

BIG TECH'S BIG JUMP

TO STREAMING SERVICES



Hangouts in the virtual world - Page 6



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Buying Fridge From Walton Plaza, **Boda, Panchagarh** Mr. Md. Gahirul Islam, Father: Md. Abdul Ali Uttar Batina, Kharibari, Thakurgaon Sadar

Thakurgaon

Digital Campaign 2020 Season - 7



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 case of cash payment, customer will be paid through cheque after
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UNBOX

Tesla sues Rivian over alleged trade secret theft

Tesla inc. has filed a lawsuit against rival automaker Rivian, on allegations of poaching talent and stealing trade secrets.

The lawsuit, which was filed on July 17 in California Superior Court in Santa Clara, reads,

"In about the past week, Tesla has discovered disturbing pattern of employees who are departing for Rivian surreptitiously stealing Tesla trade secret, confidential, and proprietary information — information that is especially useful for startup electric vehicle company. And Rivian encourages those thefts even though Rivian is well aware of Tesla employees' confidentiality obligations,"

"Rivian is knowingly encouraging the misappropriation of Tesla's trade secret, confidential, and proprietary information by Tesla employees that Rivian hire," Tesla claims.



Tesla named four former employees in the lawsuit, but added its investigation continues. The company claims it has since identified two more former workers who have gone on to work at Rivian and alleges they "likely misappropriated Tesla trade secret, confidential or proprietary information."

In response, Rivian issued a statement that calls the allegations baseless, citing the suit's allegations run counter to Rivian's culture, ethos and corporate policies.



Discord offers noise suppression so your dogs can bark in peace during work meetings

You're working and you need to chat with your boss. But your noisy slurping of cereal gets in the way. Somebody just flushed the toilet and started cursing. Working from home means distracting noises are there.

Discord has added background noise suppression to its mobile app that it rolled out on desktop in April. Discord partnered with Krisp.ai to create a virtual microphone to filter out background noise and allow your voice to sound clearer.

Google Meet added a similar AI-powered feature in April while Microsoft Teams is adding a real-time noise suppression feature this year. Krisp also offers a desktop app and Chrome browser extension that, like Nvidia's offering, can work with a variety of apps.

Pandemic has been a huge business boom for services like Discord, Microsoft Teams, Slack, and Zoom. Teams and Slack recently announced they'd surpass 75 million daily active users and 12.5 million concurrent users, respectively.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Do you still have 24 hours a day?

Our breaks and holidays and work have all merge into one. Most of us have and are facing a work/ study from home routine that has seemingly reduced our 24 hours by a few. We got this issue of Toggle done without break. Our content, graphics and ad team fired on all cylinders to get this issue ready. Some worked the early morning hours while others backed up during the afternoon and evenings. It's a muddled up clock now, melting, dripping much like Dali's surrealistic paintings. Our hours are all over the place.

This is how it is now. Adapt or be left out.

- Ehsanur Raza Ronny, Editor

New car this week





When Ford decided to put the Mustang badge on an electric crossover, they made a lot of people upset. Many (us included) though putting the iconic performance badge on a family vehicle was unfair, and actually lowered the value of the Mustang nameplate. Well, it seems the blue oval has taken some notes, and turned the family crossover into the most powerful, crazy Mustang they ever built. The Mustang Mach-E

1400 is a high performance version of the regular Mach-E that packs seven, yes seven electric motors. When powered from its 56.8 kilowatt-hour battery pack, the motors produce a bowel liquifying 1,400 HP. To prevent the car form recreating Peter Dumbreck's flight attempt, the car is fitted with an extensive body kit, capable of producing 1,043 kilograms of downforce at 258 kilometers per

hour. Oh, and did we mention this car screams? Unlike most other electric car, the 1400 actually makes a sound similar to a jet engine idling at high speed. Something that is quite fitting if you factor in the cars bonkers performance figure. Unfortunately, Ford has no plans to put the 1400 into production and built is as a one-off prototype. Which is quite disappointing, to put it mildly.

