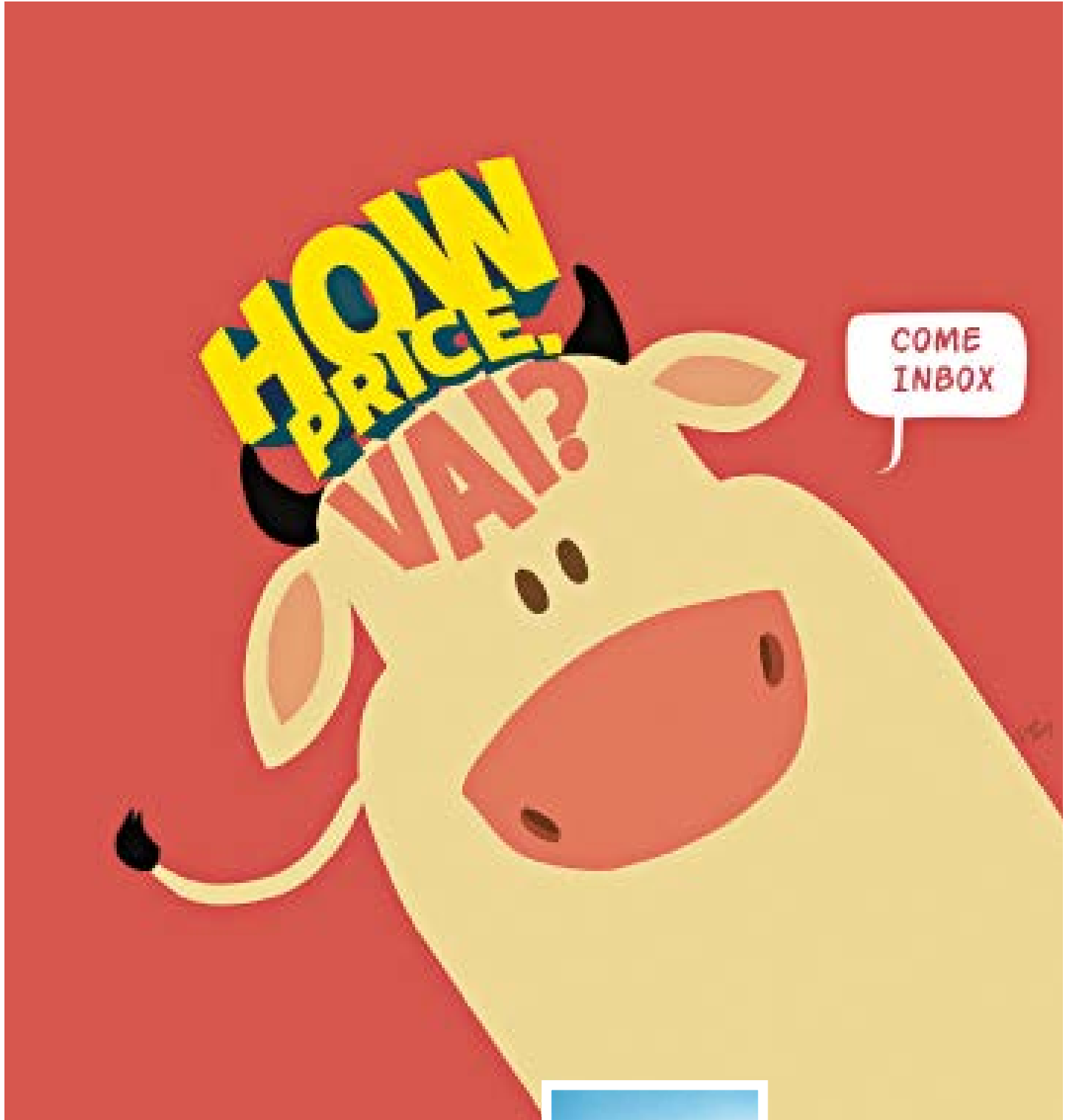


# TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of The Daily Star



5 amazing youth initiatives making Covid-Bangladesh a better place – PG3



Understanding oximeters – PG 7



Conditions Apply

Buying Fridge From  
Walton Plaza, Laksam, Cumilla



**NOW I AM MILLIONAIRE**

Mr. Md. Younus Meha, Father: Ali Azom  
Boroigaon, Bhor Jagatpur, Bakoi Dakkhin  
Laksam, Cumilla

