



New bike this week

The newest addition to the “cool bike we can’t have” list, the Honda CB350 H’ness (Highness) is a retro cruiser made to mimic the original CB350 of the 1970 vintage. Design-wise, Honda pretty much nailed the look, making the new H’ness look like an evolved CB350 that never went out of production. Power comes from a 348cc single-cylinder engine, making 20 HP and 22 lb-ft of torque. And despite its old-timey looks, Honda loaded the bike with modern features such as LED headlight, Bluetooth connectivity, traction control, ABS disk brakes, etc. All these features do contribute to the bike’s pricetag, which is \$2,575. Making the bike quite a premium in its segment. Perhaps Honda chooses the “Highness” pretty consciously.

Google unveils Nest Audio, their \$99 smart speaker

Google has rolled out the Nest Audio, the successor to the Google Home smart speaker.

Priced at \$99, this mid-range smart speaker will prioritise more bass, added volume, and clearer sound. The design features a 19mm tweeter and a 75mm mid-woofer to hit high frequencies and low-end push. Google claims Nest Audio has 50% “more bass” and can get 75% louder than the Google Home could.

The device will go on sale starting October 5 in 21 countries. It will be offered in a variety of colours including sage, sand, sky, chalk, and charcoal.

CORRIGENDUM

Print issue of 2nd October, 2020: Spec list of 2019 Mahindra TUV 300 mistakenly stated to contact Rangis Ltd. The correct contact will be Rancon Autos Ltd. Additionally, the model year was incorrectly stated to be 2019, it should have been 2020.

We regret these errors.

Rolls-Royce’s ionBird concludes ground testing

ionBird, a 500 HP electric plane by Rolls Royce, has successfully completed its ground testing phase and is now ready for flight testing.

Parts of its “Accelerating the Electrification of Flight” initiative, Rolls Royce designed the ionBird to be the fastest electric plane in the world. The projected maximum speed of the aircraft is around 480 km/h, with a targeted range of around 320 km.

The company is yet to announce the date of the ionBird’s maiden



flight, though it is expected to be soon. The goal of the aircraft will be to reach a speed faster than the current record holder, an Extra 330LE, whose peak velocity is around 342.9 km/h.

Nissan Re-Leaf is an electrified disaster response vehicle



Japanese automaker Nissan has shown off the Re-Leaf concept a prototype crisis vehicle based on their Leaf electric hatchback.

The prototype has been given a yellow-orange high visibility colour scheme along with an LED light bar with amber flashes. The suspension has been raised by 70 mm and a custom ‘sump guard’ has been added to protect the underfloor. Larger wheel arches accommodate the 17-inch motorsport wheels, which are fitted with 90 mm at the front and 130 mm at the rear.

The rear seats have been removed to fit a custom bulkhead cage, which has been fitted with an “operational hub” consisting of a pull-out desk, a 32-inch LED screen, and a dedicated power supply. The job of the hub is to run

communications and manage the emergency response.

“Electric vehicles are emerging as one of the technologies that can improve resilience in the power sector. By having thousands of EVs available on standby, either as disaster-support vehicles or plugged into the network through vehicle-to-grid (V2G), they’re uniquely capable of creating a virtual power plant to maintain a supply of energy during a major outage,” said Helen Perry, head of electric passenger cars and infrastructure at Nissan Europe.

“Concepts like the Re-Leaf show the possible application of EVs in disaster management and demonstrate that smarter, cleaner technology can help save lives and provide greater resilience for the future.” He also said.

EDITOR’S NOTE

From Trump to K-Pop

We knew the big ‘rona isn’t going away any soon, unlike Donald Trump. And that is why we have decided not to bow down before the virus. We’ll hang out at star kabab, travel to the crowded, sweaty beaches of Cox’s Bazar and continue living our lives the Bangladeshi way. Coronavirus can take away our lives but it will not take away our collective spirit.

So, this week, we ignore the virus. Instead, we talk to a Bangladeshi researcher to find out details about his research on cancer therapy that could potentially save millions of lives. We find ourselves pleased to highlight a daunting UAS project, build by a bunch of Bangladeshi youngsters. We talk about how debating has found its new niche amid the new normal conundrum.

Also, K-Pop. Yes, that was long due.

-Zarif Faiaz, Sub editor

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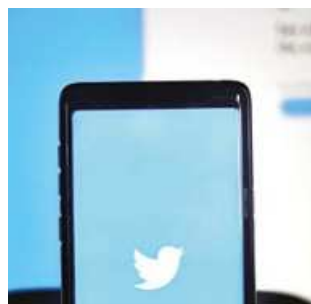
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TechBits



Twitter may allow users to edit their tweet previews

Google to pull support for Daydream, their mobile-focused VR platform



Facebook introduces cross-app communication between Messenger and Instagram

Twitch debuts Soundtrack, a rights-cleared music catalog for streamers



Motorola’s Razr II launches on October 2, starting at \$1,200