

TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of *The Daily Star*



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ



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the biggies
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VIVO launches the Y53s in Bangladesh

Vivo has announced the launch of its latest smartphone, Y53s, in Bangladesh.

The phone is equipped with a massive 5,000 mAh battery and 33W FlashCharge technology, triangular camera setup of 64 MP Rear Camera, 2MP Bokeh camera and a 2MP macro camera.

The smartphone also has an advanced Multi-Style Portrait feature, which uses Bokeh effects, AI Face Beauty, and tone adjustments, and boasts 8GB RAM+3GB extended RAM, along with 128GB ROM+1TB memory expansion.

Y53s also has a side fingerprint sensor and comes in two trendy nature-inspired colour themes—Deep Sea Blue and Fantastic Rainbow.

The Y53s is now available for purchase in offline all authorised Vivo retail stores, brand shops, and e-commerce websites, priced at BDT 22,990.

Marcopolo.ai reaches K-Startup Grant Challenge Top 60

ZAKIA SAMEEN NOOR

Markopolo.ai, a startup that offers a 360 degrees marketing solution for SMEs, has recently reached the Top 60 of the K-Startup Grant Challenge among 250+ global applicants.

The Top 60 teams are part of the Accelerating Program where up to 2 members from each team travel to and stay in South Korea. Startups worldwide working on AI & fintech had applied for this prestigious grant program. For Bangladesh, a local startup reaching a global stage of this calibre is a matter of great pride as well as a boon for the country's budding ecosystem.

Here, the teams receive training and 1-1 mentorship from the biggest Korean tech companies like Samsung, Hyundai Motors, SK Group - all part of the startup ecosystem. The teams also have the invaluable opportunity to network with Korean businesses and have access to a major tech & economic hub of Asia. The Accelerating Program will also provide Korean interns for the teams to choose from who will help them ease into the Korean culture.

"The main advantage of Markopolo.ai is that we offer a unified solution to all marketing problems for small businesses," says Tasbin Tasfia, CEO of Marcopolo.ai. "They do not require having much technical knowledge of marketing nor incurring large costs. All they have to do is provide simple inputs in the software which will generate marketing campaigns on any platform

eg Facebook, Instagram, Twitter. This offers better ROI for the businesses who retain full control over their marketing."

Right now, Marcopolo.ai is working on restructuring its services to make them more simplified. They constantly work to refine the AI software for their customers.

"With the help of the K-Startup Grant, we hope to create a global sales funnel and accelerate the Bangladesh startup ecosystem by taking our services to the international platform," said Ms Tasfia.

Korea is a country that has 11 unicorn startups. Korea's startup ecosystem is active and well-designed, attracting the attention of investors, accelerators, and incubators from all around the world. Projects between conglomerates and startups are active under the government direction. For instance, conglomerates such as Samsung, Hyundai, LG, SK, POSCO, Lotte, Hanwha, CJ, GS are directly initiating accelerating or venture programs.

With a domestic market size of about USD 736.21 billion, Korea has the 15th biggest internal market in the world. Despite the tiny population and the small domestic demand market size, the Korean domestic market has a great purchasing power, as acknowledged by many global firms for a long time. Such an environment may provide a footstone for numerous global startups - Bangladesh being one of them.



EDITOR'S NOTE

World Indigenous Day, rethinking workplace equality and more

On August 9, the world observed World Indigenous Day this year. This day is significant in the sense that it urges everyone to be aware of the beautiful thing that is diversity and be more inclusive. Bangladesh too is home to a great number of indigenous communities that hold a rich diversity of living heritage and culture. But unfortunately, we have very few sources to know about their distinct cultures, languages, daily phenomenon, or even their struggles. In today's issue, we talk about Indigenous Exclusive, an online platform run by indigenous youths to shed light on the culture and struggles of indigenous people.

Along with our regular tech and automobile updates, we also talk about our thoughts on rethinking and rebuilding our work culture to establish equality for women.

