

# TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of *The Daily Star*

# PICKING UP THE RIGHT PIECES

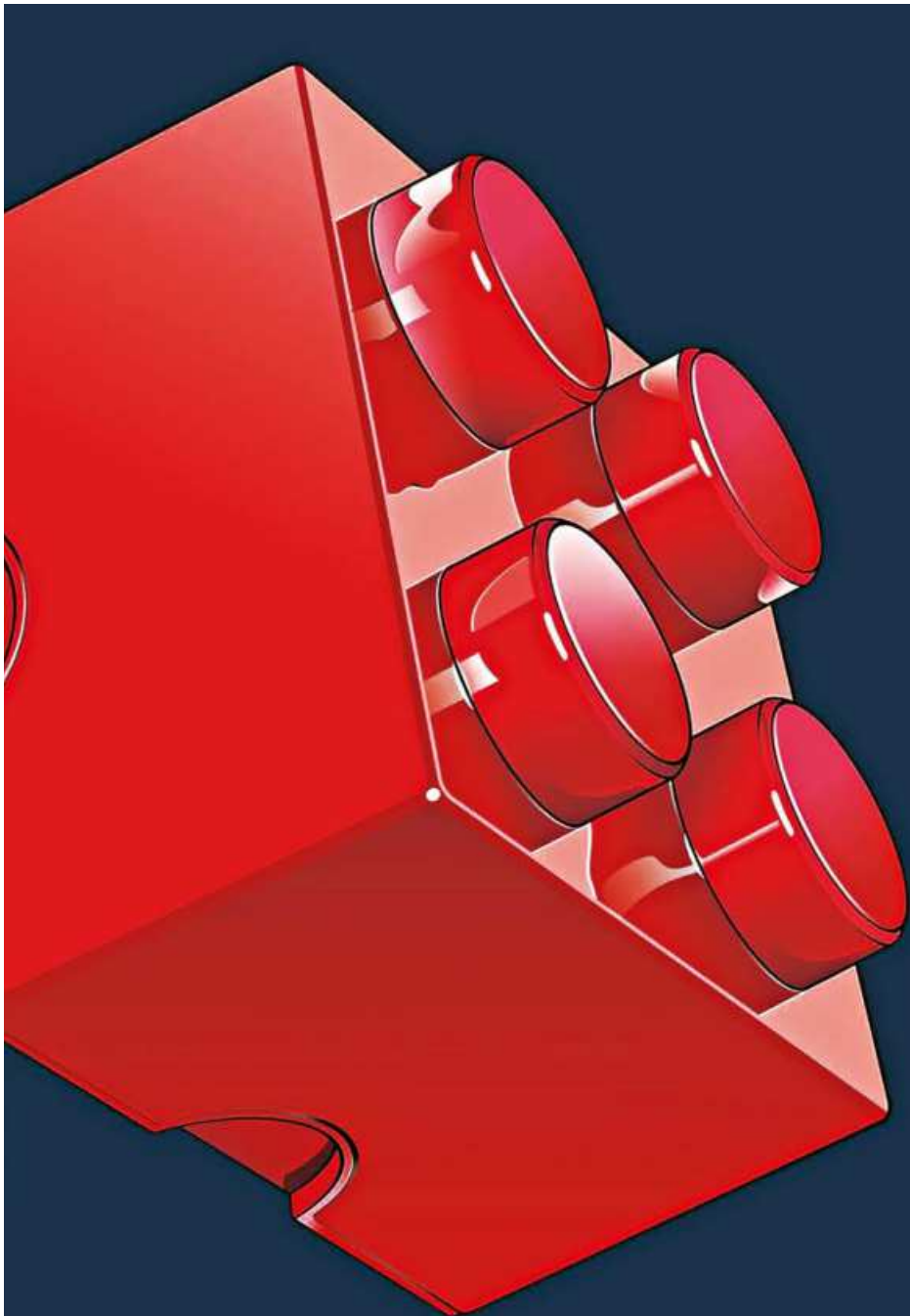


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## Take your pick from Apple's most downloaded apps of 2021

On 2 December, Apple revealed the list of their most downloaded apps this year, as well as choosing 15 apps and games, the winners of the App Store Awards 2021.

The top three most downloaded free iPhone apps were TikTok, YouTube and Instagram. Here are the full lists below.

### TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

TikTok  
YouTube  
Instagram  
Snapchat  
Facebook  
Messenger  
Google Maps  
Gmail  
ZOOM  
Amazon Shopping

Among Us!  
Roblox  
Project Makeover  
Call of Duty: Mobile  
Subway Surfers  
High Heels!  
Magic Tiles 3:  
Piano Game  
Water Sort  
Puzzle  
Shortcut Run  
Bridge Race

### TOP PAID IPHONE APPS

Procreate Pocket  
HotSchedules  
The Wonder Weeks  
TouchRetouch  
Facetune  
Shadowrocket  
75 Hard  
Dark Sky  
Weather  
Autosleep  
SkyView

### TOP PAID IPHONE GAMES

Minecraft  
Heads Up!  
Bloons TD 6  
Monopoly  
Geometry Dash  
My Child Lebensborn  
Plague Inc.  
True Skate  
Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas  
Incredibox

### TOP FREE IPHONE GAMES

## Google to release first in-house smartwatch next year: reports

Google is reportedly planning to release its first in-house smartwatch next year, reveals a report by Insider.

Even though the company has released wearable companion platforms for Android devices since 2014, this will be the first official smartwatch made by Google, should the project see daylight.

While no official name has been confirmed yet, Insider reports that the watch currently goes by the codename 'Rohan' and is being made by Google's Pixel group, famous for making Google Pixel smartphones and earbuds.

The watch will contain features such



as a heart monitor and step counter; the basics of fitness tracking apps. Reports also state that Google will introduce Fitbit integration with the new smartwatch once it is officially released.

Google completed its Fitbit acquisition at the beginning of this year for \$2.1 billion and reports suggest that the Google smartwatch will cost more than Fitbit devices. With this new smartwatch, Google plans on reintegrating the Wear OS 3 platform.

## Selise partners with smart contract platform Fantom

Switzerland and Bangladesh based technology house SELISE has announced a partnership with Fantom Foundation, which supports one of the largest public blockchain networks in the world.

Attended by distinguished guests, the two organisations signed their official partnership in a ceremony held on 30th November in Dhaka.

Fantom uses distributed ledger technology (DLT) with their unique Lachesis asynchronous

Byzantine Fault-Tolerant (aBFT). It draws on the Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM) open source technology stack for dApp developers.

SELISE partnered with Fantom Foundation to initially tackle critical bottlenecks in the global financial services industry. By using Fantom's powerful network, SELISE aims to implement digital solutions in mobile payment, securities exchange, insurance, and banking.

## Infobip acquires Peerless Network; raises additional \$500m

Infobip Group, a global cloud communications platform company for customer engagement announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement with global VoIP provider Peerless Network, marking Infobip's fourth acquisition in under a year. The transaction is expected to complete upon receipt of regulatory approvals in 2022 and will be financed with a combination of Infobip shares and cash. Peerless Network management will roll parts of its holdings into Infobip.

Launched in 2008, the Peerless Network portfolio delivers a robust suite of cutting-edge voice, UCaaS, SIP Trunking, Messaging, APIs, MS Teams

integration, and other collaboration products and services. With its own nationwide voice network, Peerless Network is trusted by enterprises, Fortune 500 companies, world-leading MNOs, MVNOs and IXC, and the nation's largest CLECs and VOIP Service Providers.

The acquisition builds on Infobip's ongoing investments and earlier acquisition of US messaging heavyweight OpenMarket, which closed in December 2020. Q1 2021 Revenue grew 55% y/y, a function of continued usage growth in its core business plus contributions from the \$300m acquisition of OpenMarket. Other acquisitions include the developer Shift

Conference franchise, purchased in April, and the world's number one SMS firewall provider, Anam, in May 2021.

In September 2021, Infobip also secured, through direct loan placement, additional funding in the amount of \$500m, advised by Morgan Stanley, and led by funds managed by the Credit Group of Ares Management Corporation, and funds and accounts managed by BlackRock. The direct loan placement puts Infobip alongside an exclusive group of high growth, high-value technology companies, which utilised the same structure. This is Infobip's second funding round, following One Equity Partner's EUR 300m investment in H2 2020.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

## Never too late to learn

There is no end to learning. Whether building your own startup or honing a new skill, there are always key things to consider. For the young entrepreneurs out there, this week's cover story features some essential skills that will prepare you for the next step. Speaking of Next Step, check our best picks for online education sites to pick up a new craft. For Shift, we look at how restoration modding can be a craft of its own. Finally, if you are tired of Netflix, we gave some alternatives to consider! Stay safe everyone, and have a great week.

