

TOGGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of *The Daily Star*

FREELANCING IS NOT FOR WOMEN

And they're killing it!



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THE PEGASUS PROJECT

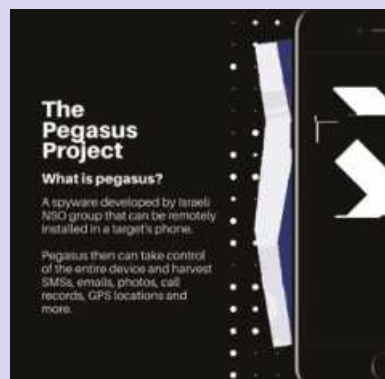


ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

Netflix to add mobile video games as subscriber growth slows

Netflix Inc said it would take a deeper dive into video games as the movie and TV streaming service projected weak subscriber growth amid growing competition and the lifting of pandemic restrictions that had kept people at home.

The company's shares hovered about even at \$531.10 in after-hours trading on Tuesday.

Netflix is weathering a sharp slowdown in new customers after a boom in 2020 fueled by stay-at-home orders to curb the Covid-19 pandemic. In the United States and Canada, Netflix reported losing about 430,000 subscribers in the second quarter, only its third quarterly decline in 10 years.

The streaming video pioneer said it was in the early stages of expanding its video game offerings, which would be available to subscribers at no extra charge. The company will initially focus primarily on mobile games.

"We view gaming as another new content category for us, similar to our expansion into original films, animation and unscripted TV," the company said in its quarterly letter to



shareholders.

The multi-year effort will start "relatively small" with games tied to Netflix hit, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Product Officer Greg Peters said in a post-earnings video interview.

"We know that fans of those stories want to go deeper. They want to engage further," Peters said.

Netflix has dabbled in video games with a few titles linked to series including "Stranger Things" and "The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance."

The company projected it would add 3.5 million customers from July through September. Wall Street had expected a forecast of 5.5 million, according to analysts surveyed by Refinitiv.

OnePlus officially announces Pro noise cancelling earbuds

OnePlus has officially announced its Pro noise cancelling earbuds, "OnePlus Buds Pro" in an event that also included the launch of the company's budget Nord 2. After a couple of generations of wireless earbuds, OnePlus has finally set its sights on the AirPods Pro — and the rest of the premium market.

The buds have a battery life of up to 10 hours (without noise cancelling) and 38 hours with the cover (ditto). The case may be charged wirelessly using third-party Qi pads, or the system can be charged for 10 hours in 10 minutes.

Adaptive noise cancellation, as a top-of-the-line feature of this product, uses a trio of onboard mics to filter out ambient sound up to 40 decibels. The technology, according to the business, outperforms more traditional active



noise cancellation, which provides a fixed level of filtering. A pair of 11mm dynamic drivers power the buds, which also support Dolby Atmos.

Buds Pro will cost \$150, putting them in line with the recently released Beats Studio Buds, as well as Google's Pixel Buds and Samsung's Galaxy Buds Pro.

EDITOR'S NOTE

A gendered perspective on freelancing and more

It's been quite some years since the freelancing sector has opened vast career opportunities in our country, and women, no matter how it seems, are not left behind entirely. According to a governmental report, female freelancers constitute approximately 9 per cent of around 6 lacs registered freelancers in Bangladesh. In today's issue, we take a look at this industry from a gendered lens to see how women have been thriving in the freelancing sector.

If you want to pursue research as a career option, this issue might just be for you, as we talk about some essential skills that budding researchers need to acquire. We also summarise the 2021 EA Play Live for you and talk about some Bengali web series that we think are worth the shot.

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Microsoft to offer cloud PC with Windows 365

Microsoft Corp said it will offer its Windows operating system as a cloud-based service, aiming to make it easier to access business apps that need Windows from a broader range of devices.

Windows 365, as the service will be called, will roll out on Aug. 2 and will work somewhat like buying a new Windows PC: A business or school will pick how much computing power, memory and storage they would like for a new machine.

