

TOGGLE

A publication of *The Daily Star*

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE



IS THIS GOODBYE?

Graduates coping with the pandemic – PG3



Revisit the 4 best Batmobiles before the new one comes along – PG4

Digital Campaign 2020 Season-7

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New season of The Mandalorian's premieres on October 30

"The Mandalorian", a sci-fi show about a mysterious bounty hunter in the Star Wars universe, is set to return for another season on Disney+.

Announced by Disney on their official twitter page on Wednesday, September 2, the tweet was devoid of any other detail. As the time of writing of this article, Disney has yet to release any trailer or teaser footage of Season



2, leaving that fans in the dark about what to expect from the new season.

Created by Jon Favreau, "The Mandalorian," is one of the few series that are on schedule as it wrapped up filming right before the COVID-19 shut down. Other Disney+ originals such as the Marvel Studios The Falcon and the Winter Soldier were less fortunate, being delayed because of production issues brought on by the pandemic.

Xiaomi launches Redmi 9C and Mi Smart Band 5 in Bangladesh

Xiaomi recently announced the latest addition to their budget line-up of devices in Bangladesh with the Redmi 9C. The brand also forayed into the wearable category for the first time with the introduction of the Mi Smart Band 5.

Ziauddin Chowdhury, Country General Manager, Xiaomi Bangladesh said, "With each Redmi device, we are moving closer to making sure technology is available for everyone. The popularity of the Redmi series is a testimony to the trust that our consumers have shown in us. Our aim with Redmi 9C is to further democratize the technology we have developed for the budget segment."

"At Xiaomi, we aspire to be one of the coolest technology companies, and being the world's largest hardware incubator helps us create new-age products that are aware, connected and bring convenience to everyday life. We are not just a smartphone company. Every new offering that we bring across categories is a testament to that. We are thrilled to introduce a brand new category in Bangladesh with the Mi Smart Band 5 and hope that our Mi Fans and users will like it."

Redmi 9C

This entry-level smartphone is equipped with a massive 6.53" Dot Drop display for an immersive viewing experience and a 5000mAh high-capacity battery. Redmi 9C features MediaTek Helio G35, an octa-core gaming chipset which can go up to 2.3GHz.

Redmi 9C sports the AI triple camera. The device sports a 13MP main camera, 2MP depth sensor, 2MP macro camera and an LED flash. The AI selfie camera is powered by a 5MP sensor.

Like its predecessors in the series, Redmi 9C also supports dual 4G standby SIM cards with a dedicated microSD card slot and comes with a 3.5mm headphone jack.

Mi Smart Band 5

Mi Smart Band 5 boasts a large 1.1"

accurate, which ensures cardiac health monitoring with more indicative data on sleep status, stress levels or even monthly cycles. Additionally, this device gathers all the matrices and outputs a Personal Activity Intelligence (PAI) value to easily understand the user health level. To power a larger screen and newly added features, Mi Smart Band 5's battery supports up to 14 days of continuous usage. Mi Smart Band 5's new charging solution includes a magnetic back that users can



colour AMOLED display with 20% more screen than its predecessor.

With 5 ATM water-resistant certification, the device can accompany users in and out of the water. With 11 exercise modes – including indoor cycling, elliptical, yoga, rowing machine, and jump rope – Mi Smart Band 5 is designed to capture all-round workout progress.

Mi Smart Band 5's PPG heart rate sensor is now up to 50% more

just snap on to the charger.

Price and Availability

Redmi 9C will be available in three colour variants: Sunrise Orange, Twilight Blue and Midnight Grey. The 2GB+32GB variant will be available for BDT 10,999 while the 3GB+64GB variant will be available for BDT 12,499 across Authorized Mi Stores, and retail partners.

Mi Smart Band 5 will be available soon.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The doggone controversy

Those who love dogs are cool with strays roaming the city. Most are fed, neutered and add character to the gray city walls. Another group has come up with the strangest reasons for relocating them which often means death. Some bikers have protested that dogs cause accidents by just existing in front of them. Another group of people are concerned stray dogs are risk to life and property. We have not had a dog related human death in the city for...we don't remember how long. Human related human deaths are a bit different. Should we relocate human beings from the city perhaps?

That last part is often the recurring theme of Batman's Gotham: the people are the Dark Knight's greatest headache. Not dogs. We celebrate Batman Day (Sept 21) a little early because Batmobiles are so cool.

