

TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of *The Daily Star*



A DIGITAL STRIFE

Buying Fridge
From M/S. Hazi Enterprise & Electronics
Basurhat, Companiganj, Noakhali
NOW 1 AM

WALTON MEGA EID FESTIVAL
SEASON-11

EASY INSTALLMENT FACILITY
Incredible Down Payment on Deep Fridge

EXCHANGE
Get up to 25% Discount on Replacing Old Fridge with a New Deep Fridge

12 YEARS WARRANTY

INVERTER TECHNOLOGY
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MILLIONAIRE

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OR GET CRORES OF TAKA CASH VOUCHER ALSO.

WALTON Smart Fridge

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- This campaign is conducted by fully computerized system fairly.
- Digital campaign facilities will be void in case of more than 3 registrations of fridge from the same mobile number in a year.
- In case of cash payment, customer will be paid through cheque after deduction of Source Tax at the rate determined by National Board of Revenue (NBR).
- 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.
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Xiaomi launches Redmi Note 8 (2021) in Bangladesh

Xiaomi has brought back the Redmi Note 8 (2021) edition in Bangladesh, inspired by its success in 2019.

The phone features MediaTek Helio G85 processor consisting of a Mali-G52 MP2 GPU, an octa-core CPU clocked up to 2GHz, 48MP quad camera, a 6.3 FHD+ Dot Drop Display, and a 4000mAh battery.

AVAILABILITY:

Redmi Note 8 (2021) will be available in three colour variants: Moonlight White, Neptune Blue and Space Black. This device will be available on 29 June, 2021 across authorised Mi Stores, partner stores and retail channels in Bangladesh. The retail price is BDT 17,999 for the 4GB+64GB variant.

Dhaka ranks 225th among 264 cities in the Global Fintech Ecosystem Rankings

Dhaka has ranked 225th among 264 cities in the Global Fintech Ecosystem Rankings in 2021 with a score of 0.581, while Bangladesh stands 78th among 83 countries scoring 0.2549. The index was published on June 23, 2021, by Findexable, covering the entire year of 2020 and the first half of 2021.

The ranking is done based on three parameters: the quantity of privately owned fintech companies, the quality of those companies and the local business environment.

The top three highest performing cities are San Francisco, London and New York scoring 133.748, 76.074 and 61.316 respectively. In the country-wise ranking, The United States, United Kingdom and Israel stand as the highest performing countries.

The highest performing cities in Asia are Hong Kong (Ranking 9th), Singapore

City (10th), New Delhi (13th), Beijing (17th), Tokyo (19th) and Bangalore (20th) scoring 16.410, 16.259, 14.541, 13.464, 11.716 and 11.211 respectively. Singapore and China stand as the highest performing countries in this region.

Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Thailand saw a massive drop in the ranking among the Asian countries. Bangladesh saw a dip of 17 ranks compared to the previous year and currently stands in the lowest of the 16 countries in the Asia Pacific region.



RT Brainerly launches new course, The Art of Filmmaking and Storytelling

Reflective Teens, a non-profit centred around helping teenagers and young adults grow their creative horizons, is coming out with the next edition of its flagship program, RT Brainerly, with Episode 4: The Art of Filmmaking and Storytelling. The course will focus on moulding enthusiastic newcomers into fledgling filmmakers and will cover all three aspects of filmmaking including pre-production, production and post-production.

The program will be taught by veteran filmmaker Sharif Ferdous Arko. Sharif

Ferdous was the Production Runner on international blockbusters such as Avengers: Age of Ultron and has worked with CNN, Discovery and Walmart. A core goal of this program is to have each participant leave with a full-length film of their own.

The course will be online and will focus on writing grounded, engaging scripts, camera work and movement, on-camera performance, actor direction, and sound design. The deadline for registration is on July 5, 2021.

World Wide Web source code is latest NFT for sale

Tim Berners-Lee's source code for the World Wide Web is the latest non-fungible token (NFT) to go up for sale. Sotheby's in New York is selling the program that paved the way for the internet we know today more than 30 years after its creation.

The sale started June 23 and ends on Wednesday. Bidding had reached \$2.8 million on Friday. The lot includes an animated version of Berners-Lee's nearly 10,000 lines of code and a letter from the British-born computer scientist himself.

