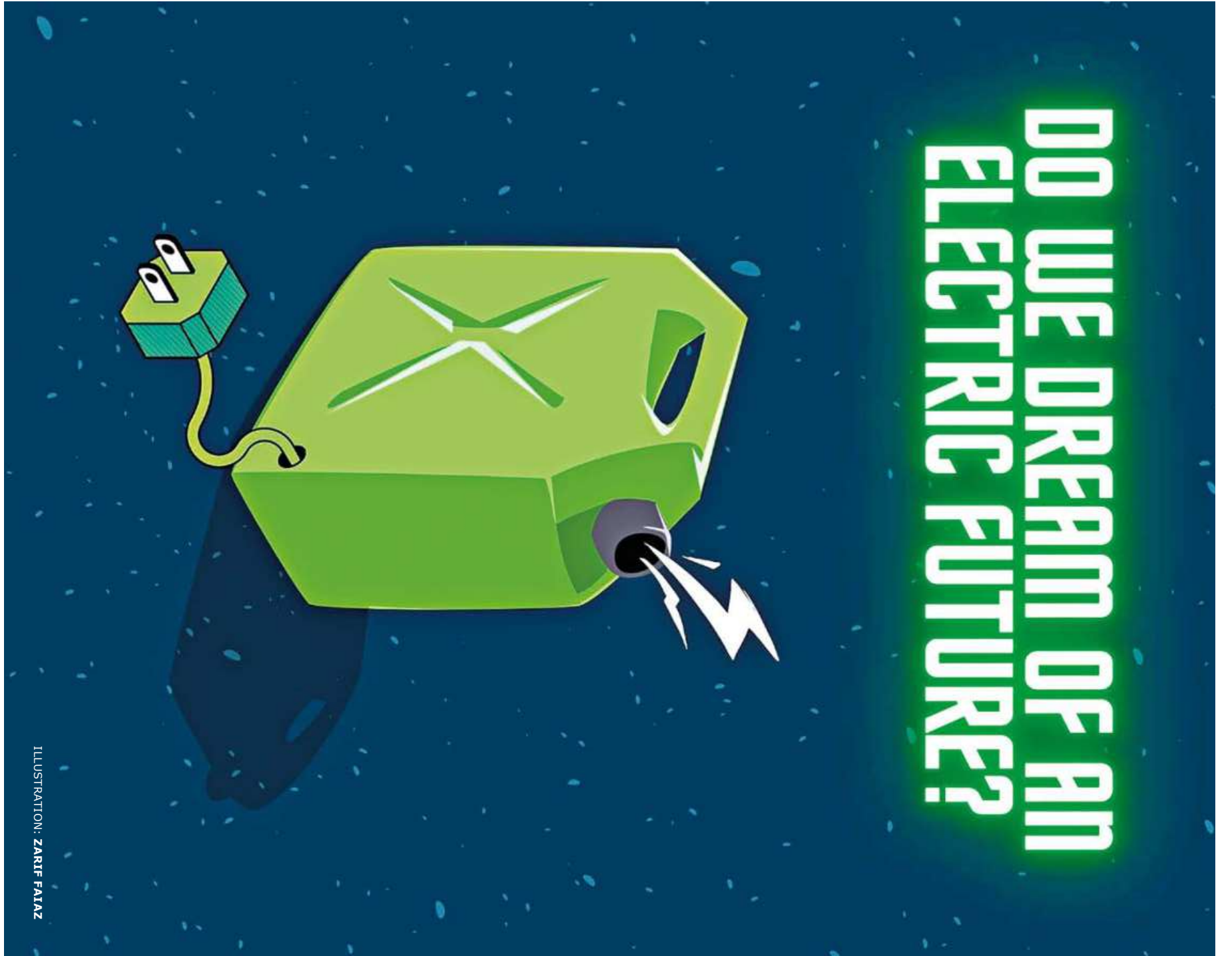


TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of *The Daily Star*



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Vivo launches the Y21 in Bangladesh

Vivo has announced the launch of its latest Y series smartphone, Vivo Y21, in Bangladesh. The smartphone encompasses a massive 5000mAh battery and 18W charge.

The device showcases 4GB + 1GB 2nd Generation Extended RAM, a 64GB ROM along allowing up to 1TB of memory expansion (to be purchased separately) for users to store large files permanently.

Vivo Y21 comes with a 13 MP main camera on the rear. The rear camera set-up is equipped with a 2MP macro camera



lens that draws a focus as close as 4cm.

Y21 is available in colour hues of Metallic Blue and Diamond Glow. It will be open for pre-booking in Bangladesh from September 16, 2021. And will be available for sale from September 21, 2021, across all retail channels and via e-commerce site pickaboo.com; othoba.com and G&G priced at BDT 14990

Vivo has planned to launch the Vivo millionaire activity in Bangladesh that gives users a chance to win exciting cash prizes worth BDT 10 lacs.

There will be also available 2100 Taka cashback or certain Vivo gift boxes. This offer will apply to all pre-order and first-sales week customers who purchase Y21 in any Vivo authorized outlets at the official price.