But instead of waiting for a physical machine to arrive in the mail, the employee or student will access the operating system in the cloud via an



existing PC, a Mac, iPhone, Android phone or Chromebook, as long as it has a web browser compatible with HTML 5, a widely used internet standard.

The cloud-based version was created in response to feedback from clients who

wanted employees and students to have quicker and easier PC access regardless of physical location.

"We define that shift to hybrid work as really being flexible in how, when and where you work. That's really the pattern that we're seeing develop all across the world as people are starting to experiment," said Jared Spataro, corporate vice president for Microsoft 365 software.

The service is akin to so-called "virtual" and "remote" desktops that have been around for decades but which require a sophisticated IT department to set up and manage. Those costs can also

be unpredictable because they are based on how much the desktops are used.

Microsoft hopes the Windows 365 technology will be easy enough for small-business owners or smaller schools to introduce without a large IT department, with a predictable monthly bill based on the size of each virtual computer.

Andrew Hewitt, an analyst at Forrester Research, said the move would help Microsoft defend its dominant market share in the face of strong competition from operating systems from Apple Inc and Alphabet's Google that are easier for schools and businesses to manage.



Essential skills for BUDDING RESEARCHERS

ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

ISRAR HASAN

Many people are interested in research and it is not uncommon for young people, especially recent graduates, to join think tanks or research centres to try their luck at expanding the frontier of knowledge. Research, however, is not limited to any designated job; rather it remains embedded into the annals of daily work for many of us. Research is an integral part of today's globalized workforce and routinely dictates what is happening and what ought to be done in the context of the time we are living in. Research experience is always a plus when it comes to applying for higher education as it stands as a testament to all the skills a candidate supposedly has.

As the pandemic engulfs us all in another bout of insecurity, jobs pertaining to research seem to be on an uptick with many young undergraduates and graduates lapping the opportunity up. Research is never concentrated on a specific field, rather it is consistent in being two things always: interdisciplinary and expanding. Before heading onto an exciting career of research, interested candidates need to know the basic know-how before gearing up their brainboxes for what is definitely an inescapably challenging yet exciting job.

Harnessing the power of the written word

Writing is a major boon when it comes to research jobs, be it in the starting intern phase or higher positions. Good writing symbolises a grasp of the topic at hand, cements a strong flow of ideas, and showcases strong attention to detail.

Selima Kabir, an Assistant Research Coordinator at BRAC James P. Grant School of Public Health, says, "Writing skills are helpful - not only for writing the final reports and such - but also because if you have an interest in good story-telling, you will have more of an instinct to ask the right kinds of follow-up questions to ensure you're getting in-depth, well-rounded data from your respondents." This is particularly helpful in qualitative research which involves in-depth interviews, content analysis, and case studies.

Hence, anyone who is willing to make contours to the world of research should engage in some form of wordplay to experiment with the flow of writing as well as the untrammelled engagement with ideas. A writing portfolio comes in handy to showcase the list of written samples or work one has, be it newspaper articles, or published papers. Honing

one's writing also helps in presentations, and networking with fellow researchers and audiences.

Getting updated with software

Research encompasses a wide array of software from the usage of Microsoft Office/Google Suite in the management of files and information to dabbling in R/Julia software to streamline analysis to realigning papers on Latex. This is fruitful when conducting quantitative research.

Added to that is the current normal of remote working where it is incumbent on researchers to have a good grasp of communications platforms such as Zoom, BlueJeans, and Microsoft Teams.

Samira, a Research Assistant at a private university, found working with diverse software a daunting process in the beginning. "It helps to always have more than the basic idea of the software your research work might be needing as it helps to save a lot of time and smoothen the process of work since there is always an impending deadline to give you sleepless nights," remarked Samira.

Learning the basics of software is fairly easy with introductory certified courses available on sites like Udemy, Coursera, DataCamp, Google Digital Academy, and IBM. Youtube tutorials also

provide a leeway to hone one's skills and have a plethora of options of tutorials allowing one to choose and continue at one's pace and comfort. Knowing the technical know-how of psychometric and econometric tools and devices enables better feasibility when juggling all sorts of data and information.