"Ten years ago, we wouldn't have been able to do this," said Cassandra Hatton, vice-president at Sotheby's, referring to the recent boom in NFTs. Hatton said this work is unique because of its importance for the creation of the World Wide Web. "That changed every aspect of your life," Hatton said. "We don't even fully comprehend the impact that it has on our lives, and the impact



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

that we will continue to have on our lives."

An NFT is a digital object such as a drawing, animation, piece of music, photo or video with a certificate of authenticity created by blockchain technology that underlies cryptocurrency. It cannot be forged or otherwise manipulated.

NFTs currently generate several hundred million dollars in transactions every month. NFT exchanges take place in cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin on specialist sites but traditional auction houses are seeking to capitalize on the phenomenon.

The most expensive NFT ever was sold by Christie's in March for \$69.3 million.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Who watches the watchmen?

This week, we delve into a pressing topic that has been making a lot of headlines in the last few months. Should access to certain tech be banned or curbed? Who decides what's right or wrong? Where do we draw the line? Turn to the centrefold to jump right into these questions with our cover story this week. We want you to engage with us and join us in this conversation as well. Leave a comment on our article online or our social media posts.

We hope you enjoy the rest of this week's content as well. Have a great weekend!

-Zarif Faiaz, Sub-editor

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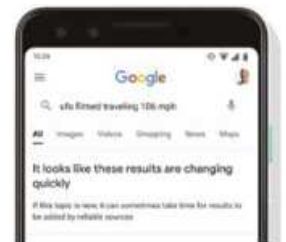
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Google will now warn you if search results might be unreliable

When search results are rapidly altering around a breaking topic, Google will now notify users from now on. Some searches will now display a warning that "it appears that these results are changing quickly," with a subheading that "if this topic is new, it can sometimes take time for results to be added by reliable sources"

The alert is currently being displayed on English-language results from the United States "when a topic is fast evolving and a variety of sources hasn't yet weighed in." In the coming months, Google will expand the tool's availability to other areas.



How to create A WRITING PORTFOLIO that stands out

TAHSEEN NOWER PRACHI

Young writers—professionals too—often feel shy or insecure to brag about their work online, when they really should. Shouting about their creations is something they tend to avoid for the fear of it sounding too arrogant or blustering. But the word 'brag' here isn't actually boasting if you consider showcasing your progress in writing as a display of your skills and competence.

A writing portfolio, with your works organised just ready to serve before any evaluator, is the premier way to sophisticatedly show off your achievements and expertise. That too, without sounding braggish or hubristic. A well-organised and lucrative writing portfolio can enhance your chances to make a pretty good first impression, not to mention smart.

WHAT IS A WRITING PORTFOLIO?

A writing portfolio is a collection of writing samples that showcase a writer's skills, areas of expertise and achievements. The concept of a portfolio is simple but creating one can be pretty challenging and there's always chances of messing it up. But once up and used at the right place, it can do wonders.

WHY DO YOU NEED IT?

In the digital age, aspiring writers are facing newer issues, like the publishing sector shifting to digital ways and demanding the writers to be equally present in the scene and prove their salt in both print and online media. Breaking into the scene as a promising writer is fairly challenging; making self-promotion an important resort for personal branding here.

A writing portfolio, with your works organised just ready to serve before any evaluator, is the premier way to sophisticatedly show off your achievements and expertise. That too, without sounding braggish or hubristic.

Among the perks of an organised writing portfolio, the topmost is that a portfolio shows what your forte is and how good your pieces are. In short, it can showcase your preparedness and your 'can-do' attitude to your evaluator or recruiter and craft an efficient online presence for you.

CREATING A WRITER'S PORTFOLIO

Portfolios in the past were clipped-up hard copies of write-ups with your résumé, but we are past those hassling paper-carrying days. Whether applying for a job, pitching as a freelancer, or showcasing your work, an online writer's portfolio is always preferred.

For creating one, there are two possible options: one is hosting your personal website, and another is taking the help of portfolio-based online sites.

If you choose the first option, you

need to register a domain name branding your personal forte and choose a suitable option to host your site that fits your budget. There are sites like Wix, Bluehost, Weebly and more that you can use.

