



The power to do more

INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY

BYTES

The Daily Star

DHAKA, MONDAY, 31 JULY, 2017, SRABAN 16, 1424 BS
e-mail: bytes@thedailystar.net

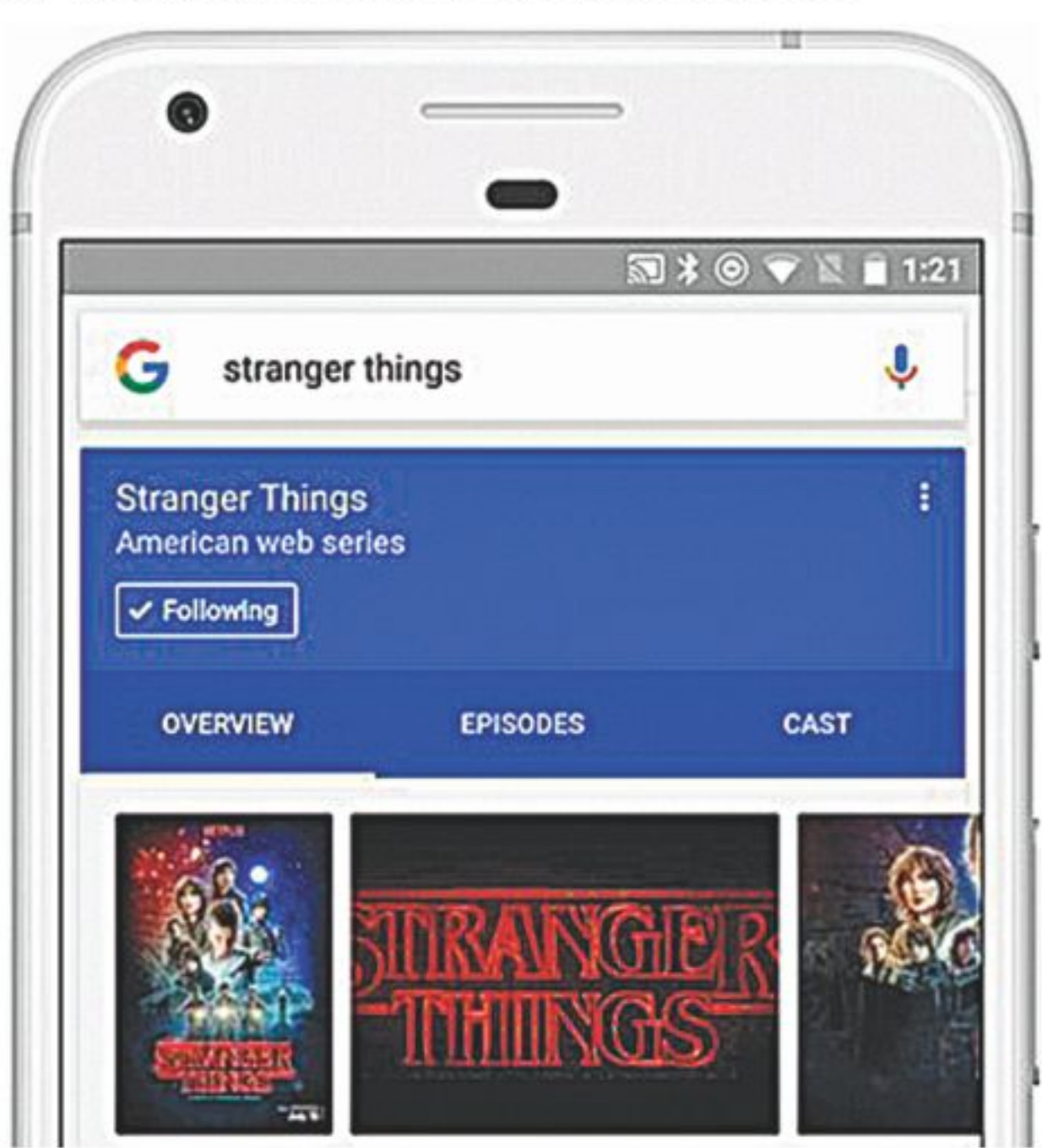


Is Google going to change its homepage?

