

# TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of *The Daily Star*





Conditions Apply



**WALTON**  
Smart Fridge

**GET FRIDGE FREE EVERY HOUR**

Digital Campaign 2021 Season-9

**Buying Walton Fridge & Washing Machine, you may get Fridge Free; Crores of Taka Cash Voucher also.**

**Conditions:**

- Have to complete product registration through SMS after buying Walton Fridge & Washing Machine.
- This campaign is conducted by fully computerized system fairly.
- Digital campaign facilities will be void in case of more than 3 registration of fridge from the same mobile number in a year.
- The authority reserves the right to change the campaign anytime.

This initiative is taken to ensure maximum customer facilities through research & development of products and digitalization. Return SMS may be delayed for the technical network problems.

**Mr. Syed Rafiqul Maruf Bin Rashad got Fridge Free buying Walton Fridge from A. R. Electronics & Motors, Labagh, Dhaka**



**Mr. Syed Rafiqul Maruf Bin Rashad**  
Father: Syed Rashed Bin Masud  
Labagh, Dhaka

**epilaza.waltonbd.com**  
for online purchase

**NUSSDAT-UITS**  
National Union of Software Developers & Technicians

Hotline: **16267**  
waltonbd.com



Scan Here

**CB CE**

Compliance with Bangladesh Standards and Testing Laboratory (BSTL) and other relevant standards.

## Kia to update its badge, adopt new slogan

Korean automaker KIA is set to change its logo along with a new slogan.

The new logo uses stark, angular lines for the strokes in each letter. The upper part of the K attaches to the top of the I which in turn connects to the lower part of the stylized A.

In comparison, the existing emblem simply puts a serif on the top of each letter.

In addition to the new logo, is to replace its old "The Power to Surprise" slogan with a new one, which is "Movement that Inspires".

The company has already begun using the logo as it was seen in Imagine by Kia concept at the 2019 Geneva Motor Show. The first production car with this logo is rumored to be the next generation K7 / Cadenza, which is making its official debut early-mid 2021 under a new "K8" nameplate.



## New Bike this week A Honda for Bangladesh

Honda, or to be more specific Bangladesh Honda Private Limited (BHL) has been busy lately. In addition to expanding its local production facilities, the company has been hard at making a model specifically catering to domestic needs. The Dream 110 is the first bike to hit that goal, falling under the "Bangladesh Domestic Market" (BDM) category. The design of the new motorcycle is pretty contemporary if a bit too simplistic. Much like the design, the feature list of the new model is also pretty minimal, mainly

to minimize cost and long-term maintenance. The suspension is raised and rugged, with a focus on drivability on unpaved roads. Power-wise, the single-cylinder outputs 8.247 BHP and 9.09 Nm and can reach a milage of 7kmpl under specific testing conditions. Price of the bike is set at BTD 89,000, making it one of the most affordable options in the segment. All in all, the first BDM bike from BHL is not meant to be the new hot thing, but a workhorse for people looking to carve out a living from themselves.

## SpaceX planning to 'catch' its super-heavy boosters

Space is planning to recover its Super Heavy rocket booster by catching it with the launch tower.

In a tweet, the company's CEO and founder Elon Musk said they are going



to attempt to catch the Super Heavy Booster with the launch tower "arms", using the grid fins as anchors.

The main benefit of this method, he added, will be the reduction of

mass and cost by eliminating landing legs. It will also allow for immediate repositioning of the booster on to launch mount enabling it to be ready to fly again in "under an hour".

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### 2021: Let's get it started

2020- A year that humanity is going to recall for a long time, a year we lost so many that we became oblivious about our achievements. On the brink of our nation's 50th year of independence, we looked back on this issue to everyone who tried making the world a better place. We rejoice at their success and aspire to be the better versions of ourselves. In our regular sections, we talk about the aspects of breaking gender stereotypes in the workplace; we bring you a review of a product that many students might find useful. For the petrol heads, we bring a listicles of amazing american cars that never made production. We also explore if the world we live in is real or a simulation running on Martix!

A loaded issue we have this week for you here. Enjoy and have a happy weekend!

-Shahriar Rahman,  
Resident overlord

## TOGGLE

**Editor and Publisher**  
Mahfuz Anam

**Editor (TOGGLE)**  
Ehsanur Raza Ronny

**Team**  
Zarif Faiaz  
Rahbar Al Haq  
Nahaly Nafisa Khan  
Shahriar Rahman

**Graphics**  
DS Creative Graphics

**Production**  
Shamim Chowdhury


Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000.