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Surokkha under attack, 27 other infrastructure at risk: Palak

Cyber attacks were carried out on the Covid-19 vaccination registration app, Surokkha by forces from abroad, as confirmed by Zunaid Ahmed Palak, State Minister for Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The State Minister confirmed the news yesterday at the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony among the Digital Security Agency, Bangladesh Computer Council and Bangladesh Air Force.

"The hackers tried to shut down the Surokkha app, but the situation was handled extremely well by the

experienced manpower on our ICT front," said the State Minister.

He also mentioned that twenty-seven important information infrastructures including Bangladesh Bank, NID and Passport have been identified as risk-prone to such cyber attacks. "The ICT department is working relentlessly to protect these infrastructures," he added.

The memorandum was signed by Digital Security Agency Director (Administration and Finance) Md Abdus Sattar Sarkar, Bangladesh Government's e-Government Computer Incident Response Team (BGD e-GOV

CIRT) Director Tarique M Barkatullah and Cyber Warfare and Information Technology Directorate Director Air Commodore Md Touhidul Islam. Under this trilateral deal, the Digital Security Agency of the ICT Division and BGD CIRT of Bangladesh Computer Council will provide necessary training to Bangladesh Air Force in order to increase their digital capacity.

State Minister Palak also mentioned that ensuring cybersecurity is not a feasible task for a single body or organisation. "It requires concerted effort," he said. "We will all work

together to ensure our cybersecurity and hopefully win this war against cyber attacks."

The Surokkha app is up and running at the moment, confirmed by Tarique M Barkatullah, Director, BGD e-GOV CIRT to The Daily Star. "We identified that Surokkha was under attack after the declaration of mass vaccination when many people were unable to access the app to register for the vaccine. The app was shut down for recovery and maintenance purposes for a while, but it is functioning at its full capacity at the moment," he said.



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

Rethinking workplace gender equality

MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

Apart from witnessing history in the last year and a half, my friends and I have also been going through personally transformative experiences. That is to say, we have graduated right in the middle of the pandemic. Last night, the words that my friend said stayed with me, "No one ever prepared us for this part of life."

She was speaking about her chaotic first five months in the professional world. She had begun her current role with great enthusiasm as the company was renowned, especially for the field she studied in. However, within a few weeks, she had come to realise how much of a poor fit she was for this workplace environment. Keeping aside the absurdity of most offices in Bangladesh which insist on working on-site during the pandemic despite remote work offering high levels of efficiency, my friend had to deal with unforeseen challenges in the name of misogyny. I shudder to recall one of the instances she narrated to me in which a male colleague had said, "Hey, I am unmarried, so don't put a young woman on my team."

The ratio of women to men at the aforementioned

workplace was expectedly, alarmingly low. This led me to wonder about the existing challenges in the workplace that women continue to face to this day. Regardless of the beautifully curated care packages that HR departments of different corporations send to their women coworkers on the 8th of March, what are the real changes we have made to ensure gender equality?

The dangers of token gestures run deep for this very reason - what is meant to be a sign of the struggles of working-class women can too easily be converted into a photo op, as the employees themselves flood social media with pictures of being decked out in pink and purple. Sadly, that seems to be the extent to which some corporations' accountability exists. The situation begs for a keener analysis of the internalised biases we hold and social etiquettes that have been normalised.

Over the last few decades, we have seen an increasing number of women enter the workforce. This change must be reflected in deeper ways than mere statistics. Starting from our verbal language to behaviour and body language, a lot demands to be reevaluated to make safe spaces for women. It is not enough to say that more women are entering the workforce, but rather we must also ask, at what cost? Ultimately, are women paying a price simply to have access to all-boys clubs?

In 1984 the Government of Bangladesh ratified The UN Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Three articles in our constitution (10, 19, 28) are dedicated to eradicating gender inequality. Article 28(4) reads, "Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making special provision in favour of women or children or for the advancement of any backward section of

citizens." This shows that the necessary laws are in place, however, a large question mark still looms over the execution of said laws.

We suffer from an unmet need for accountability measures to be in place, possibly in the form of regulatory bodies that oversee the workplace environments. Additionally, we are also tasked with embarking on the arguably more difficult journey of questioning and unlearning much of our beliefs, thought processes and language that we have inherited from the patriarchy.