TOGGLE

Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam

Editor (TOGGLE) Ehsanur Raza Ronny

Team Zarif Faiaz Rahbar Al Haq Nahaly Nafisa Khan

GraphicsDS Creative Graphics

Production Shamim Chowdhury

Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000.

TechBits



Facebook Messanger incorporates Live broadcast

TikTok unveils \$200 million funds for U.S. creators





Apple begins assembling iPhone 11 in India

Instagram testing 'Personal Fundraiser' feature





HBO Max reached 4.1M subscribers in its first month

Tools for educators as education turns digital

NOSHIN SAIYARA

As educational services make a shift to become online, teachers and tutors are trying to adjust to the online methods of teaching & learning. This means establishing certain practices as educators will help them make their content more engaging for students. Bilkis Sultana, an associate professor at Kabi Nazrul Government College in Dhaka who has been taking classes online, shares an online teaching practice of hers, "It's harder for students to maintain attention during class when their instructor is not physically present in front of them. Speaking slowly helps my lectures not become monotonous as it is easier to get bored with a fast frequency of speech". Changing how teachers approach a classroom and adding some online tools to make their job easier will improve the student experience. The e-learning industry saw a boom in the demand for their tools, and many of their features have been upgraded and made free to help tutors. Here are a few free tools that can be used by anyone currently planning to organize their classes on Zoom or Google Classrooms-

Livebinders

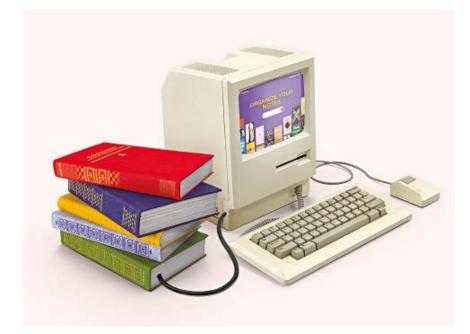
A tool that will allow you to organize your worksheets, lecture notes, online assignments, etc. in an online easy to access the folder. You can create customised folders on Livebinders and have them available for your students at all times. This is better than using Google drive because, in addition to organising files in folders, students can also collaborate on projects and share resources like documents, websites, and media on these binders. The binder also has a feature where it allows the instructors to add weekly or monthly tabs for students to check-in.

Formative

Formative has both paid and unpaid versions, the unpaid version providing access to one teacher at a time. It

is a platform where you can design assessment tests and quizzes with the clean and seamless interface and outsource quizzes that you already have on google docs or any other electronic mode. You can also upload scanned versions of your handwritten quizzes, Camscanner is a free application for your phone that can help you do that. The most useful feature of this platform is that you can do live assessments for the quizzes you set and

great tool for that. You can set up your available time slots for a day or a week and share the link with your student groups from them to sign up. This saves you the hassle from having to add your appointments to Google calendar manually and removes the possibility of overbooking. You can also export your Calendly appointments to your Google calendar if you want all your routines organised in one place.



send instant feedback to your students too, by setting the correct answers and feedback for wrong answers on Formative. This will save a lot of time and increase the learning efficiency for your students. The site also has free tutorials for teachers with easy to understand instructions, so you do not need to be tech-savvy to use their features.

Calendly

If you are trying to organise group presentation sessions or individual advising appointment sessions with students personally, Calendly is a

Stormboard

Use Stormboard to draw figures and equations you cannot type ahead or want to add to your content during a live class. It is an online whiteboard that you can use for your classes as a replacement for your actual whiteboard you are used to using. The free version of this platform allows 5 users at a given time, so you can also have your students use this for group projects and presentations. You can also integrate this in with Microsoft Office in view-only mode, along with other collaborative applications like Slack or

THE BOSSMAN

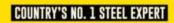














Five video game escape routes for the bored petrolhead



Platform: PlayStation 4 **Price:** \$11.99

The original racing sim that started it all, the Gran Turismo series is as old as PlayStation itself. Its latest iteration, the Gran Turismo Sport lets you race in realistic environments rendered in 4K resolution at 60 frames per second. The base games come with over 150 vehicles, which can be driven on 18 locations with 54 different race layouts. The game takes its racing sim heritage very seriously, hosting the in-game FIA-Certified Gran Turismo Championships every year. The winners of the championship are given a TAG Heuer watch, an actual trophy, and are honored at the FIA Prize Giving Ceremony. The only downside to the game is the fact it's a PlayStation exclusive, meaning you need to buy a



