for several different use cases, including CCTV camera-based traffic monitoring, we realized API services for visual recognition could enable developers in this field to build out systems that utilize computer vision AI for infinite use cases and applications. In doing so, Gaze is looking to take on the global visual recognition market, with a focus on face recognition and product recognition, which is worth around US\$50+ billion in 2020 for our current use cases, growing every year. To do so, we are currently forming different pricing schemes, including a pay-as-you-go model – priced at US\$0.002 per call on average – and a freemium subscription.



We saw a very interesting promise for API business in Bangladesh as we had also communicated with different tech-based startups like ShopUp, Sheba, Pathao and Chaldal who could potentially benefit from our service.

We have also worked with or served several others in Bangladesh including various private and public sector entities. We are also developing partnerships in India and Myanmar for identity verification using our APIs.

Since the AI-based visual recognition services have the potential to impose a threat to the data security issue in Bangladesh, how will Gaze tackle it?

As we have worked with the Dhaka Metropolitan Police previously and developed a traffic monitoring system exclusively for them, a lot of people might actually think that our product or service deals with public or civil surveillance, which is entirely false. We only built and sold AI-powered video analytics software for real-time traffic analytics.

Other than that, our face recognition systems were only ever used for attendance and security monitoring in closed premises; never for civil/public surveillance. In almost all government projects, we deployed our system in an offline environment that even we couldn't access remotely, so, data and network security was taken care of.

Gaze doesn't store or use any customer

data without prior permission and being an API, it does not interact with the end-user at all. We are an API company that enables other developers to build visual recognition software using our services. We strictly abide by the laws of both Singapore and Bangladesh since our parent company is based in Singapore and being someone who has worked in both the US and Canada, I am very aware of the data security laws myself. We are very careful to not offer any civil surveillance technology.

What are your plans with the seed fund Gaze has raised? What are you going to disburse it on?

Gaze's number one priority has, is, and always will be talent. All the money that we raised and all the money that we earn will ultimately go behind talent since, at the end of the day, we are a pure tech company. Our goal is to find the best people in the world, have them work with us and train others on our team to make better products.

What are the goals for the future?

In terms of financials, we personally believe that this (API solutions) is a much more profitable business for us. Our vision is ultimately to embed AI into everyday life for all of us who use tech-based products or services. Gaze is building an ecosystem of engineers and entrepreneurs; we think developers and

businesses can automate their processes and improve their software stack using visual recognition services offered through our API.

We are a platform company and we aspire to become the most successful company in the international visual recognition space someday.

How big is your team? Could you tell us about your culture at Gaze?

Gaze currently has a team of 23 people across Canada, Singapore, and Bangladesh. Due to our team being dispersed globally, we have to work remotely and even in Bangladesh, we are moving to be office-less. The way we work doesn't really require a physical office, so we have taken the more economical and geographically flexible route by working remotely. Every week, we have two social meetings online where we all catch up and talk about anything but work.

Now that you have raised a hefty amount of funds, what should the founders, who are trying to raise investment, be mindful of?

Well, the important thing here is that raising funds isn't an indicator for success, understanding and responding timely to the market is. Success is your business, product, and customer satisfaction. At the end of the day, it's your customer who decides the success of your company, not anyone else.



Redmi Note 9 Pro: Mid-range beast

The Redmi note series has always been Xiaomi's trump card in recent years. The brand doesn't miss the mark this year either with the introduction of three phones of the Note series, even amid a global pandemic. We got our hands on the Redmi Note 9 Pro and here's our thought:

Design

The Note 9 Pro is no doubt a gorgeous looking phone. It features a return of the Aura-Balance design, introduced first with the Note 7 Pro. The phone is bulky, but has a symmetrical design that makes one handed use a little difficult than usual but a comfortable experience overall.

The aurora blue variant we got looks brilliant with the glossy blue back and the symmetrical bump camera design featuring four lenses.

The 8.8mm wide display with a hole-punch screen makes it a brilliant device for gaming or video-watching, despite the wide bezel.



