



The power to do more

The Daily Star

DHAKA, MONDAY, 15 MAY, 2017, JAISHTHA 1, 1424 BS
e-mail: bytes@thedailystar.net

INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY



GAMES TO SINK 100+ HOURS INTO

SHAHRIKH IKHTEAR

Some video games have the power to captivate players like no other. You sit down for an hour-long session at midnight, next thing you know the sun is blinding you through your window. To your utter dismay, you realise you are late for work and have completed 0.001 percent of the entire game in the span of just seven hours. Here are some games that may just replicate the aforementioned situation:



THE ELDER SCROLLS V: SKYRIM

In terms of gameplay, Skyrim does nothing revolutionary. It is built on the same archetype as most traditional open-world RPGs. But the myriad of fully fleshed out quest lines are the real time-vacuums. There are so many things to discover and so much to do that it is entirely possible that you will get side-

tracked from the main quest completely. It happened to me. I finished the quest lines of the various guilds (which sometimes felt better than the main story, mind you), meddled in the civil war, and spent the rest of the time farming dragons for my weapons and armour. Good times.

THE WITCHER 3: WILD HUNT

This game needs no introduction. But for the uninitiated, The Witcher 3 is the last instalment of the critically-acclaimed Witcher series. It has one of the most unique RPG settings out there. You play as a Witcher, a monster-slayer for hire. But there's more to the story spread out over three huge games. The reason I'm picking The Witcher 3, though, is because it is the ultimate combination of a breathtakingly detailed world, deep gameplay mechanics, believable characters, and top-notch storytelling. If you haven't played the previous games, do not fret. You can jump into the series with this entry and feel comfortable with the story.



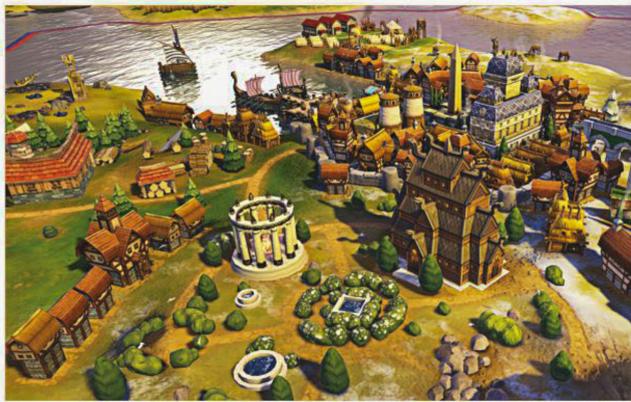
DESTINY

Originally starting off as a bare-bones loot shooter, Destiny has evolved into a game filled with interesting plotlines, tonnes of gear to earn, and exciting raids to participate in. The raids in Destiny are unlike anything seen or experienced in any video game. They require pinpoint teamwork to trudge through, and completing a raid after a 10-hour long session with your friends is one of

the most satisfying moments ever. The game also features a full-fledged PVP segment with a wide variety of modes that are unique spin-offs of classics such as Capture the Flag and Team Deathmatch. Destiny: The Collection includes all the DLC that have been released so far and it might be found on sale. So, it's a great time to dive until the sequel comes out.

CIVILISATION VI

"Just one more turn." This sentence has been the source of many caffeine-induced, sleepless nights for gamers fighting off vicious nations for world domination. Civilisation VI is one of the best entries in the series with streamlined gameplay that makes it much less frustrating to get your nation rolling. Be wary though, the series has not lost its unforgiving nature in terms of the amount of time required and the amount of thinking you have to put in to make every move. Will you vie for technological breakthroughs for a science victory? Or will you bolster your armies and fight everyone into submission? The possibilities are endless.



OVERWATCH

Now, Overwatch might lack a true single-player mode, but it more than makes up for it with a surprisingly easy-to-pick-up multiplayer mode. Anyone can jump right in and play a decent game. It isn't really punishing for casual players, but if you want to get competitive, the ranked mode is your place. One might think that such a casual-oriented game won't have a strong ranked system, but once you start getting into the big leagues, team composition, ultimate combos and individual skills matter a lot. It is truly one of the most revolutionary first-person-shooter games out there.