-Ehsanur Raza Ronny, Editor

TOGGLE

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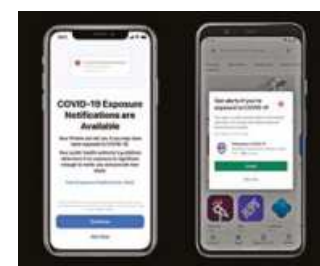
Nintendo to remake Game & Watch, their first portable gaming system

Facebook's #Topics features will now allow users customize their video feed



Rocket Lab quietly launched the 'First Light', their first satellite

Apple debuts COVID-19 'Exposure Notification Express' with iOS 13.7, google to follow



Amazon introduces Twitch's live streams to its Music app.

How the class of 2020 is surviving Covid-19

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted the usual hiring process that has affected the job seekers and the job market. The job seekers, especially those who have graduated just before the outbreak or during this pandemic are suffering the most. Many of them are grappling with uncertainty and complexity. Some, however, have got the opportunity to figure out what they want to do, to take preparation for their desired job or to start something on their own.

We talk to a few recent graduates to help us paint a bigger picture. Here's what we found out:

Time to start something new

The pandemic period, especially from March to July, has left these graduates with no choice but to stay at home and to plan everything from the very beginning. This unprecedented time was an eye-opener for many of them. Samiha Zaman, a marketing graduate from Dhaka University shared how she became conscious on developing her skills when she dropped out of a Master's program and was finding a suitable job when the pandemic hit, "I used this period to identify my skill gaps, work on them and also to learn household chores", she said.

Some started online businesses to fight against both uncertainty and unemployment. Mahbub Neon, an economics graduate from the University of Dhaka launched his online grocery service Bazaro during the pandemic, when the lockdown limitations were more strict and challenges were more complex, especially to ensure proper and clean

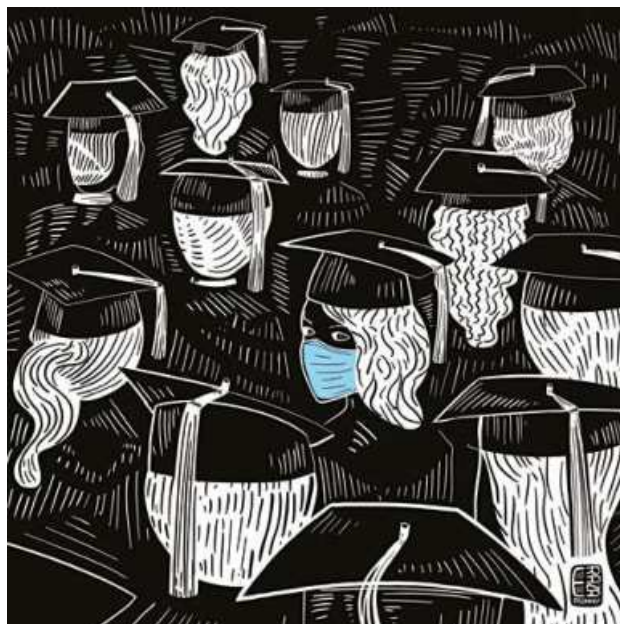
groceries for the customers and safety of the staffs. "This pandemic has mentally prepared me to change plans midway if needed and always be ready to embrace new opportunities with open arms", he said.

Taking preparation for a better future

For aspirants to pursue higher studies abroad, this lockdown has somehow been a blessing. Fariha Islam, a graduate with a bachelor's degree in Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology from SUST has found this period turned out to be a great opportunity to get prepared and to develop her skills for a better future. She wasn't able to invest this much time in preparation being a Master's student in SUST before the pandemic. "This quarantine life has provided me with the scope and time to take preparation for exams such as GRE and IELTS. I've also completed several online courses to develop skills during this period", said Fariha.

Uncertainty and depression

Undoubtedly, there is a cloud of uncertainty that has engulfed most of the graduates and job-seekers amid this outbreak. Ratul Ahmed, who has graduated from MIST and earned his Master's degree from BUET shared how this situation is lagging him from his aspirations and dwindling his confidence. "My dream is to have a government job so that I can serve his nation. But due to the unsteadiness of the COVID-19 pandemic, I'm left with no choice but to look for private jobs or other available options", said Ratul. He also mentioned how his friends are also in distress and despair like him



and most of the graduates. According to him, amidst these constraints only a few graduates can garner new things, others are facing difficulties as expected.

What the recruiters think

An official from a leading multinational, who wishes to stay anonymous, shared her views on some of the common queries of graduates with us. According to her, the entire job market may not be vulnerable to tackle new graduates. Though the smaller companies are not hiring due to their cost-cutting policies, there are still some companies which have not stopped their recruitment process, and they have almost the same job requirements.