If you choose the latter, it's less work. Most of those portfolio sites are free up to a certain limit and design-ready; you can even buy a domain name for some. Some popular portfolio sites are Clippings.me, Contently, Quietly, Journo Portfolio, Pressfolios etc. These sites offer free usage to a certain limit with good service, but you can always upgrade to premium for more.

Here are some helpful pro-tip from the designers, developers, and experts on creating writing portfolios:

DO'S

1. The objective of creating the portfolio should reflect clearly in it. The work one chooses to get a professional job will be different from the one to land a travel or fashion gig. So, map out what your portfolio should tell people
2. Spend some time considering your workpieces and the formats you would use. Your writings can be in plain text, links, PDF files. It may contain images, or you might want to use social media posts or curated stories etc
3. Keep it simple and professional; let your work speak for itself. Use crisp and clear fonts that are not too dramatic or large. Keep your colours subtle and sufficiently contrasting
4. Excessive images may end up distracting from your work but can liven up a portfolio. Try to ensure the images that you use are compelling and colourful

by relating them well with the context

5. The recommended number is 10-20 pieces of work for an online portfolio with the target to give a snapshot of what you can do as an overview

6. Categorise your content and make different portfolios for each angle you write in, if convenient

7. Be careful that your portfolio serves the vertical you are applying for; it's of little use presenting a travel-related portfolio for a science-based magazine

8. Add a short biography with your story in it, with your name, profession, job title, workplace or your objectives. Include links to your social media handles like Twitter, LinkedIn, Tumblr and anywhere else you maintain a professional presence

DON'TS

1. Don't add your age, rather the age of your writing journey
2. Try to avoid grammar/spelling errors because that doesn't impress anyone
3. Avoid cliches like 'I was born to be a successful writer', in your bio and in your works as well
4. Avoid spammy headlines or unnecessary sensualisation to attract readers
5. Plagiarism is something you must avoid at any cost. Your evaluators are there to assess your work and if you think your dishonesty will get scot-free, you are wrong
Lastly, don't feel shy to share your portfolio with your friends and family and your social media accounts to mark your presence. Keep on updating it every once in a while, and watch it do charms for you.



Tomorrow's Chattogram is being built
connecting both sides of the river Karnaphuli

Bangabandhu Tunnel
is being built with BSRM

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM
building a safer nation

FERRARI UNVEILS \$320,000 hybrid sports car



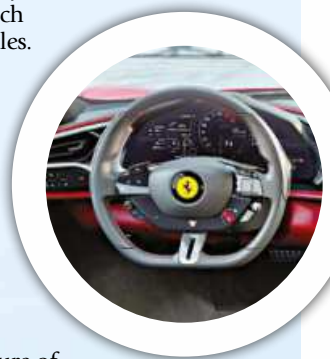
Ferrari unveiled a new first plug-in hybrid car on Thursday as the luxury sports car maker famed for its roaring combustion engines retools its range for an electric era.

The 296 GTB is Ferrari's third hybrid to go into series production, which excludes limited-edition vehicles. It follows the SF 90 Stradale in 2019 and a convertible version, the SF90 Spider, last year.

Ferrari Chief Marketing and Commercial officer Enrico Galliera said the 296 GTB created a new segment.

"If the SF 90 was designed to reach the peak of performance, this has been designed for the peak of pleasure of driving," he said in a web presentation.

"We expect this will also help us attract clients who



are not driving a Ferrari now." The two-seater will cost 269,000 euros (\$321,000), reaching 302,000 euros for its "Aspetto Fiorano" high-performance version. It will have a top speed of over 330 km per hour (205 mph).

Ferrari unveils its new sports car 296 GTB in Maranello, Italy in this updated handout obtained June 24, 2021. Scuderia Ferrari Press Office/Handout via REUTERS

The Italian company known worldwide for its prancing horse logo and red racing cars has promised its first full-electric model in 2025.

"It's a process which started a couple of years ago," Galliera said. "We're working to cope with regulation and the task of reducing emissions." Ferrari and its rivals are wrestling with how to shift their line-ups to battery power without losing the high performance that supports their premium pricing.

