

EDITORIAL

It's easy to tell if someone likes someone, but infinitely harder to tell if someone likes you. Perhaps it is denial or maybe it's a mechanism we've built to avoid risk, because, well, no one likes rejection. Especially when it comes to matters of the heart. But that's just one half of the answer.

The other half, the one that we'd all rather hear, is that you can see Person A interacting with Person B when B is around and when they aren't. You don't get to see how Person A is when you're not around when it comes to yourself. When you boil it down, it's obvious why so many of us are addicted to social media.

– Talat Ahmed, Sub-editor, SHOUT



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PLAYWATCH

Why you should read travelogues

TASNIM ODRIKA

Before I mention why you should read travelogues, let's go over why travelogues are read in the first place. Travelogues are basically short travel stories. Most of us read it to satiate our wanderlust at one point or another. But, what distinguishes travelogues from, let's say, Lonely Planet articles of the place? Are they not basically the same thing?

Travelogues are not just descriptions of different places. They're short stories written from the perspective of the person visiting the said place. Therefore, multiple travelogues written about the same place will definitely differ as everyone has unique experiences in their journey. That's where the major benefit of reading travelogue comes in.

Now, most of us will read travel stories when we're about to visit that particular place. Just reading descriptions of the place can never truly prepare you for what you are about to experience. On the other hand, first-hand accounts of visiting the place cannot only prepare you for your next visit but it also provides you with some new insights about your favourite spots. You can understand different people's perspectives and their take on the city or country. Isn't that exciting?

For me, travelogues are nothing short of tales of adventure. At least, the well written ones are. In my hectic day-to-day life, it's not always possible to keep up with reading a novel. Even the thought of picking up a short 300-page novel sometimes exhausts my brain. Therefore,

to quench my reading needs, I instead resorted to the tales of strangers embarking on journeys to faraway lands. I indulge in their tales of woe and wonder as they plunge themselves into cavernous depths or navigate through labyrinthine mountains. Some of these cities and these escapades might seem straight out of a story book and there is this weird comfort in knowing that these are not just fables; these are real stories and real places. I revel in knowing that there is a chance that someday I might get to visit these seemingly magical places as well. As you can see, travelogues are more than just details of a particular place. A well-written travelogue can transport you to the place itself and you can live vicariously through the writer. More importantly, you get a more personal and in-depth view of the city you always dreamt of visiting.



PHOTO: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

APP REVIEW

Step into the boots of a pro footballer

WASIQUE HASAN

Platform: iOS, Android

New Star Soccer may not look the part, but it is one of the best sports RPG's you can play on mobile. In it, you step into the shoes of a 16-year-old footballer and lead him through his entire footballing career.

Gameplay-wise, it features top-down views of the football pitch in different situations, where you have to dribble, head, pass, cross or score depending on what the situation asks for. The gameplay is surprisingly addicting, and incredibly satisfying when you curl an outrageous shot into the top corner from 30 yards away. Besides winning, you need to focus on keeping your boss, team and fans happy.

In addition to maintaining relationships, you can complete mini games to increase your player's skills. You also have to manage other parts of their lives like buying lifestyle items to attract sponsors, buying property and energy drinks to refill energy faster, and waste all your wealth, because why not?

As fun as the gameplay and side activities are, however, my favourite part of the game is the progression system, through which you can work up from the lower English leagues to captaining a Premier League side and winning trebles. You can also play for your national team – and that includes Bangladesh. Yes, you can actually take Bangladesh to the World Cup (and maybe even win it). New Star Soccer is free, so pick it up already and emulate your favourite footballing stars.