The golden key of communication and empathy

Research is a long process that might seem alternately monotonous and exciting at times. Research work done in organisations is mostly a group project with each person specialising in the work they are most comfortable with or generally doing the same amount of work in separate timeframes.

Teamwork is the key to working in almost every group and this is no different. Good communication helps to clear out the fog for a reasonable and feasible work-life schedule and balance. Empathy in conjunction with research helps to humanise the targeted audiences helping proper planning of any research that is in the pipeline. The common denominator in all of the above skills is practise and it is never late to start. Bon Voyage!



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

Bangabandhu Tunnel
is being built with BSRM

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A guide to buying THE RIGHT CAR

ARFIN KAZI



Buying a car can be a hard task to get through, even for an auto journalist like me. When I get asked around by friends or that one uncle from my family on what car should they buy, often I find myself overwhelmed by the number of choices and car types present on the market on a given budget and by the "car aficionado" people think I am, they think it's easy for me to conclude the spot; which is not exactly the case. Thus, without further ado, here I present to you a foolproof car buying guide which hopefully will help you to make your choice depending on the situation you are in.

BUDGET

This is the most important factor taken into consideration when making a purchase and usually the first question asked when seeking a car in the market. There is a plethora of options to choose from and can be overwhelming when trying to see it as a whole. Another fact to take into account is the number of options and the spec of the car. A fully spec loaded compact SUV can cost as much as a base model midsize SUV thus, depending on your budget and what purposes your car will serve, a choice needs to be made.

FEATURES AND GRADE

As highlighted in the previous paragraph, the price of your car changes depending on the spec and grade you choose. A base model of a car usually skims a lot on additional features to save as much money humanly possible thus when buying a car, features need to be chosen carefully, depending on what will provide aid when you drive like HID headlights or a reverse camera and, what will add to your car as a cosmetic piece like an additional front bumper lip or black rims. If you are upgrading your car from an older model, always make sure what extra



you are getting and adjust your features according to your needs.

SAFETY

Often an ignored aspect from people when buying a car sadly, the safety measures provided from the vehicle you are buying will make sure to keep you alive when things go south. As technology advances, safety concerns are also getting tighter but also increasing the number of beeps when a random car gets even a tad bit closer to a curb or a human being than the car wants. Accidents never come with

a warning thus, making sure of everyone's safety should be the number one priority when making a purchase.

RESALE VALUE

The biggest priority of any Bengali when buying a car, to the point people do not even care what features are missing and what is not missing. Resale value is an important aspect to take into consideration but buying a car seemingly based on the resale value is completely pointless as, except for an emergency, not many people buy a car only to sell it after a few months. A fairly common car with enough aftermarket support in a country should get a lot of your pennies back when trying to sell your car.

VERDICT

After considering everything, revise what the competing brands are offering compared to your choice. Being a Bengali, almost 90 percent of the time it's going to be a Toyota no questions asked but, try to seek out what the competitors like Honda, Nissan, or any other brands the market is offering. Chances are you might find something even better for a cheaper price thus, keep exploring until you find the closest gap of a car to money.



BANGLADESHI WOMEN FREELANCERS ARE THRIVING

REHENUMA RAYSA

Bangladeshi women have been achieving new heights in advancing the economy of this country. They are working successfully in every significant field, including the freelancing sector. According to a governmental report, the female freelancers, 9% of around 6 lacs registered freelancers in Bangladesh, are triumphantly leaving their distinctive mark in the fast-growing freelancing sector of the country.

The reasons behind the skilled cohort of women joining this expanding sector lie in its numerous advantages, major ones being the flexibility of location, freedom to choose clients or projects, utilisation of skills, and a chance to reach financial solvency by becoming self-independent while eradicating the country's unemployment crisis.

"Since many well-qualified, talented, and competent women are forced to stop working after marriage in our country, freelancing is coming across as a more feasible option than any other, especially for women who belong to conservative families," said Emrazina Islam, Co-founder of Emrazina Technologies and a BASIS Freelancing Award Winner working as Brand Ambassador at Payoneer.