However, it may matter how efficiently a candidate can handle his work virtually or present himself on video calls or an online interview. Online etiquette holds more importance than ever, even if this condition is not explicitly mentioned. Many companies are offering opportunities to do online internships. Graduates may try their luck there too. "These internships always may not ensure better job offers after the pandemic. But if one leverages this scope to learn better, this will definitely add some value when he'll apply for a full-time job", she explained.

"One more factor that may affect our decision positively while selecting a candidate in the post-pandemic world is how flexible and adaptive he was to the new changes during the pandemic. The reason is that it shows his capability to manage a hostile situation in professional life too", she added.



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Analysing the good and the bat among the 4 greatest Batmobiles

RAHBAR AL HAQ

As far as automotive royalties go, the Batmobile is right up there with K.I.T.T. and time-traveling DeLorean. The caped crusader's personal chariot has evolved through multiple models throughout the decade, each with their own strengths and weaknesses. Today we take a look at a few of those models and compare their advantage and limitations.

Doziervers Batmobile



Although unknown to many modern fans, but William Dozier's somewhat silly and over the top tv series was the first to give Batman his own personalized set of wheels. The producers used a concept car, the 1955 Lincoln Futura, as the base for the new vehicle. The end result was a one of a kind, sleek, black & red car that cemented itself in the Bat myths.

Strengths: The car was powered by an "Atomic turbine", effectively giving

the car virtually unlimited range. It was armed with explosive "Bat-zooka"s and featured various advance tracking and surveillance systems such as the Bat-deflector, Bat-dust, Odor Sensitometer Radar and many others. The car was also equipped with the versatile "Bat-ray", capable of accomplishing any task required to further the plot.

Weaknesses: As cool it is to have a convertible crime fighting machine, the open-topped nature of this Batmobile left the dynamic duo exposed to outside attack. Also, using nuclear energy to power a car is a risky concept, even for Batman.

Burtonverse Batmobile



From the cheesy TV series to the Movie that defined modern Batman, we have the iconic Batmobile from the Tim Burton movies. Unlike its processor, this was built from the ground up to represent the edgier, darker setting of the new movies. The result was a sleek but menacing vehicle, resembling an armored F1 car with bat wings sticking out from the rear.

Strengths: The car was powered by a jet turbine, which gave it a blistering top speed of 530 km/h. Protection was also top-notch, being capable of entering "Cocoon-mode" which protected it from all kinds of small arms fire. A pair of forward-mounted fixed .30 caliber machine guns gave it its teeth, while non-lethal options included oil slick dispensers and smoke emitters. Additionally, the car could enter an emergency "Batmissile" mode that basically shrunk down the car to half its

size by jettisoning the rest of the body panels.

Weaknesses: Remember I said the car was powered by a jet engine? That can't be good for the car's fuel economy. The car was also surprisingly light on the weapons department, with those .30 calibers being inadequate to handle anything other than soft targets.

The Animated Series

While the first golden screen appearance of the Batmobile was great, the successive iterations became less menacing and focused on being more flamboyant and "family-friendly". This changed with Batman: The Animated Series, which bought back the darker setting. With the change came a new Batmobile, complete with its own origin story. The new car was designed and created one Earl Cooper, a car designer kicked out of the auto industry for being a whistleblower. And unlike the neon light shows seen in the last two movies of the original quintology, the new car was not only nice to look at but also a formable fighting machine.



Strengths: To quote cooper, the car had "Titanium construction, ablative skin cowlings and tri-nitro propulsion units." It also fixed the firepower problem incorporating a missile rack, while tire slashers were added to the wheel hub for vehicle takedowns. The car was also capable of stealth, disguising itself as an alley dumpster when left unattended.

Weaknesses: The car was long, really long. The turning radius was less than

ideal, something that put the car at a disadvantage when facing off against fast and nimble opponents. The issue caused the car to be eventually phased out in favor of a new sleeker coupe, with a much more manageable wheelbase.

Nolanverse Batmobile AKA "The Tumbler"



Moving from the classics to contemporary, we have the new Tumbler from the Christopher Nolan's Trilogy. Originally designed as a bridging vehicle for the military, the vehicle was rejected, likely because of its overengineered nature. Bruce Wayne later discovered the prototype, and after a quick coat of black paint, a new Batmobile was born.

Strengths: Unlike the previous Batmobiles, the Tumbler was less car and more tank. It was both heavily armed and armored, and could rampage through any obstacle put on its path. Amusingly, it also had a "stealth mode", switching to an electric motor to conceal its engine sound. The most impressive of the feature was the Vector-controlled jet engine, which allowed the car to make "rampless" jumps. Finally, it came equipped with a Batpod, which Batman could use as an escape vehicle in the event the car takes crippling damage.