Performance

Whereas the Note 8 Pro uses a Mediatek Helio G90T, a Snapdragon 720G this time makes the Note 9 Pro faster than its previous counterparts. There's even an Adreno 618 GPU that performs graphics duties. As for the OS, it uses MIUI 11 focused on Android 10.

The phone does not slowdown or lag with moderate gaming or multitasking although the frame rate will drop a bit. These all summarises one thing: performance is not an issue for this smartphone.

However, the large 5020 mAh battery takes a little too long to fully charge; but once done, is more than enough for a day's worth of heavy use.

Camera

The camera quality in Note 9 Pro is decent considering the mid-range price tag. The power



packed lenses in the camera bump, with 64mp primary shooter, take decent photos in daylight. But noise poses an issue. The camera does a comparatively better job at taking photos in low-light. The colour correction and the auto white balance of the pictures are on point, however.

The 16MP front camera is also not entirely off putting but the auto-softness is not very convincing. The portrait mode and the wide-angle mode are actually quite good.

Verdict

The Redmi Note 9 Pro is a brilliant device for heavy users and those who seek performance and looks over camera. For the price tag of BDT26,999 and BDT28,999, the Redmi Note 9 Pro definitely offers a bang for the buck.



What organisations can do for employee mental health amidst Covid-19

SADMAN SAKIB PANTHO

If there was ever a more pressing time to focus on employee health, it is now. Fear, anxiety, and burnouts are common right now and anyone from the lower to the top-level employees can be going through these. Sadly, in such turbulent times where organizations themselves are struggling, the mental health of the employees is often disregarded altogether.

Minimizing remote burnout

The virtual and agile modality that current workplaces have adopted has led many managers to harbour the notion that employees can now work whenever it's needed and on whatever is required. An employee may be going through a lot in these difficult times and it is not always apparent, especially when face-to-face meetups are obsolete. That is why workplaces should specify working hours and create certain work-from-home guidelines. Avoid meetings late into the night and calls at odd hours. It is important to remember that not everyone has the same body clock. So instead of assigning work according to the manager's personal operating times, it's important



to adhere to specific working hours throughout the organization. Scheduled breaks should be ensured and flexitime should be used so that employees aren't burned out.

Encouragement and empathy

The organization should actively encourage employees to prioritize their

mental health. Employees should be encouraged to meet on video whenever possible. This will not only make them feel connected to their co-workers but will also help to deal with feelings of isolation. Managers should display empathy, now more than ever. Stay updated on how everything is for the employees at home. If someone

is visibly distressed, they should be entitled to a break. A few inspiring words at the start of the day or week can go a long way. Every once in a while, fun and themed virtual meetups can be organized so that employees can de-stress. There is nothing that promotes a sense of belonging more among employees over acts that show that the workplace cares.