Shams Rashid Tonmoy  
Sub-editor & Feature Writer

# TOGGLE

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# Take the next step with our best picks for online learning

REHENUMA RAYSA

Learning is now accessible to more people than before, thanks to the miracle of the internet. It has formed a solid ground for millions of aspiring learners by creating extensive learning opportunities for them while going beyond geographical borders or other limitations.

As a consequence, they have more options than before to improve their skills, mindset, and individualities in a self-paced learning process.

Here we enlist our top five picks for global online learning platforms that are convenient, resourceful, and will go easy on your wallet.

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

To start off with the obvious, we highly recommend you check out the "Learning" section of YouTube, which can be found with a simple click on the "Explore" sign at the YouTube website.

[www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

A noble attempt by Salman Amin Khan is now imparting beginner to secondary level of education to people of all classes from all over the world with its vast content without requiring you to spend a single penny.

This non-profit organisation has made over 6,500 easy-to-follow classes on subjects like Mathematics, Science, Arts and Humanities, Computer Programming, Economics to mention a few available for all irrespective of people's location, financial status, or any other barriers.

[www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org)

Coursera offers courses of various kinds to help you achieve your learning goals. Although you have limited options when it comes to its free offered courses, they do give out sales on their paid courses; especially during the pandemic, they reduced the pricing of many of their

premium courses. So, you can enjoy discounts and learn from the premium courses by purchasing them when they go on sale on different occasions or promotional periods.

[www.udemy.com](http://www.udemy.com)

Udemy is another well-known platform that is ensuring standardised education for the masses free of charge. You can learn almost anything of your own choice in your own learning environment with their 183,000 courses.

However, they do charge you for some of those courses. You can browse or skim through their free courses section to learn from their learning materials, which are made free for that particular time.

They, too, put their courses on sale from time to time, so all you have to do is keep an eye for such deals.

[www.edX.org](http://www.edX.org)

This one is included in the list as this is

also a reliable source to strengthen your knowledge in your interested field of study, that too while ensuring all-around flexibility. You do not have to sit through long classes, as you now have the option of choosing, curating, and controlling your learning experience. They offer more than 3,500 courses.

Lastly, a few honourable mentions to sites like thecrashcourse.com, [www.nptel.ac.in](http://www.nptel.ac.in), [online.stanford.edu](http://online.stanford.edu), [ict.iitk.ac.in](http://ict.iitk.ac.in), [ocw.mit.edu](http://ocw.mit.edu), [www.open.edu](http://www.open.edu), [www.alison.com](http://www.alison.com), [www.freecodecamp.org](http://www.freecodecamp.org), [www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com) etc.

Although some of these platforms do charge a certain amount of money for certain learning content or sessions, this list is compiled to introduce these educational platforms to help the prospective learners to start somewhere for free to achieve their unique learning objectives.

EVERYONE CAN MAKE RODS, BUT  
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# The art of RESTO-MODDING

TTMAM BASHAR

The beautiful art of resto-modding is when classic cars are restored with modern parts and technology working together in a symphony just like Lewis Hamilton and his Mercedes F1 car. The word "restomod" is a combination of the words 'restoration' and 'modified'.

Resto-mods began back in the 1980s and it all started with classic muscle cars that became too slow at one point for people, enthusiasts began integrating new engines, tuning and mods, improving



factory production cars to be faster, better and more efficient. These days, the world of classic cars is made of an unimaginable number of makes and models, thousands of upgrades and unlimited options.

Even in the modern-day, there are electric resto-mods; yes it's a sacrilege to some Petrolheads and ultimate automotive luxury for some. The Charge 'Eleanor' Ford Mustang is the best example of an electric resto-mod. The Charge Ford Mustang has four motors (for a total of 536bhp and 885lb-ft of torque), four-wheel drive, a 64kWh battery capacity for a range of 200 miles, 0-60mph under 4 sec and 50kW DC charging. It shows the spirit of a Mustang even though it's full of new technology and proves how capable classic cars can be made with modern technology.

Not only do resto-mods bring classic cars up to date in the 21st century with modern-day technology, safety features and overhauled performance, but it also makes what was once a classic, much easier and more reliable to drive. It is all the beautiful aesthetics of a



classic car with all the luxuries of a modern vehicle, a perfect mix of both worlds. Restomodders have been turning heads in the car scenery for quite a while now, showing off the perfect harmony and the beautiful art of what a classic car can be with a modern touch.