Academic Brilliance



Mashiat Aubhro, who scored 10As i.e. A star in all exams in O-level exams under Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) syllabus from Calcutta International School (CIS). She gave the credit to her parents and teachers for her achievements. Dr. Md Mofakharul Iqbal is father of Mashiat, who working as First Secretary (Press) at Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata and her mother Dr. Tasmema Begum is working as FEO under Fisheries and Livestock Ministry.



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Toyota Land Cruiser Prado vs Haval H9: competing for the Bangladeshi icon

ARFIN KAZI

The Toyota Land Cruiser Prado, as we all know, is one of the most popular, well established full-sized SUVs in Bangladesh. Competing against a car with this pedigree in Bangladesh is like comparing silver with platinum.

Knowing these conditions, Haval, with high hope and a strong will, came up with the H9, a direct competitor with the Prado, for half the price. But the main questions are always perpetual. Is it a worthy contender of the Prado or should you trust Toyota?

This week, we are going to compare the second-generation Haval H9 with the fourth-generation Toyota Land Cruiser Prado.

How does the Chinese samurai hold up to the Japanese connoisseur?

Haval does bring a lot to the table in this confrontation. But the car is almost identical to the Prado. Almost to the point, it's sort of like playing a game of spot the difference. You could easily mistake an H9 for a Prado but either way, they both have their fair share of differences.

On paper, both are full-sized SUVs sporting seven seats, a 4WD system, and

rear diff lock capabilities. Step inside the car and you could find that differences are keen. Both the cars have tri-zone climate control systems, leather dashes with wooden trim, albeit the Haval wooden panels look a little fancier than the Prado trims in my opinion. Leather front and back seats, front seats are power in both cars, leather stitched steering wheel and cup holders in their usual places to hold your favourite Crimson Cup drink.

Although the Haval has better headroom than the Prado, the backbench in the Prado is nicer. But overall though, the



Haval cabin is heaps better than the Prado as mostly due to the benign leather dash and seats. It almost feels premium compared to the Prado.

What matters the most
The Prado powered by the 2.8L turbo-diesel making 130kW/450 Nm equipped with a six-speed automatic or manual transmission has a larger displacement than the H9; which comes with a 2L turbo under the hood

making 180kW/350 Nm equipped with an eight-speed transmission which is far more compared to the Prado. But then, the larger displacement makes the experience smoother and comes in handy when tackling terrain on low-range gear modes.

The Haval is nothing less though compared to the Prado, having a six terrain mode system to make sure to tackle terrain, mud, and snow with ease. When it comes to commuting, the Prado sports a communicative steering and automated braking system which the Haval lacks unfortunately but it has a good enough cruise control system that



compared to the Haval, as of now at least.

Longevity wise, the Japanese never disappoint and still have that trust from the average person cashing out for a car but, if consistency is maintained from the Chinese manufacturers, things could take a turn for the better. Until then, the Prado remains an untouchable SUV in Bangladesh.

VERDICT

To be fair, the Haval H9 puts up a great deal by showing exponential growth, being not such a popular company compared to Toyota. The H9 proves that times have changed and if not kept up with the things outside tradition, it really can switch the default.

makes your driving experiences on the freeway less tiring.

Although it has quite a handful of missing features from necessary driver aid to the autonomous braking systems, coming at half the price of a Prado, complaints are faint. Although the Prado has a larger displacement makes commuting experiences less harsh compared to the H9 and, the engine fluidity from a Toyota is still far better

Indigenous Exclusive: an online news platform for the world, by indigenous youths

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

Bangladesh is home to a great number of indigenous communities that hold a rich diversity of living heritage and culture. But unfortunately, we have very few sources to know about their distinct cultures, languages, daily phenomenon, or even their struggles. As minorities, they are still struggling to get their socioeconomic, political, and cultural rights, and their stories are often ignored and neglected. To tell the world about these unheard stories, some indigenous youths created an online news media platform, 'Indigenous Exclusive' in October 2020.

Building a safe and useful news media platform for indigenous people

In 2017, there was a massive communal and arson attack in Longadu under the Rangamati district of the Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT). However, it did not get much national media coverage as it should have.