"In my office, 90 per cent of the employees are women. Our company is now fully operating from home due to the lockdown. All our employees are getting to spend more time with their families. I also get to take care of my daughter at home. That is a huge advantage for me in fulfilling my purpose. My team members work from home, and they are doing computer-based work while maintaining professionalism thoroughly. So, I am happy about that decision. Many found it inconvenient to transition from the workplace to the remote working scenario, but not us; we have been doing it successfully since 2015", she added.

Joyeta Banerjee, the CEO of TalkStory, Freelancing Instructor at Robi 10 Minute School, a renowned Author and a Content Creator, also shared her perspectives. "We all know how road safety is an issue for women, and freelancing saves commuting time too. The spatial boundaries do not exist anymore due to the widespread internet connection nationwide. Women, residing in villages or living even in the remotest places, are successfully working as freelancers. They are earning their livelihood in foreign currencies and supporting their families," she said. "Freelancing has certainly improved our employment opportunities. Women

are doing technology-based works like web designing, content writing, software and application development, web research, graphic designing, data entry etc. irrespective of their educational background, age or location, and they are doing it with similar credibility as their male counterparts, ensuring a victorious reputation for Bangladesh on global platforms."

Amidst all the praises and accomplishments, however, there are various challenges women face regularly. These have found their way into the freelancing sector as well. Emrazina emphasised how every work is tenfold harder for women; be it freelancing or any other conventional job. Women are often expected to deal with all the familial responsibilities while maintaining professionalism at work equally well.

"It is challenging for freelancers to convince their family members that the commitment of night shift is needed for international time zones or how stable

said. "Unfortunately, people interested in this sector can be lethargic at times. They are reluctant to do their research before joining this sector, which becomes a hassle in the early stage for them. Another thing that came to my attention is that families are often sceptical and against freelancing, as women's safety is vulnerable in this world, where cybercrime is on the rise. They find it risky to let women do online jobs. Although many think that freelancing is a comfortable job, for those managing their obstacles - it is not all sunshine and rainbows."

In addition, while exploring the future potential of freelancing for Bangladeshi women, we asked mentor Joyeta and enterprising freelancer Emrazina about their opinions regarding what this lucrative sector has to offer to Bangladeshi women in future. Both of them have assured us with words of hope and some valuable advice for the newcomers.

Joyeta confided in saying, "Something



income can be hard in the beginning. Freelancing, by no means, is an easy job. It requires an equal amount of dedication as a conventional job. It is tough for women to handle the workload while working from home, making it more difficult for them to navigate their way through a perfect work-life balance", she said.

Moreover, Joyeta pointed out how she noticed some problems her students face are recurring and the same among all. "The problems women face along with inadequate resources are lack of authentic information as to how different payment methods work, how to approach their potential clientele or how the working hours require immense adaptability on their part, especially from students or women who manage work and household chores simultaneously," she

I wish I knew before embarking on my freelance journey I should have learnt more than one skill before entering this workplace. Since it is not guaranteed that you will always be hired in this dynamic workplace, having multiple skills under your sleeves helps tremendously. The marketplace demands keeping up with the change of clients' preferences. The acquisition of knowledge regarding freelancing is the first step. Freelancing requires impeccable organising skills so, for better output, proper planning and preparing oneself accordingly are of paramount importance."

"My strategy was that I did extensive online research and resorted to free materials as the institutional fees were not affordable for me. I kept on practising on my own; the rest comes with experience. Research and video tutorials can be

helpful, as well as having all the necessary documents like NID or bank account sorted. Another prerequisite of freelancing is to embrace change. If you want to survive here, you need to continue learning as it will help you turn your skill into monetary value," she added.

On the other hand, Emrazina said, "I have been working in this sector since 2011, and the change that I notice the most is how competitive the outsourcing marketplaces have become. Women inherently have certain attributes that are essential for freelancing. However, while it is true that many want to work as freelancers, they lack the core skills. They should work on their communication and IT skills for better outcomes. People looking for shortcuts to success end up creating multiple accounts under fake names, attending exams on behalf of someone else, or even claiming others' works as theirs by including them in their portfolios. These unethical activities defame the name of the country, which as a result, affects client communities' trust making everyone else suffer professionally."