One thing that Petrolheads can't get enough of is the different looks and history of the classic cars which makes them stand out in the modern era. The classic cars' spirits being alive to this day have been respected by the Petrolheads from both the old times and newer eras. Turning a legacy machine into an amazing daily driver personalised to the owners' satisfaction is often fascinating to classic car enthusiasts.

One of the most popular cars to get a modern treatment is the legendary Lancia Delta Integrale, which won a lot of the main events in the notorious Group B rally race which was banned in 1986 and became world champion in 1987. It won 6 world rally championships, far more than any other car. This is a car that not everyone lived to see and people want to see in the modern world how capable it can be creating the desire in Petrolheads hearts to drive it one day or even watch someone shred it up on the streets.

Then one day Automobili Amos, founded by driver Eugenio Amos, took one of the 1980's Lancia Integrale and brought it into the 21st century. They created the ultimate Delta Integrale resto-mod, where the Automobili Amos Lancia Delta Futurista was born. This resto-mod weighs 1300kg thanks to the crazy amount of Carbon Fiber that was used and has over 330 horsepower from a turbocharged 4-cylinder engine, Brembo brakes, a 5-speed manual transmission, upgraded suspension now with a double-wishbone, a new cooling system and some extra nice touches such as the high beam button on



the steering is labelled "LEVATI" which translates to "move from my way". Automobili Amos' team created 21 of them with a whopping price tag of \$350,000.

Resto-modding can be very expensive due to the restoration of the rare classic cars and the ridiculous rarity of parts. The original parts are hard to come by so companies have to improvise by repurposing old parts to add to the car. Another major factor that causes this price hike is the amount of rust on a classic vehicle which requires a lot of labour-intensive work. Though a restomodded project won't hold the same value as a restored classic vehicle, the performance improvement may compensate for the deficit in value, at least for some people. The popularity of a classic car and the high demand and desirability for it increase the value by an unimaginable amount.

One of the best examples would be the Singer 911 DLS which fetched a hefty price tag of \$1.8 million. This Porsche restomod was developed by the F1 Williams team, making a nick under 500hp and the exhaust sounds like a group of an orchestra making the most euphonious music, where the car weighs just about 1000kg. The Singer DLS is on par with Koenigsegg when it comes to technical engineering, Pagani in terms of art and 458 Speciale regarding the driving experience.

There are countless amazing restomodders across the world and many new ones that are being built every day; each one of them having its own special story. There are many legendary Restomodders that every Petrolhead appreciates like the Legacy Overland Toyota Land Cruiser, Twisted Landrover Defender, AC Cobra, Cyan Racing's Volvo P1800, RWB's electric MGB, Totem Automobili's electric Alfa Romeo Giulia GT, RUF RCT and many more innumerable cars. These cars will always find a way to steal petrolheads' hearts.

When it comes down to it, completing a restomod will become a passion project which takes time and effort to achieve. However, something is gratifying about combining a piece of automotive history with modern-day innovations. At the end of the day, there will be a unique vehicle. It's all about the dream cars, emotional bond, combining exclusivity, freedom, and adrenaline. That is the beauty and art of resto-modding and ultimately driving, which will forever continue to change lives.

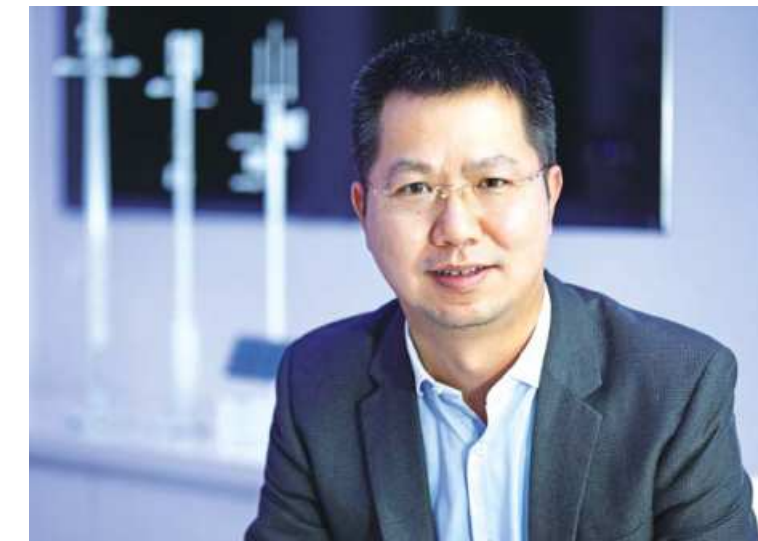
# 5G: Paving the way for a digitally enabled society