**TechBits**




Adobe ends support for Flash, ending its 26 years lifecycle.

Amazon acquires podcast network Wondery



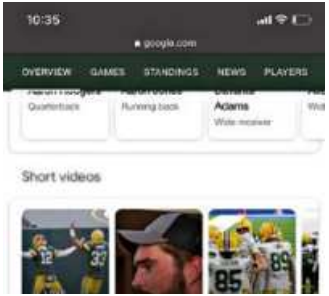
Tesla to make India debu in "early" 2021



Volkswagen working on a mobile charging robot for electric vehicles.



Google testing a search aggregator for short-form videos



# Breaking gender stereotypes in the workplace

OROBI BAKHTIAR

It's no secret that women are under-represented in high-paying jobs in management. While numbers vary across industries, a recent survey in the financial services sector found that while women represented 58% of human resources, 46% of marketing, and 35% of legal executive roles, they held only 13% of technology, 17% of finance and 21% of operations executive roles. Unfortunately, gender pay gaps arise because the management occupations with fewer women typically pay more. Nusrat Jahan, currently working at a national bank expressed, "When I first joined the institution, my opinions were disregarded. Most employees would laugh at how I wouldn't even last the month. Now that it's been more than 2 years since I've worked here, people have started to respect me more but is that enough?" How does the gender imbalance across occupations happen and can it be corrected?



## STEREOTYPES

Gender segregation of jobs is so high that roughly one half of the entire workforce would need to migrate across gender lines (men moving to female-dominated jobs and women moving to male-dominated jobs) to achieve gender equality in occupations. Statistically, there are jobs that are predominantly held by men, and others that are predominantly held by women. To a lesser extent, this gender segregation characterizes whole industries—for example, manufacturing and law enforcement are filled with mostly men; education and health care are comprised of mostly women.

Trendy nomenclature categorizing female-dominated jobs and industries as "pink collar work" only serves to more deeply entrench this unnecessary divide. Dividing the sexes (with assumptions about inherent strengths and weaknesses) and the labor market makes it easy to further devalue, rather than celebrate, that which is feminine.

## SCHOOLS

Why confront gender bias in the classroom as early as possible? A survey

involving over 2,000 children ages 4 to 16 found that from an early age, children make assumptions that confirm gender stereotypes. Children learn how to think about themselves and others from the messages they hear in society. And often, these messages include stereotypes about gender that stick with them for the rest of their lives.

In the classroom, students often encounter implicit or explicit assumptions about gender. For example, girls interested in STEM subjects may be discouraged if others say such topics aren't very "feminine" pursuits. And the prevalence of this stereotype may be linked to the fact that more than 50% of all women in STEM ultimately leave their field due to hostile work environments. We can make a difference for younger students by teaching them to find strength in their gender identity and to treat kindly those with different identities than their own.

## UNIVERSITIES

Universities have long intuited that representation can help combat student self-doubt by providing a successful

counterexample to the stereotype. By specifically employing more female instructors who can teach quantitative courses, universities can make significant cracks in the glass ceiling. However, that female faculty themselves are subject to bias in teaching evaluations, especially in quant courses, because of the very stereotypes that they help fight. As such, business schools not only need to have policies in place to help female students but also to help female faculty. Besides hiring more female faculty, gender stereotypes may also be countered by taking active steps to have more female speakers, alumni events, student leaders, club presidents and teaching assistants.

Elevating the quantitative performance of women in universities can help increase the representation of talented women in finance, consulting, consumer technology, which are also typically more lucrative. In addition, recruiters can hire and retain a more diverse workforce — and stop lamenting the lack of women. This will also result in more gender-healthy pipelines for senior management positions.

## BREAKING THE STEREOTYPE

Just as when women were pulled into previously male-dominated organizations during World War II because there was work to be done and fewer men to do it, demographic and technological trends are creating similar forces, pulling men and women to cross traditional gender lines.

Women are being encouraged to enter STEM fields and the military, while men have opportunities in education and health care. However, although demographic workforce shifts are occurring, entrenched social roles and stereotypes are slower to evolve.

Workplace training should address things like language and word choice. Understanding the implications of our words can be powerful. Training can help managers and organizational leaders to be more cognizant of how their word choice for performance evaluations, feedback and job postings can unintentionally create gender bias. Our word choice and language has spillover effects that impact so many different aspects of our lives. Awareness is the key. Recognizing the consequences of our gendered language can be the catalyst that sparks change.