"However, there is light at the end of the tunnel as our society's mindset is changing with time in terms of gender parity. The future is bright if we can collectively, with the intervention and effort of governmental or non-governmental initiatives along with other concerned figures, foresee that the sector is protected from getting tainted with frauds, who take the wrong road, as it is a promising sector opening many windows of opportunity for women. I am optimistic that if we can get the concept of healthy partnerships right, more women will participate in this workforce. Many men have contacted us for guidance for their mothers, sisters, and wives. Hence, we can expect more involvement in the coming years. Our grandmothers and mothers have done so much for the world already, so why can we not be supportive of that notion?" concluded Emrazina.

Meanwhile, Jamila Jhuma, who started working as a freelancer in 2019 and within this short time has secured her place as a level two seller in Fiverr, shared her experience with us. She is married and a mother of two. She has everything nice to say about this career option, although she too feels that the path of becoming freelancers is not easy for women as they have to seek permission or approval from others. She is immensely content with her choice of being a freelancer, which allows her to take care of her children while excelling in her career. The flexibility of working hours is a blessing to her.

"Despite contemporaneous constraints and barriers, since I was determined on my sole mission of creating an identity, I got to discover myself through my journey of becoming a freelancer. It is the most suitable occupation for me. I would tell the aspiring freelancers to know their work and enhance their skill set to establish themselves as freelancers. Freelancing jobs offer women tons of great opportunities", she asserted.



2021 EA Play Live: Here are the major upcoming games

ABDUS SALAM SHAWN

After missing this year's E3, Electronic Arts decided to showcase their new games and some exciting news in EA style. 2021 EA Play Live took place on 22 July 2021 and revealed updates and gameplay videos of titles such as Grid Legends from Codemasters, Battlefield Portal, Apex Legends: Emergence, a remake of the popular Dead Space and more. Yes, it's time to get excited! Here are the major announcements:

GRID LEGENDS

Hosted by Austin Creed, the show kicked off with Grid Legends, the latest instalment in Codemaster's beloved Grid franchise. It gives you a new story mode starring the award-winning British actor, Ncuti Gatwa, who plays Eric in Netflix's Sex Education. In-store, there are bigger trucks, electric cars, open-wheelers, hypercars and much more. You are also getting multi-class mix racing, where you can put any vehicle from any class against a completely different class of cars. Filmed in Extended Reality (XR), this is a classic underdog story competing in street circuits, arena ovals and off-road. The game is set to launch in 2022.

BATTLEFIELD PORTAL

One of three experiences in Battlefield 2042, the Battlefield Portal is a community-driven game mode where players have the freedom



to "write their own rules and shape their own battlefields", according to Christian Grass, GM of Ripple Effect. Along with all seven maps from Battlefield 2042, players will have access to all-time favourite maps from 1942, Bad Company 2, and BF3. To name a few, there will be Caspian Border, Arica Harbor, El Alamein, Noshahr Canals and a few more. You can customize modes, soldiers, weapons, settings and more. There is even an advanced logic editor. You can, for example, put soldiers from 1942 against modern robots. Your customized game modes can be shared on the Portal platform. Portal will be available along with Battlefield 2042 on 22 October 2021.

APEX LEGENDS: EMERGENCE

Respawn showed off Apex Legends, Emergence, the next big update for the 100 million players first-person shooter, Apex Legends. Seer, the brand new legend, stole the show with many unique abilities and tactics. He carries drones in his chest and deploys them to track enemy movements. He can send out hundreds of micro-drones and create a sphere in a specified area that detects any fast-moving enemies. Other new legends, maps and modes are also coming. Emergence is coming out on 3 August

2021. Esports fans will be glad to learn that the second season of the Apex Legends Pro League is starting in September, with a prize pool of \$5 million.

FIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Multiplayer dodgeball game Knockout City's season 2, dubbed Fight at the Movies, is bringing a film-inspired new map called the Holowood Drive-In. The player's goal in Knockout City is to knock out the enemy by hitting them with a ball. The new season brings a new Soda Ball which blinds opponents with sticky syrup. There are also movie-inspired gears, cosmetics, playlists and new rewards. The hilarious and chaotic game is about to get a whole lot better with the new season kicking off on 27 July 2021.