The campaign will go on from 16 to 27 September.

Nissan reviving the GT-R

AHBAAR MILKY

After 11 years, Nissan is still beating a dead horse with the outgoing GT-R, their premier flagship supercar once known for killing supercars, sort of like OnePlus. Nissan seemed to have mimicked OnePlus' rise and fall (it's the other way around actually).

Last week saw Nissan cryptically announce a date as fans and critics looked at the rumour mill for clues as a mild hybrid integration was speculated years before. September 14th finally put all the speculations to sleep as Nissan unveiled the GT-R T-spec, T-spec being a Nissan nomenclature harking back to the legendary R34 GT-R V-spec II Nür.

The legendary badge must boast a



power upgrade, right? Unfortunately, the badge accredits the R35 to be draped in two shades of special paint the V-spec R34 GT-R was offered in addition to bronze RAYS to boot; Midnight purple III and Millennium Jade. Expect limited volumes of each, just like the original.

As for the ageing powertrain, it remains vastly untouched from the last facelift. Almost as if Nissan has learnt the art of cash-grabbing from Rockstar games. This is a shame because Nissan smashed it out of the park with the 400Z exceeding expectations of fans and critics alike. Nissan's hybridisation plans for the GT-R remains to be seen, hopefully with the R36.

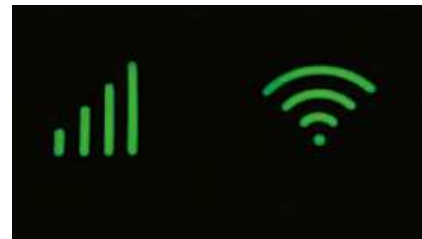
Bonton to provide WiFi-sharing services

ZAKIA SAMEEN NOOR

Bonton, a WiFi-sharing app, has been making strides in solving crucial pain points of the general internet users, especially for young individuals and businesses.

Bonton works by providing a platform for the 'host' to share their home/business WiFi with the user. Anybody can become a host by simply downloading the Bonton App from the Google Playstore, finding the share option there, and selecting which WiFi they choose to share. There is a guide in the app to help new users. To protect privacy and ensure safety, the host's WiFi is protected with two security levels.

The user, too, needs to download the app to use the Bonton services. They, too, shall find a step-by-step guide to view the routers available for sharing on



the map. The user can find the available routers nearby wherever they are and even zoom in. They can connect with them even when they do not have an internet balance nor a mobile network. All they need is the point system in the app to connect to one of the routers.

Bonton users can use the internet for as little as 5 takas per day. Bonton also has an emergency balance system through which they can access services without mobile data.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The future is now, old man!

The future is upon us. I mean, soon, as everything looks almost set for us to step into the EV era. So, this week, we explore where our electric future stands.

Turn to the centrefold to read our detailed feature story on this. As for the rest, we round up a bunch of Bluetooth speakers for you to vibe to, review the new documentary 'Blood Brothers' on the last page and fanboy over Apple's September event on page 6. Oh, we also drive a new hybrid Axio so you don't have to.

Hope you find this week's issue electric. Er, am I typing too much 'electric'?

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Reality show Bangabandhu Innovation Grant 2021 starts with 65 startups

The best 26 startups will get a grant of BDT 26 million



On the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the iDEA project of the ICT Division is organising the Bangabandhu Innovation Grant (BIG) 2021 to find innovative startups through the participation of local and foreign startups.

Contestants from the national and international level will face renowned business icons who will select the winners for each episode. A total of 26 startups will be selected from 65 startups. Later, they will be joined by 10 globally selected startups and the top 10 portfolio startups of the iDEA project, bringing together a total of 46 national and international startups in the grand finale.

More than 7,000 entrepreneurs, innovators, and startups from 57 countries including Bangladesh participated in the initial stage of BIG 2021. The best 26 startups selected from this reality show will get a grant of BDT 10 lakh each and will also be nominated for the final round. In addition, the top 10 startups selected from the international stage of BIG 2021 will also be given a grant of a total of 1 crore BDT by the organising authority of BIG 2021.

The 13-episode reality show is being aired every Friday and Saturday at 8 PM on DBC News and also on the official Facebook Page of idea and Bangabandhu Innovation Grant (BIG) 2021.

Listen actively, respond appropriately

Active listening skills that you should know about

NOMROTA SARKER

The act of listening has been a long-desired trait in any professional setup, because as much as composing a message is important to successful communication, listening effectively first lays the foundation of a well-composed message or response.

Active listening is a process through which an individual secures information from other individuals or groups. Listening actively requires paying attention to what's being said, while not interrupting the speaker and understanding the context entirely. The "active" aspect, however, requires some extra steps to complete the process of effective communication.

Active listeners avoid interrupting a speech at all costs, summarize what the speaker said back to them and support their response through appropriate body language. Active listening is a helpful skill for any professional, as it truly helps to understand what people are saying in a meeting or in a conversation (and not just what we want to hear or we think we hear).