**WALTON**  
Smart Fridge

Digital Campaign 2020  
Season-7

**Mega Festival**

**This Eid, buy Walton Fridge, Washing Machine & Microwave Oven. You may be the Millionaire or get Taka One Lac, Crores of Taka Cash Voucher also.**

Getting Million/Lac Taka may vary depending on Sales

**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

With Confidence of Best Quality  
Compressor  
**12 Years Guarantee**

All services are provided by:  
**NUSDAT-UTS**  
THE NATIONAL BOARD OF REVENUE

Helpline: **16267**  
waltonbd.com



# Halo infinity gameplay, the good, the bad and the rest

After five years of development and weeks of teasers, Microsoft has finally given us a better look at the Halo Infinite campaign. This “spiritual reboot” from 343 Industries is set on two years after the event of Halo 6 and are designed in a way so that players new and old can jump into the story.

First, the good. The classic Halo look is back! Gone are the horribly mutated lizard people, back are the sleek elites! The Jackals and Grunts are given a redesign and are now more closely resemble their Forerunner trilogy counterparts. The Brutes are back as well, this time as part of the Banished faction from Halo Wars 2.

The gameplay is now open world, and set on a damaged Halo installation. The environment is strongly reminiscent of the early missions of Halo: Combat Evolved, with some odd Minecraft like mountains thrown in. There are also some new addition to gameplay mechanics and abilities, such as



Masterchief’s new grappling hook and a “Drop Wall” cover. The former can be used to grab objects in for sounding environments, which then can be thrown at the enemy. You can also use the “Grappleshot” to melee nearby enemies or even grapple onto ledges. On the other hand, “Drop Wall” shield is an enlarged version of the deployable cover that can be placed to protect against incoming fire.

To navigate the vast expanse of installation, Jhon-117 has been given a large 3D map of the installation. The map screen contained two interesting tab, Upgrades and Database. 343 did

not disclose what exactly they are for, though the names themselves are pretty self-explanatory. Hovering above the icon will show up a brief information card and two other stats, the use of which are currently unknown.

Now, the bad. Despite going back to the old art style, the in-game items still lack the rough and worn out textures of the old games. Most equipment looks pristine or brand new, devoid of all the scratches and dents caused by heavy use. The Banished Spirit dropship we see in the game lacks the graceful flight characteristics of its Covenant counterparts and flew as it was put on rails. Flying units in the game act like they are on rails, as displayed by the Spirit dropship. The Brute units encounter also noticeably lacked visual expression, and the graphics tend to pop in at random.

The game is set to come out on at the end of this year.

## EDITOR’S NOTE

### “How price, vai?”

Didn’t hear much of that this time. Pre-Eid, amidst the sound of moo and baa and meh, this was a question everyone of the roads would scream out at each other. This time though, much quieter. People still bought cattle, they still performed their sacrifices, but the questions likely popped up loudly online. The new normal is throwing up more socio cultural changes our way each passing day. We can only wait and see what next.

For now, Eid Mubarak. Have a safe one courtesy of distance and a backup supply of antacid.

- Ehsanur Raza Ronny, Editor

## Instagram bug keeps camera on in iOS 14



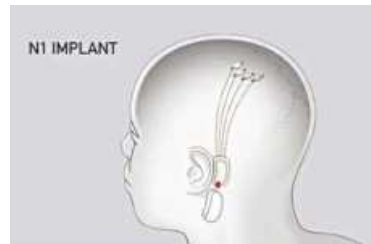
iOS 14’s new set of user notifications aggressively report unusual app behaviour. It has unearthed another security flaw. This time, Instagram has kept the camera on while users scroll their feed without taking any picture. According to Instagram it is a bug that sets off the camera when people access the Create Mode or swipe into the app’s Camera from Feed. They say no content is recorded.

