



The power to do more

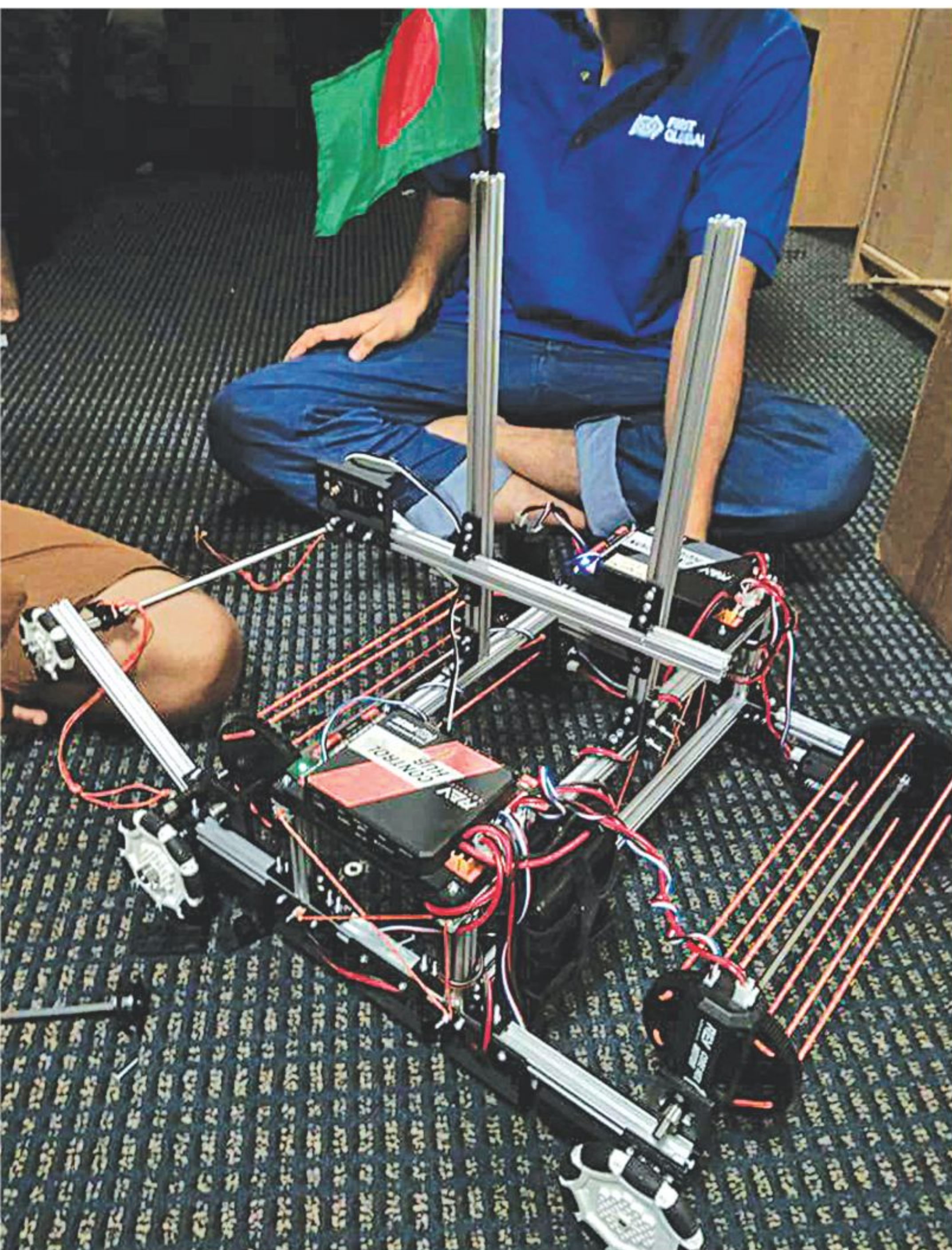
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INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY

BYTES

# WE ROBOTS

## BANGLADESHI STUDENTS SHOW OFF THEIR ROBOTIC SKILLS AT FIRST GLOBAL ROBOTICS COMPETITION IN WASHINGTON DC



Youths of Bangladesh have been participating in local and global robotics competitions for a while now. Mostly we have been seeing these events are being targeted for university students – students with some sort of engineering knowledge honing their programming and assembling skills in these skills. But that's not always the case. Here you are about to read now is a bunch of high school seniors who took part in worlds one of the most highly anticipated robotics competition for 15- to 18-year-olds from 157 countries.

FIRST Global, is a US based non-profit organisation, that got global media attention for organising this- the world's first international robot Olympics for high school students this July in Washington, D.C., which was attended by participants from 163 nations, including teams from almost every nation in Asia. The participants from Bangladesh Sujoy Mahmud of Mangrove School, Azman Islam & Adrian Dip Mohanta from Hurdco International School, Shah Saqeef Imam from Australian International School, Laleh-naz Bergman Hossain from Sunbeams School and the skipper of the team was Labib Tazwar Rahman of Academia School Dhaka. Mentor to the team was Mohammed Shams Jabber the Founder of The Tech Academy and was assisted by Shamsul Arefin Erfan.

The Bangladeshi contingent landed in Washington DC on July 15th, a day before the actual competition. They assembled their robots the



entire day and took part in the events the next day. Their objective in the competition was to build a robot that can collect water and contaminant elements, differentiate between the two elements using an algorithm, and dispose them at separate places. In addition to that, there are bonus points if a robot can lift itself from the ground. And the best part is it isn't a competition in a traditional sense. Rather it's a co-opetition (cooperation + competition) and in each round, the team needs to form an alliance with 2 other national teams from around the world to compete against another alliance of 3 countries.