Forza Horizon 4

Platform: Windows, Xbox one Price: \$60-100 (Windows store)

Moving from realistic racing sim to something a bit more arcadey, we have the latest iteration of the Horizon series, the Forza Horizon 4. The game is set in an open world environment based in a fictionalized Great Britain, and features a dynamic weather system that changes season every seven days. The base games come with a mind-numbing 450 cars for players to enjoy, with the number rising to a truly crazy 670 cars in you include all the DLC's. There are a wide variety of races to choose from, from your basic time attacks, to crazy stunt race to whatever custom stuff you and 74 other players want to try on a single server. Sadly, being a Microsoft title, the game is only available on Xbox and Windows OS, meaning PlayStation and Mac are left out.



Dirt Rally 2.0 Platform: Winnows, Xbox one, PlayStation 4 Price: \$13 (PC)

In the world of racing games, the rallycross fans are a neglected bunch. Most games that dose includes rally racing does so an afterthought, leaving the mode halfbaked and unsatisfying. The Dirt 2.0 is an exception to this norm, being built from the ground up to be a hardcore rally and rallycross racing simulator for the diehard fans. The game has over eighty cars, including the insanity that are the Group B machines. Being an official game of the FIA World Rallycross Championship, the game features tracks from the World RX calendar as well as other iconic Rally and Rallycross locations. So, if you are a rallycross fan who always wanted to experience how it feels to drive one of these off-road monsters, better pick



Platform: Windows, Xbox one, PlayStation 4 Price: \$60-90 (PC)

Want an actual racing sim but don't want to invest in a PlayStation? Well, there is Project Cars 2. The second iteration of the series doesn't come with any training gloves, and its steep learning curve will harshly punish casual racing fans. If you can master it however, the game will give you one of the most realistic portrayal sim racing currently available on the market. It's collection 189 cars is small compared to that of Horizon 4, but the characteristic of those cars has been faithfully recreated, something that you can put to the test on one of the games 140 track layouts placed at 60 different locations. Unlike the previous two games, Project CARS 2 is available on all platforms, meaning all you need to buy is the game itself. Oh, and did we mention the game has VR support?



Wreckfest

Platform: Winnows, Xbox one, PlayStation 4 Price: \$20-30 (PC)

Form racing sim that rewards careful driving to a game that actively encourages you to crash into things, we have Wreckfest. Developed by the same guys who made Flatout, this is a demolition derby teamed racing game were ramming the engine out of your opponent's car is as important as crossing the finish line. The game has over 50 different vehicles, including crazy stuff like a version of Edd China's Sofa car. All the cars have an extremely detailed damage model, which when released onto the game's crazy obstacle tracks, turns into a mangled collection of metal by the end of the race. The games support up to 26 people in an online race, each becoming a giant ball of chaos, destruction, and pure unadulterated fun. Bottom line if you just want to have a great time with your friends or just need to vent some frustration, this game is for you.



Lightweight. Efficient. Reliable.

The reliability of a car depends on how much pressure is put on the engine. One of the key elements that put stress on a car's powertrain is its weight. Heavier vehicle naturally requires more power and thus forces the engine to work harder. This in turn worsens the car's fuel economy, raises the need for frequent maintenance, and in the event of a breakdown, expensive repair bills. On the other hand, lightweight cars such as the Mitsubishi Xpander put less strain on the powertrain, increasing its reliability and fuel economy.











SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES The future of Big Tech?

SADMAN SAKIB PANTHO

The subscription economy has been on the rise for quite a while now, with companies looking to build stronger and more lasting relationships with customers while generating guaranteed income. This has led to the fall of ownership as we know it and has given rise to users - meaning, you now have to abide by a monthly or yearly pay-plan to use a service. And right now, in the realm of technology, it seems to be the hottest goal for companies.