DEAD SPACE

A remake, not a remaster, of the classic sci-fi horror survival game Dead Space is being built by Electronic Arts' Motive studio. It will be built from the ground up with all-new technology to utilise modern gaming hardware. Originally released in 2008, the game made an immense impact on the gaming world. You will experience a better story, gameplay mechanics and much more. Senior producer of Dead Space, Phillippe Ducharme, said, "We have a passionate team at Motive who are approaching this remake as a love letter to the franchise." The trailer didn't show much and we will have to wait for a gameplay trailer. A release date was not announced for the fan-favourite game.

If you have missed the action, you can watch the whole show on Electronic Arts' YouTube channel.

Tips to stay safe online and PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY

TASNUVA KINNORI

Digital security means safeguarding against cybercrime and other security risks while navigating the internet. With millions of people worldwide working, studying or socializing strictly online, our virtual lifestyles are more exposed to cyber threats than ever before.

According to the UN, cybercrime is up by 600% due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Such alarming statistics only emphasize the importance of taking certain precautions to bolster our digital safety:

Be careful where you click

The internet is filled with suspicious websites, emails, pop-ups, online quizzes and links that steal your private information or sneak in viruses and malware onto your device. Before clicking on a link claiming you won a crazy prize, try to spot the tell-tale signs of deceit, such as click-bait headlines, poor grammar, pop-ups, or web addresses that seem phony. Visiting such sites, providing any sort of information on the site or downloading anything from there can result in your data being stolen, accounts being invaded or devices getting infected with viruses.

Keep your software updated

That annoying software update request that you keep putting off may contain important security updates for your device or OS. Staying up-to-date with the latest version of software patches up identified holes in your device's security- providing the best possible protection against constantly changing threats. To get the latest updates soon as they're released, simply enable automatic updates in your device's settings.

Stronger passwords, better security

While using a strong password may seem obvious, setting easy to guess passwords or the same one across multiple accounts is a common practice. There exist many general guidelines to set strong passwords, such as having both lower and upper case letters, using numbers or signs etc. If setting an easy to remember but hard to crack password is too much of an inconvenience, try utilizing a password management tool which generates complex passwords as well as stores them for you. There are many free password management tools available for use, such as LastPass, Avira Password Manager, RoboForm etc.

Layered security with multi-factor authentication

Multi-Factor Authentication increases the security of an account by asking for

additional information, such as codes delivered via SMS, security questions or biometrics to authorize logging in. This service is available for most email providers and social media platforms. To see if a website supports multi-step authentication, check the site's settings page. While the extra steps may seem inconvenient, your data will be much safer than with just a password.

Account management

Our increased online presence comes with an increase in the number of accounts we use across the internet. Managing all these accounts is a fundamental step in ensuring our digital security.

sensitive information like- addresses or bank details, make sure you're connected to a secured private network.

Antivirus and firewalls

Other than installing antivirus software for your computer, you can also use antivirus extensions on a mobile browser to check a site's security and prevent pop-up advertising that may contain viruses. Moreover, setting up firewalls is an effective way to prevent any unauthorized access to your computer or phone. While some devices come with pre-installed firewalls, for those that don't, most antivirus packages provide firewall protection too.