Weaknesses: Of all the Batmobiles on this list, the Tumbler is undoubtedly the slowest. Moreover, the cumbersome nature of the vehicle means it is more inclined to go through obstacles than around it, racking up a massive collateral damage bill in the process.

Why relocation of stray dogs is not the right way to go about it

OROBI BAKHTIAR & NAHALY NAFISA KHAN

In mid-August, Dhaka South City Corporation declared to start a programme of relocating the 30,000 stray dogs of the city to other districts to contain the spreading of rabies, but primarily to selected areas from Nagar Bhaban, Dhanmondi and other VIP areas. However, DSCC started relocating the stray dogs before the official order came from the Mayor, and relocated 15 stray dogs on an experimental basis from the Nagar Bhaban and VIP areas of South Dhaka to the Matuail landfill in a 3-day long relocation process. This was followed by protests from animal rights activists and animal lovers in general, who were against this move since the beginning. A group of activists from six animal welfare organisations and some volunteers held a human chain in front of the Nagar Bhaban to protest this relocation process on September 2.

More than 2000 people and a large number of animals die of Rabies every year in Bangladesh, of which 98% of the human deaths are due to bites from rabid dogs. But only 6 percent of all dogs in Bangladesh have rabies. And 70 percent of the stray dogs of the city have already been vaccinated against rabies in the first round of a health ministry project to eradicate the disease within 2022. Some 48,000 dogs were vaccinated in 2019, of which 28,000 were from the DSCC area alone. The second round of vaccination has stopped due to the Coronavirus pandemic. If the dogs are relocated without vaccination, the risk of rabies infection in Dhaka South will rise, mostly because other dogs will occupy the areas if the old ones are relocated. Under these circumstances, is it the right move to relocate the stray dogs to other areas?

Rubaiya Ahmad, founder and chairman, Obhoyaronno- Bangladesh Animal Welfare Foundation said, "First of all, this relocation process cannot be the right way to deal with the issue because it is illegal. Most importantly, it is unscientific to relocate stray dogs from their habitat. Most of these dogs are vaccinated and vaccinated dogs act as soldiers against rabies. If we relocate them, other unvaccinated dogs will fill in their places, causing it to spread more widely. Relocation is also wrong from a humanitarian ground, we just cannot take their homes away from these animals."

Artist and Activist Saria Saguaro said, "Relocating the stray dogs is not going to solve anything. When we relocate them, they don't get enough food to go by, fight with other territorial dogs causing even more havoc. And as per the last update, the relocated dogs have started to come back to their previous habitat, so it's clearly not working."

How Bangladesh has been dealing with stray dogs: Animal laws and enactment The inhuman practise of dog culling had been a regular phenomenon in the country in an attempt to control

the stray dog population until January 2012, when the government declared Dhaka as the country's first "no-cull" city. The Parliament of Bangladesh enacted the new Animal Welfare Act of 2019, replacing the old Cruelty to Animals Act of 1920. This new act contains a more comprehensive reckoning of cruel and unjust treatment of animals and substantially raises the penalty for the same, while also keeping room for further elaboration through rules and gazettes. This law is a substantial leap forward in the recognition of the need to treat animals with kindness.

The new act prohibits anyone from killing or moving any stray animal from its habitat. According to section 7 of the Animal Welfare Act, 2019 the killing or removal of stray animals is not allowed unless they are proven to be causing harm. If a government body does it, then any aggrieved organisation and person can avail their constitutional right to file a writ petition with the High Court. This makes the relocation process of the DSCC stray dogs illegal as per the constitution of the country.



How other countries deal with stray dogs

The World Health Organisation estimates there are around 200 million stray dogs worldwide. Impressively, the Netherlands is not contributing to this statistic. It has become the first country in the world without any stray dogs. Owing dogs used to be a sign of status in the Netherlands. Upper-class people owned dogs for pets or sporting purposes, and the poorer masses owned mongrels (mutts) for working purposes. In 1864, the first animal protection agency was set up in The Hague. A century later, the Animal Protection Act came into force. Now, it is forbidden for an owner to abuse any animal. They implemented the CNVR programme (Collect, Neuter, Vaccinate, and Return), which is a nationwide, government-funded sterilisation programme. The World Animal Protection Agency believes it is the most effective way to combat a stray dog population. The Netherlands has also set up an animal

police force to monitor crimes against animals, including rescue animals in trouble.

