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**GADGETS** 

# Cool toys you can control with your smartphone

SUM NEELIM



#### Powerup 3.0 The Powerup 3.0 will turn your average paper plane into an app controlled glider. It has Bluetooth connectivity. Battery lasts about 15 minutes and it

charges up pretty fast.

#### Parrot Bebop Drone

This new drone from Parrot is lightweight yet robust. It has all sorts of sensors to ensure a stable flight, including GPS and its own WIFI for connectivity. It has a 14MP camera for video and photos with a 180 degree viewing capability. Programmable fight plans and a return home function are also mentionable features.



#### **Rover Revolution**

The Rover Revolution is an app controlled spy gadget. It has two moving 480p and 720p night vision cameras that can record and send live video feedback. The drone is designed to go over rough terrain and obstacles. This is a goanywhere, see-everything toy drone that you can control with your smartphone.





MiP is your own pet robot. You can con-

trol MiP with either your smartphone or

hand gestures. It's self balancing and can

make it go around your house zigzagging

around obstacles. It will dance to music,

fight with other MiPs and even carry

small objects for you.

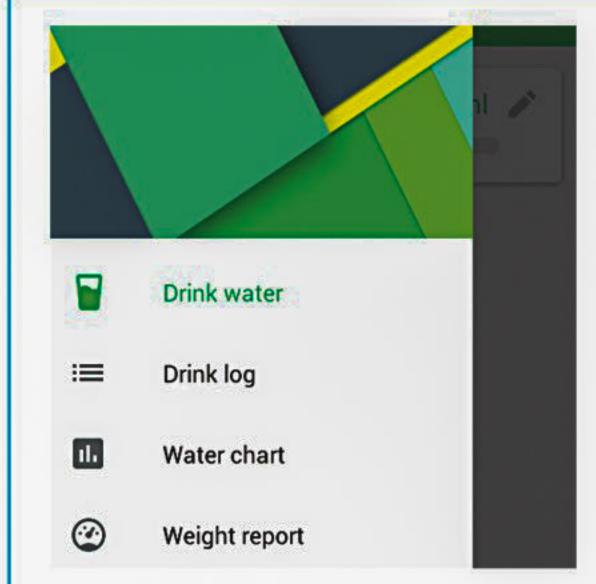
INFORMATION

Yuneec E-GO The Yuneec E-GO is an electric skateboard that can be controlled using a smartphone app. The board can reach speeds of 30km/h and can go up 10% inclines. It comes with regenerative braking. The app gives you real time feedback about the motors and battery. The board has both Bluetooth and WIFI connectivity and has very durable components.



## APPS ON THE FLOOR

**TECHNOLOGY** 



Name of App: Water Drink Reminder Developer: NorthPark.Android Platforms: Android Size: 7.9 MB Last Updated: January 11, 2016 Our Rating: 9/10

Ever got worried because you aren't drinking enough water? Probably not! But there's an app that'll do the worrying for you and bug you every now and then.

Water Drink Reminder is an Android only app with a standard user interface that's very easy to use. There's no extra hassle of a lengthy setting up process; you go to the app, enter your weight and you're good to go. Throughout the day, the app will remind you after certain intervals to drink water. Every time you drink something, water or soda, you can add it to your log. The app keeps track of your drinking frequency and can show you a chart of your daily, monthly and yearly habits, later on. You can also check if your water intake is as much as it should be. The units and times are changeable according to your convenience. There's a daily target that's set by the app for drinking water based on your current weight. All of this can be integrated with Google Fit so that you get notifications right on your wrist. We couldn't reach our daily goal so let us know what happens when/if you do. Does it go crazy for you? Does it celebrate? Either way, Water Drink Reminder is a very useful app for staying healthy and fit and highly recommended. While physical exercises might be boring, drinking water is a mere activity that we can actually follow up on and lead a better life.



### BB-8 Droid

BB-8 can move around your home in an autonomous manner. While doing so it creates a rudimentary map of your home. It can recognize voices and respond to voice commands. You can also deliver messages via the droid using your smartphone where it will create a cool hologram on your wall.

## REV

REV is a toy RC car which has a mind of its own. You can drive REV with the smartphone app, or indulge in battle against another REV bot with the REV AI. REV also has weapons that affect performance of the car.



#### Ollie

Ollie is a very rugged toy that can be driven down stairs, banged against the wall or even dropped in the pool. You can also fight with other Ollies or do cool moves like drifting and other acrobatic tricks. It can reach speeds of 14 mph. With full customizations available you can make Ollie look exactly the want you want. The app is thorough and will let you control different skill levels. With 60 minutes of playtime from one charging and a range of 30m via Bluetooth Ollie is simply amazing.

## TECH HAPP

## Okapia introduces new phone

Okapia Mobile has launched a new smartphone named StyleX. The phone is Wi-Fi and GPS enabled, offers a 4.5 inches IPS, FWVGA 854\*480 pixels screen with capacitive touch panel. It has a 5 MP back camera and a 0.3 MP front camera. Operating with Android 4.4 KitKat, it also has a 1700 mAh lithium ion battery that can offer talktime of up to 8 hours and standby of up to 220 hours when fully charged. Price: TK. 4990/-



# CSL brings 2-in-1 charging data cable

Computer Source Limited has introduced a 2-in-1 charging data cable in the local market. This PROLINK PUC500 cable ensures charging and data transfer facility for Android and iOS operated mobile devices simultaneously. To provide this facility this 2-Amp rapid charging cable comes with micro USB 5pin for Android and 8pin for latest iOS devices. It supports USB 2.0 High-speed data transfer. This environmental-friendly product with TPE materials (Thermoplastic Elastormer also comes with dust caps and 1-meter tanglefree flat cable.

