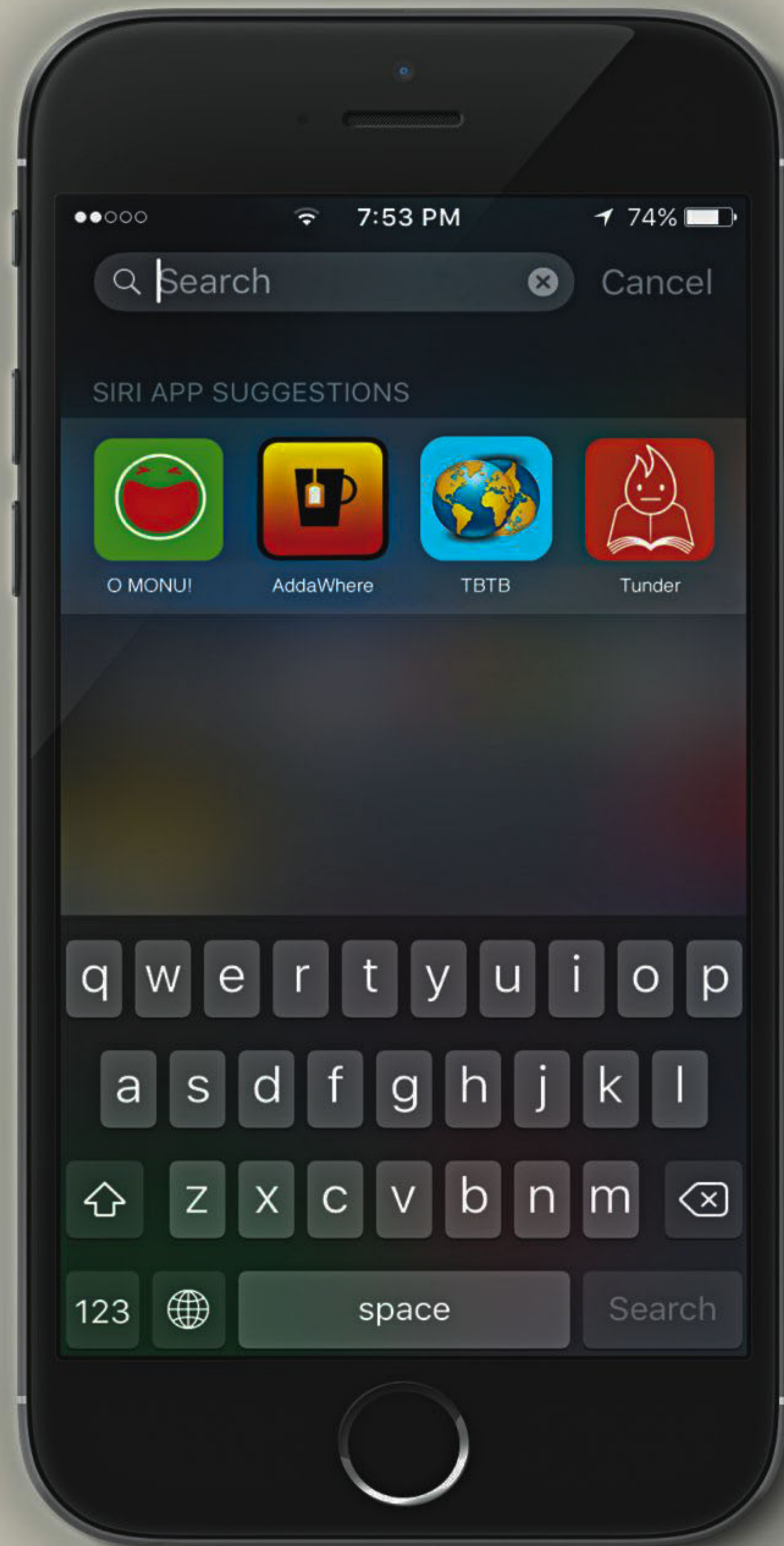# 100% SOLID APP IDEAS FOR LOCAL START-UPS

FATIUL HUQ SUJOY

To the entrepreneurs of the country who want to do justice to that Silicon Valley poster on your wall, and to the college drop-outs who seek to make Bill Gates proud, here are four 100 percent solid, totally not-satirical ideas for absolutely doable apps based on the customs of Bangladesh.

AddaWhere

Among the many dire distresses the nation's – and especially the capital's youth – face every day, finding a place (mostly restaurants) to settle down and have a good time with friends top the list. This app will work as a live database and a search engine for this very purpose.