This unfortunate and saddening situation led Arjyashree Chakma to generate a plan of creating a media of their own, where the stories and issues of indigenous people can be highlighted, and people across the country and abroad can acknowledge them and know what they are facing.

In late 2020 when the world was still close to a halt, Arjyashree, studying at Holy Cross College, thought of executing her dream to do something for her people. She and her close friend Eve Elizabeth Khockshi founded 'Indigenous Exclusive' on 22nd October 2020.

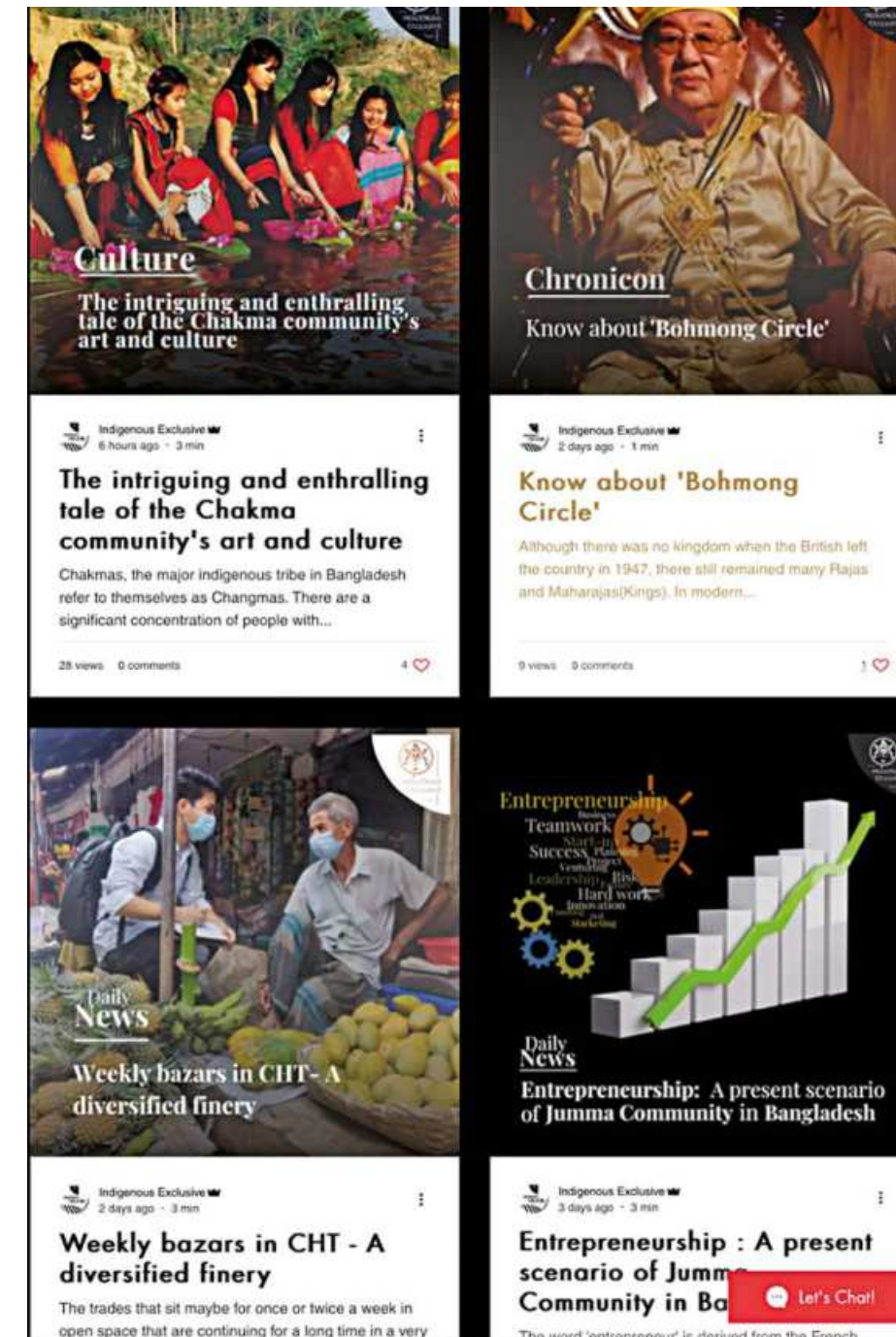
Initially, they only used to create weekly news. But now, they update on a daily basis with a wide range of stories.