INTERVIEWED BY SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

5G is probably one of the most anticipated leap-forwards that the country has been waiting for many years now. Putting an end to all the speculation, on December 12, Teletalk is officially launching 5G network services on a trial basis in Bangladesh, and Huawei as the technology partner has played a key role in making it all happen. To debug the hype around 5G, we sat to have a conversation with Kevin Xu, Chief Technology Officer of Huawei Bangladesh. Here's the expert of the discussion that we had:

**What is 5G and how do you think 5G will affect our daily lives?**

The 5th generation wireless network technology 5G, compared to 4G, can provide much higher speed, better connectivity and lower latency which opens so many doors of possibilities including massive machine-type communications, responsiveness and fast data transfer over 1GBPS. This is beneficial for individuals, families and companies. In addition to speed, Individuals will have AR/



VR which will bring a new experience in entertainment, gaming etc. Families will have better connectivity with ICT devices. Fixed Wireless Access will take an important role to bring higher speed omitting the hassle of wires. For companies, 5G means industries like ports, manufacturers and traffic can utilise smart technology. As we know, 4G changed lives, but 5G will change society.

**5G will be launched in Bangladesh on 12 December. What are your thoughts regarding that?**

There are about 700 active telecom operators worldwide, among which about 180 have already launched 5G services. Huawei has been working with mobile operators in Bangladesh for more than twenty years. We cherish the transformation of 3G to 4G in Bangladesh, and now we enter the 5G era. We are happy to cooperate with Teletalk in launching 5G in Bangladesh. Bangladesh will be counted as one of the first few countries which are launching 5G.

**Why is the deployment of 5G a big deal in Bangladesh? Which industries will benefit the most from 5G?**

As we know, carbon emission has been a hot topic for a long time. ICT holds around 1.4% of the total carbon footprint. And since ICT is fundamental to the digital economy of Bangladesh, 5G can address the challenge of improving the ICT sector as a whole. With the introduction of 5G, we can decrease carbon footprints by making remote jobs much easier to do.

The factories, especially readymade garments factories, which hold the second position in earning remittance in Bangladesh, 5G can find new ways of ensuring better product accuracy and efficient operational management.

5G can support industries in reducing carbon emissions, like banking, where the improved connectivity can be integrated into smart banking. People won't need to go to the banks as they will have access to much faster and safer banking from home. Having better internet at home means more emphasis on working from home. Motor vehicles will be used less, which will amount to a decrease in carbon emissions and a smaller footprint. With 5G technology, we can also optimise the traffic light control system to transmit fast and accurate information to the control centre, thus improving traffic conditions on major roads. Traffic has always been a big issue in Dhaka and 5G will help tackle that problem as well.

The factories, especially readymade garments factories, which hold the second position in earning remittance in Bangladesh, 5G can find new ways of ensuring better product accuracy and efficient operational management.

Furthermore, 5G will enable smart ports, where the machines can be controlled via AI. We already have Chinese smart ports that are completely controlled by machines. There, people only stay in the offices to run the machines, which are always working with 100% accuracy. 5G will enable Bangladesh to replicate a similar efficient manufacturing system. Fast and reliable wireless connections will also improve sectors such as healthcare and general public services and will make worldwide communication even smoother. Overall, we think 5G has the power to reform society in a very positive manner.

**How can telecom brands deploy 5G with their current infrastructure?**

3G or 4G, we needed specific radio transmitters in mobile phones, which can provide a satisfactory output but not to the level of 5G. 5G has increased speed and higher bandwidth, so the transmission fibre bandwidth capacity needs to be expanded. There is also a requirement for more spectrum. An addition of 2.6 or 3.5 GHz to existing frequencies will be very fitting for the next steps. Huawei has been supplying almost 60% of the total 5G

components worldwide and soon enough Bangladesh will be capable of running high-speed 5G as well. With time Bangladesh can adapt the existing cases and discover new localized applications. But in between, the industry also needs to work for a better 4G experience.

**There are several network infrastructure providers right now with 5G solutions. What gives Huawei an edge compared to other competitors?**

As we can see, many companies have launched their 5G networks in 2020. But our story was started long ago. You know, Huawei invests more than 10% of its revenue in research and innovation. We have been researching this technology since 2009 and until 2013, we spent nearly \$600 million on 5G research alone. And Huawei started developing 5G equipment in 2012. More than 60% of 5G patents are currently owned by Huawei.