TECH HAPPENING

First hackathon dedicated to mobile games held

The first-ever gaming hackathon, Game Jam, ends with five winners as the organisers were unable to decide on just three due to the high quantity of quality games developed during the event. In addition to the BDT 50 lac launch booster, the winning teams will get BDT 3 lac from Grameenphone. The winning teams are Team Reboot with their game action game Infected; Team Bhutum Pecha with their cricket game Goli Cricket; Shadowlit with the traditional *nokshi katha* art styled game Nokshi; Team Triforce with their puzzle game Shobd; and Unequal Soldiers with the unique sketching/racing game Sketch Journey. The games developed by the winners will be made market-ready by July this year, and will be launched exclusively through Grameenphone.

Jovago introduces May-My-Holiday campaign for travel enthusiasts

Online hotel booking website Jovago has come up with a pre-Ramadan campaign called May-My-Holiday. During the campaign period, travelers can avail up to 70 percent discounts on its hotel rooms all over the country. This exclusive offer will only be available from May 15 to 27.

Huawei launches GR3 in Bangladesh

Huawei launches the 2017 edition of the GR3 mid-range smartphone for local market. The GR3 2017 model packs 3 GB RAM, 16 GB ROM, 5.2" full HD display, 12 MP back camera, 8 MP front camera, and 3000 mAh battery. The phone also runs on Android 7.1 Nougat OS. PRICE: BDT 19,900/-



7 educational Android apps for your kid

Whether you're a parent, an aunt, an older sibling, or a grandparent, your smartphone is probably in a kid's possession 70 percent of your time and 90 percent of theirs. That means unlimited access to the Play Store, YouTube, and the rest of the internet in the hands of a tiny child. And while we give our phones away willingly, it isn't easy to find content for kids, especially young ones. So we compiled a list of seven kids' apps that are fun, imaginative, and educational at the same time.



Moose Math is a brilliant educational tool for children aged three to seven years.

ENDLESS ALPHABET

In this educational word game, kids have to unjumble adorable, talking letters to figure out a word. Once they've solved, an animation teaches them what the word means. The creators claim that,



"Before you know it, your child will be using words like gargantuan and cooperate!" You can download Endless Alphabet for free for the first seven puzzles.

EXPLORIUM: OCEAN FOR KIDS

Explorium combines a quest, mini-games, and facts about marine life so that kids never lose interest while learning. Developed with professional



educators for children aged four to eight, it comes with an in-built ocean encyclopaedia and has a two-player mode so parents can play together with their kids. There's both a free and paid, full version on the Play Store, as well as a space-themed version called Explorium: Space for Kids.

TOCA KITCHEN 1 & 2

There are no rules in Toca Kitchen. In this super cute and creative game, your children can juice tomatoes, boil the salad or microwave the watermelon for their guests. Guests have preferences and kids can pick up on those by watching their reactions to different dishes. While Toca Bocas games may seem more fun



and games than educational, their products are designed to empower kids to be playful, to be creative, and to be who they want to be.

PAPUMBA

Papumba has just under a dozen free games designed for young children to learn and play. Ad-free, children can navigate colourful farms and parks without the help of parents and learn the alphabet, numbers, English, and how to



POCKET CODE

Pocket Code might be the only game on this list that's more suitable for older children. Employing a visual learning style, Pocket Code teaches kids how to programme, how programming works, and some basic programming logic. But it's less complicated than that. Kids can drag and drop game elements to see what happens in a range of mini-games. If your child likes technology and LEGO, get them Pocket Code so that they can start creating, editing, executing, sharing and remixing their own programmes with Catrobat, the visual programming language in Pocket Code.



AMIYA HALDER

TECH BITS

Snap is getting absolutely crushed after falling short of Wall Street's expectations



Tesla opens up Solar Roof pre-orders



Google Search will now help you find nearby events



Microsoft builds a full cloud-based Bash shell into its Azure Portal



Microsoft's Presentation Translator translates presentations in real time