## শাৰাশ বাংলাদেশ!

স্বপ্নের পদ্মা সেতুর শুরু থেকে শেষ  
আমরা ছিলাম, আছি, থাকবো অনিশ্চেষ্ট।

দেশের ১ নম্বর স্টিল এক্সপার্ট

**BSRM**  
building a safer nation

# Five amazing American concept cars that never made production

RAHBAR AL HAQ

## 1965 Bertone Mustang

The list of cool Mustang prototypes are as varied as they are vast. But few stand out so visually as the one-off made by the Italian design studio Bertone. Designed by Giorgetto Giugiaro, the Italian Mustang made its debut at the 1965 New York Auto Show with high praise. Features included beautiful Italian styling, retractable headlamps, and side vents. The car was allegedly powered by a Ford Windsor V8, making 200Hp and 382 Nm of torque. Sadly, the design was only meant to be a display model and never earmarked for production. This is also the only concept car on this list whose whereabouts are unknown, as the car pretty much disappeared from public eyes after the auto show.



## 2004 Chrysler ME Four-Twelve

We can make another full list with all the cool cars that were axed during the Daimler-Chrysler era, but for this list, we are sticking to two examples. The Chrysler ME Four-Twelve —mid-engine, four-turbo, twelve-cylinder— was a coup for the Chrysler design team, as it was everything the brand was not known for at the time. Powered by a mid-mounted quad-turbo AMG V12, this 850 HP, 1,150 Nm of torque monster weighed only 1,310 kg, meaning it had a power to weight ratio of 1.5 kg/HP. 0-100 was achieved in only 2.9 seconds, and the estimated top speed was 400 Kph. Chrysler seriously considered putting this wonderful beast into production, but ultimately relented for murky reasons. Rumors persist that Daimler for the car's cancellation, as the designers of the Mercedes SLR McLaren simply couldn't stomach the fact the American company made a better car using the same engine. The beast was put on display at Walter P. Chrysler Museum, but since its closers, it has been moved into Chrysler inventory.

## 2002 Lincoln Continental

Before the revival —and eventual demise— of the new Continental, Lincoln tried once before to bright back the prestigious nameplate in 2002. Unveiled at the 2002 Los Angeles Auto Show, this retro-futuristic luxury barge had suicide doors and a powered trunk with three sliding storage drawers. In terms of luxury features, the concept was decades ahead of its time. Modern luxury features such as ambient lighting, fully digital gauge cluster, individual infotainment system for rear passengers, all were present. Power came from a 6.0-liter V12 engine producing 414 hp and 412 558 Nm of torque, all smoothly sent to the rear wheels through a six-speed automatic transmission. In the end, the design proved too costly for production, with Lincoln auctioning off the sole prototype in August 2010 for \$56,100. The vehicle currently remains in private hands.



## 1976 Chevrolet Aerovette

Although the latest generation finally made the switch to a mid-engine layout, the designers at Chevrolet had been trying to do this for a long time. The last time they almost managed to make their dream a reality was in the '70s, with the Aerovette concept. Originally, the XP-895 mid-engine prototype was made by none other than Zora Arkus-Duntov, the fabled "Father of the Corvette". It was built to test a 420-h, four-rotor Wankel engine, which sadly never went anywhere. Three years after the wanked project was shelved, GM's styling boss Bill Mitchell had the experimental motors swapped for a 6.6-liter Chevy V-8 and greenlit the Aerovette for production as the new C4. Sadly, Duntov's replacement Dave McLellan decided for several reasons to stick with the front-engine layout, setting the mid-engine 'Vette back for another 44 years. The concept itself still exists to this day, and is now part of GM Heritage Collection.



2005 Chrysler Firepower concept vehicle.

## 2005 Chrysler Firepower

Shown off in 2005 North American International Auto Show, the Firepower was a Dodge viper that went to college. Finished in a Hydro Silver Pearl paint, the Viper-based grand tourer had elegant lines, smooth curves, and an overall beauty that one would only expect from brands such as Aston Martin. The luxury theme continued on the inside, where the GM plastic had been cast away to make rooms for a two-tone Ocean Deep Blue plus Oyster leather upholstery combined with maple accents and polished aluminum switchgear. In the heart of this beast was a 6.1 liter V8 making 425 HP and 725 Nm of torque. Being a grand tourer, that car was given a five-speed automatic which still managed a 0-100 of 4.5 seconds. Sadly, as beautiful as this car was axed because GM "couldn't find a viable way to do it," according to former senior vice president of design, Trevor Creed. The sole Firepower is now preserved at the National Auto and Truck Museum in Auburn, Indiana.