Previously, iOS 14 detected clipboard copying by several apps including TikTok, LinkedIn, and Reddit. LinkedIn is stopping in and other fixes are in the works.

## Neuralink will stream music directly to the brain, claims Musk

Tech startup Neuralink is working on a brain-computer interface that will allegedly allow wearers to “stream music directly to their brain”.

Founded by Elon Musk in 2016, the company remained largely secretive about its operations, but Musk has been slowly releasing



some details on Twitter.

When inquired by computer programmer Austin Howard if one day users could stream music directly into their Neuralink chips,

Elon Musk tweeted a simple response, “Yes”.

This is the first bit of new information Elon disclosed since 2019, where he held a presentation to explain how the technology will work. He said the company is working on a “sewing machine-like” device that would provide a direct connection between a computer and a chip inserted within the brain. The ultimate aim of Neuralink is to allow humans to compete with advanced artificial intelligence, Musk claimed.

Trials have already been carried out on animals and human trials were scheduled to take place this year, though details are yet to be made public.

More information is set to be announced on 28 August.

# TOGGLE

**Editor and Publisher**  
Mahfuz Anam

**Editor (TOGGLE)**  
Ehsanur Raza Ronny

**Team**  
Zarif Faiaz  
Rahbar Al Haq  
Nahaly Nafisa Khan

**Graphics**  
DS Creative Graphics

**Production**  
Shamim Chowdhury

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**TechBits**

Facebook Messenger incorporates Touch and Face ID

Apple gives ‘hacker-friendly’ iPhones to top bug hunters

Facebook testing a cleaner page layout

Spotify adds video podcasts to its app

Twitter cracks down on QAnon, bans 7,000 accounts

# 5 youth-led initiatives fighting the good fight against COVID-19

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

## Oxygen should be free for all

A platform introduced by Shongjog | Connecting People, led by some former students of BUET and youths of different backgrounds, this project aims to supply oxygen cylinders to the people who need them at no cost. They are collecting unused medical-grade cylinders, disinfect them and refill them by following the proper guidelines. The cylinders are taken back after the purpose is served and refilled for another person in need. "Few weeks go, the demand for oxygen cylinders began to increase, so did the price of oxygen cylinders with the deterioration of the COVID-19 situation. Observing the circumstances, we initiated this project with the slogan 'Oxygen should be free for all' as it is every human's fundamental right to breathe", said Ahmed Javed Jamal, one of the founders of Shongjog. Shongjog is now trying to expand its service to deliver oxygen cylinders to more people outside Dhaka who are in need. It is also supplying oximeters at a cheaper rate to save people from unethical suppliers.

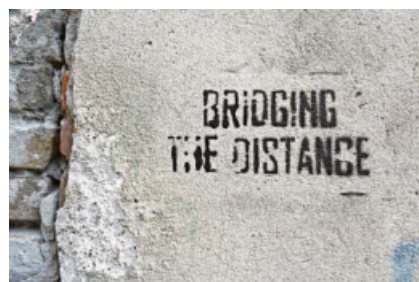
## Buy masks, help to provide baby foods

This is the objective of Pashe Achhi Initiative's 'Project Shurokha'. The initiative is selling boxes of surgical masks at a reasonable price with a BDT 100 delivery charge inside of Dhaka from which BDT 50 will be used to provide baby food to underprivileged children. Every 7 customers can contribute to buy one packet of milk powder of good quality that costs BDT 350. They are also selling Oximeters within an affordable price and taking the same delivery charge with the same intention. They have even started to deliver outside Dhaka to help people out. "The main purpose of this project is to make safe and cheap necessary health accessories available to people and to ensure the nutrition of unprivileged children", said Tahmid Hasan, the co-founder of this initiative. Under 'Project Shurokha', they have so

far sold 1860 boxes of surgical masks and 210 Oximeters ensuring baby food for the children of 250 poor families till now.