This app will use check-ins on social media as its prime function. Not only will this determine whether a certain destination is occupied or not, it will also hush elderly critics who say that check-ins are nothing other than kids showing off their many ways of misusing their allowance money.

There will be other factors when searching for a restaurant. The user, in this case the distressed youth, will enter many useful parameters like which cuisine he/she wants to taste today, their budget, and the number of peers accompanying them. The app will show valuable information of the nominated restaurants, like whether it's in the prime locations of the city, what is the average amount of likes it gets from check-ins, what is their taste and price ratings from the knowledgeable food critics on social media, and what is the quality of their interior and washroom lighting.

Although the initial product will mostly be based on restaurants, the app can include genuine *adda* places like footpaths and *tong*s using GPS and heat maps.

This Butt or That Butt

The app's name is a reference to an ancient saying, quoted by a forgotten sage from a forgotten time, that we Bengalis split like our buttocks during social media hypes.

TBOTB targets the demographic that due to their busy lives and shortened attention span do not read or watch the news but are terrifyingly eager to post a status about it on their favourite social media. When hype strikes they are unable to choose a side let alone write about it and get furious when they see their "friends" getting valuable online exposure with 63,206 character long posts. This is where TBOTB steps in. The app determines which side is winning, meaning which side of the butt is getting more positive reactions, and displays it to the user with additional keywords that he/she can use in their status.

To do this, the app will review all the posts from the user's news feed along with other public posts around the country. Since hashtags are either misused or not used at all in this country, there will be a very complicated pattern searching algorithm to distinguish and categorise the posts. The user can specify his/her political views for favourable results. It will also extract keywords and phrases used frequently in posts and comments alike.

In the case where the user may value the losing side for the sheer controversy he/she will get involved in, the app will generate a controversy meter that will take note of the amount of slurs, caps locked words and angry emojis used in the comments.

If the result is close to a tie then the user will be suggested with vague terms to use for neutrality and be given some dank memes to share.

Disclaimer: TBOTB will not be responsible for a result based on logic or moral because one, that will be computationally too difficult and two, by the time this app will be marketed logic and moral will cease to matter.

O Monu!

This app is for the people of this country, who by influence of foreign policies and media has succumbed to the philosophy of 'man as a single race' and is on the verge of forgetting and not appreciating the vast diversity their motherland offers. O Monu! will seek to help them embrace this diversity by making it easier for them to grasp the many local speech tones, teach them the stereotypes, and the general reaction expected during confrontation.

The app will have a voice recognition system that when exposed to a singular speech searches for certain tonal patterns to determine which district the speaker is from. After successfully recognising the speaker's place of origin, the app will show the user a map of the country specifying which part of it the speaker is from. Then it will teach the user about the many stereotypes concerning the people of said region by using the language they understand: memes and six second videos.

The app can also be used by other members of the society in various situations like when housewives argue with the house help, or when fathers bargain with shop-keepers in the fish market, or when an online social justice warrior chats with a rickshaw puller and wants to write about his life on Facebook but can't seem to understand a word he's saying. For this purpose, the voice recognition system will also translate and display the words in formal Bangla.

Tunder

Tunder – Tutor Tinder – is a modification of matchmaking apps for all tutors and tutees around the nation.

Disclaimer: Contrary to what the name may suggest, this app will not encourage any romantic ventures between teacher and student. But it won't directly discourage it either because of marketing purposes.

A tuition in Bangladesh consists of three parties: the tutor, the tutee and the tutee's parents. But since the students are generally underage, they are bound to have a brain the size of a pea and be unable to know what is best for them and make their own decisions. So although the Tunder app will provide two sets of profiles: tutors and tutees, the developers will expect the tutee's account to be controlled by his/her parents, like other aspects of his/her life.

Other than basic information like the tutee's name, school, age etc., the tutee profile will also show information and statistics tutors usually use. For example, the tutee's grades to see whether the kid is too brilliant or just plain dumb, the base monthly fee the parents are offering, whether any of the parents stay at home and nag every ten minutes, a calculator that will generate the net monthly profit considering transport expenses and the occasional bribe for the kid and what kind of food is served or whether any served at all.

The tutor profile will display the tutor's educational background, whether the names Notre Dame or BUET pop out somewhere on his/her CV, their political opinions because kids are impressionable and fathers want to rant with somebody. It will also show if the tutor has any previous romantic engagement with students.

Other features include "The Searcher" that searches for viable tutors in the tutee's nearby area and "The Bargainer" for the tutors and the tutee's parents to set the honorarium online.