In Bali alone, the number of stray dogs is estimated at 500,000 and a rabies epidemic underway since 2008 has already killed 78 people. Despite culling somewhere between 120,000 and 200,000 dogs, and vaccinating an estimated 262,000 dogs, the epidemic rages on. In the face of the continuing epidemic and shortages of human anti-rabies vaccines, the government had banned dogs from the streets altogether -- perhaps the first at-large law imposed in this part of the world. The stray dog-driven rabies crisis in Bali is hardly unique: India culls as many as 100,000 strays at a time, while attacks by marauding packs of dogs in Baghdad have led to a reinstatement of the same eradication program of culling over one million stray dogs.

At the same time, animal shelters and dog rescue groups are springing up throughout Asia, Eurasia, the Middle East, parts of Latin America and the Caribbean. Some jurisdictions, notably Shanghai and Singapore have built pounds to hold

dogs vaccinated and those left stray in a particular area. This will help reduce and maintain the population in the heavily populated areas, in a more effective manner than relocation or culling.

CNVR is a quick and efficient way to manage community dogs. When done using modern surgical techniques and materials, it does not require days of sheltering for recovery before the animals can be released safely back to their territories or their owners. Usually, the animals can be released the same day, with no further treatment required, and without requiring sheltering during recovery, which is the logistical weak link of non-same-day release methods.

"We need to take a more humane approach while dealing with this particular issue. We have to think of a long-term plan and do what the other countries are doing, like sterilising, neutering and vaccinating the strays. That is certainly the right way to go about this", said Saria Saguaro.

It's worth noting that, at present, Obhoyaronno already conducts its CNVR programs in partnership with DNCC in North Dhaka, which raises the question about the requirement of relocating or culling dogs even more strongly.

Latest update: Present-day situation in Dhaka

Meanwhile, Dhaka North City Corporation has decided on not following in the footsteps of DSCC. DNCC is going to control the number of stray dogs by sterilising stray dogs and reduce the rate of infection by strengthening the ongoing vaccination program. Brigadier General Mohammad Mominur Rahman Mamun, chief health officer of DNCC stated that as the High Court prohibited both killing and transferring the dogs, they are going to strengthen the ongoing sterilization and vaccination program with Obhoyaronno, an NGO and DGHS. If this is possible for one half of the city, why not the other half?

As for now, the final decision is yet to be taken by Barrister Sheikh Fazle Nur Taposh, Mayor of DSCC. Rubaiya Ahmad said, "As the Mayor is a man of law, we are hoping that he will not go against the laws of the country and implement such an illegal act of relocating the stray dogs."

"Deciding to relocate the stray dogs will be a step backwards when there are better alternatives, and it is also illegal in the country. We all want what's good for the city. The way forward will be to come to an understanding. I think initiating a conversation will also help the authorities understand the ethical and moral point that we're trying to make. Not relocating the stray dogs is certainly going to be a popular decision among the next generation of citizens, as they are better aware of the facts regarding the issue", said Saria Saguaro.

Photo by Zarif Faiaz



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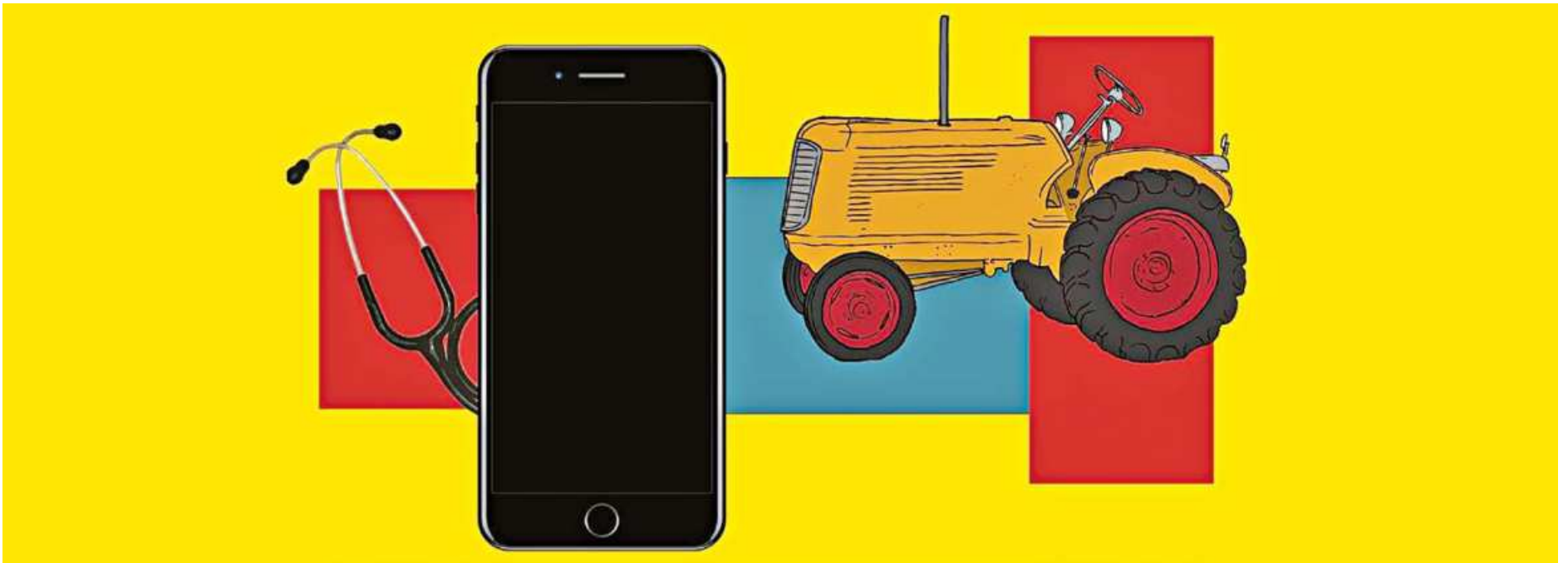
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How key Bangladeshi industries are adapting to the digital transformation