## Nirapod contact-tracing app

This app has been developed by a team of youth IT specialists of Inovace Technologies. Between April and May, many migrant workers were coming back and so this versatile team helped the police of Chattogram and Chandpur district to keep a track of the citizens who should be in 14-day self-quarantine through this app. 'Nirapod' has been designed to trace the possible COVID-19 spread inside a managed environment of organizations & institutions. Nirapod Application's backend admin panel has been used by Bangladesh Police for ensuring quarantine monitoring,



relief distribution, information management, etc. They are now working to build a comprehensive system where the COVID-19 test, infection, isolation and treatment history of all the front-line workers will be managed. "Besides Nirapod App, we are working with BIPAP Machine, Oxygen Concentrators Machine, Oximeters etc. We define our success by our products' capability of saving lives during this crisis", said Aminur Rashid Asif, CTO of Inovace Technologies.

## Supporting healthier lifestyle

During this pandemic, many waste collectors are working without safety gears, which makes them vulnerable to the risk factors. GARBAGEMAN, a tech-based recycling company founded

by 10 young entrepreneurs, has taken an initiative to provide food and safety gears to this population. Till now, 400 waste collectors in Uttara and Tejgaon have been provided with PPE and food supplies. They are planning to extend this service by providing safety equipment to 200 waste collectors in Gulshan and 2200 cleaners in 16 different municipalities. GARBAGEMAN is also offering field training that includes basic COVID-19 prevention and safety measures during waste collection and disposables to the waste collectors. Volunteers are also doing schedule-based plastic collection from Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Banani, and Uttara to reduce and recycle plastic waste and to create mass awareness. "The use of plastics has increased with the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. We need a healthy environment to be healthy, hence we are trying to create awareness among the citizens and connect them in the recovery and recycling of plastics through our collection campaigns", said Fahim Uddin, Founder and CEO of GARBAGEMAN.

## Feeding stray animals

Stray cats and dogs are suffering from a food crisis under the current pandemic circumstances. To feed these helpless animals, Care for Paws, a non-profitable animal welfare organization and its volunteers are running a project on every alternative day basis. During this pandemic, they have fed 50,000 stray cats and dogs. That means 1,250 (or over) stray animals on every other day. They have also vaccinated stray animals and done neuter surgery (if necessary). Because of the lockdown, many of their volunteers are not available, but they are still running this feeding project with a handful of volunteers. "No matter how few possessions you have, or how little money you have, if you help the animals, nature will make you rich beyond measure", said Sourav Shamim, chairman of Care for Paws, while talking about the manpower shortage and lack of financial support of this project.



4-LANE DHAKA-BHANGA EXPRESS HIGHWAY BUILT WITH BSRM XTREME

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT



# 2020 Chengdu Auto Show highlights

RAHBAR AL HAQ

The pandemic has been hard on us petrolheads, especially with the cancellation of various auto shows. However, it seems China has recovered enough from the pandemic to hold its annual auto show in Chengdu city. While the show doesn't hold a candle to the Geneva auto show, it does showcase some interesting local designs, some of which caught our eyes.



**Chery Arrizo Star concept**

Made by Chery to "show the potential for personalizing cars," this Arrizo GX is quite something to look at. The basic econobox sedan has been extensively modified, with redesigned bumpers, hood, trunk lid, fenders, spoiler and door delete. Chery didn't mention doing anything to the engine, meaning the 154Hp 1.5 liter turbocharged four-cylinder has some extra work to do.



**ORA ES11 Haomao "Good Cat"**

This small EV from Great Wall's ORA division looks like an unwanted lovechild of the Beetle and Mini. The cute electric hatchback has around 148 Hp and a range of 350-400 km, and yet for some reason, Great Wall doesn't bring it here!



**Skywell ET5**

Skywell is a new name in the Chinese car industry, with a cheesy slogan of "Skywell: All is Well." The ET5 is their first car, a five-seat electric crossover. The car is nothing special, except for its 520km range and \$21,480 base price makes us wish they would sell it car here.

**WEY Tank 300**

Moving from something that vaguely looks like a Bronco sport to something that is actually made to take on the American 4x4's, we have the Tank 300. The SUV lives up to its name, being a body on frame 4x4 with front, middle and rear differential locks. It is going to beat the Bronco? No. Do we think it's cool anyway? Yes.