Close your eyes. Imagine a world without Google's search box? Is the very thought sending chills down your spine? In today's world, Google's search tool, without any doubt, is the most powerful tool man can have. In order to find something from the vast sea of world wide web, all you need to type the word or string of words to vaguely describing what you are looking for. The odds are you will get billions of suggestion, stacked in the order of relevance, about what you were looking for in less than a second.

But with so many information flooding you every waking moment of your life, what if you don't know what you are looking for? Hence, Google is assembling a news feed from everything it knows about you from all the searches you made in your lifetime. Now these suggested content started to pop up on your Google app if you have noticed. So it guesses what might be on your mind and shows you those very content without actually typing a word!

Google's end goal is very clear: to bring the eyeballs from Facebook to Google since the nearly doomed Google+ didn't live up to it's fullest potential. So far the initial reception of the news feed minus the social element has been positive. To bring back the focus on user Google hasn't incorporated content's that users social circle is consuming. Rather, now Google is focusing on broader context and deeper exploration by aggregating unique viewpoints from varied sources. This very thing is an anti-Facebook move since Facebook is built around the concept of promoting likable content of people's worldly view. SO.. it will be a challenge to attract users who are so accustomed with, what Facebook calls, contents with personal endorsement and social touch. Only time can say who will win this battle for users' attention!



BEATING THE MONSOON

Monsoon is already here, meaning your everyday trip out for work, classes, or even your hangouts is most likely to be interrupted by the Rain God. But maybe you are someone who loves the rain and enjoys getting drenched in the drizzle every now and then. But does your gadget love that too? Probably not. So live up your monsoon mirth with seven gadgets that are perfect for this season.

flagships will cost you around BDT 60-80K. Mid-range waterproof smartphones might cost you around BDT 20-30K. Sealed cases are priced around BDT 2-4K

ACTION CAMS

Most of the action cams in the market come with a protective glass cover which makes them waterproof. So using them during monsoon weather won't be an issue. There are some PnS cameras

lives now. Most of the new fitness bands and smartwatches are splash-proof so they won't pose that much of a problem.

Price: Entry-level smartwatches and bands starts from BDT 4K and can go up to BDT 40K.

PORTABLE SPEAKERS

If you are planning for a day out with friends and family, then a portable wireless speaker is a must-have. For the

from Sony and Plantronics.

Price: Starts from BDT 4K and can go as high as BDT 12K.

THUMB DRIVES

There are plenty of thumb drives available in the market these days that are water and shock proof. They're a must-have if you want your data to be protected from water and other elements.

Price: Starts from BDT 700 and can go



SMARTPHONE

There are countless smartphones out there which can handle the daily downpour we are witnessing nowadays. Samsung, Apple, Sony, LG, and many of the top vendors currently have many handsets with IP67 protection. These devices can handle more than just splash—they can actually survive in shallow water for more than 30 minutes. Even if your smartphone isn't waterproof, use sealed cases which can easily withstand the rainwater splashes.

Price: Varies with range. Top-tier



available in the market that are waterproof and can easily work even under 10 feet water. For DSLRs there are some protective plastic covers available.

Price: GoPro starts ranges around BDT. 20-35K depending on the array of mounts you purchase. Xiaomi's Yi Cam prices around BDT 7-9K.

SMARTWATCHES & FITNESS BANDS

Whether you are a fashion buff or a fitness junkie, fitness bands and smartwatches are a part of many peoples'



poolside parties, JBL, Sony, and WONDERBOOMS are the best. For an ultra-portable groove-on-the-move nothing beats JBL Clip 2.

Price: Entry-level speakers start from BDT 6K and can go up to BDT 18K.

HEADPHONES

Probably the most used accessory, yet they are the first victims claimed by adverse weather. Even when they're in our pockets, rainwater can damage headphones. The best waterproof headphones available in Bangladesh are



up to BDT 4K depending on capacity.

BAGS

To protect your precious gizmos, i.e. DSLR camera, laptop, tablets, etc., a bag that can withstand heavy downpour is a must. There are multiple local and international vendors available in Bangladesh right now.

Price: Depending on utility and size, non-brand ones are available from BDT 3K to BDT 12K, whereas the branded ones can start from BDT 7K and can go as high as BDT 28K.