The allure

From the businessman's perspective, the idea behind a subscription model is that instead of having to convince you, the customer, to buy a new product every time one is released, they need to convince you only once. And then, if they can keep you happy and satisfied, they will be able to generate steady, predictable income. When it comes to products like paid apps or smartphones, sales are the only way of generating money. And then, after a while, sales will fall as consumers will start to demand something new.

Cloud technologies

The development of cloud technologies is one of the biggest reasons why the scales are tipping towards subscription services for tech-enabled companies. This technology has made digital services more accessible, giving rise to content and data services. Subscription-based content

services are perhaps the most popular subscriptions in the world right now with Netflix, Spotify, Amazon Prime and others having millions of subscribers. With giants like Alibaba, Google, Microsoft and many more competing in the cloud-based big data processing market, many have adopted the subscription model.

Products vs services

What is the most important factor for a tech company looking to enter the subscription market? Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, the CEO of Robi Axiata Limited says, "The first thing is to recognize digital platform as a service." Take content services, for example. We could buy songs or movies for a price, but that's expensive when there are platforms like Netflix or Apple Music with endless content for us. In the case of products, if you are suddenly asked to pay continuously for something you could own after a one-time payment, it's annoying. That's exactly why customers were infuriated when Adobe declared their move to the Creative Cloud in 2013 But Adobe didn't suffer because now, they were pitching their previous products as a service. Yes, the subscription-based model did lead to the loss of customers, but professional users were now actually treating the Creative Cloud as a one-stop platform for all of Adobe's products. This and a

steady inflow of money each month made

Adobe's move a financial success.

Having the right strategy So, what should be the approach for

companies? Mahtab Uddin Ahmed says, "As long as you have the right business model that drives traffic to your platform, you have a business case to pursue. So long as the focus is on the platform, one can structure it around the subscription-based model or otherwise, depending on the market realities and the business strategy." This seems to be exactly what Apple is doing right now. Apple has 6 main subscriptions to offer but holds only 20% of the smartphone market. For a while now, the main entry point into these services has been the iPhone. But now, the tech giant has not only started introducing an iPhone at an affordable price point, but has also made the iPad, Apple Watch, and the Mac more distinct in their respective product categories. All these can now feed a much wider user-base into the core Apple subscriptions.

What's in it for the consumers?

Why should we, as consumers, pay a monthly or yearly fee instead of purchasing a product? To put it simply, technology moves way too fast and if an app isn't updated, it dies. We cannot expect developers of an app we're really invested in to continuously provide maintenance, introduce new content and new technologies for free.

Where does Bangladesh stand in all of this? Some companies have given a shot at

the subscription-based content service scenario in Bangladesh. Iflix recently exited the market. Robi CEO Mahtab says. "Unfortunately, we don't have much in the way of platform-based business in Bangladesh. Unless part of a bundle offer, people don't tend to have much liking for subscription-based services." He also said that the rate of digital adoption and copyrights are a concern here. But Mahtab believes that there is definitely a market here, companies just need to be in it for the long haul. Red Dot Digital, an associate of Robi, has recently rolled out the set-top-box and subscriptionbased service Binge, which is a full-fledged digital entertainment platform open to all and can be used on both small and big screens. Mahtab further said, "We believe a Bangladeshi OTT platform can compete at the international level and we want Binge to be that platform. We are very encouraged by the response received within a short period. What we need right now is to invest in the right kind of content to create demand in the market. But that can only happen if we can bring together the bright minds who can create those contents."

Subscriptions are indeed poised to be the future for tech giants and tech-enabled companies. Even Uber has rolled out their Ride Pass subscription in select US cities. Everyone wants a piece of the pie.



Tired of Zoom parties? Hang out in the virtual world with these online games

SADMAN SAKIB PANTHO

Zoom, Google Meet and other video conferencing platforms have become the hottest applications of 2020. But they have also transformed our social hangouts to formal meetings. While that was indeed the main purpose of such apps, it's not always fun to have hourlong conversations with your friends while just staring at the faces on the screen. Enter virtual worlds.