The competition consisted of

6 rounds and Bangladesh kicked off their journey with their name on the top of the scoreboard. Although that was short-lived, the guys ended up competing fiercely with rest of the world. At the end of the 6th round, Bangladesh ranked 80th amongst the 163 participants. When asked about how their experience was, Labib, who is returning to USA again this fall to join the class of 2017 at Stanford University, told the daily star that it was the most intense and exciting competition they had ever attended. 'On top of this, we decided on the night before our first round that we could make a more efficient robot. So without further ado, 6 jetlagged high

school students and their 2 mentors made a new robot from scratch in just less than 24 hours' he told without taking a breath. 'No matter what our position was at the end of the competition, it was an eye opening experience for us' he added. Mentor Shams Jaber informed The Daily Star that the sheer joy of meeting people from countries you have never heard of before was- to say the least- unprecedented. Students from Iran, Palestine, Israel, and Afghanistan, keeping grown-up conflicts aside fused their technology and hearts together, Shams added.

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

### TECH HAPPENING

## TECNO Mobile launches their product line officially for the Bangladeshi market

Transsion Holdings, a global mobile devices manufacturer for emerging markets, has announced its officially unveiled its smart phone brand TECNO Mobile in Bangladesh. The high end devices for selfie and photography enthusiast are: Camon CXAir, i7 and i3 smart phones. To enhance consumer experience, TECNO Mobile - 100 days' replacement as well as one year and an additional 13 month's warranty. The Camon CXAir, i7, i3, WX3 and WX4 smart phones are priced at BDT11,990, BDT19,990, BDT10,690, BDT6,190 and BDT8,190 respectively.



## Business innovation summit and idea challenge to be held next month

An ideation challenge titled 'Business Innovation Summit and Idea Challenge' is going to be launched next week. All the pre-selected ideas will be pitching their ideas in the presence of renowned investors at Krishibid Institute. Winners will get financial rewards, six months of mentorship, the event is being organised by Bangladesh Innovation Forum. Details of the event can be found here: [bif.org.bd/bis](http://bif.org.bd/bis)

## Creative-E-School launched

Bangladeshi IT company Creative IT Institute launched the online schooling programme in collaboration with an international online training platform. Creative IT Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Monir Hosen announced the official launching of the Creative E-School programme at an event on Wednesday. Executive Director Shampa Parvin, Director Operations James Paul Sarkar were, among others, present on the occasion. For more details visit here: [goo.gl/2dneZj](http://goo.gl/2dneZj)

## eGeneration partners with Troy Group Inc for document security solutions

TROY Group Inc. USA and eGeneration Ltd., Bangladesh announced their partnership at an event titled "Smart Security for Digital Bangladesh" at The Westin Dhaka on 18th July. The partnership focuses on document security and fraud prevention issues in the digital age. TROY Group, renowned for document security solutions will collaborate with eGeneration to work on this pressing issue. Shubir Kishore Choudhury, Secretary of ICT Division, Shawapan Kumer Sarker, ED BCC and Shushanto Kumar Saha, Additional Secretary of ICT division attended the seminar as Special Guests. Shameem Ahsan, Chairman of eGeneration Group; SM Ashraful Islam, EVC of eGeneration Group; Baris Vural, VP-Sales of TROY ; Chandrakant Singh, Head of APAC of TROY Group Inc. USA spoke at the seminar.

## Samsung launches Bangladesh's First QLED Gaming Monitor



Samsung Electronics has recently launched Bangladesh's first QLED gaming monitor. It is the most curved monitor in the world with a radius of 1800R, providing a more comfortable and an immersive gaming experience to gamers. The QLED gaming monitor comes with features like 144 Hz refresh rate, 1ms response time & Quantum Dot technology. The C24FG70 & C27FG70 QLED gaming monitors will be available in 2 sizes across all Samsung authorized Smart Technologies Limited shops and its dealers. Samsung QLED monitors C24FG70 & C27FG70 will be available in Tk. 38,500/- and Tk. 49,500/- respectively.

# VR vs AR

The Matrix is here, minus the killer robots

In 1999 the movie Matrix showed us how people could learn new tricks and fly through a virtual world that appears as realistic as ours. That future is nearly here albeit not as dystopian and gloomy. All that is possible through virtual and augmented reality. But the two technological terms are not interchangeable.



Simulated 3D environment surrounding the user. Requires enclosed HMD (head mounted display). Often heavy.

CONS: Safety concerns while using enclosed device outside. May cause motion sickness.

THERE'S MORE: Often needs to be supplemented by heavier, pricier equipment like a high powered PC.

## AUGMENTED REALITY

3D objects or environments overlaid on your natural, live surroundings.



Requires mostly handheld devices such as tabs and smartphones.

Hot AR game: POKEMON GO 5 million users

MOST IMPACT ON  
Gaming  
Entertainment  
Education  
Healthcare

PRICES:  
Oculus Rift (\$500)  
HTC Vive (\$800)

MOST IMPACT ON  
Education  
Design  
Communication  
Gaming

INFOGRAPH - EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

TECH BITS  
Playbuzz unveils a new editor for writing articles chock full of interactive content



Playkey raises \$2.8M to fund its US expansion



Silent Echo lets you chat with Alexa over Slack



Lyft launches a new self-driving division



Y Combinator is reportedly raising a \$1 billion fund