Porsche, part of the Volkswagen group, already offers a full-electric vehicle with its Taycan model, but Ferrari is ahead of its arch-rival Lamborghini, also part of Volkswagen, whose first full-electric car will not appear until the second half of this decade.

To drive into the new era of electrification, Ferrari has picked technology industry veteran Benedetto Vigna as its new chief executive.

The 296 GTB will be fitted with a 6-cylinder (V6) mid-rear turbo engine, the first on a road car with a Ferrari badge, although such engines have roots dating back to the 1950s in Ferrari racing cars.

Ferrari road cars are normally powered by V8 or more powerful - but also more polluting - V12 engines. Still, the V6 engine, coupled with a 122 kW electric motor, can produce a massive 830 horsepower.

Like the SF90 Stradale, it can deliver 25 km of silent electric-only power. First deliveries are expected in the first quarter of 2022, starting from Europe.

The 296 GTB is the third of three cars Ferrari has promised for this year. Its first-ever SUV, called Purosangue (Thoroughbred), is expected next year.

IS BANNING APPS REALLY A VIABLE SOLUTION?

OISHEE EERADA MAUDUD

'Laundering of money online through Likee', 'Luring of girls through TikTok to trafficking them abroad', 'PUBG and Free Fire addiction leads to suicide of teenager'—these are some of the headlines that have been making rounds on social media lately. In light of these situations and with India's ban of 59 apps including TikTok and PUBG (recently launched again as Battleground Mobile India), questions about whether Bangladesh will take similar steps have been circulating for some time now.

Concerns regarding the use—and abuse—of such apps have existed for a while. With numerous arguments on both sides, this controversy continues to draw different opinions from different groups of people across the country.

Various types of concerns have surfaced regarding the use of these apps. Recently, the chief of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) made a statement urging for the ban of video-sharing apps such as TikTok and Likee, following the arrest of suspects belonging to a human trafficking gang who used to lure victims using TikTok. And this is not the first instance of such crimes. Numerous similar incidents have been reported in the past where the victims were lured by the promise of shooting TikTok and Likee videos. Law enforcement officials have also attributed, to some extent, these apps to the rise of juvenile gang culture in the country. On the other hand, games like PUBG and Free Fire are causing 'gaming addiction' among teenagers, according to several media reports. Bigo (parent company of Likee) is being investigated now by CID for an alleged money laundering scam. Even globally, some of these apps have been at the receiving end of vicious legal actions. In the USA, the Trump administration even tried to ban TikTok in September 2020 over national security concerns. Pakistan and Indonesia had actually banned TikTok over negative, "obscene" content in the past. They later lifted the ban after receiving assurance from TikTok that content will be moderated and security mechanisms strengthened. In these circumstances, banning these apps and services might seem the easy way out. But is it really the solution?

The platforms from their end, have been taking a stance to curb these kinds of incidents in the future. TikTok has taken some action to curb the spread of negative and misleading content in the past. The short video platform is periodically upgrading its Community guidelines and introducing fact-checking programs in 8 countries. After the very recent human trafficking issue, they have started the #HoiShocheton campaign in a bid to raise awareness. The campaign, joined with several TikTokers including actress Mehababein, Singer Imran, Model Mahi etc to promote being safe online and offline. When asked, a TikTok spokesperson said, "Irresponsible online behaviour is an industry-wide concern and a shared responsibility. We continue to take proactive steps to prioritise the safety and well-being of our communities. We remain

committed to protecting users against any form of misuse and maintain a safe and positive in-app environment."

However, some might still have questions about the extent of implementation of TikTok's policy against negative content inside the app as negative or 'culturally inappropriate' content still floods the app in masses.

There have been privacy concerns regarding Likee too, mostly because its privacy settings are relatively unsophisticated. On Likee, users can still watch videos of people they have been blocked by. Any new Likee accounts will automatically have their locations set to public, which the users will have to change themselves. Users can also filter searches by gender. Such features cast suspicions over user safety.

When asked on the topic of efforts to counter harmful content and behaviour, a Likee spokesperson said, "We spare no efforts in combating objectionable content that violates our policies. From

ICT Journalist Forum and IT Editor of Ittefaq says, "In the past, students used to stay at school until a certain time. With the advent of online classes, students have had increased exposure to the internet. As such, they are growing addicted to such apps. They are now more concerned with likes and views than they were in the past."