We continue to invest in creative technologies to make our products more efficient and more green in terms of power-saving. A recent analysis stated that Huawei is at least two years ahead of other 5G vendors.

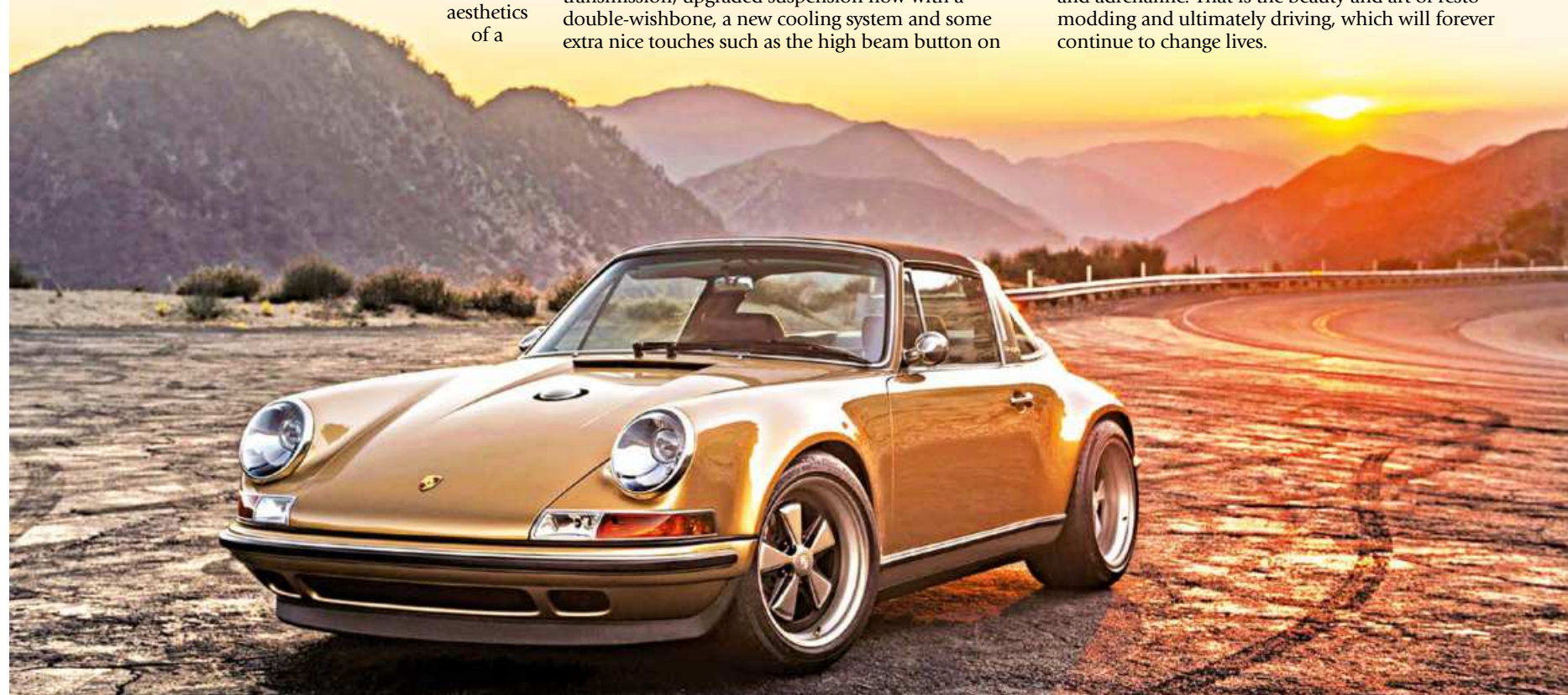
Huawei wants to work with operators to find out how we can solve your problems and improve the efficiency of a digital society. Societal improvement will take time, so we need to launch 5G as soon as possible. We can borrow and learn from other countries, but we still need time to customize them. Many operators might want to launch 5G services as soon as possible, but not to the scale of our project.

**As we have learned, to use 5G we need 5G-enabled devices. Unfortunately, the number of compatible devices is still quite low in Bangladesh. Do you think this is a red flag for 5G adoption in the country?**

I don't think that is a problem. When 4G was introduced, only high-end phones supported the technology. 4G only began to spread when mid and low range phones started to adopt it, quickly becoming an industry standard. As 5G technology has just been introduced to the world, we are still working on small scale coverage such as metropolitan cities. Presently, higher-end phones have been adopting the technology. The good part is 5G devices are already in the Market and even some companies have already launched 5G handsets in the Bangladesh market. Soon, when 5G infrastructure will be available enough, handheld device companies will start to implement 5G support on affordable phones.