Ensuring access to resources

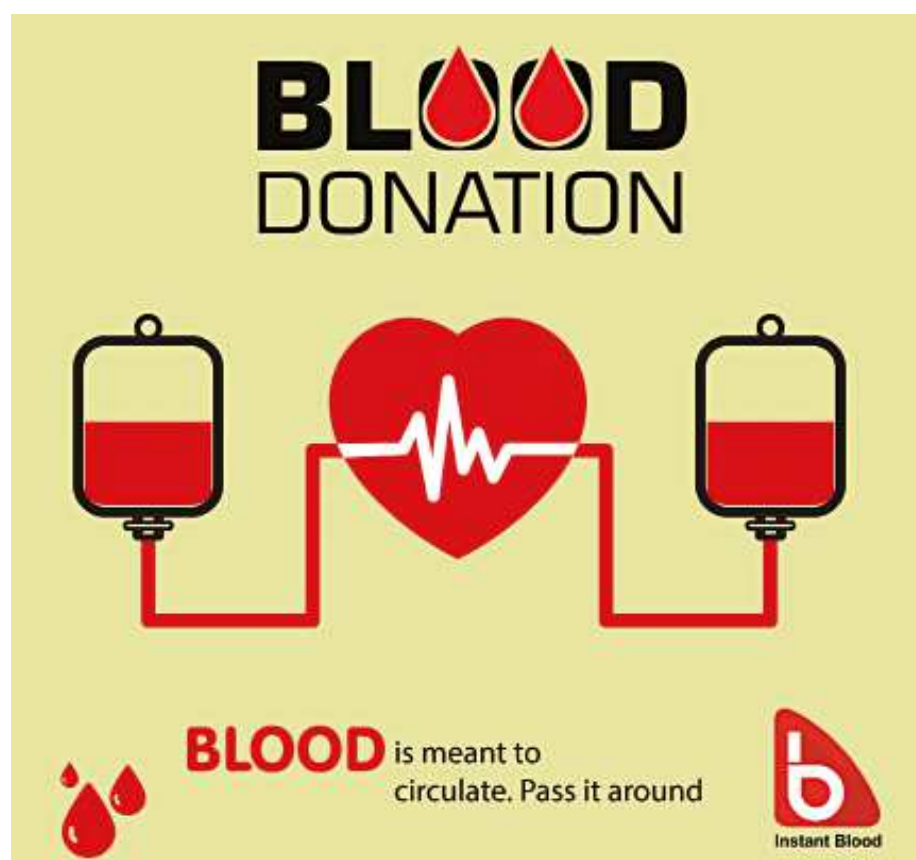
Necessary resources and support can be crucial in these times to help employees maintain a sound work-life balance while social distancing. If organizations already have Employee Assistant Programs (EAP) then now is a crucial time to leverage them to ensure employee wellness while strictly maintaining confidentiality. HR can ask employees to keep stress logs and engage in interactive sessions, which can be therapeutic. Organizations should keep a database of guidelines to follow during the pandemic and important contacts of plasma donors, hospitals, doctors, and telemedicine which employees can access at any time.

Instant Blood app connects plasma donors with those in need

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

Bangladesh is considering plasma therapy as a ray of hope to save the lives of COVID-19 patients.

In Convalescent Plasma Therapy (CPT), doctors need plasma collected from recovered patients to infuse that into those who are currently suffering from COVID-19. It's difficult to find when needed so Turtle Venture and Xen Tech have developed an app to make that search easier.



Seeing the emergency posts on social media and observing the overall situation all around to find plasma donors, Saraban Tahura Turin, the founder of Turtle Venture and Xen Tech, figured her versatile team of engineers, designers, and innovators could help. It took them almost 2 weeks to develop this Instant Blood app and the necessary changes are being updated on the app from time to time.

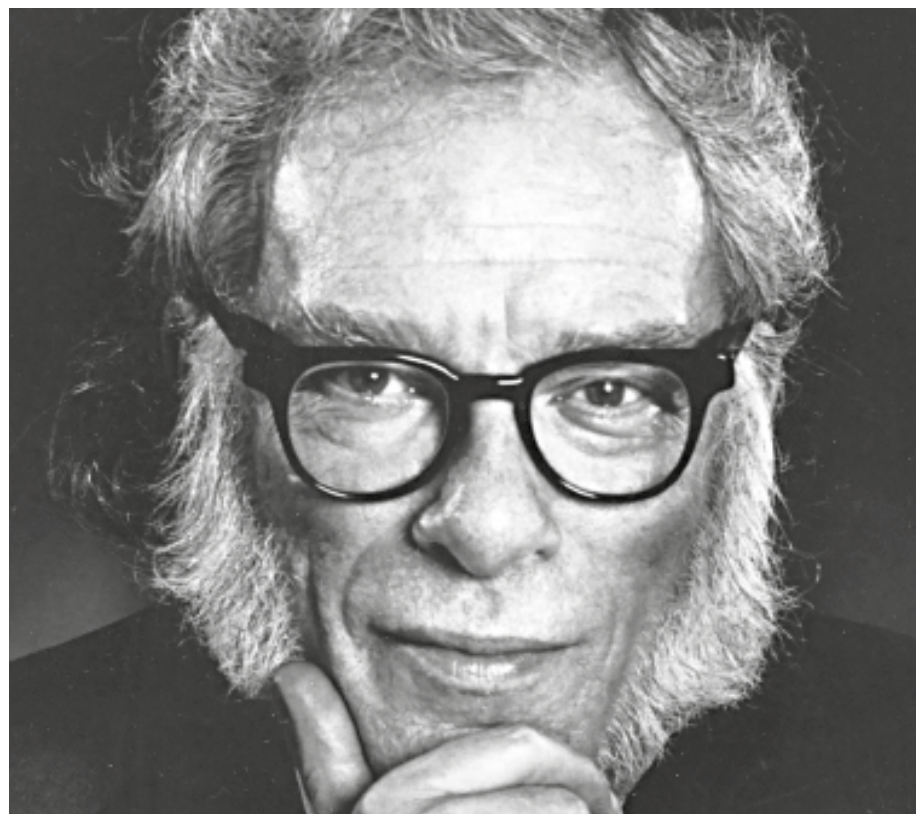
Instant Blood app can help to search for the plasma donors by filtering for the required blood group needed while narrowing down to a specific area range. It has an option to register as a plasma donor by providing their personal, contact information and location in its setting. In this way, people who are looking for plasma donors can find them on the map and by clicking on any name they can directly call the donor from this app. The app has been in service since mid-June. However, people don't really know such an app exists. Turin said, "We are planning to get partnered with the government and other organizations to reach more people and let them know about this initiative as everyone's participation is much needed."