This is also particularly helpful in job interviews, as candidates can leverage this skill to build a good rapport with the interviewer/ recruiting manager.

What is active listening?

Active listening is a soft skill, like critical thinking and problem-solving. Employers hold this skill in high regard because this is a critical skill to have for improving interpersonal communication. When interviewing for jobs, using active listening techniques can show the interviewers how your interpersonal skills can make you more fit for the job.

Active listening is a good technique to get out of our heads and redirect our focus

to actively listen to what's being said, you as a candidate will give off an impression of being interested in the organization's culture, challenges and priorities; being ready to solve problems along the way that might get in the way of work; and of being a team player who is not just another self-absorbed candidate validating only their own concerns and expectations from this job.

It is critically important not to interrupt someone's speech, and wait to respond until the speaker has finished talking. Asking

building trust.

Example: "Tell me what I can do to help you out in this project." or, "I went through your blogs and was impressed with how you donate 10% of your revenue to fund STEM projects in schools."

Demonstrating concern: Validating one's concern and offering help as needed. Example: "I know you're going through a tough time, I'm eager to help."

Asking open-ended questions: Asking questions that start with 'what, how, which, who'. Example: "I can see you are not happy with the output of the team. What changes would you like to see?"

Paraphrasing: Paraphrasing and summarizing the point the speaker is trying to make back to them for clarification.

Example: "So you are saying that your new manager is failing to understand your concerns as a part-time employee?"

Verbal affirmations: Show confirmation, support and empathy through verbal affirmations. Example: "Thank you for your time. I appreciate it." Or, "I understand that you'd want to monitor the team's progress more closely."

Sharing similar accounts from your experiences to create a sense of relatability: Share your experiences (if they are similar to the concerns raised by the speaker) and add insights if you have in a way that's not boasted.

Example: "I also had to work during the weekends for a month. Make sure you take care of yourself if it's too much on you." -- but a bad/ boasted response would be "I worked during the weekends for a month. It wasn't as painful for me as it is to you."

Frequent practising of these techniques can improve the quality of communication across all platforms and especially in workplaces. Not underestimating the power of soft skills at work is a good idea and improving these skills helps smoothen the professional journey of an individual.

The presence of technical skills coupled with the ability to communicate and team well with others is sought after by employers. For young professionals with limited experience, these people skills are considered a deciding factor whether the employer will take the risk of hiring someone young instead of experienced and seasoned professionals but with weaker interpersonal communication skills.



Not underestimating the power of soft skills at work is a good idea and improving these skills helps smoothen the professional journey of an individual.

questions for clarification is also important because the goal of communication is ultimately to avoid any misunderstandings.

Active listening techniques improve the quality of communication (and how you can do it)

There are plenty of active listening techniques that can help an individual improve their impression at a job interview. Most of these techniques are to establish to the speaker that they are being heard and realized by you. Some of these techniques include:

Building trust: To build trust with the speaker in a conversation, assure them of their willingness and capacity to add value to their concerns. Sometimes, giving them the assurance that you are aligned with their activities is also a good first step for

back to what message the interviewer or employer is trying to get across. It also helps reduce nervousness because it shuts out the blankness of "what to say next" in an interview or an important conversation.

When you have dedicated your focus



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





PUSHING TRAFFIC ON A BUDGET: TOYOTA AXIO HYBRID

ARFIN KAZI

Toyota Corolla; a well-recognised name in many families through countless generations, is known as a nice, cheap, and well-rounded car that rarely breaks on you, giving countless reliable miles.

Although the new Corolla might have a different name on its badge primarily, I can assure the Toyota Axio that is going to be featured this week is similar to all the predecessors, which undoubtedly, is a Corolla.

Keep reading to find what the new Toyota Axio Hybrid has to offer.

The basics

If you have a budget between 18-20 lac Taka to purchase a car, choices either land between the second-hand market or the budget-oriented side of the recondition market, where choices are tight.

Among the popular options, stands the Toyota Axio, a compact sedan that



comes in both gasoline and hybrid variants. Although the hybrid variant that we are going to discuss today tends to be the better car to push traffic with, the gasoline version comes in cheaper.

Design

The design of the newer shape Axio is interesting. It is a sedan on the smaller spectrum of the bunch but Toyota pushed the design team to make the car look larger than it is. The front bumper has a large linear grille design, where half of it is functional with slit cutouts to direct cold air to the radiator.

Above that, rest the headlights with HID halogen lamps, coming standard with all trim levels. The design on the rear fascia is subjective, where the boot does not sit flush with the tail lights



(which come with LEDs), where it might look like the Axio lacks rear boot space, but there is plenty.

Interior

Climb inside the Axio and you will find appropriate knobs and buttons on the right positions, which are clicky and responsive. The version we tested had



fabric seats, which were comfortable enough but felt narrower than usual. The steering wheel is made of leather, which feels synthetic but the quality is solid. The buttons on the wheel feel responsive, primarily used for taking calls and adjusting the volume of the speakers; where the OEM sound system has a

immediately you will notice that the car does not obnoxiously alert you on what might go wrong while you will be driving but, you are greeted with a simple cluster with a big RPM meter with a screen under it.