A group of enthusiastic and energetic indigenous youths

At first, Arjyashree used to gather members for her team, edit the news and write-ups, and Eve used to make covers for their stories. Now, they have a team of 23 youth members who are working hard for the betterment of indigenous communities.

Interestingly, all of these youths are indigenous students, mostly studying in different high schools and some are in universities. This platform has members from indigenous communities such as Chakma, Marma, Garo, and so on.

Besides upholding the stories of these



communities, she had a target to create a platform where indigenous students can write fearlessly, and feel included. This is why it is only open for indigenous students to join the core team, and to create sufficient opportunities for them to participate in such extra-curricular activities.

All about 'Indigenous Exclusive' platform

At 'Indigenous Exclusive', all these news are published in English as they want to reach maximum audiences all around the world, and let people know about their communities. For now, these stories get published on the free website and update about the recently published stories on their Facebook page on a daily basis.

They feature stories about their culture, food and traditional meals, history, notable personalities of their communities, daily phenomenon, and so on. For example, they did news on Mohendra Lal Tripura who was an author, poet, and lyricist at the same time and belonged to the Tripura community. He left a huge contribution to their native music and literature, but most people do not know about his works. They also raise important issues such as the lack of quality education in indigenous communities, miserable transportation systems, etc.

Moreover, they focus on the inspiring and success stories from indigenous communities such as they did a blog on F Minor, the first all-female indigenous band. Check out their Facebook page to know more about such incredible stories and people. These wonderful write-ups and posters need a lot of effort.

The team of 'Indigenous Exclusive' uses books related to indigenous communities' history, issues and culture, and does a good amount of online research before publishing them. Their articles are read by people across the country and people from India, Nepal, Canada, the USA, France, among others.

Hoping to overcome the obstacles and make it a bigger platform for indigenous people

Arjyashree is still a college-going student, and most of her team members are also from high schools. For obvious reasons, it is quite troublesome for them to manage their academic studies and this platform. It also takes a lot of courage and determination to work for a platform that is exclusively for indigenous communities. Moreover, they do not have a domain for an actual website. They have developed it on a free domain as it is hard for them to bear the maintenance costs of an actual website as a student-based organisation at such a young age.

However, Arjyashree has an aim to buy a domain whenever she starts to earn on her own and make it a bigger platform for indigenous communities. She hopes to expand it more in the future for the betterment of these people.

Ajyashree adds, "If we do not come forward for our community, then who will come instead? Let us come forward and do something well for our community."



PC BUILDING GUIDE

2021 edition

ABDUS SALAM SHAWN

The new normal has forced more and more people to spend on buying computers. A shortage in semiconductor production has pushed up the prices manifold, and hence, building a computer has become a daunting task. You have to spend your money carefully and get the right parts for the build. So, here are some tips for buying the most important parts of your next computer.



CPU

The CPU is the essential part that you will build your computer around. You can go in either direction of the two: AMD or Intel. AMD's Ryzen processors have gained massive popularity in the last few years. They offer more cores for your money than Intel and their 5000 series Ryzen CPUs can make use of all of them

without needing to be slowed down for instability, which was an issue for the last generations. More cores are helpful in multitasking and productivity workloads.

Their phenomenal IPC is benefiting gaming as well. Intel on the other hand boasts higher clock speeds, AI capability and huge compatibility. Their 19% IPC improvement in the Rocket Lake processors is helpful in Gaming.

Also, memory speed can be overclocked to a higher point in Intel builds which some games are taking advantage of. Everything considered, your choice comes down to your specific use case.

Motherboard

The CPU is going to determine which motherboard you have to buy as it should be compatible with the processor socket. Generally, Intel uses LGA and AMD uses PGA sockets. The most popular motherboard form factors are ATX and micro ATX. You should also be mindful of how many memory slots you are getting: 4 slots leaves you with enough upgradability in the future.