Also WEY is a division of Great Wall Motors, so some of you should start writing some letters...



**Hongqi H9**

It seems the Chinese state limousine maker is done with their badge engineering Toyota's and Lincolns. The new H9 is a full-sized luxury barge made by an in-house design team that is sure to raise some "Red Flags" among Mercedes and BMW owners.

**Haval DaGou "Big Dog"**

Also known by its less interesting name, the B06. Although the car's boxy shape and round headlights may suggest it's a Bronco Sport rip-off, it was designed by an ex-Land Rover Phil Simmons, meaning it has more in common with the new Defender. Curiously, Haval chose the name via public online voting, meaning the people really wanted this car to be a good boy.



**SGMW Hong Guang MINI EV pick up**

The MINI EV pick up is an adorable one-off version of the MINI EV city car. We pretty sure one pair of rear wheels don't work, and the 20kW motor can't haul anything other than a few bags of groceries. But that doesn't stop us from wishing SGMW would put it into production.



# Legen-Dairy breakthroughs in bovine technology

OROBI BAKHTIAR

The simple act of feeding and caring for a cow harks back to a bygone era at the dawn of the agricultural revolution. And yet modern dairy farming is constantly searching for new innovations. Keeping the cows happy and healthy is important in dairy farming and efforts to raise the bar in milk production efficiency require farms to know how much an individual cow eats, how much she drinks, how much she moves, her body temperature and stress levels so as to correctly judge farm profitability. Technology has been the main driving force in bridging the intelligence and efficiency gap although it may not seem apparent but new technologies involving sensors and big data analytics are making farms approach light speed efficiency in how they operate.

Here are a few of the latest technologies that are beginning to transform dairy farming.

**Smart Collars for Cows**

Imagine a Fitbit for your beloved cattle. Then stop imagining and say hello to the cow collar. Yes, the wearable technology trend has come to the farmyard. And with cow collars you can gather a huge amount of data on the health, habits and happiness of your herd. A Dutch company has developed technology to follow the movements and activities of cows. The high-tech system, powered by AI and motion sensors, is called "The Intelligent Dairy Farmer's Assistant." The company,



Connecterra, launched the system in the United States in December 2017 after several years of testing and operations in Europe.

Information such as steps per day and rumination is collected and sent to a portal that you can access from anywhere via laptop or smartphone. You can also share any abnormal data with your vet, making it easier to detect illness and resolve it faster.

**Facial Recognition**

If you believe all cows look the same more or less, you might want to read on. Cows in some districts of Punjab are currently part of an intriguing project that involves machine learning telling one cow apart from the other. Every cow and buffalo are distinguishable as agritech startup Mooofarm, the brains behind the algorithm, claims to have 95% accuracy in distinguishing one from the other. The algorithm only requires pictures of each cow or buffalo from different angles,

backgrounds and light.

Founded in 2017, Mooofarm is an agritech firm dedicated to finding technical solutions for dairy farmers by helping them keep their cattle healthy and increase their income by improving the milk quality. The startup has built a digital ecosystem of cattle through its mobile app that leverages data analytics to provide farm and cattle management solutions to dairy farmers such as digitizing the life



cycle of their cattle, connecting them to input suppliers for.

**Robotic Milking**

Cows don't like change. Yep, for cow-kind it's consistency that goes down best. That's just one of the reasons robotic milking technology is beginning to take off. Robotic milking has been commercially available since the early nineties. Yet thanks to dramatic improvements in the technology and the compelling prospect of enhanced milk yields, more and more

farmers are making the switch to robots. Thanks to special sensors - or collars like those mentioned above - farmers can collect all kinds of data on each cow's health, production levels and milking frequency. The robots can even collect data on milk quality, fat content and white blood cell count - diverting milk to a separate container for calf consumption if it's not suitable for humans.

**Car Wash for Cows?**

Ah, that's the spot. So says the cow who just sidled alongside the swinging brush. Four million cows around the world are getting groomed on demand thanks to this spruce piece of tech, the movements and brushes of which cover all angles of their body.