The knob on the gear lever is small but has a weight to it, making it feel a tad upmarket. Driving the car, the steering feedback is light where you might think it's lacking response, but the bumps give it feedback, still overly dampened nonetheless.

Throttle response is nice and punchy, when pushing hard, the acceleration is smooth but, since the engine is paired with a CVT transmission, some lag between gear shifts is expected. The suspension system of the car does an above-average job in clearing small bumps and potholes, but even on bumpy roads, the steering feels overly dampened.

The Axio shines in the traffic jams though. Manoeuvring the car is easy and the added low-end torque is prominent when going for gaps in traffic as the car easily cuts through spaces swiftly. Visibility is great and the car is easy to get used to, where you can have a good sense of what is going on inside and outside your field of vision.

Verdict

Budget oriented cars are usually hard to discuss and in most cases, as these cars mostly spend a large fraction of their life cycle getting driven, where good reliability is an essential and often a highlighted aspect of the car, where the Axio does not disappoint.

Spare parts are easily available which even tin shed mechanics can install in no time and with regular maintenance, workshop visits are a rare case scenario. Although the steering response could be better, pushing traffic with the setup does not feel like a chore.

Thus, the Axio can be an easy bargain to get your hands on, and since this is a Toyota, it will not disappoint in the long run.

Technical specifications

The Axio under our hands came with a 1.5L 1NZ-FXE hybrid engine, when broken down, it is the same revised 1NZ-FE engine with an electric motor backing it up for the initial torque at low speeds, where the engine is least efficient. Toyota calls the whole technology "Hybrid Synergy Drive", adapted from higher-end Toyota and Lexus models respectively. Other than that, the engine is finally paired with a CVT gearbox when combined, produces 109 HP and 136 Nm of torque. The Axio can also be driven in full-electric mode until 20 kmph, where then the engine kicks in for the extra power.

Driving the Axio Hybrid

Jump in the driving seat and

On the road to an electric future

ABDUS SALAM SHAWN

Bangladesh is now nearer than ever to joining the global trend of switching to electric vehicles in the name of saving the environment and cutting down costs. In fact, we are very close to manufacturing electric vehicles in our country.

Local automobile companies such as Bangladesh Auto Industries Ltd (BAIL) and Nitol Motors have been working since 2019 to set up plants to start manufacturing locally. Regulatory policies for EVs are also getting prepared to facilitate importing of EVs. Initiatives from the government, private and international companies present a promising future for EVs in Bangladesh.

The prime minister envisioned an electricity-run transport system when

BRTA, the road transport regulatory agency of Bangladesh, has also been working on a draft policy to expedite the import and domestic manufacturing of electric vehicles. The draft discusses Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations construction plans and tariffs. It is currently undergoing review by a committee and will be presented to The Road Transport and Bridges Ministry, where it will be finalised, according to sources.

Electric Vehicle Registration and Operation Guidelines-2018, by BRTA, was first drafted in November 2018. Since then, it has been updated and appears to be on its way to being finalised. It will also bring illegally run electric easy-bikes under control.

On the other hand, the Automobile Industry Development Policy 2021, drafted by the Ministry of Industries, has been okayed by the cabinet, according to multiple reports. It aims to develop the automotive industry in the country and gradually become an exporter. The enterprising policy demands tax holidays and fiscal incentives for investors for producing EVs and parts, tax benefits, restrictions on reconditioned vehicles, fiscal

coronavirus pandemic.

With a planned project cost of Tk 350 crore, the Ishwardi plant of Nitol will roll out 20,000 units per year. They will have a driving range of 200 km and cost Tk 10-12 lakh. The model, named Suvare, will have a top speed of 120 km per hour.

The plant in Ishwardi and a research and development centre in the capital's Uttara has already been set up. The changed target to start producing cars is by mid-2023.

International help

Bangladesh's willingness to provide land and resources to help develop EVs manufacturing in the country has already started attracting international companies.

Omega Seiki, a member of the India-based Anglian Omega Network, plans to invest Rs100 cr (Tk 116 crore) in setting up electric vehicle development projects in Bangladesh. A UK based energy and environmental consultancy firm, Ricardo-AEA, is persuading the United Kingdom government to invest funds in this sector. The United Nations Development Programme has also offered \$1.78 crore to support the charging station infrastructure.

Barriers

Speaking of barriers, coordination among government agencies related to EV is not yet present, and that creates a great roadblock.

UNDP states that the lack of infrastructure, concerns about the lithium-ion battery's longevity, cost and maintenance of EVs, lack of technical guidelines and regulations will demotivate potential buyers and investors.

The registration cost of EVs is higher than combustion-engine cars and battery production is still very expensive; much of the components and equipment are still being imported. Subsidies on EV production are still not offered in Bangladesh.