However, there are arguments against the ban as well. Many complain about students becoming addicted to PUBG and neglecting their academics. Unfortunately, there is no healthier option being offered to students. At present, playing games like PUBG is simply one of their primary ways of letting off steam. Especially since the onset of the pandemic, children have had less access to the ever-scarce physical playgrounds or in-person meetings with their friends where they could enjoy spending their free time. Playing video games with friends and communicating with them on social media platforms have become their only ways of staying in touch with the outside world in these COVID-19-

Additionally, TikTok and Likee are just two of the many apps being misused for circulating negative content. Such content can be found on other social media platforms as well. Banning a few is very likely to be a surface-level "solution". As Ayesha Atiq, a model and content creator on TikTok, opined, "TikTok and Likee are no different from other platforms like Instagram where content creators post entertaining and engaging videos. While there are concerns of pornography and human trafficking linked to some of these apps, banning the app is not the solution when the problem lies in the lack of a proper legal system to prosecute the perpetrators and the lack of social education and moral values."

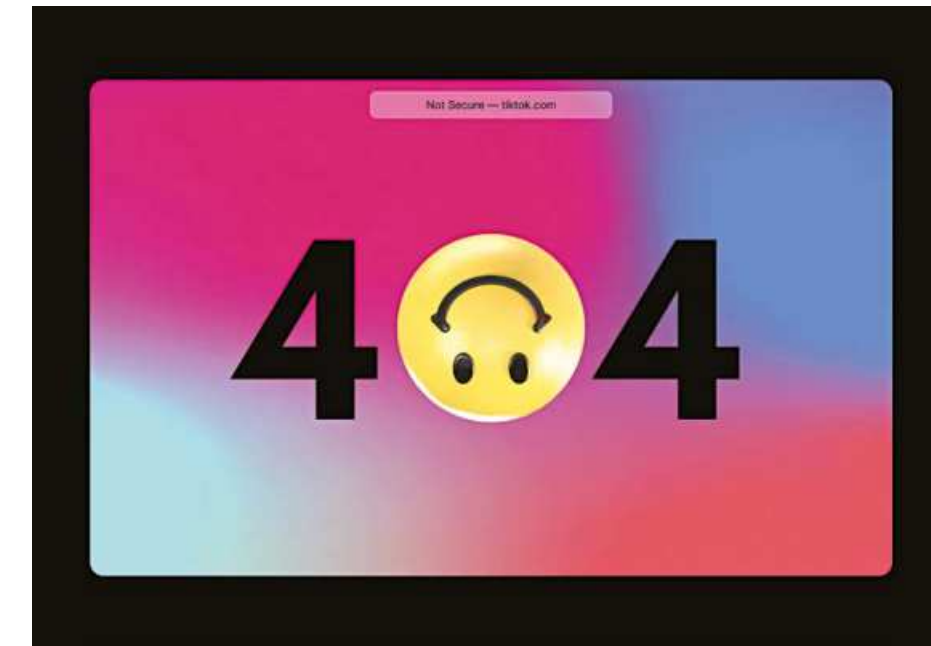
Dr Farhana Rahman, a faculty in a leading medical college believes family bonds can play a pivotal role here. "As a family, we need to be more vigilant about the on-screen activity time of our youngsters. Parents need to make sure they continuously engage with their children about risky online and offline activities so that children can make the right choice."

The spread of "indecent" or "immoral" content is also something that worries many, and a reason that has gotten TikTok banned in some countries in the past. However, standards of what constitutes "acceptable" forms of entertainment are purely subjective. Leaving it up to any institution to determine what the entire country should think of as "decent, moral, acceptable content" is unacceptable in itself and reeks of the infamous Thought Police Orwell so warned us about.

Assenting to the ban of such apps now could lead the way to bans of more mediums of expressing thought in the future. Welcoming such bans just gives the institution in charge of such action more control over the narrative and information available to the masses.

Banning these apps can also lead to information disparity. A prime example would be China, where apps such as Twitter, Facebook, and even search engines like Google are banned. Lack of access to such major platforms creates space for discrepancies in the information available there and the rest of the world. Such discrepancies can hence have adverse effects on education and innovation.