Used for almost a decade. This is a simple rotating brush similar to one used in a carwash but made specifically to match the contours of a cow's body. The brush begins rotating when a cow makes contact with it - and stops when they walk away. In an effort to boost cow's comfort, research shows the rotating cow brush aid blood circulation which in turn improves milk production and child birth

Smart technology and data play important roles on modern dairy farms. And while these new tools of the trade are helping to optimize the production of milk and meat, technology is also meant to help dairy farmers fulfill another purpose: improve the well-being of their cows.

## Is a heavier car actually safer?

There is a common misconception that a heavier car is safer in an accident. However, laws of physics disagree. In an accident, a car suffers rapid deceleration and generates kinetic energy (KE). Unless designed to absorb, the car will pass the energy onto its occupants, causing serious harm and injuries. Heavier vehicles suffer more, as their weight multiplies the KE force. Conversely, lightweight vehicles such as the **Mitsubishi Xpander** incorporates extensive crash protection, with its Reinforced Impact Safety Evolution Body (RISE) earning it favorable reviews from safety testing authorities.

NOW YOU KNOW



# Tech giants assemble in the first virtual Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Conference 2020

OROBI BAKHTIAR

CVPR is the premier annual Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Conference. With first-in-class technical content, the main program, tutorials, workshops, a leading-edge expo, and attended by more than 9,000 people annually, CVPR creates a one-of-a-kind opportunity for networking, recruiting, inspiration, and motivation. CVPR 2020, originally scheduled to take place 14-19 June 2020 at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle Washington, has been a fully virtual event this year. Authors and presenters have virtually-delivered presentations and have planned to engage in live Q&A with attendees.

As the largest conference covering every aspect of computer vision and pattern recognition, machine learning, and artificial intelligence, CVPR features more than 1,500 presentations from industry leaders, including Amazon Web Services, Alibaba Group, Apple, Google, Microsoft, Waymo and many others. In exclusive "fireside chat" interview sessions with Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Amazon Web Services Senior Vice President Charlie Bell, CVPR attendees will hear first-hand how the tech giants continue to fuel advancements in AI technologies and upcoming developments.

"CVPR draws together the leading technologists exploring AI and machine

learning and presents foundational research driving new opportunities. The dialogue at CVPR between researchers and industry leaders helps spur the next round of scientific innovation", remarked Ramin Zabih, Cornell Professor of Computer Science and Co-Chair of the CVPR 2020 Organizing Committees.

Some of the research papers that started trending within the AI research community months before their actual presentation at CVPR 2020. These papers cover the efficiency of object detectors, novel techniques for converting RGB-D images into 3D photography, and autoencoders that go beyond the capabilities of generative adversarial networks (GANs) with respect to image generation and manipulation.

#### **EfficientDet: Scalable and Efficient Object Detection**

The large size of object detection models deters their deployment in real-world applications such as self-driving cars and robotics. To address this problem, the Google Research team introduced two optimizations, namely (1) a weighted bi-directional feature pyramid network (BiFPN) for efficient multi-scale feature fusion and (2) a novel compound scaling method. By combining these optimizations with the EfficientNet backbones, the authors developed a family of object detectors,

called EfficientDet. The experiments demonstrated that these object detectors consistently achieve higher accuracy with far fewer parameters and multiply-adds (FLOPs).

The high accuracy and efficiency of the EfficientDet detectors may enable their application for real-world tasks, including self-driving cars and robotics.

#### **3D Photography using Context-aware Layered Depth Inpainting**

The research team presented a new learning-based approach to generating a 3D photo from a single RGB-D image. The depth in the input image can either come from a cell phone with a stereo camera or be estimated from an RGB image. The authors suggested explicitly storing connectivity across pixels in the representation. To deal with the resulting complexity of the topology and the difficulty of applying a global CNN to the problem, the research team broke the problem into many local inpainting sub-problems that are solved iteratively. The introduced algorithm results in 3D photos with synthesized textures and structures in occluded regions. The experiments demonstrated its effectiveness compared to the existing state-of-the-art techniques.