The way forward

Electric vehicle's share in the global automobile industry is rising quickly and conventional cars are declining. General Motors announced that it would stop selling petrol and diesel cars by 2035. The European Commission unveiled a proposal on 14 July that would effectively ban the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles by 2035. The UK is banning all new conventional petrol and diesel cars by 2030; hybrids will stay until 2035 provided they meet certain strict criteria.

The prime reason behind the world's fascination with EVs is that they have zero tailpipe emission, cost less per kilometre, have fewer moving parts making servicing easier, and so on.

Bangladesh cannot stay in the combustion era forever. Ours is an environmentally tormented country, and to preserve it, we need to make the transition even quicker.

The government's concerns about the environment should come in the form of proper regulations and coordination among related agencies. Expenditures on research and development on EV technologies should be subsidised. Policies taken should be aimed towards encouraging local manufacture of components and reducing dependence on imports.

At this point, Bangladesh seems to be excited about EV technology, but how much of it is realised will be seen through proper initiatives and their implementations.

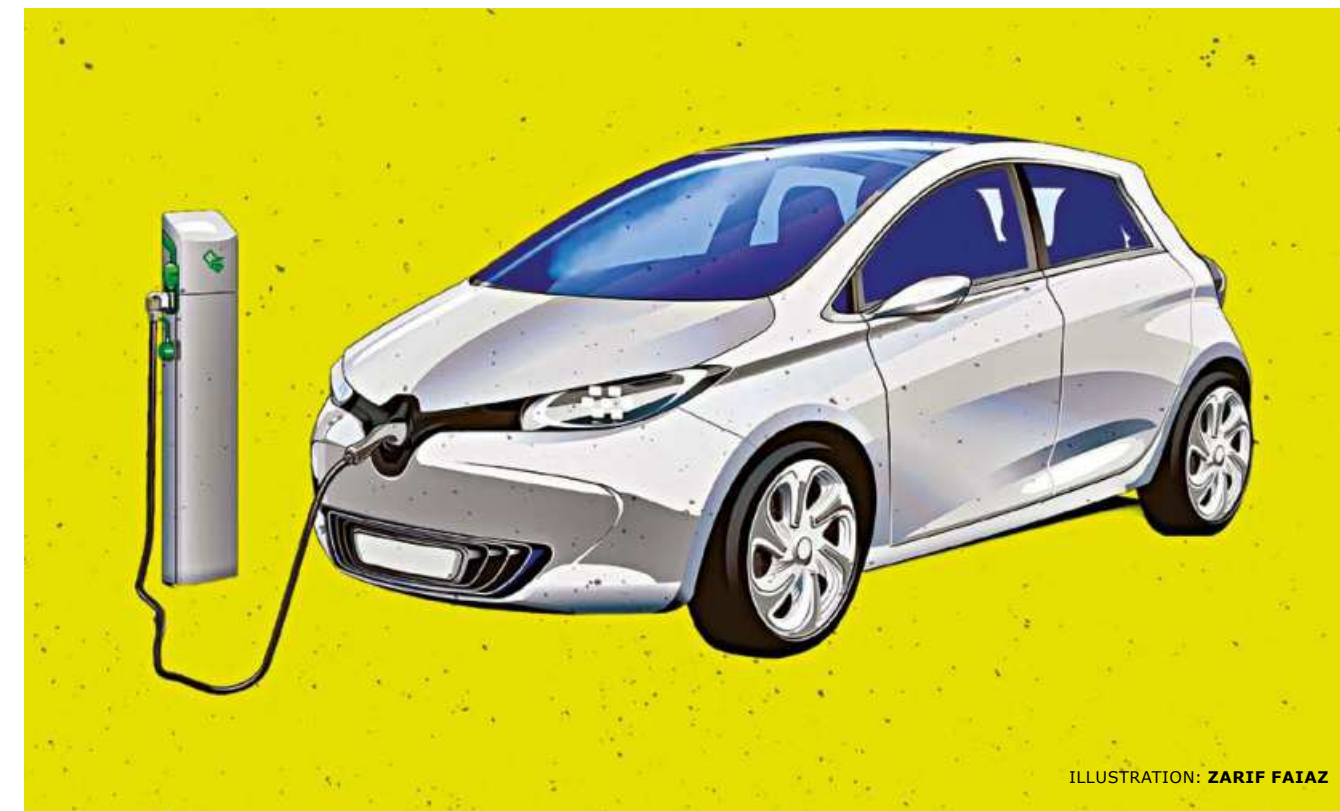


ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

launching new power plants in September this year. Our country lies in a geographically dangerous zone with temperature rise and being one of the prime victims of climate change. The government's concerns regarding the climate issue coupled with our expanding economy seem to create a demand for an efficient and safe transportation system.

Government initiatives

The state-owned transport corporation, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation, BRTC, is going to introduce 50 e-buses to the public transport system on long routes such as Dhaka to Chattagram. The project will be financed through foreign loans and the Bangladesh Government. If everything goes to plan, the buses will hit the road within two or three years.