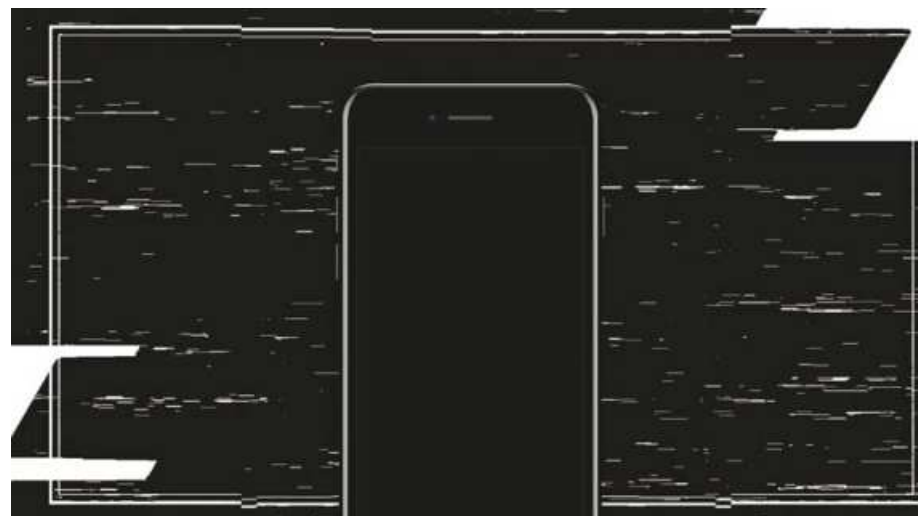


ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

Firstly, any account that is no longer in use should be deleted. Secondly, it's best to log out of accounts after use- be it on social media, e-commerce platforms or sites holding sensitive information (like bank account or credit card info). Since logging into these websites creates cookies in your browser (which if stolen, can compromise your account), logging out is the safest. Logging out of personal accounts is also crucial while using public computers or networks.

For private devices, it's typically safe to stay logged on to email accounts or social media, as long as the device itself is securely locked with pins or passwords. For social media accounts, it's important to review profile visibility and privacy layers to prevent strangers from getting ahold of your personal information. Additionally, turning on tag reviews in the privacy settings can help in cases of being tagged in unwanted/ potentially harmful posts without your approval.

Ensure network security

Open networks, such as public Wi-Fi hotspots leave you with no direct control over the security of the connection. While it's best not to connect to such networks, if it is unavoidable, using a secure VPN (Virtual Private Network) is recommended. A VPN establishes a secure network connection between your device and an internet server, ensuring that no one can monitor or read the information exchanged. For sharing

Secure your downloads

Downloads are the most common route for viruses to enter your devices. Apps obtained from official sources such as the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store are safer than downloading anything from third-party sites. Before installing anything, make sure to go through the permissions, terms and conditions- which will undoubtedly be a tedious process, but is critical to understand what you are inviting onto your devices.

Clear out history and cookies

Trying to scroll down on a website only to have the content blocked out by an annoying "This Website Uses Cookies" pop-up? These cookies are text files that record your preferences, allowing websites to (typically) show you more relevant advertisements. On the other hand, hackers can exploit these cookies to obtain your personal information. Thus, clearing your browser history and cookies every month or so ensures that any trackable personal information stored in them is removed.

Securing mobile devices

Smartphones are the most used devices to access the internet, making them a prime target for security breaches. Some general tips to boost your mobile security include- using biometrics, facial recognition or difficult passcodes to unlock the device, keeping the OS updated, performing

regular mobile backups and using in-built device tracking services to prevent loss or theft. Smartphones now come with encryption software that scrambles data so unauthorized parties can't access it.

To see if your device is encrypted, check the security tab under the device's settings. If your device doesn't come encrypted out-of-the-box, encryption apps can be downloaded from verified sources for more security. For an extra layer of security, toggle Bluetooth settings to "non-discoverable" in crowded places.

Making online payments

The virtual payment for all your online shopping exploits may be a prime opportunity for hackers to obtain your banking information. To see if a payment gateway is secure, look no further than the website's address- which should begin with "https" (instead of only "http") and the URL field displaying a padlock icon. Also, keep an eye out for addresses with misspellings or poor grammar- which may be knockoffs of reputable sites. To avoid visiting dangerous websites, install safe search browser plug-ins.

Routinely review security settings

For all our online accounts, it's important to periodically change passwords and run security checks. As online security threats keep evolving, so should your digital security measures. While reviewing the security settings for any account, make sure to enable log-in notifications and change the security questions/ identity verification methods for multi-factor authentication.

For social media accounts, routinely review the privacy settings (especially after editing your profile), what information is available to the public and your personal information provided.

Backup data regularly

The recent trend in online threats sees a rise in "ransomware"- where hackers threaten to lock users out of their files unless a ransom is paid. The often-overlooked habit of backing up your devices' data to cloud storage or an external hard drive can provide a way around such online threats. Besides, even if your device gets infected by malware, regular backups will always save a copy of your valuable data.