Overall, there are valid concerns regarding the negative impacts of using apps like TikTok, Likee, PUBG, etc. But how viable a long-term solution banning the apps still remains a question. As Zohaina Amreen, a digital creator on TikTok, said, "Banning the modes of expression cannot be the answer when the root of this issue goes much deeper." Where the root causes of the problems lie needs more thought and attention, and it is those causes that need addressing. Perhaps the answer lies in raising awareness—awareness about what mindsets and content are healthy and indiscriminate, what are good ways to spend time other than on the internet, and what online activities one should be wary of.



January to May this year, Likee has banned a total number of 42,751 accounts due to violations, and around 8.7 million video penalties were given per month. This year, compared to 2020, the number of moderation team members in Bangladesh has increased by 161%. With a complete content security mechanism in place, Likee inspects the contents in various scenarios, for accurately combating negative information such as fraudulent information, pornographic links, etc., and controlling abnormal contents in real-time. We have a team working around the clock to ensure that all reported content and accounts are handled properly."

The impact of such apps on academic performance has also become a topic of discussion. Fervent young users often utilize large chunks of their time gaming with PUBG, Free Fire and similar games, even to the extent of neglecting studies to do so. Mojahidul Islam, President of Bangladesh

ridden times.

Moreover, apps like Likee and TikTok just serve as a platform for self-expression. Content on such platforms is only a reflection of mindsets and ideas borne by the content creators. Some creators are using these apps for educational purposes too. As Muhammed Asif Khan, co-founder and CEO of Alpha Catering, said, "Apps like TikTok are only the beginning of a new age of democratization of talent. Previously, if you wanted to be a star, you would be at the mercy of record labels and film producers who got to decide whom to promote. YouTube probably opened the first door for a content creator to be able to reach the masses directly. Newer apps are just taking it a step further. There will be more down the line, and trying to prematurely ban one or two of them won't blunt that movement. Rather, we can think of policies and regulations to help make these apps safer."



Your phone should be automatically registered with NEIR by now, here's how you can check

REHENUMA RAYSA

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has taken an initiative to have all mobile phones (smartphones/buttoned feature phones) automatically registered by the 30th of June. Moreover, the process of identifying and blocking illegal mobile phones will continue, as from the 1st of July, any unauthorised, cloned or counterfeit handsets bought by evading tax or illegal means will no longer get registered or work.

Everyone will have to register their handsets. Below are some additional details regarding the policy you might find useful:

THE NEW TECHNOLOGY

BTRC plans to launch a National Equipment Identification Registrar (NEIR). The technology is going to be activated mainly from July 1.

The database will synchronise the data of the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number of the handset, the number (MSISDN) of the SIM card, and the biometric contacts of the customers with the SIM cards, and any fake or illegal phones will not be allowed to be used in the country's telecom network after that.

Even if the handset remains active, the customer will not be able to use sim

services such as mobile data usage or call related services.

The initiative is being taken to stop illegal phone imports, mitigate the hazards of theft or cloning, ensure the security of customer information, and prevent fraudulent activities by easily identifying or tracking criminals.

THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

All domestic and foreign mobile phones that connect to the country's network will be legalised automatically. So, the users do not need to do anything at present. Any handset currently in use will not get blocked.

One can verify the validity of their phones by dialling *16161#. They can also check the legal status of a phone by typing "KYD(space)15 digit IMEI number" and sending the message to 16002. A reply SMS will confirm the legitimacy of the handset.

If the IMEI number of the mobile phone set is known, the IMEI number will be available if one goes to the dial option and presses *#06#. It is also written in the mobile box or the attached sticker in the back of the handset.

Customers can get this service at existing citizen portals and customer care centres of mobile phone operators by visiting the neir.btrc.gov.bd weblink.

BUYING NEW PHONE

Every customer, from July 1, while buying handsets locally or bringing them from abroad, will need to check the legal status of a mobile phone before buying it and then preserve the receipt. The handset has to be verified before buying it. Once the handset is purchased, if it is found to be invalid, it can be returned at full price by showing the receipt. If the selling company does not want to cooperate, necessary actions can be taken by informing BTRC about the matter.