The Bangladesh Road Transport Authority,

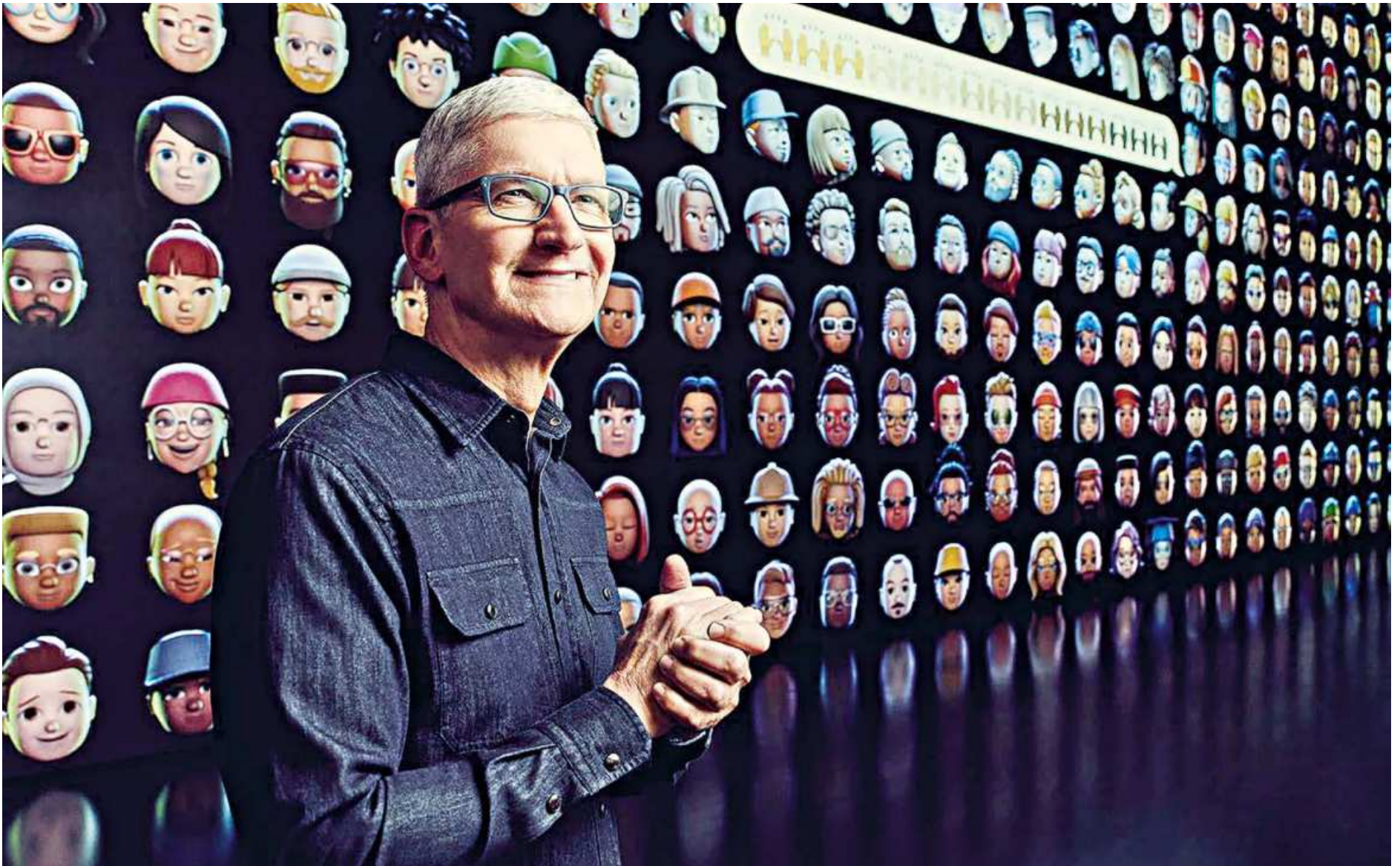
incentives for research and development and a few more benefits.

Private ventures

Bangladesh Auto Industries Limited (BAIL), a local automotive company, was set to manufacture EVs locally from 2020 collaborating with firms from the US, China, India and Italy. It was supposed to complete the planned plant on 100 acres of land at Mirsarai economic zone by the end of 2020 and begin manufacturing in June 2021.

However, the plans have been pushed back due to the global pandemic because suppliers could not ship the required equipment on time.

Nitol Motors, in partnership with one American and two Chinese companies, also planned to start manufacturing EVs in 2020 but had to delay the process because of the



Apple WWDC 2021 roundup

New iPhones, iPads and much more

ARFIN KAZI

September, the month where a handheld tech trivia takes place, usually starting from Apple through their WWDC event, where new phones, tablets and much more get announced. Keep reading to find all about the new, updated, handheld peripherals that got announced at the event.

The event started with the announcement of the new iPad 9th gen and the long-awaited iPad Mini 6 models, where the 9th gen iPad models feature a new A13 Bionic Chip and a new 12MP front-facing camera which also supports centre stage (a feature where the camera tracks and focuses on moving objects automatically).