# Looking back at 2020: THE ONES WHO MADE US PROUD

ISRAR HASAN

2020 has been a very challenging year for all of us. The pandemic has led to seismic shifts in our day-to-day lifestyles. Alongside the effect of compulsory isolation caused by the demoralizing pandemic, the year has been unbearable for those who have lost their loved ones and insupportable to those stranded across a vast periphery of areas around the world unable to see or physically contact their loved ones due to the norms of medically mandatory social distancing.

With the gradual commencement of mass vaccination throughout the world, we look forward to a more vibrant 2021 which we hope gives all of us a chance to eke out our own meanings of our lives. In what was a terrible and ominous year, many individuals stood out to make the world a better place for the present and future. These are towering paragons of virtue who have made enormous strides in ensuring a more intellectually vibrant and medically safe world.

Senjuti Saha – The first Bangladeshi appointed to the World Health Organization's Polio Transition Independent Monitoring Board, Dr Senjuti Saha has been tasked alongside others with advising on the progress of the polio transition progress and the efforts needed to improve health infrastructure. Earlier in May of 2020, Dr Senjuti and her team of scientists had completed the genome sequencing of virus causing Covid-19, helping to understand the nature of the virus paving way for vaccine developers

to understand it and incorporate necessary arrangements when creating them. Dr Senjuti and her father, Dr Samir Saha have also been lauded by Bill Gates for their tireless efforts in advancing adequate healthcare in combatting the infectious diseases in the country. Dr Senjuti was also featured in the 360-video, "Infectious Disease Detectives" which was based on how and her institution, Child Health Research Foundation, detect the source of a meningitis outbreak in Bangladesh using IDseq technology, a pathogen detecting surveillance dashboard. Created by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, the video went on to win the People's Voice in the 360-video category in the Webby's – the Oscars of the Internet.

Tonima Tasnim Ananna – Lauded by Science News's top 10 scientists of the year, Dr. Tonima Tasnim has been at the forefront of pushing scientific inquiry regarding the black holes and their subsequent origins and expansions. She was chosen alongside nine other pioneering scientists by Nobel laureates and esteemed members of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. This is a unique celebration of the years to come as we delve deeper into the secrets of the cosmos. Rumaan Alam – In the scene of literature, Bangladeshi-American novelist, Rumaan Alam, has been making a buzz as his new novel, *Leave the World Behind*, was nominated as the finalist for the prestigious National Book Award for fiction. Tackling the nuanced

complexities of parenthood, race, and class, the book has been highly praised by major literary outlets and famed novelist-essayist, Roxane Gay.

Shaheen Akhtar – The literary scene at home has much to celebrate as Shaheen Akhtar won the 3rd Asian Literary Award for her 2004 novel "Talaash", a novel centred on the Bironogons. The award, sponsored by the Asia Cultural Centre in South Korea, was announced on 1st November at the 2020 Asian Literature Festival. Tackling topics such sexual violence, imperialism, and the harsh realities of warfare, the book will be adapted as a performance piece for the upcoming year's Asia Literature Festival with the author scooping prize money of 20 million Won.

Sadat Rahman – Sadat Rahman, a 17-year-old, won the 2020 KidsRights International Children's Peace Prize, an award won previously by Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg, for creating a mobile app to help vulnerable teenagers to report cyberbullying and cybercrimes. His anti-cyberbullying app, which goes by the name, "Cyber Teens", gives its users tips about internet safety and a platform to report any cyberbullying without fear. The app, which has brought together social workers and police, has helped over 300 victims of cyberbullying halting the spread of fake social media accounts and providing support for mental health issues. Starting in his district of Narail, Sadat has created "Cyber Clubs" in the

schools in his area expanding the frontier of digital literacy and hopes to broaden the use of the app further in the country to curb the scrounge of online criminality targeted at teenagers.

SM Anamul Arefin – In a time where wearing masks has been declared mandatory, Anamul Arefin developed face shields using his 3D printer helping doctors, nurses, and health workers as they treat people infected with COVID-19. The idea was so successful that BRAC and other innovative labs picked up the idea to order face shields for frontline workers.