Online Town

Online Town is an application with two-dimensional 8-bit graphics that also allows video chats but is more gamified. Users can enter a private room with their friends and navigate an 8-bit avatar around inside. You can even control multiple separate video chats at the same time. The application sends the video and audio directly to your peers instead of sending them to the site's server, leaving lesser room for security concerns. The app currently comes with 6 maps and a few small options, but people have already started hosting college reunions and other hangouts here. With time the founders plan to introduce newer and more interactive gamified options into the platform.

Animal Crossing: New Horizons

Price: \$60-80

This year Nintendo has taken the world by storm with the new edition of

Animal Crossing. And its multiplayer functionalities coupled with the unique features of the game truly make gamers feel like they are living out a whole different life inside this virtual world. You can visit friends running their own towns or islands, invite them over to yours and have entirely customized social hangouts. People have had dates, graduations and even got married inside this game! It's a bummer you can't hold video chats here and another downside is that the game is exclusive to Nintendo Switch only. Nevertheless, it has grown into one of the most popular virtual worlds in this pandemic

GTA Online

Price: \$20

GTA online is the online version of the video game GTA V. Set in the fictional state of San Andreas, the game offers a ton of stuff for players to enjoy with their friends. Players can purchase property, set

up their own businesses, run a night club, or work as a freelance secret agent for the government. The two limiting factors to this game is the steep grind for money and the fact the game extensive gunplay mechanics means public servers can get quite chaotic. If you want to avoid that however, the game has multiple dedicated roleplay server where players can play as whatever they want without taking a missile to the face.

Besides these, games such as Final Fantasy and World of Warcraft also provide interactive virtual worlds. Fans of the Star Wars can also check out Star Wars: The Old Republic while for Star Trek Fans there is Star Trek Online. India's Hike messenger app is also working on a virtual world called Hike Land. With the increasing number of interactive options in the virtual worlds, the days of social hangouts on video conferencing apps may very well be coming to an end.

SCIENCE & FITNESS TOGGLE 7



Paranoia on social media?

Here's how you can overcome the mental toll of 'Doomscrolling"

NOMROTA SARKER

As per a famous report that surfaced on social media about a research done by some British epidemiologists, the worst-case scenario for the coronavirus could be marked by the death of about 2.2 million Americans if the disease was left to spread unchecked.

It is a terrifying document, especially for a country where the curve still hasn't peaked yet. Words like 'incubation period' and 'gamma distribution' are heavy enough for the Western world but when you find yourself consuming more of such news and reports within a four-walled setup with morbid visuals, the paranoia could subconsciously turn into anxiety. This is what we call 'Doomsurfing' or 'Doomscrolling'; that is falling into deep, twisted rabbit holes filled with coronavirus or any such content that ultimately causes mental

stress, paranoia, and lack of a good night's sleep. According to tech experts, doomsurfing in the times where fake and unverified news takes up about 30% of social media content can cause mass paranoia, anxiety, and confusion among the millennials. So, what can we do to overcome this?

Have you tried logging off?

Even though it is important to stay informed, what dosage of the grim news is healthy needs to be considered. Even though it is difficult to stay off the screen during this time where digital presence is the only way to remain connected to the world, it is essential for us to find a balance between how much of what we allow to affect our wellbeing. As Facebook recorded a record surge in its usage since March'20 worldwide, it is evident that people are relying more on social media platforms for news and connectivity. But, this may lead to an unwanted stream of information clogging up our heads with even questionable authenticity. If you find yourself indulging with an undying curiosity for things beyond your control, try logging off from social media routinely for some hours. This may help you regulate the amount of time you spend on your phone and the news you consume.

Maybe mute some groups, unfollow some pages?

The coronavirus crisis has made the internet feel unexpectedly social. Every day, there's an explosion of new and creative kinds of digital community-building happening, as we find new ways to use technology to replace some of the physical proximity we're losing. People are talking more about underlying social issues and how 2020 has turned out to be so far is the reason why some people are even coming up with new conspiracy theories every day. News and discussions are surfacing, leading to the spread of more such vulnerabilities. If you're exposed to such groups or pages that intoxicate your logical thinking ability with panic-inclined news, leaving, muting or even unfollowing can save you from hours of digging into topics that don't need that much attention.