The new iPad Mini 6 on the other hand, receives major updates over the older model which was announced almost two years ago. The design received a complete overhaul where, the Mini resembles an iPad Air where the screen now is 8.3" big, which also supports the 1st gen Apple Pencil, Touch ID has been re-routed to the power button and, the tablet also

supports the Apple proprietary slim magnetic keyboard.

Both iPads come with a USB type C connector and are priced at \$499 and \$329 respectively. If you're a student though, the iPad 6 comes at a discounted \$299 price; slightly easier on the pocket.

Following the segue of the event, a new Apple Watch 7 got announced, which comes with two new, slightly bigger screen sizes; 41mm and 45mm, which also received newer features accommodating the new screen, where full qwerty keyboard fits.

Although the new series 7 watches are set to come out later this year, you can get the watch in various material finishes and brand collaborations, namely Nike and Hermès. Prices for the Apple Watch Series 7 starts at \$399 for the 41mm version and \$529 for the larger, 45mm version.

Then came the part we had all had been patiently waiting for. After many leaks, renders, and potential rear case designs from Chinese manufacturers, the new iPhone 13 models are here. This year, Apple updated all the existing iPhone models where the regular 13 gets a hardware design update; just as the renders predicted, where the two cameras are set diagonally to each other.

Although like all bold actions from Apple, the design language of the phone is received criticism, then along the year, the designs

grow on people where people just accept it. Although the iPhone 13 Pro and Pro Max receive minimal changes in their design apart from a new colourway, Apple finally decided that it was time to bring in the 120Hz high refresh rate on the Pro model phone screens.

Other than that, all the new iPhones, including the mini, receive newly updated Retina XDR displays, with smaller notch designs, which increase the footprint of their screen surface area. They also receive new A15 Bionic Chips, new 12MP camera sensors which support a new feature called 'cinematic mode' which automatically sets the dynamic range through their updated software AI, to match and enhance the colours of various scenes where the camera is pointed.

The iPhone 13 Pro and Pro max, on the other hand, has extra telephoto lenses which can now zoom almost 3x the original frame optically.

Finally, all the iPhones receive an increase in battery capacity but, charging methods do not change. On the port department, USB-C is yet to be seen; this year lightning will do.

Now comes the pricing, starting at \$699 for the 128GB iPhone 13 Mini, \$799 for the regular iPhone 13, \$999 and \$1099 for the 13 Pro and Pro Max respectively. You can also opt for the first ever 1TB iPhone Pro model, which comes with a hefty \$1599 price tag.

Check out these 5 cool budget Bluetooth speakers

TASNUVA KINNORI

From a lively party to a zen-filled study session- if music is the best companion for you, then a Bluetooth speaker is just what you need. But choosing the right speaker that balances out quality sound, price, looks or functionality is easier said than done, especially on a tight budget.



So check out some of our top picks for budget Bluetooth speakers to find the perfect music companion for you:

1. Edifier MP260

Price: 4,700 BDT

Available At: Pickaboo, Tech Land, Ryans Computers, Reboot BD etc.

A sleek LED alarm clock or a blue tooth speaker? You can have both with the Edifier MP260 blue tooth speaker. Other than waking you up in the morning, this versatile device will also liven up your parties with its 8W tweeter and 12W subwoofer. Powered by a 5200 mAh battery (lasting 7 hours of playback time), the speaker comes with AUX, USB as well as micro SD input slots. Besides, the Bluetooth 5.0V supported speaker allows for faster and further signal transmission. As a bonus, the LED panel has automatic brightness adjustment and multifunction buttons for ease of use. The speaker's wooden box design also boasts a side panel bass

reflex port which lets you feel the beat drops.

Pros:

- Simple, clean aesthetics
- Intuitive controls
- Impressive audio with compact 2.1 system

Cons:

- No option to change the Alarm tone
- Comparatively short battery life

2. JBL Clip 3

Price: 5,800 BDT

Available At: Tech Land, Star Tech, Pickaboo etc.

If the more bedside alarm clock design of the Edifier MP260 doesn't strike your fancy, consider the ultra-portable JBL clip 3. Giving you 10 hours of that signature JBL sound with only 3 hours of charging, this lightweight Bluetooth 4.1 supported speaker is as perfect for trips as it is



without breaking the bank on models like the JBL Flip or Charge series, the Clip or Go series may be right up your alley. But if you'd like more savings than the Clip series allows, look no further than the JBL Go 3. Featuring rich JBL Pro Sound in a compact design, this IP67 certified speaker will follow you into rain or shine- even complementing your style with its wide range of colour options. And if you want even more savings with a few fewer perks, you can grab the JBL Go 2 at around 3,500 BDT

Pros:

- Compact Design
- IP67 certified water and dust resistance

Cons:

- Smaller battery life

5. Logitech UE Wonderboom

Price: 7,500 BDT

Available At: Star Tech, Pickaboo, Tech Republic BD etc.