Saiful Islam – Architect Saiful Islam, an associate professor at North South University, won an award under the Residential Building Category for his project in Brahmanbaria, the Jamshedpur High School Hostel. The hostel caters to a small group of children from poor families lacking the resources to educate their kin. The International Academy of Architecture (IAA), an NGO of Consultative Status with the UN (ECOSOC), gives the INTERARCH award since 1981.

Ruhul Abid - Bangladeshi- American professor at Brown University, Ruhul Abid and his organization, Health and Education for All (HAEFA) was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize this year. His non-profit organization provides free health care to underprivileged people and competency training to aid in managing the curbing of coronavirus transmission in Rohingya refugee camps.



# Apple iPad 10.2 (7th Gen): THE PERFECT STUDY BUDDY

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

It my recent and not probably the last attempt to push my boundaries, I went abroad for post graduate studies. To pace myself with the burgeoning study load, I opted for the then latest iPad 10.2 7th Generation. And boy oh boy! It was one of the best purchases I did last year! Despite the 8th generation being launched recently; I personally still would recommend going for the 7th gen iPad 10.2. Let me tell you 4 reasons why the 7th Gen is an absolute bargain and probably a must have if you are a student (and you can afford it):



**The form factor:** The dimensions of the tab is perfect. You can use it in one hand as it doesn't weigh much. It's also easy to carry on your bag. Moreover, the screen real estate is 10.2 inches meaning- you get quite enough space for multiscreen operation as well as read books or watch movies. The screen is bright and vibrant; but it is an LCD panel not Apple's retina display. The 8th generation comes with the retina display but honestly my eyes could not discern much difference.

**Substitute of a laptop (for some):** If you use a laptop just for surfing the net, occasional tv-viewing and typing notes or event take down notes, then this tablet can be your companion for your university days. The tablet supports most of the software that you would want to use for your classes. I saw a friend of mine using MATLAB on the tab though

the simulations took a bit of time to load them.

**A whole host of ecosystem products:** As a student you might want to take notes; for that you need a stylus? If you think, like most sane people out there, Apple pencil is too pricey for you- not to worry. The 7th gen. has a host of supported 3rd party stylus available in the market. If you need a top-quality pen for sketches then you can consider the Logitech Crayon,



**Penoval Pencil, Adonit Dash** for a fraction of the cost of an actual Apple Pencil. You will also find ample designs and styles of covers, keyboards, stands etc.

**Wallet-friendly:** The measly 32GB WiFi only version of the iPad 10.2 (7th Gen) is available for Tk. 41,900/-. So, what do you get at this price? You get a fully functional 10.2-inch touch screen with a pretty

decent OS and above average hardware. The battery life is great too- you can last a work entire day plus some more with a single full charge. The only downside of this iPad is the subpar cameras both on front and back. Now that classes are mostly on Zooms and MS Teams, a good front camera would have been really handy.

All in all, the iPad 10.2 7th Gen is a product targeted by Apple particularly for students. With a keyboard and stylus, it can actually live up to the expectation of most students who are looking for an affordable laptop alternative. It's almost as pricey as a laptop, so if you are not a pro-users, then this device is definitely worth considering.

## Specs

**Display:** 10.2" IPS LCD, 1620 x 2160 pixels

**OS:** iPadOS 13.1, upgradable to iPadOS 14.2

**Chipset:** Apple A10 Fusion

**CPU:** Quad-core 2.34 GHz (2x Hurricane + 2x Zephyr)

**RAM:** 3 GB

**ROM:** 32 GB

**Camera:** Rear- 8 MP; Front- 1.2 MP

**Battery:** Li-Po 8,827 mAh

**Price:** Tk. 41,900/- (Price might vary depending on vendor)

# Are we living in a simulation?

## Quite possibly

We are probably living in a simulation. It means you, me, and everything around us, are computed generated. The universe as we know it, is just strings of 0 and 1. It means we are all living inside a video game. Like Sims.

Of course, as you read this, you are probably thinking how silly it all sounds. So bear with me as I walk you through this entire phenomenon.

### The simulation argument

The first question is whether it will ever be possible for us to code a simulated universe ourselves, which will be indistinguishable from reality. For that, let's take a look back 50 years. What is the best, most complex video game we had to offer back then?

It was Pong. A two player table tennis themed game, where you had white bars at two ends of the screen, and a ball ping-ponging around from one end to another. You won points every time your opponent failed to hit the ball back.