Furthermore, if anybody wants to sell a handset, they can go to a customer care centre and deregister the IMEI numbers from their NIDs. The new buyers of the handsets will be able to register the handset in their name.

After July 1, If a handset is invalid, the user will be communicated through message, and a three-month period will be fixed for registration. The customer can register the mobile phone as valid by showing the purchase receipt or other documents. If the user fails to provide proof of the legality of the phone to the operators, no SIM will work in the phone after the given time.

HANDSETS FROM ABROAD

After the introduction of the automatic registration process, handsets purchased

or gifted legally from abroad will automatically become operational after being connected to the Bangladeshi network.

The users will be notified via SMS, asked to verify the authenticity of the information to validate the handsets. There will be a link to the website in the received message to submit the required information online within 10 days to register the handsets on the NEIR.

The users will have to open an account on neir.btrc.gov.bd for online registration and choose the Special Registration option. On the website, the customer's name, NID number, IMEI number of the mobile, purchase receipt, photo or scanned copy of necessary documents or information regarding passport, visa or immigration etc. should be uploaded.

If the registration remains incomplete, the phone will be considered illegal, and the users will be notified about the three-month time. The customer care centres of the mobile phone operators will provide registration services as well.

According to the current baggage rules, a person returning from abroad can bring a maximum of two handsets to the country duty-free and six more by abiding by the paying duty rules.

Mental health issues among university students: what makes it worse in this pandemic?

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

The unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted people's quality of life and deteriorated their mental health. And this situation has been a period of upheaval for young people and university students who are known to be vulnerable in the case of developing mental disorders. We have talked to some teachers and students to know about their perspective on the deteriorating mental health conditions of students at the university level.

What have faculties told about mental health issues among university students?

"Uncertainty is the main cause behind these students' depression and anxiety. When you don't know what is going to happen next, you'll be anxious thinking about the upcoming risk factors naturally. Most of the students were enjoying the unprecedented vacation initially, and so were most teachers. But when it got stretched over a long period without any certain update, they started to feel trapped in depression," said Tahia Anan Dhira, Lecturer of Economics department, Dhaka University. Nahid Salma, Assistant Professor of Statistics, Jahangirnagar University mentioned that staying at home for a long period of time detached from everything, career-related insecurities, spending too much time on social media, and negative change in the sleeping pattern are the main causes behind deteriorating mental health condition of university students.

On the other hand, Rubaiya Murshed, lecturer of Economics, Dhaka University, shared her experience and said, "The

most common mental health problems that I have observed among students are: anxiety and frustration about the uncertainty, fear of failure, anger, self-doubt, helplessness, fear of societal pressure and the fear of falling behind peers."

What have students shared about their mental health issues?

"The never-ending uncertainties, regarding when classes will resume and I will graduate, often give me anxiety. These have obstructed my future plan and it's unbearable to imagine how I will cope up with the job market once I graduate. It sometimes makes me sad and disappointed thinking how we are spending our precious undergraduate years in our homes, without any new experience," said Emon Hasibul Hasan, an Economics student from Dhaka University. "As we, university students, are adults, our families generally expect that we would somehow contribute to our family expenses. But rather we are now more dependent on them for financial purposes. Moreover, this pandemic has increased our internet addiction leading to a communication gap with our families and friends. I frequently feel overwhelmed due to all these expectations and worries," said Sharada Chakraborty, another student from Dhaka University studying Psychology.

Students in universities face the overload of online exams and assignments along with new rules and regulations during this time. It has deteriorated mental health too. A student

from IUT named Mutiul Muhaimin said, "The pandemic didn't go well for me. There are no fixed schedules for online classes, and overloads of assignments and projects. But I have no time to take sufficient rest or break, and my sleeping pattern is totally messed up. At times, it even feels pathetic that some people are disappearing from my life due to lack of communication amid this pandemic." He also mentioned the inconsiderate behaviour of some faculties or respective authorities which have caused mental health problems to many university students in general. "We are burdened with tons of assessments and classwork all the time as an alternative to our conventional exams. This has forced immense academic pressure on us which sometimes becomes unbearable and makes us depressed. The pandemic has somehow ruined my predetermined career plan and I'm in a complete dilemma regarding what to do. On top of that nowadays I am always anxious thinking about my family members or friends who can anytime get infected with the deadly coronavirus", said Faria Meherin, a student of English at East West University.