Price: **TK.** 600/- with one year warranty

## Lenovo 100 series Ideapad now available in Bangladeshi market

Lenovo has recently introduced IP 100 series in Bangladeshi market. It is 10% slimmer and 8% less heavy than previous models. This IdeaPad is 22.6mm slim, 2.3 kg weight and comes with a Li Cylindrical new technology Battery which is long lasting than other batteries. It comes with 15.6" widescreen display, 5th Gen Intel Core i3, 4 GB DDR3L RAM, 500 GB Hard Disk and 2 GB NVIDIA GeForce 920M Graphics. It also has a DVD writer and reader, 720p HD Web Cam and a 3 Cell battery. Price: TK. 38,700/- with 1 year warranty.



# The social business side of Telenor

While Telenor's sister concern, Grameenphone, may still be perceived as a telecom company, the organisation's reach has spread far beyond that. In a way, it is a bigger social business than anything else, with one of its underlying aims being that of empowering societies everywhere. Since what was deemed as a doomed foray into emerging markets such as Bangladesh and Myanmar, among others, Telenor hasn't blazed a trail only but chalked out maps on entirely uncharted destinations. At the Telenor HQ in Fornebu, Norway, we caught up with two individuals who spoke about their unique positions and the way forward for Telenor.

First in line was Anna Dræge Hognestad, the Telenor Group Head of Education. The first question one needed answered was what the position really entailed. What did education have to do with a telecommunication company? "We want to make good services within education, based on the needs of the market," Anna began, explaining how one of Telenor's main aims is to empower societies and education was one of the best ways to do so. "Right now, there are a lot of exciting things happening here, especially if you look at our work in Bangladesh. Before undertaking the venture, we laid a firm groundwork," she said. Anna explained how they began by discussing with a lot of startups based in Norway and Singapore to develop the right tools for mobile educational services while also conducting a survey in Bangladesh to identify the needs of the market. "One of our concerns was the low SSC passing rates, especially in the subjects of Math and English. These were the hardest subjects and thus we focused on developing material targeting this area," she further elaborated.

how they were still very new in the field but the project went on with full steam, despite being launched on a test basis first. "The service we launched in Bangladesh is called MyStudy, which is kind of my baby," Anna said with a laugh, summing up how much the project really means to her. MyStudy has currently been launched across 10 schools in Bangladesh, with content created by a team of teachers aided and selected by Bangladesh's largest circulating Bangla daily, Prothom Alo. The content is based on the Bangladeshi curriculum, with numerous engaging audio and

Anna then went on to explain

video clips helping to make education more fun, interactive and

accessible. "The idea is to develop products and come out with them quickly but also to thoroughly test the product before a commercial launch. We test markets to find out if the products are sustainable and whether the customers like it because it is hard to get it perfect at the very first time. Now, we track how our users use the applications, what audios they listen to, which videos are frequently watched and this way we can decide what the

been too had Telenor not already pioneered it. Mobile Banking and Financial services truly is the way forward and here again Telenor is leading the pack. Tine Wollebæk, Head of Mobile Financial Services offered us some key insights in Telenor's presence in this sector. She began by speaking of Easypaisa, Telenor's form of mobile financial services that started in Pakistan. Easypaisa was introduced by Telenor Pakistan in collaboration with Tameer Microfinance Bank in 2009 with the aim to bring financial inclu-

customers like and don't like," Anna said. When asked about the focus on education, Anna said that this was an area where students had demand and the reliance of home tutors showed that there remains a big gap between educanient. tion and those who need it. She further stated that work doesn't end with content given to users but Telenor actively advises institutions about how to best use the application and strives to make it accessi-

ble with better quality materials. Where the entire idea of a telecom offering education is different, the next item would have

sion to Pakistan. In a country where only 15% of the population have bank accounts, mobile banking, encouraged by the respective central bank would help to make matters of finance more conve-

"Initially, we started off with basic mobile banking, which was sending money between people. People with a Telenor sim card could register an account and begin transactions. Our over-thecounter services were one that was encouraged the most," Tine began. Soon, the service added bill service and this was because it was identified that people wasted a lot of time queuing up mobile bill payment helped eliminate this bottleneck of sorts. Soon, the service began the government disbursement programme and NGO disbursement programme, with amounts of 5-10 dollars, which would be hard to distribute physi-

cally. "Now, with the success of Easypaisa, we are looking towards the Bangladesh market, where we have MobiBank, to do something similar. In Bangladesh, online ecommerce is growing and we have seen that while retailers want money upon order, customers want to pay after getting the product, so we are trying to make the idea of online payments both easy, fast and efficient for all parties," Tine added. She pointed out how they tried a new thing in Pakistan during Black Friday of this year with a bunch of e-commerce merchants and the idea really took off. "We figured people wanted online payment option and we were right. Of course, we also realise that Bangladesh is a cash-based society but if you can digitalize money, society becomes more efficient," she said. Tine added that there plenty of challenges but eventually convenience should triumph above all.

Speaking to these individuals, it was clear that Telenor had plans, not only for Bangladesh but across all markets and the Telenor name was soon to grow. It isn't a stretch to say that Telenor may go on to become one of the most dominant firms in numerous markets with their far reaching sight and evolving plans. For the Bangladeshi market though, it seems a game changer is about to take place and one that we can all look forward to.

OSAMA RAHMAN