

MUST-HAVE APPS FOR DHAKAITES

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As smartphones get more popular throughout our country, app stores are being flooded with Bangladeshi apps. Now, all apps are not created equal. Quality and usefulness varies. Here are some android apps that could come in really handy if you are a Dhaka resident:

GO! TRAFFIC (BETA)

Link:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=co.gobd.loki.loki&hl=en>

Size: 24 MB

The one great constant of Dhaka is the awful traffic situation. GO! Traffic, even at its beta stage, can help you assess that situation and plan your journey.

Using the intuitive interface, pick your starting point and end destination. The app will show you the route, real-time traffic situation throughout the road and estimated journey time. You can also be a Good Samaritan, and provide traffic updates for other users of the app.

The app requires location service and LOTS of data, but does its job well.

BHOJNAMA

Link:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.apps.bhojnama&hl=en>

Size: 18 MB

The greatest pastime of the Dhaka youth is eating. Bhojnama helps you pick the place. Select a location and nearby restaurants pop up. You can see reviews, menu, prices, make reservations and get directions on how to get there. The database is not complete, and location based search is limited (nobody includes MY location, sigh). Nevertheless, the app is good for skipping a lot of deliberation and address searching. An excellent user interface also helps matters, thankfully.

VAT CHECKER

Link:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.enamelbd.vatchecker>

Size: 4 MB

The VAT checking frenzy has been causing quite a stir on social media, recently. Turns out, the large amounts of

VAT we (rather unwillingly) pay in most middle and upper-tier food places, often do not find their way to the government.

You can be part of the change. When paying the bill at any restaurant (or any registered business), ask for their BIN (Business Identification Number). Put it in the app and you can check if the VAT money is going to the government. If not, you can even lodge complaints to the proper channels through the app.

The app also contains a blog of VAT related news and a useful FAQ section.

CNG FARE CALCULATOR

Link:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.cngfarecalculator&hl=en>

Size: 18 MB

With the recent enforcement of meter usage for CNG fare, the possibility of meter tampering and other wrongdoings taking place cannot be neglected. This app

can help you avoid them.

Select a start and end point on the map. The app will show the distance plus projected trip duration, and provide a rough fare estimate. You can make the figure more accurate by inputting waiting time.

If your actual fare varies wildly from the estimation, or the driver simply refuses to go by meter fare, you can complain through the app.

BANGLADESH EMERGENCY SERVICES

Link:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=bd.com.elites.bes&hl=en>

Size: 6 MB

Life is fragile, and perilous. This is probably truer if you live in Dhaka.

If you do find yourself in some emergency, this app will provide contact info and address of nearby government hospitals, police stations and fire stations.

Keep this app in your phone, just in case. Who knows, it might end up saving a life someday.

*Note: App sizes may vary due to updates.

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BADMINTON 101

FATIUL HUQ SUJOY

Like the Starks predicted, winter has come, and with it the legalisation for kids to stay outside till midnight. If you're missing out on all the fun or want to brag to your less informed friends, this article is here to do a Jaime (lend a hand).

First, note that international and local rules differ quite a bit. For example, internationally, the winner is decided by a best of three matches, consisting of games with a winning point of 21, while the local one consists of only one game of 15 or 21 points. Also, the local singles and doubles have varied rules. The differences are clarified as much as possible.

THE COURT

The court is divided by the net into two sides. Each side consists of three sectors: the first, second and third court. The second court, aka the service court, is divided into two parts: left and right. During serve, team members stay at opposite parts of the service court. Courts are exchanged between the oppositions when the leading score hits midpoint.

Serving Position

Singles: The server's serving position is decided by his point. He'll serve from the right side of the service court if his point

is even, left if odd. The receiver's position in the court is not dictated by his own point. He is positioned diagonally from the server.

Doubles: The team member on the right side always serves.

THE SERVE

International rules require tossing a coin to decide which side serves first. You serve diagonally to the opposite side's service court (left from right, right from left). A serve is dismissed if the shuttlecock falls outside the service court or you serve from the wrong side of your service court. You serve again if the cork falls on the line surrounding opponent's service court or it gets blocked by the net.

Singles: A player gets to serve until he



loses one rally.

Doubles: A team gets to serve until that side loses two rallies. The second man serves after one rally loss.

International: A side gets to serve until one rally is lost.

THE RALLY

A rally's duration is from a serve until a wrong move from any side.

Singles: Whoever wins the rally gets the next serve. But point is only awarded to the server.

Doubles: If the server side wins the rally, they get a point and exchange positions in the service court while the receivers

stay put. If they lose, the next serve goes to the second man if the first man was serving, oppositions if not. Again, the receivers get no point even if they win the rally.

International: Whoever wins the rally gets both the service and a point.

DEUCE

Local: Deuce occurs when both sides lose a rally stuck at one point less than the winning point (at a score line of 14-14 if it's a 15 point game). After this, the winning point is increased by two (17 from 15). The rule of deuce remains after every iteration.

International: The rule here is that a side has to win with a minimum of 2 points deficit. So 21-20 is not a legal winning score. If such score occurs, the game continues until one side gets 2 points higher than the opponent.

TERMINOLOGIES

Wrong: A condition for ending a rally – the cork falls outside the court or on the player's own side; or if a player fails to play a legal shot.

Fight: Server side decider – usually playing a rally without concerning court rules and the side winning it getting the serve.

First Man: The player on the right after winning service rights. He starts the serve.
Second Man: Teammate of the first man.