China's life changed for the better after the launch of 4G. The Chinese market was booming, and the same happened in Bangladesh. Now, with the launch of 5G, once companies start manufacturing low-end smartphones that enable 5G connectivity, the industry will change once again. With 5G, every sector, especially ICT, will contribute to making a smarter and greener society. 5G will help Bangladesh's economy prosper as well.

Transcribed by Arfin Kazi



# Essential skills for young entrepreneurs

ZAKIA SAMEEN NOOR

Entrepreneurship is the new buzzword for youngsters nowadays. Look around yourself and you'll see someone or the other on the journey of setting up a small business or a startup.

Out of the few that do turn out to be successful in the long run, how do they do it? What skills or sacrifices do you need to succeed? More importantly, how do you overcome the numerous challenges you'll face along the way?

If you're a budding entrepreneur, here are some essential skills you should think of acquiring - from the ones who have walked the walk - for you to thrive as one.

## CONSTANT LEARNING ATTITUDE

Attitude can make a huge difference in how you approach any situation. Especially as an entrepreneur. Undoubtedly, you will face myriads of challenges. In such situations, it is important to have the attitude of a student and be open-minded and versatile. Mistakes and failures will definitely be made. But, you have to do the hard work of swallowing your pride and being self-aware to not make the same mistakes again the next time.

## SALES & COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS

This is the most important skill of them all. Sayem Faruk, Founder and CEO of Remotely, says, "Being a salesman is a skill that will come in handy not just when it comes to pitching your business but in personal contexts too."

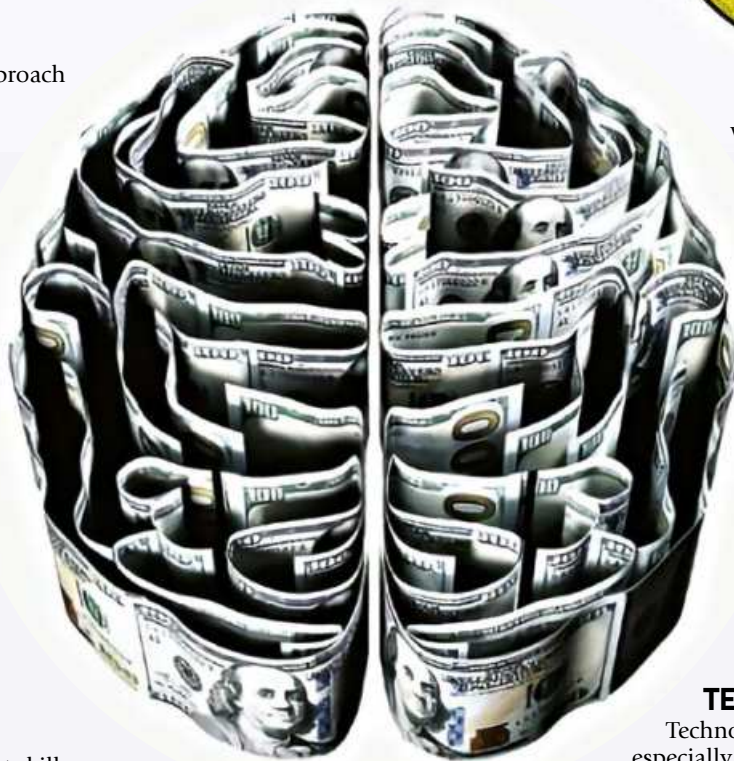
Samiha Tahsin, Co-founder & CEO of Bonton, agrees as well. "I believe the first skills to acquire and master are sales and communication. When you are an entrepreneur, you are most likely solving a problem, and you

should be able to sell that solution to your customers, your investors, your teammates and even your future co-founder," she says.

There are plenty of books on enhancing your sales skills out there. You can even watch YouTube videos. But remember, skill improvement comes through the effective application of what you have learned.

## CONSTANT INNOVATION

You have to think outside the box constantly. This is one of the mantras of Tahsin Rob, the Founder of Fatty Bun and Heart world, "You must always compete yourself and find ways to innovate so that



you are better than your previous versions." At the same time, listening to customer feedback can provide great insights on how to level up your innovation.

## PROPER CUSTOMER SERVICE

Sometimes, our human emotions can cloud our thinking and dealing with people, especially customers. This is



when ego comes.