Who are mostly facing such issues?

According to a study headed by Nahid Salma, students living in urban areas suffer from more stress than those living in rural areas. "Since most students who are in urban areas have more access to information and knowledge, they get the opportunity to understand both the actual Covid-19 situation and the broken

job market more deeply and it results in anxiety for them," she added. On the other hand, students in public universities are experiencing more depression and anxiety compared to those in private universities, as per a paper co-authored by Tahia Anan Dhira. She said, "Students in most private universities are not facing the session jam or the uncertainty to graduate late due to the pandemic. Moreover, a greater portion of students in private universities get partial or full financial support from their families. This kind of support is too low in the case of public university students."

What steps can be taken to help them come out from such vulnerable conditions?

Both Dhira and Rubaiya pointed out the importance of building mental health clinics or counselling units in universities for students where mental health experts will be available to support them 24/7 over online or offline. Both of them also added that the relationship between faculties and students should be more flexible so that they can approach their respective faculty anytime asking for help to get rid of depression and anxiety. Nahid suggested increasing the age limit of government jobs and ensuring job security to minimise university students' anxiety issues. Dhira further highlighted the necessity of providing financial support to the students who are in need. Besides, more open discussions on mental health should be advocated and we should break the taboos on this issue according to Rubaiya Murshed.



Windows 11: what's new

MUSHFIQUE FAHIM

Microsoft has finally announced Windows 11, six years after Windows 10 was launched back in 2015. It's a major overhaul from the existing Windows systems with a completely fresh new look and a bunch of attractive new features.

USER INTERFACE:

Aesthetically, Windows 11 is bound to make a huge leap from its predecessor. The new UI is shiny, round-edged, glassy, simple, decluttered and futuristic. The Start menu appears at the middle of the screen by default as opposed to its usual bottom left position. The taskbar is also centre oriented. The live tiles are finally gone, replaced by colourful, simplistic icons.

According to Microsoft, the Start menu uses the cloud to remember what you were working on and offers suggestions to get right back to it. The System Tray is also improved with Quick Action and Notifications now split into two. Overall, the interface should turn out to be pleasant, modern and user-friendly.

SNAP LAYOUT:

Microsoft has been pioneers in facilitating multitasking. They continue the trend by offering Snap layouts. By hovering on the Maximize icon, users will be able to pick from different snap layouts. This will effectively divide the screen up to run multiple windows simultaneously. If your workflow is interrupted by, say, an emergency phone call, you'll be able to summon your snapped layout just by clicking an icon at the taskbar.

If you work with external monitors, Windows will remember the layout you were working with when you undock your PC. Upon connecting it back to the monitor, it will bring up the layout which should save a large amount of time and organizing.

MICROSOFT TEAMS:

Microsoft is making an

effort to establish Teams as the primary messaging and calling app for its users. Teams will come integrated with the new OS and will appear at the taskbar. You can use this app to connect to anyone using Teams, whether on Windows or on Android/iOS. This effectively spells out the end for Skype which Microsoft owns. It will be interesting to see how Teams will sit in with already massively popular apps such as Zoom, Google Meet and Messenger.

GAMING:

Windows 11 puts great emphasis on attracting gaming consumers. It will

come with Auto HDR built-in, which will result in vibrant lighting and colour for games. This feature is sure to make a considerable difference to the gaming experience, as evidenced at the unveiling by demonstrating the difference of Skyrim running with and without the Auto HDR.

The new OS will bring DirectStorage- a feature that will load your game directly into your GPU's memory, without making excessive use of CPU resources. As a result, games will load much faster and efficiently. Windows 11 will also come with Xbox Game Pass and Xbox Cloud Gaming built-in so members will have

instant access to hundreds of titles.

MICROSOFT STORE AND ANDROID APPS:

Arguably, the most exciting new feature of Windows 11 will be its new and improved Microsoft Store. It will allow users access to all kinds of Windows apps and, finally, android apps too! Microsoft is making this possible by teaming up with Amazon and using Intel Bridge Technology. As the Amazon app store will be built into the Microsoft store, any android app available on the Amazon store will also run on Windows 11.



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ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চার আভিজাত্য মানেই

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