NOMROTA SARKER

Bangladesh has seen the good and bad of this pandemic, where the 'good' only implied the rise of opportunities for tech-based businesses. Organizations that chose to invest in digital innovation showed promise whereas the one that had no options couldn't survive. But choosing to go digital alone isn't going to guarantee companies a strong grasp on the business, according to experts of the industry. "Having a website or an app alone isn't enough anymore. Properly digitizing a business allows for advanced data analytics that improves operations efficiencies and better customer experience. That's the kind of move that makes Bangladesh as a whole more regionally and globally competitive." Says Rahat Ahmed, CEO, and Co-Founder of a US-based VC firm, Anchorless Bangladesh — that has invested in two Bangladeshi startups till now; Gaze and Loop Freight.

Tech-based businesses and startups have started grasping the market as Bangladesh has the ninth-largest mobile penetration in the world and the fifth-largest internet user base. The active participation of digital businesses in such a situation is gradually creating an optimum environment for other businesses to grow; with digital innovation and strategic practices being their first priority. Impact-driven solutions by some market leaders create a ripple effect where an entire ecosystem can be benefitted from the notion.

Mobile Financial Services

City Bank has launched a collateral-free digital loan in collaboration with bKash and Ant Financial, whereby select bKash users can request and receive loans of up to taka 10,000 instantly through bKash app and as well as repay the loan from their bKash account. In the long term, this is going to be a huge advantage for

bKash since it will no longer be viewed as only a payment service - taking customer relationships to a new level. In an interview with bdnews24.com, Kamal Quadir, CEO of bKash, said: "The digital loan project of City Bank exemplifies how banks can bring new and creative services to improve the lives of the common people. It broadens the scope of financial inclusion by using bKash's platform and leveraging our robust customer base. We believe this collateral-free, instant digital loan will bring transformative impact on marginalized people, micro-entrepreneurs, and students to meet their emergency personal or business needs."

Healthtech

According to Lightcastle Partners Bangladesh Business Confidence Index, Healthcare is touted as one of the most promising sectors as the nation moves towards Digital Bangladesh 2020. The proliferation of Information Technology has enabled players within the industry, empowering healthcare professionals and recipients of the services across all walks of the community. Over the last decade, a number of companies and startups have come forward to help close the gap, and help healthcare service providers overcome their inadequacies with technology. Services like Telemedicine (Jeeon), Appointment Scheduling (Doctor Ola), Preventive Healthcare System (Rx71, CMED), Pharmacy Delivery (BhaloThakun, Pharma71), Mental and Female health (Maya), and Comprehensive Health Service (Tonic by Telenor Health) have been active during COVID-19 crisis, compartmentalizing aspects of healthcare working towards a common goal; replacing conventional practices with innovation for inclusiveness.

The Healthcare tech spurt is creating

an avenue for firms to incorporate cutting edge technology towards creating seamless service delivery for healthcare professionals and to create numerous possibilities to redefine and redesign the sector for maximum efficiency and help reach its full potential. There is room for tremendous growth through the incorporation of concepts such as Big data, to help governing bodies make better, more effective, data-driven decisions for their respective communities.

AgriTech

Agri-tech in Bangladesh is an essential solution for socio-economic development. With increasing support and investment on the digital front across the country, Bangladesh's agriculture is likely to witness more digital transformation. Early results underscore the conclusion that this can be a viable business agricultural service model, facilitating the creation of new business models, product innovation, and targeted campaigns. According to Databd.co, a rising group of agri-tech startups is working towards improving crop productivity or large processing companies investing in data analytics and digital initiatives to predict sales by region — are cases in points to demonstrate the growing importance of data digitization. And those who will invest in building a robust data and analytics value chain will advance the farthest and fastest — increasing impact and income.