Moreover, find out how many PCI expansion slots, SATA and M.2 connectors and peripherals connectors you get. Modern motherboards come with onboard audio, WiFi and Bluetooth. These add to the price but otherwise, you'd have to spend money on expansion

cards for these features. You don't need to go for super expensive motherboards as they do not offer lots more than cheap ones other than more overclocking capabilities, which most people won't do.

Memory

Memory or RAM is another component on which you might feel tempted to overspend. The sweet spot for the price to performance ratio is 16 GBs. Anything more than that is for server tier computers. Memory clock speed is also a factor here as manufacturers are pushing them up to 5100 Mhz. However, that high clock speed is only good for CPU overclocking. Around 3000 MHz is the suggested memory speed. You should get two memory sticks and put them in separate channel slots on the motherboard to take advantage of dual-channel memory bandwidth.

Graphics Card

Assuming that you are going to get one, the graphics card is the part that you should save up for. The GPU market has dried up as cryptocurrency values skyrocketed and miners started piling graphics cards. Nvidia cards have had an advantage over AMD in the last few years because of their real-time ray tracing feature, delivering realistic reflections, refractions and shadows. AMD, with their 6000-series cards, are bringing ray-tracing for the first time. They recently

released FidelityFX Super Resolution resolution upscaling. However, Nvidia is more experienced in these areas and has had DLSS for years, Nvidia's AI-assisted resolution upscaling. Although it is not a good time to buy a GPU, some of us cannot ignore the necessity and should go for the best one we can get.

Power Supply

A good power supply is central to your PC's long term health. You should never go cheap on the PSU. PSUs that come with some cases usually have cheap capacitors and poor electrical performance. First, you need to calculate your PC's power draw which you can do with online tools such as Outervision's power supply calculator. Then, you should get a power supply with higher than required wattage as you might want to add components in the future and power supplies simply don't deliver the same performance over long periods.

Finally, 80 plus ratings are important and you should not go lower than an 80 plus Bronze certified PSU. It indicates how much of the AC it can convert into DC, which your computer needs. EVGA, Thermaltake, Corsair, Antec can be considered as quality PSU manufacturers.

Watch out for this article online for a more detailed and comprehensive guide including buying options.

Dealing with ever-growing cyber-harassment against women

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

While the spread of the internet targets to carve out a path towards an equal and inclusive world, women disproportionately face violence and harassment in this cyberspace. Such harassment impedes their freedom and basic human rights. However, this issue is overlooked in most cases.

According to PrivaC, Bangladesh's first non-government cybercrime countermeasure services organisation, they have commonly dealt with cyber offences like cyber sexual harassment, cyberstalking, cyberbullying, blackmailing, threatening, revenge pornography, hacking, phishing, and so on in Bangladesh. Here is a handout of some options that you may pursue if you face any form of cyber-harassment.

Document all the proofs of the harassment

Keeping a record of any cyber-harassment is useful while reporting it to the police or to alert others about the abuser. Documentation may seem time-consuming and can trigger your trauma. However, saving all relevant evidence is important to expose the abuser.

Nuzhat Minhaz, Founder of PrivaC, shared about a common form of cyber sexual harassment such as blackmailing or revenge pornography by a former partner. She said, "A former partner may blackmail someone with sensitive information, images or videos, and threaten to spread those. To seek legal help, it is important to keep documentation of that

person's threats. And make sure that the abuser does not get to know about the documentation until you seek help from the police. Otherwise, it may trigger your former partner to publish your sensitive information."

WHAT TO DOCUMENT

1) Messages sent on social media platforms

If someone is sending you inappropriate and offensive content to harass you, take screenshots as evidence before the abuser removes those to save themselves from being exposed or punished. There are some default apps available on Windows desktops and smartphones to take screenshots or screen recording. You may use downloadable screen recording apps (e.g. Screenshot touch, AZ Screen Recorder) in case those default apps are not working.

