

**UPCOMING GADGETS AND TECH INNOVATIONS**

If there's one thing to take away from 2018, it is that personal information should never be treated lightly on the internet. Usage of social media, in particular, needs very special care. On a more positive note, last year has been a win for PC users as advancements made last year had been more significant than the last 5 years, and that trend will only continue. If you think smartphone designs had become stale, you wouldn't be wrong, but last year saw some innovative steps forward, and this year, we might just see the smartphones that we have been seeing in artistic renders becoming reality. AI has made a big splash last year, with advancements in personal assistants like Google Assistant's Duplex that is simply jaw-dropping. This year, we expect even more advancements and implementations aside from just AI in cameras.



**STAGE PLAYS IN BANGLADESH**

Stage plays or 'Moncho Natok' as we are more familiar with, has had its fair share of ups and downs. When Galileo returned to the stages in 2018, the crowds too returned in droves. The tendency to look forward to the old favourites is an interesting case here. Theatre veterans of course are not satisfied with just returning to the old tales, regardless of how good they are. Just like the local movie production scene, the theatre scene too has a long way to go to step in stride with global productions. Be it costume and set designs, or voice modulation, the stage plays are expected to grow. 2019 may or may not be the year of a breakthrough for stage plays, but the best expectation is for the younger and newer folks to join up and infuse vital fresh blood.



**50 YEARS OF THE BANGABANDHU TITLE**

22nd February marks the half century of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman being bestowed with the title that marked him as the 'friend of Bengal' as the Agartala Conspiracy Case was withdrawn on this day in 1969. Bangladesh, as a country, is almost upon marking its fiftieth year in 2021. For such a small timeline in history, the nation's progress has left an astounding footprint in the world. As 2019 progresses, the nation must look forward to celebrate its independence while upholding the sacrifice of its Friend, not for this year or the next year, but for centuries to come.

Photo Courtesy: Journeyman

**A COSMIC EVENT**

2019 is set up to be a jackpot for astronomers because it is lined up with cosmic events. This includes Super Blood Wolf Moon Eclipse, a trio of supermoons and meteor showers to name a few. But the best part of the year will be the last transit of Mercury, which will not be visible again until 2032. You can spot this on November 11, 2019. This is special because the only transits visible to the earth are of Mercury and Venus, and this particular one is only seen 13 times in a century. So better start making reservations for destinations from where you can catch a glimpse, since you cannot witness this phenomenon from Bangladesh.



**AND FINALLY, THE WEATHER**

Summers have been getting significantly hotter, with shorter monsoons. 2019 is, unfortunately, once again expected to be on the hotter side. To put things into perspective, the Earth's climate has been warmer than the 20th century average over the last 406 consecutive months. That means no one under the age of 32 has ever experienced a cooler-than-average month (based on latest National Geographic findings). Sadly, there is no Planet B (yet) to escape the upcoming hot and unforgiving summer(s), so pace yourself accordingly. Drastic dietary and lifestyle changes are expected to form in the coming years to battle out the weather, and preparing early may as well be the life/planet saver here.

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Photo: Collected