"Free, timely, unbiased flow of actionable information and affordable technologies to optimize their production practices are the two key factors to change our smallholder farmers' status quo.

Which produces have the most significant traction in the market, what is the market price trend of a particular crop, and is it efficient to invest in growing that

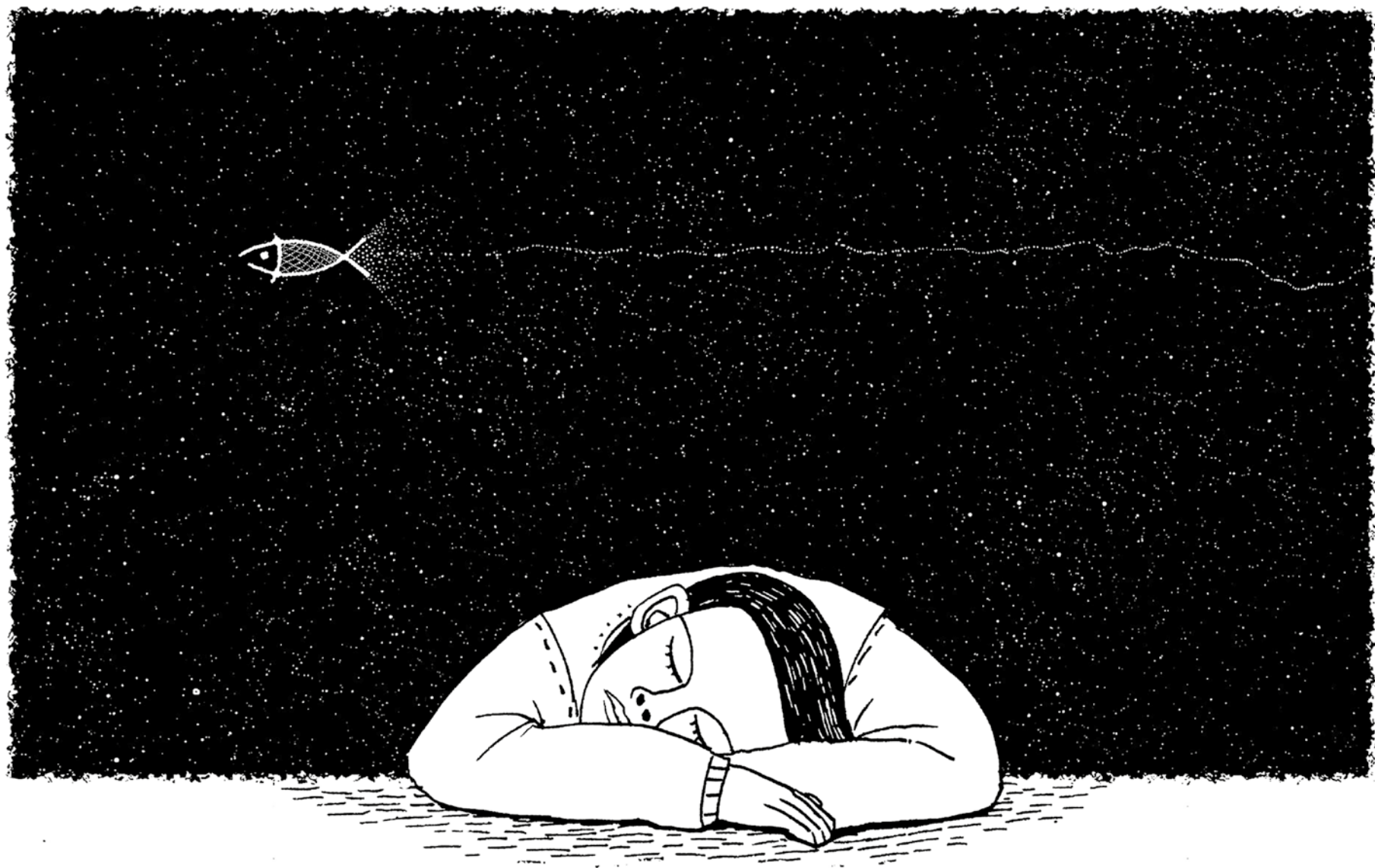
crop, or should they cultivate something else that also has market demand and suit the status of their soil & surroundings - these are the high-value projections that our farmers need to have before starting a season. Unfortunately, they don't have such scopes." Says Mashrur H Shurid, Chief Executive Officer of iPAGE -- A Bangladeshi agritech impact startup that wants to fight hunger by setting the balance to the demand & supply in the agricultural industry of the global south.