3D photography provides a much more immersive experience than usual 2D images, so the ability to easily generate a 3D photo from a single RGB-D

image can be useful in many business areas, including real estate, e-commerce, marketing, and advertising.

#### **Adversarial Latent Autoencoders**

The research group from West Virginia University investigated if autoencoders can have the same generative power as GANs while learning disentangled representation. In particular, they introduced an autoencoder, called Adversarial Latent Autoencoder (ALAE), that can generate images with quality comparable to state-of-the-art GANs while also learning a less entangled representation. This is achieved by allowing the latent distribution to be learned from data and the output data distribution to be learned with an adversarial strategy. Finally, the autoencoder's reciprocity is imposed in the latent space. The experiments demonstrated that the introduced autoencoder architecture with the generator derived from a StyleGAN, called StyleALAE, has generative power comparable to that of StyleGAN but can also produce face reconstructions and image manipulations based on real images rather than generated.

The suggested approach enables images to be generated and manipulated with a high level of visual detail, and thus may have numerous applications in real estate, marketing and advertising.



# All you need to know about a pulse oximeter

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

Silent hypoxia is one of the symptoms in which COVID-19 patients have alarmingly low blood oxygen saturation levels, yet they do not show any other symptoms of COVID-19 or breathlessness to identify the hidden danger. The pulse oximeter, a non-invasive device of arterial blood oxygen saturation and pulse rate, can help people to monitor the symptoms at home, and ask for medical care sooner before this deadly symptom kills them. It has been in high demand recently, although it is not always reliable to identify that you are COVID-19 positive or not. But you can consult a doctor if you find any abnormality in the pulse oximeter reading.

## How does a pulse oximeter work?

It uses light to work out oxygen saturation levels. The probe has a light source on the upper side and a light indicator on the lower side. When a finger is placed on the probe, a part of the light will be absorbed and the rest won't be. The amount of light that is absorbed depends on the physical properties. And these are used by the pulse oximeter to determine the oxygen saturation. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), oxygen saturation (SpO<sub>2</sub>) should be between 95% and 100%. If the rate is 94% or less than it, the person needs to be treated quickly. Less than 90% of oxygen saturation is a clinical

emergency. The normal perfusion index (PI) ranges from 0.02% to 20% showing weak to strong pulse strength.

## How accurate is it?

You can never say that your oximeter is 100% accurate. It can show a 2% over or 2% under due to your arterial blood gas or mechanical fault. Remember that while determining an emergency. For example, if your oxygen saturation is 96% according to a pulse oximeter, then it is anywhere between 94% and 98%. And some factors may affect the actual reading too.

## Factors that might adulterate a pulse oximeter reading

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nail varnish or any kind of pigment on the finger, user's movement, bright light on the probe, poor perfusion, and carbon monoxide poisoning might adulterate or stop a pulse oximeter reading.

**Nail varnish:** Nail polish colours contain organic or inorganic pigments that can absorb the light emitted from the oximeter that detects the pulse rate. These can work as a hindrance on the way to show the actual oxygenated haemoglobin of a person. So it's always best to remove nail colours to avoid the confusions. For emergency, put the finger turning sideways.

**Henna pigmentation:** Henna on the

hand represents dark skin pigmentation that absorbs the light at two wavelengths and allows the infrared light to infiltrate. The outcome will faulty in this case.

**User's movement-** If the person who is using the oximeter has a condition that leads to rapid movement or to shiver or moves being careless while checking, the pulse waveform can fluctuate. The reading will be misleading. Both the user and oximeter should be in a steady position to get the proper result.

**Bright light on the probe:** The interference of light on the probe will create an erratic result if it directly reaches the sensor. It has soft rubber to shield the probe from light, but when the light shines directly on the probe or the presence of radiated lights such as infrared or ultraviolet enters, it'll impact the reading.

**Poor perfusion:** If the perfusion index is at or below 0.4% showing weak pulse strength, then the oximeter reading can be unreliable. Peripheral artery diseases, diabetes, obesity, blood clots, etc. are the reasons of poor perfusion.