Fast forward to 2020, and we now have incredibly sophisticated computer games, with hyper realistic graphics, freedom to play a thousand different ways, enormous worlds, and hundreds of players playing at once. We are now tinkering with augmented reality, AI and other breakthrough technologies to blur the line between virtual and reality even further.

50 years may seem like a lot to us, but in the grand scheme of things, it actually isn't. Humans existed for 6 million years. The universe itself is 13.8 billion years old. When you lay out the map like that, 50 years is like a speck of dust on the planet Jupiter. It's nothing.

So the rate of recent technological advancement has been truly extraordinary. So it stands to reason that, at any rate of future advancement, humans will soon be able to code a simulated universe which will be indistinguishable from reality. Even if you tune down the rate by 90%, we will still get there eventually. Maybe it will take 200-300 years. Which again is like a rounding error when you consider the age of mankind, or the universe.

So now that we have understood that coding a simulation of reality is possible, next comes the question as to whether we will basically do it. Being able and actually doing so aren't the same thing.

This is where the "simulation argument" comes in. It proposes that one of the following three propositions are true:

### 1) Civilization will go extinct before reaching the technological stage necessary for coding simulation

The threat of mankind's demise is nothing new. Known as the "Great Filter", it refers to any event that is almost insurmountable for any civilization in any part of the universe. Right now we obviously don't know what is, or whether it's even true. It could be climate change, genetically engineered superbugs (imagine the current coronavirus but fatality rate is 50%), a giant asteroid, nuclear wars, high powered physics experiments gone very wrong, a black hole generator etc.

So the first proposition is that any civilization gets annihilated by such a catastrophic event before they can advance enough to be able to create simulated realities.



### 2) Civilization do reach the technological stage for coding simulation, but choose not to

At various points in recent human history, global consciousness came together to decide that a particular technological advancement is too dangerous to be adopted, and must thus be discarded. Bioweapons and chemical weapons are two such examples. We are also witnessing steady denuclearization as the world understands the threat of a nuclear war on humanity.

Drugs like cocaine, heroin, meth etc. are also technological developments of their own which have been outlawed for the greater good. Many parts of the world are also banning deepfakes outright.

As mankind wades more and more into complex levels of technology, we can expect to see more of such decisions being made in the future. One of them could very well be the consensus not to engage in coding a simulated universe, when we do get to the point where we are

"able" to do so. Perhaps humans realize the underlying threats involved in coding a simulation, or the ethical questions that come with it. Given how much tragic life has been for the majority of humans across our history, would you want to create a simulation where billions more suffer the same way?

### 3) We are most likely living in a simulation

So there is no calamitous episode that ends mankind before we learn how to simulate reality. And we do not have any ethical reservations towards coding one.

So if the first two propositions are false, then it means we will go on to code a simulated universe one day. And if that is true, then we are probably already living in a computer simulation ourselves.

Now one would immediately wonder: why is that the case? Why, if we are going to create a simulated universe in the future, does it automatically mean we're

10,000 will create say, one million more simulated realities. And so on.

So essentially you have billions and billions of simulations. Now imagine the entire diagram was put on a giant whiteboard the size of a football field, and you were given a dart. While being blindfolded, you were asked to throw the dart on the whiteboard.

What are the chances your dart will land on that one universe, out of billions, that started the entire chain of simulations? Literally one in billions. So extremely improbable, to say the least. And what are the chances it will instead land on one of the billions of simulated universes? Extremely high.

In other words, your chances of hitting the original universe is something like 0.0000000001%, while your chances of hitting a simulated version is 99.9999999999%.

The same odds apply for whether we ourselves are living in the original universe or a computer simulation of it. The odds are vastly stacked against us being number one.