2) Threatening emails

In case you are being threatened or harassed through emails, be sure to document the harassing messages along with the header containing the IP address. It may help law enforcement to identify the actual sender. Open an email and find three vertical or horizontal dots or the 'More' option. Click on 'View raw message' or 'Show Original'. On somewhere between 'Received:' lines, you will find the IP address (for example, 192.158.1.38). Remember, just copy and paste the offending email to seek help. It is better not to forward the original email.

3) Record harassing texts and calls

A harasser, knowing you personally or having a contact number of yours, may call you over the phone or text you. Take screenshots of those texts and record the calls. If your smartphone does not have any default app for recording calls, you can use apps like Cube ACR and Automatic Call Recorder.

Report and block the harassers on social media platforms and phone

Remember that social media platforms have their own terms of service in the case of online harassment. Each has its own features and processes for reporting and blocking. Most of them have specific instructions available in their 'Help Centre'.

For example, to report harassment on messenger, open the chat of the abuser and go to the 'Conversation information'. Click on the three dots and open 'Something's Wrong'. Select a category such as Harassment, Sharing Inappropriate Things, and so on based on the conversation, and click 'Send Feedback'. Block that abuser so that you do not receive further harassing messages and calls. Similarly, you can report and block an abuser on WhatsApp, and mention which act of that person has violated its terms and policies.

In addition, you can block a harasser sending you offensive texts and calls by clicking 'Add to Blacklist' on your smartphone. If you cannot find this

option, use apps such as Truecaller, Calls Blacklist – Call Blocker, Should I Answer?

Take legal help

Bangladesh Police have already launched 'Police Cyber Support for Women - PCSW', an all-women special wing to provide help to the victims of cyber-harassment. Victims can contact this wing by dialling 999 from any part of the country for any emergency, and their hotline is 01320000888. They can also be reached via their Facebook page with the same name and email (cybersupport.women@police.gov.bd). For legal assistance, this cell helps the victims to contact the nearby police station.

Moreover, anyone can contact PrivaC which helps cyber victims by connecting them to verified professional services such as medical, psychological, legal, and technical. "We connect cyber victims to specific legal resources according to their situations by emotionally empowering them in the process. We recommend cyber victims to have some form of personal support (family, friends, etc) when they are reaching for legal solutions, as the process can be emotionally challenging, especially if it is faced with social stigma surrounding being a victim (for example, victim-blaming, public shaming, etc).", said Nuzhat.

Reach them out on their Facebook page or via email (privac.report@gmail.com).





2022 Lamborghini Countach the rebirth of a halo car

ARFIN KAZI

The Lamborghini Countach has been a legendary supercar since it came out in the 80s. The sharp, boxy design has been a poster car in many rooms; I have seen old photos of my father in his room with a Countach poster in the background.

Although the new Countach reboot does not look much like the old angular variant (Lamborghini came a long way from reusing Nissan 300ZX headlights and being bound to use straight body lines because they were financially struggling to make the design rounder), Lamborghini has paid homage by keeping enough cues from the old car.

Lamborghini announced the new



Countach as a special edition to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the halo car. Limited to only 112 models, the LPI 800-4 Countach is loosely based on an Aventador. The taillight design has probably been adapted from the existing Lamborghini Sian; what makes the new Countach a "Countach" is the portrayal of the old angular design but in a more refined, modernized way.

The iconic back panel fins and wheel design is there, the headlight design is the same, rectangular box, but with more features and not borrowed from Nissan, and the engine is still a V12 but with a hybrid system (not a 3.9L anymore, but a 6.5L), which pushes almost 700 kW where 0-100 km is in about 2.8 seconds; not too shabby.

"The Countach not only embodies

the design and engineering tenet of Lamborghini but represents our philosophy of reinventing boundaries," says Stephan Winkelmann, current CEO of Automobili Lamborghini. The homologation to the old Countach has indeed been done tastefully, perhaps can be another poster car for the coming generation. Currently priced at 2.6 million dollars, sales of the car will start in early 2022.

The new Countach might not be priced sensibly, but when this amount of money is spent on a car, it's not just a "supercar" anymore; it's rather an art piece with four wheels.



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