Reduce the passive usage of social media
It is the time to stay connected with family, friends, and colleagues through social media and we are all trying to do this one way or the other. But there's a fine line between actively using social media and passively using social media. To actively use social media, try establishing one-on-one connections with people by sending text messages or DM them instead of passively scrolling through your feed,

hoping their activity pops up. Research has found that using social media actively makes us feel better than consuming it passively so maybe slow down on that obsessive scrolling you do all day without a cause

Be on the lookout for productive alternatives Even though the coronavirus pandemic has impaired the growth of art, entertainment and overall media activity, artists have still found out ways to entertain their audience through live sessions and streaming their shows. Art exhibitions, online events, webinars and various other entertainment alternatives are now held online with global accessibility. No matter what your location is, you can still watch your favourite artists doing what they do best. A daily healthy dose of such content can take your mind off from the ever-present circulation of negative news.

During the quarantine period, a mindless habit of meaninglessly scrolling through social media feeds hoping for something to give you a reason to think might develop subconsciously. This habit, if it becomes the reason you're experiencing mental discomfort can be called the curse of doomscrolling. It is not very tough to overcome if you know what matters, and what doesn't.



Hidden Sci-Fi Gems to Stream on Netflix

NOSHIN SAIYARA

Netflix has more shows available than you finish watching in a lifetime. So, it is better to follow a list than endlessly scroll through to find your next good watch. Science fiction is one of the most popular genres on Netflix, and Black Mirror directors refuse to release a new season as they think the world of Covid-19 is not ready for a new season of the show. So here are a few hidden sci-fi gems you should stream as you continue to stay home and stay safe.

Love, Death & Robots (2019)

This anthology of animated series stays true to its name and features individual short stories about love, death, and a lot of robots in a dystopia. Each episode's story stands on its own as it is an anthology and runs for a very short time with the shortest running time being 6 minutes only. The shortest story is about a scientist yoghurt that becomes an efficient governing system for the world.

The characters are goofy, at times very lonely and the stories have their comedic breaks even if the plot is set in a grim dystopia where mankind has faced its doom.

Snowpiercer (2013)

Director Bong Joon-Ho has worked on multiple masterpieces before winning 4 Oscars for Parasite, and co-directing Snowpiercer is one of them. The movie is set in a post-apocalyptic Earth covered completely in the snow where all of the humankind exists on a running train. The train is a high-speed biodome with two sections and is called Snowpiercer. The rich live in the front section while the poor live in the back. While the conflict of class warfare of the movie is predictable, the storytelling and cinematography are astonishingly good, and the cast includes Hollywood A-listers like Chris Evans, Octavia Spencer, and Tilda Swinton. There is also a 2020 show by the same name

featuring the same story spanning over 10 episodes.

I Am Mother (2019)

The movie is about a girl being raised in a protected bunker by a humanoid robot with artificial intelligence in a world where humanity is extinct. The relationship between the girl and the robot with a stereotypically feminine voice, a common feature of presentday artificial intelligence, mimics the helicopter parenting style of many parents in the present age who are just trying to keep their children safe. Their relationship and the daughter's impression of the mother are tested when an unexpected guest arrives in their bunker and the main story unfolds from there. Parental insecurity is a common theme of dystopian science fiction stories, and I Am Mother takes it to a new level by having an artificially intelligent robot take the place of the human mother. The

story itself is an emotional thriller, but the cinematography and plot points have enough elements of the sci-fi genre to keep your nerd mind interested.

Advantageous (2015)

The movie is about a mother trying to secure a better future for her daughter and must make hard employment choices as economic hardships grow. The hard choice is that she has to undergo a procedure to transfer her consciousness into a new body, as that will be the only way for her to continue employment. The movie is set in a future where the threats are not robots, viruses, or alien invasions, but the people themselves creating a society that is not comfortable or safe for its inhabitants. The director Jennifer Phang is known for projecting idealistic stories in realistic depictions of the world, and the dilemma the protagonist of the movie, the mother, faces is no different than that.