### Concluding thoughts

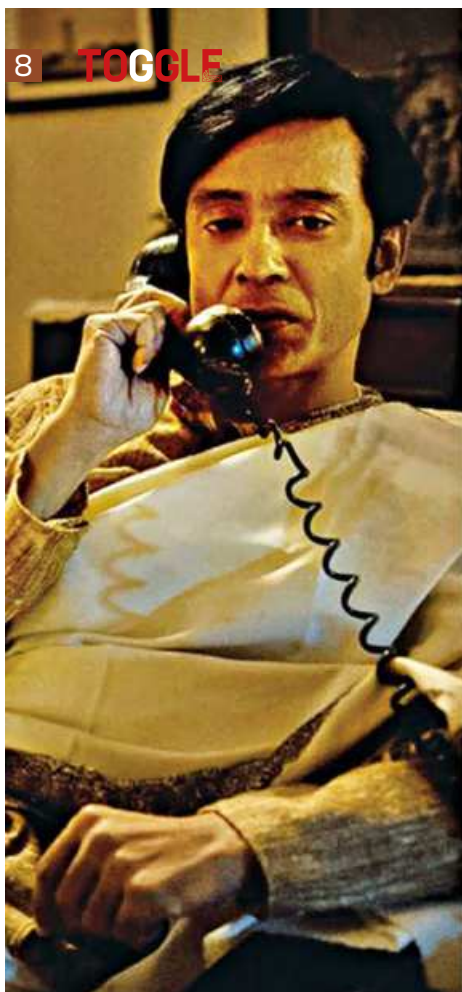
It is important to keep in mind that science does not operate on speculations. To prove something, you need absolute, hard evidence. Since the simulation argument is only conjecture, it is not accepted as a scientific fact. And therefore, one should not take it for granted that it has to be true.

But the hypothesis does have support from a wide range of scientists, mathematicians and physicists. Like Nick Bostrom, a highly accomplished professor at Oxford University, Brian Greene, a theoretical physicist, mathematician and string theorist, founder of World Science Festival, and George Smoot, astrophysicist, cosmologist, with a dual bachelor's and PhD degree from MIT, and a Nobel laureate.

Even celebrity astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, brilliant billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, and Sam Altman, founder of Y Combinator and current CEO of OpenAI, are proponents. And while we don't know who they are, two Silicon Valley billionaires are apparently directly funding scientists working on this theory. All these individuals aren't saying we definitely live in a simulation, but they agree that the possibility is intriguingly high.

None of us will live long enough to know the actual answer, unfortunately. So take it all with a grain of salt. And just as importantly, even if we are in a simulation, it does not change anything. Life goes on as usual!

*Co-founder of Alpha Catering, Muhammed Asif Khan loves to learn, and share his ideas with others. For any support, you can reach him at [muhammed.asifkhan92@gmail.com](mailto:muhammed.asifkhan92@gmail.com).*



## 4 TV shows to watch out for in 2021

ZARIF FAIAZ

With productions halted and release dates postponed for major Hollywood flicks and popular web series', 2020 has been a rather dry year for fans. The good news is, although the pandemic is far from over, things are starting to look better for the entertainment industry in 2021.

For local fans, we list out 5 most anticipated TV titles we look forward to binging this year:

### FOUNDATION

Asimov's iconic Sci-Fi title is undoubtedly one of the most anticipated show this year. The influential trilogy of books, that has inspired countless movies, tv shows

and games over the years, including hugely popular Star Wars and Star Trek series', is finally making its own way to our screens, thanks to Apple TV+.

The 10-episode show is slated for 2021 and the production boasts a stellar cast and production overseen by David S Goyer and Robyn Asimov.

### FELUDA PHEROT: SEASON 2

Feluda Pherot's first season was a breath of fresh air for long time Feluda fans who have missed the iconic Bengali sleuth on screen for some time. Srijit Mukherjee's purist take on our favourite Private Investigator, despite minor flaws, was

refreshing and gripping to watch and left us craving for more.

The second season of the show featuring a modern take on the "Joto Kando Kathmandu te" novel, will be released sometime early this year, most likely around India's republic day.

### LORD OF THE RINGS

The Lord of the Rings TV series is all set to premiere on Amazon this year and already has five seasons planned.

The TV show isn't a remake, rather it's set during the "Second Age" of Tolkien's universe and will work as a prequel, exploring the rich history and mythology

of Middle Earth.

Amazon is aiming to make Lord of the Rings the next Game of Thrones. Fingers crossed.

### STRANGER THINGS: SEASON 4

Stranger Things is one of the most watched TV shows in Netflix's history and the popularity is of course justified. Good news for fans, the show is returning for a 4th season – hinted long ago in the post credits scene in the final episode of season 3.

Production was halted due to the pandemic, but judging by the Duffer brothers' interview in Deadline in early 2020, the show could return for a fourth season sometime in mid-2021.

us on f /Sandalina

ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা  
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

**স্যান্ডালিনা**  
সোপ

রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...

KOHINOOR CHEMICAL