TECH HAPPENING



Flora and Smart Technologies with HP launched the new HP Ink Tank

Flora Ltd and Smart Technologies (BD) Ltd with HP Inc. has unveiled the new HP DeskJet GT 5820/10 All-in-One series, in Bangladesh targeting high-volume home users looking for a wireless ink tank printer. The HP DeskJet GT series prints up to 8,000 pages. Replenishing ink is also clean and easy with HP's spill-free refill system.

The bottles can simply be plugged into the tank without any squeezing required. Users can also easily monitor ink levels with the transparent ink tanks. The HP GT series is available in Bangladesh across Regional Centres (or Retail Partners) of Flora Ltd and Smart Technologies (BD) Ltd.

Apps on the floor

Name of the App: Hatekhor
Category: Education
Installs: 100,000 - 500,000
Current Version: 3.0.1
Requires Android: 4.0.3 and up
In-app Products: \$1.99 per item
Our Rating: 3.5/5

Just before last Eid, shurjoMukhi launched a much enhanced version of Hatekhor - a mobile app to learn Bangla and Maths for kids. This is basically an aggregated form of three separate apps of the "Hatekhor" series. One can download the apps separately as well. These three apps named "Hatekhor Classic", "Hatekhor Juktakkhor" and "Hatekhor Shonkha". The 2nd app basically helps kids learn Bangla with conjuncts whereas the third one helps learn numbers and maths in a very straightforward way. To keep the children engaged each app has a adorable mascot to accompany your kid during the teaching process. "Hatekhor classic" has a squirrel named Qutqut,



"Hatekhor Juktakkhor" (Conjunct) has a schoolgirl named Pori and "Hatekhor Shonkha" (Numbers) has a frog named Uncle Ghyangor Ghyang. Using these apps, children can learn Bengali alphabets, words, sentences, conjunction, numbers, maths and handwriting. After the major revamp, "Hatekhor" offers now vowel consonant conjuncts, addition and subtraction. Although the new UI is better than before but we still believe that it could have been better.

JUST IN

Samsung Mobile Bangladesh brings all new Galaxy J7 Max and Galaxy J7 NXT

Samsung Mobile Bangladesh has recently launched new Galaxy J7 Max and J7 NXT smartphones. The newest addition to the J series comes with Samsung's newest innovations like Adaptive WIFI, Dual Messenger and Instant Switching. The 5.7" HD full HD display Galaxy J7 Max is powered by a 2.4 GHz Octa-core processor, a 3,300mAh battery and 4GB of RAM for multitasking. On the other hand, the Galaxy J7 NXT comes packed with a 5.5" Super AMOLED display powered by 1.6 GHz Octa-core processor with a 3000mAh battery and 2GB of RAM

PRICE: Galaxy J7 Max **Tk. 25,900/-**
Galaxy J7 NXT **Tk. 17,900/-**



UBSL brings new MSI GL62 7RDX gaming laptop

Unique Business Systems Limited has recently introduced new MSI GL62 7RDX Gaming Laptop. According to MSI this one can only handle recent demanding games at bottom-rung settings. This 15.6 inch FHD laptop features Intel Core i7-7700HQ CPU, Nvidia GeForce GTX 1050 (4GB GDDR5) GPU, 8GB RAM, 1TB HDD and weighs around 5.5 lbs.

PRICE: **Tk. 98,000/-**



Symphony brings dual rear camera featured Symphony Z9



Symphony brings yet another iteration of the premium Z series: Symphony Z9. It has 5.5 inch HD IPS display with 400 PPI and is powered by a Mediatek 1.5 GHz Octa core 64bit processor and GPU is Mali T860 with 3GB of RAM and 32GB internal storage. The phone also come equipped with 13MP+2MP dual camera and an 8MP front camera

PRICE: **Tk. 14,990/-**

TECH BITS

Anonymous app Whisper lays off 20% of staff to survive



Apple removes VPN apps from the App Store in China



PayPal co-founder Luke Nosek leaving Founders Fund, reportedly for SpaceX-focused fund



Amazon reportedly acquired GameSparks for \$10M to build out its gaming muscle



Apple paid Nokia \$2 billion as part of a patent lawsuit settlement