"Engaging local talent and homegrown tech, leveraging our rural network, and support from the government & international communities, iPAGE helps smallholder farmers to grow smartly while bridging the gap between them and local consumers." he further adds.

The Bangladesh government has introduced a stimulus package of Tk5,000cr for the farmers with a 4% interest rate, which is indeed very satisfactory news for agriculture but the initial barriers for the growth of this sector are the lack of awareness and lack of connectivity which inhibits farmers' ability to take advantage of new technologies.

"It is crucial to invest in technology to overcome or leapfrog some of the structural and institutional barriers, to enable to feed a huge population. There needs to be a systemic approach where there is space for government intervention, and the private sector-led innovation, from agri-input suppliers, agri-business practitioners, software and service providers, development expert, and academicians, for augmenting the growth of this sector," Says Fahad Ifaz, CEO of iFarmer, an innovative agritech solution.

Illustration by Zarif Faiaz



How to fix your messed-up sleep schedule

ZARIF FAIAZ

The pandemic and the lockdown have changed a great many things for us. For many, with no morning rush to wake up to, combined with lack of activities and lack of tiredness throughout the day, the new normal has messed up the sleep cycle and left it in pretty bad shape. If you find yourself in such an unfortunate position, this is for you.

Exercise

Lack of activities, eh? How about tiring yourself out through exercising? Pick a suitable time of the day and try out some light to moderate indoor exercises. It will keep you active and healthy as you stay locked down in your home and as a bonus, the activity should empty out your battery in the night for a few good hours of sleep.

Try reading a book before bed

Finish the next episode of the boys the next day. It isn't going anywhere. Take a break from the screen and pick up a book before you hit the bed. Looking at screens just before bed is especially a bad idea because it naturally will rob you of your sleepiness. Instead, take your favourite book or magazine and cuddle up.

Discover new music

When was the last time you experienced the sheer joy of listening to new music? Can't sleep? Try discovering new music. Shuffle through a few playlists and settle on one that you vibe with. Dim down the lights, hit the bed and enjoy the music until you fall asleep.

Step on the pedal

So, nothing is working and it's almost

morning. You're on the edge of another messed up sleep cycle. Well, don't sleep. Stay up, enjoy the sweet early morning summer breeze and start the day. Continue through the day (without naps) and at night, you'll find yourself begging to hit the bed earlier than your usual time. Hopefully, this will put you back on track.

Diving into the world of "THE BOYS"

MD. SAIFULLAH JAMIL

"The Boys" is back with a second season. It is a loose adaptation of a comic series of the same name, written by Garth Ennis, and co-created, designed, and illustrated by Darick Robertson.

Both versions turn the superhero genre on its head, and deal with interesting and complex themes including but not limited to the military-industrial complex, political economics, corporate manipulation. Both the show and the comic series are quite good, with solid storytelling. Also, they feature excessive gore and violence. Although the show is highly rated, since it is ongoing, it remains to be seen if the quality does decline. We try to draw a comparison with the comics and try to see where the show might be headed.



The setting of "The Boys" is intriguing. "The boys" is a group of CIA operatives lead by Billy Butcher that keeps the superhero community in check through various means, often questionable ones. The superhero community is also a façade, with the superheroes not being who they seem to be. Under the guise of heroes, they have built a despicable society. But how everything actually runs

even deeper than this is revealed as the story progresses.

The comic is hardcore and does not pull any punches. Right from the start, it is made very clear to the reader that the story is going to be explosive and gory. There is lots of violence, but they are hardly unnecessary as the story proves. Some of the violent encounters are drawn with great details. These features actually

go well with the series because of the story it wants to tell.

The characters in the series are not the deepest, and character development is not really a thing. This fits quite well though because most characters have been doing what they do for a long time and have settled down. However, the newbies (Hughie and Starlight) do get their share of development.

The implicit story told within the story is really fascinating. The way people with unstoppable superpowers can become mere tools for a corporation, how corporations use politicians to manipulate the government for their conveniences are very interesting to see here. The writer shares his view on how the military-industrial complex tries to stop a different kind of weapon, which would render it obsolete. All these manipulations are shown to be done in very systematically and through long term methods. A page out of the legendary "Watchmen" comic's playbook is taken through alteration of a historic event. In this case, that is 9/11. This plays a significant role in the story, but discussing more without discussing spoilers is not possible.

The ending of the story may divide the readers. But the comic tells a good story about how the status quo resists to change and a man using these forces to complete his vendetta. And it provides good perspective on many real-world complications. It is a lot less dramatic than the show, but it has its perks.



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