**Carbon monoxide poisoning:** Carbon monoxide molecules easily replace the oxygen molecules and turn haemoglobin bright red. The pulse oximeter is unable to distinguish between carbon monoxide and oxygen and so the result is faulty. For

example, the reading will be misleading for up to 4 hours after smoking. People who have recently inhale smoke from fires or heavy traffic environments will also have faulty readings.

## Which finger should you choose for pulse oximeter?

The third finger of the dominant hand has been considered the best option for a pulse oximeter. The second option can be the dominant thumb. That means if you are right-handed, use your right middle finger or thumb. And left middle finger or thumb for left-handed people. The difference between fingers is not huge. So it's fine if you are using your index finger.

## Should one have a pulse oximeter amid this pandemic?

"Pulse oximeter does not identify COVID-19. It only shows the changes in the oxygen saturation in the blood, regardless of cause. However, the pulse oximeter is useful for monitoring oxygen levels at home, as falling oxygen saturation is an indication for hospitalization when Covid-19 is suspected. Thus, given the circumstances, it is better to have one at home", said Dr. Shahida Akhter, senior consultant at BIRDEM and professor at Ibrahim Medical College.



# DCeased: DC Comics' gory take on a cyber pandemic

SADMAN SAKIB PANTHO

Have you ever stopped to think – what if the coronavirus had spread from one human to another via technology? Sounds like a diabolical train of thought, no? Well, as despondent as it sounds, it did not prevent DC Comics from creating their version of a cyber pandemic. And let me tell you, it is all kinds of crazy but like, in the most amazing way possible.

In 2019, DC released the 6-issue original series titled DCeased. If you would like to read the issues for yourself then do not proceed further. We're going to be featuring massive spoilers, so this is your only warning. The story starts with Darkseid, the longtime nemesis of the Justice League, capturing Cyborg. Darkseid's search for the anti-life equation led him to discover that a part of it had manifested inside Cyborg. To extract it without killing Cyborg, Darkseid

called upon Death – the Black Racer. However, things did not go as planned as Death corrupted the anti-life equation transforming it into a techno-organic virus. Cyborg, although unaffected by the virus, became patient zero and the first person he infected was Darkseid himself.

The virus drove Darkseid mad and he destroyed Apokolips. Cyborg, unaware of the virus, returned to Earth and his connection to the world wide web immediately caused the anti-life equation to leap from him into the internet. The techno-organic virus attacked through social media and infected the minds of anyone who saw it, causing the infected to claw off their faces before they turned into zombies. Yes, zombies. The virus almost instantly killed the infected and took over their minds. And just within the first

few moments, almost 600 million were infected worldwide.

Every single issue of the series ends with a nail-biting cliffhanger, and every single issue will pull on the heartstrings of a DC fan. Superheroes are being infected and dying left and right, others being put in impossible situations and against friends and family. Issue 2 ends with Alfred being forced to kill zombie Batman, who was essentially his son. And in the very next issue, Superman puts down his father Jonathan Kent. The series cuts deep, and the writing is phenomenal – so sad yet so good!

The DCeased story is an allegory for how much we rely on tech and how it affects society. The Justice League, or what remained of it, took down the internet – every major server in every country and

every mass digital broadcasting device, including satellites. This didn't prevent things from improving much as the virus still transmitted from one human to another. Ultimately, even Superman was infected and although he tried to snuff his own life out before becoming a zombie, he failed. The series ends with Superman absorbing the entirety of the sun, shrouding the solar system in darkness and cold.

Ultimately, the survivors were forced to evacuate to a different universe altogether. The heroes had lost. DCeased has been so successful that it gave rise to multiple spinoffs, each highly acclaimed. Hell, the next one is scheduled for September 2020 but has already sold out! And as crazy as it sounds, the story gives us all the reason to be grateful that we aren't in the middle of a cyber pandemic.



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ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা  
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

# অ্যান্ডালিনা

## সোপ

রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...



**KOHINOOR CHEMICAL**