While the Logitech Ultimate Ears Wonderboom is more on the pricier side, it promises an absolute treat for your ears with its two 40mm active drivers and 46.1 mm x 65.2 mm passive radiators. Waterproof, spillproof, dust and mud resistant, this speaker will follow you into the pool, rain, mud and muck with its easy to clean and drop-tested design keeping all your worries at bay. With an impressive wireless range of 33m, 10 hours of battery life with only 2.8 hours of charging, the Logitech UE wonder boom also comes

3. Anker Soundcore Flare

Price: 4,950 BDT

Available At: Star Tech, Daraz, Apple Gadgets BD etc.

If beyond sound and battery life, you want your speaker to put on an LED light show synced with the beats, then the Anker Soundcore Flare is worth your consideration. Delivering 360° sound with its dual drivers and bass radiators, everyone at your party is sure to feel the beat. With customizable LED modes and IP67 rating, this speaker is a promising choice for any pool party. And if you're willing to spend a few more bucks, you can get the Anker Flare 2 at around 6,300 BDT.

for showers. And if you don't mind going over budget for the added perks of better clarity and bass, more transmitter power and a more up-to-date Bluetooth connection, then consider getting the JBL Clip 4 coming in at around 7,000 BDT

Pros:

- Ultra-Portable Clip-on design
- Compact design with multiple colour options to choose from
- Waterproof

Cons:

- Bluetooth 4.1 version
- Not the best for open spaces



Pros:

- IP67 waterproof protection
- 360° Sound
- Stereo/ Boost playback modes

Cons:

- Corresponding app needs work
- LED lights to sap away battery life

4. JBL Go 3

Price: 4,000 BDT

Available At: Ryan Computers, Star Tech, Daraz etc.

If you want that JBL quality music

with a 2-year manufacturer warranty.

And if you think all that couldn't get any better, consider the Wonderboom 2 with longer battery life, better bass response and an all-new Outdoor Boost

Pros:

- Pair two devices simultaneously
- 100-foot range, 360° sound
- Waterproof, floating design

Cons:

- Some low-frequency distortion at maximum volume

Blood Brothers: exploring Ali and X's bittersweet friendship

ISRAR HASAN

There are very few friendships that have attracted the public eye and provoked reactions of dread and rapacious approval in equanimity. One of those friendships - better described as blood brothers - is that of the charismatic militant civil rights activist, Malcolm X and the greatest boxer of all time, the ballistic and eyebrow raising trash talker, Muhammad Ali.

'Blood Brothers: Malcolm X & Muhammad Ali' is the latest documentary by Netflix showcasing the beginnings, intervals, and bitter endings of one of activism's long-lasting friendships. Both Black and Muslim, Malcolm and Muhammad's legacy touches on the lives of many people across generations. The film is inspired by the book, Blood Brothers, written by Randy Roberts which brings to full circle the friendship and mutual love and respect two of Black America's icons shared amongst themselves.

The documentary features the lives and

The film produced by Simon Chinn, an Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker, pierces into the making and unmaking of a soured friendship.

trajectories of Malcolm and Muhammad from their days eking out an existence under intense Jim Crow laws to achieving prominence in the public eye, much of which was still colour coded. Malcolm X was seen as the veteran leader in the Black Muslim movement which stood in opposition to Martin Luther King and advocated for separation, contrary to King's pleas for integration.

Muhammad Ali, or Cassius Clay, as he was known back then was an Olympic gold medallist breaking out in the world of



boxing who had a knack of trash talking his opponents. Both men went to forge friendships that changed the landscape of the civil rights movement and beyond, whose impact lingers till this day.

The film produced by Simon Chinn, an Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker, pierces into the making and unmaking of a soured friendship. The documentary features members of Malcolm and Ali's families including their daughters, the author of the namesake book itself, and Nation of Islam members.

The friendship, thoroughly organic in nature and bound with love, was seen as a means of promoting Black excellence as well as Malcolm's propagation efforts to admit the young Clay to the Black Muslim movement. Thoroughly moving with testimonials, past interview footage, and newly declassified FBI documents, the documentary spins a narrative of a friendship of two great black men who gave and changed the vocabulary of activism in the world of politics, religion, art, literature and sports.

Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X's gradual falling out and Malcolm's subsequent conversion to Sunni Islam, alongside the deep-seated infiltration of spies in the Nation of Islam eventually paved the way for the breakdown of the friendship, so much so that, even after Malcolm's assassination, Ali refused to acknowledge his place in society.

It was in the '70s, a few years after the murder that Ali reached out to Malcolm X's family and in the words of Malcolm's daughter, Attallah Shabazz, "somehow sustained my dad's breath for me just a little while longer—51 years longer—until now."

The film with its permeating musical undertones and artwork to dramatise some key events in the lives of its subjects adds a new depth of reading and understanding of Black America's leading prophetic lights. It follows the trajectory of change and reinvention in the face of change enabling us to appreciate the men for who they truly were: giants of black manhood.

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ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

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