Privacy Policies

For those looking to go the whole nine yards for their digital security, the largely ignored "privacy policy" accompanying apps, games, software and websites can explain how they secure and use the information collected from users.

AKM Fahim Mashroor, CEO, Bjobs and Sumon Ahmed Sabir, CEO, Fibre at Home, were consulted in preparing this article. Find this article online on our website to read a detailed version with their quotes.

5 contemporary Bengali web series you should consider watching

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

Lately, Bengali OTT platforms have created much buzz over Bengali web content in contrast to traditional TV shows, especially among millennials and gen-z viewers. Here is a list of 5 contemporary Bengali web series featuring intriguing storylines you may consider putting on your watchlist.

MOHANAGAR

Mohanagar is a crime thriller consisting of eight episodes showing a seven hours long period inside a police station.

One night, Afnan Chowdhury, son of an influential industrialist went to the Kotwali police station in Dhaka after being involved in a hit-and-run accident. Harun, the officer in charge, was on duty that night, and he was tasked to save Afnan from this mess in exchange for money. But as the story progresses, it takes surprising turns.

The series has boasted a gripping story that shows the deep-rooted corruption, misuse of power and money, and sufferings of common people. The last episode takes the whole story to an unexpected stage and sets the floor for another exciting season.

Mohanagar, starring Mosharraf Karim as the OC Harun, is available on Hoichoi, a popular online video streaming platform.

TAQDEER

Taqdeer, an eight-episode long web series, chronicles the story of a freezer van driver named Taqdeer who mysteriously finds the dead body of a journalist in his van. Finding himself in a hopeless mess, he tries to find a way to get rid of this situation on his own in the muck of deceit and lawlessness.

Featuring Chanchal Chowdhury as the protagonist of the series, it forward whirls through interesting twists and turns, and every character gradually adds clues



and reveals the main story behind the dead body. Some prevailing issues of our society and political atrocities have also been shown in this series.

You can watch this entertaining yet thought-provoking series on the OTT platform Hoichoi.

AUGUST 14

The series was inspired by a true and horrific incident that happened back in 2013 when a police officer and his wife were killed by their own daughter. On the 14th August of 2013, the teenager murdered her own parents, and three days later, she surrendered herself to police and confessed her crime.

Tasnuva Tisha played Tushi, the character of the teenager in this series, and gave a commendable performance. It portrays how Tushi's life was before committing the crime, her relationship with her parents, and the aftermath of it.

You can find it on Binge, a local

streaming service.

CONTRACT

This web series is an action-packed political thriller starring Chanchal Chowdhury and Arifin Shuvoo. It is based on a much-appreciated novel titled 'Contract' from the 'Beg Bastard' series written by Bangladeshi writer Mohammad Nazim Uddin.

The six-episode series is about the murky world of politics and how some powerful people create contract killers for their personal benefit. Dreaded don Black Ronju has returned to Bangladesh after 15 years. The National Security Agency makes a plan to grab him, while a semi-retired politician decides to take the help of an assassin.

To know who gets to Black Ronju first or more about stories of people evolving this mission, watch 'Contract' on Zee5.

The series adaptation may not seem up to the mark as the novel for viewers,

especially for those who have read the novel beforehand. However, it is a good watch based on the dramatic and thrilling storyline.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

The eight-episode series addresses some sensitive social issues including gender inequality, sexual harassment, patriarchy, and so on. Sabila Hossain, played by Tasnia Farin, falls prey to the lust of her boss. When she decides to file a complaint against her boss after being sexually harassed, the culture of victim-blaming and misogyny becomes more evident.

No doubt that Tasnia stands out as the protagonist, but the character Laura starring Maria Nur also depicts an interesting role where she is torn between her father's love and her sympathy for another woman.

'Ladies and Gentlemen' is also available on the OTT platform Zee5.

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ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চার আভিজাত্য মানেই

স্যান্ডালিনা
সোপ

রূপচর্চার আভিজাত্য...

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