Five Isaac Asimov books you should read

ISRAR HASAN

Isaac Asimov remains one of the rare writers in the science fiction genre whose stories, tales, and views have transcended time and space across generations of avid readers. For many of us, while growing up, it was through Asimov's muscular fiction that we entered the world of science fiction, which presented a new realm of possibilities from robots to artificial intelligence to a world of surveillance to cyber/steampunk.

With the release of Apple TV's Foundation TV series, based on Asimov's most famous storybook collection, "The Foundation" series, his legacy remains firmly cemented on all of our minds. Lest we should also not forget that Asimov was a prolific writer who wrote with a tenacity rarely matched and with panache ever so seen, particularly in science fiction. Here are a few books we should read to gain a deeper insight into the mind of the titan literary polymath:



HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

Asimov's three volumes of autobiographies: *In Memory Yet Green* (1979), *In Joy Still Felt* (1980), and *I Asimov* (1994) are a portal into his storybook career as an author and a polymath constantly making strides. Through his own experiences as a Russian Jewish immigrant growing up in tumultuous periods such as the Great Depression and World War II, you get a good glimpse into his writing

habits, inspirations behind his ideas, the evolution of his train of thought over the years, and the birth and growth of science fiction fandom conventions over the same years which he frequently visited during his long and illustrious life.

NIGHTFALL

Nightfall was originally a short story first published in 1941 then turned into a novel in collaboration with Robert Silverberg, a legend among veteran sci-fi readers. Based on a planet with six suns that never

experiences darkness until the single pivotal moment that the suns start to set, leading to the inhabitants' first experience with darkness. All eventually breaks into chaos and with the blending of myth and science, Asimov holds a mirror to the many parallels of the intersection of knowledge and the human condition in our world and how we react to it.

THE LAST QUESTION

One of Asimov's finest short stories if not his best, *The Last Question* encompasses theology, philosophy, and science fiction. Rooted in the impending doom of a nation, the story centres on AI trying to find out whether it is possible to save an entire universe from dying.

THE GODS THEMSELVES

Considered by the Great Explainer himself to be his favourite science fiction novel, the novel opens with an apocalyptic notion of epic proportions featuring aliens, parallel universes, and a three-gendered species. Funny how long imagination takes us. Blending magic, economics, and science, this novel is a balanced read.

THE ROBOT SERIES

Before the adaptation of the Foundation series, we had the Will Smith starrer, "I, Robot" which was loosely based on Asimov's iconic Robot series. The Robot Series spans numerous short stories and novels, and it is through these fictional stories that Asimov coined the term "robotics" and came up with the Three Laws of Robotics. With the astute and in many ways unorthodox pairing of a human detective and his robot partner, he takes the readers on a journey of solving crimes in a world complicated by the laws of robotics and human nature.

us on f /Sandalina

ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

স্যান্ডালিনা
সোপ

রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...

KOHINOOR CHEMICAL