"Keep your ego at bay," says Tahsin. "If you're having a good day and a customer comes up to you with three complaints, don't let it ruin your day. Don't lose your patience with them. Instead, listen to them and see where their complaints are coming from. Give them importance. This is essential to building good customer relationships, which is critical," she says.

## THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY

Technology is here to stay, especially in the modern times of Covid-19. Mastering technology doesn't mean you need to be an expert in coding and programming to find success. It means you learn to leverage the power of technology.

Machine learning, data science & analytics can be useful tools to help make data-driven decisions about your business. Alongside, digital marketing (especially Facebook and Instagram marketing) can bring resounding results for your business.

## CONFRONTING CHALLENGES

Challenges are aplenty. Ensuring a constant supply, finding reliable suppliers, receiving payments, finding a good delivery service, dealing with various kinds of people (including some rude ones), marketing, never giving up, innovating to come up with new products and making hard decisions.

Where do these end? Samiha says, "The first lesson that I learnt was how to take criticism, and it was quite demotivating at first, but this is probably the most important one. Sometimes, you have to keep your head low and work through it."

"Being an entrepreneur you have to know good times only last for so long (bad times too). You have to innovate, get feedback and iterate. The second lesson would be to accept that it's never going to be perfect, this is a process that you have to get used to."

## FEMALE FOUNDERS

### AND THEIR EXTRA CHALLENGES

There is no doubt that in our country, it can be extremely difficult to thrive as an independent woman. The system isn't supportive. According to Samiha, as a female entrepreneur, you will probably face discrimination at times. She cautions that this is not something she says to discourage any female from pursuing entrepreneurship. "But the best way you can overcome this is to have enough supporters around you who know your capabilities and not let you doubt yourself," she says.

## TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

Being an entrepreneur is challenging. Sayem Faruk says, "Countless nights of sleep and outings with family and friends are a given cost of being an entrepreneur. Sacrificing my health and peace of mind are perhaps the most expensive sacrifices I made. Not knowing how you'll pay everyone's salaries next month is a scary place to be in."

"Being self-aware comes first. But to achieve that, one needs to educate himself on it. Once that foundation is laid, then comes fixing the basics - waking up and eating on time, exercising, having support systems can go a long way in taking care of our mental health," he says.

## FINAL WORDS

It's important to understand where your motivation for entrepreneurship originates from. If it's for glamour, this field is not for you. Being an entrepreneur is probably one of the hardest jobs out there, and it is sometimes more than a job because sometimes you go to sleep thinking about how to keep your customers happy or how to pay your employees next month, so if you are not really passionate about what you are doing, you will constantly be demotivated.

Entrepreneurship is also a luxury not everyone can afford. As Sayem Faruk puts it, "If one has financial obligations towards their family, they should opt for the safer route of taking up a job. This is absolutely alright."



# GAMES WE LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2022

TASNUVA KINNORI

Despite many release delays and pushbacks, 2021 has been an eventful year for gamers. From the anticipation for Far Cry 6 to the horrors of Resident Evil Village, the year has also treated gamers with indie surprises like Disco Elysium: The Final Cut and Hades.

But as a new year approaches, gamers have a lot more to look forward to. From much-awaited sequels to promising new titles, here are some of the most hyped video games coming out in 2022.

## GOD OF WAR RAGNAROK

From the depths of the Underworld to the peaks of Jotunheim, the Ghost of Sparta has risen from the ashes time and again. But the battle isn't over yet. True to the forebodings of the last game, Kratos and Atreus are all set to return in the much-awaited God of War Ragnarok. As the direct sequel to 2018's Game of the Year, Ragnarok has rightfully earned its share of anticipation from gamers worldwide.

With an epic trailer revealed during Sony's PlayStation Showcase 2021, the latest entry in Kratos's story introduces gamers to new realms, new characters and a few old enemies. Set to be the "finale" for the God of War's Norse

adventures, Ragnarok indeed promises to be an epic conclusion to Kratos and Atreus's journey.

## THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: BREATH OF THE WILD 2

Next up, we have another much-awaited Game of the Year sequel with The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild 2. After breaking sales records and sweeping award shows with Breath of the Wild, Link is all set to travel across Hyrule again with a new tale to tell. Despite Nintendo being vague about the exact release date, the hype for Breath of the Wild 2 has only been building since its reveal trailer dropped two years ago.



Though the magic of Breath of the Wild is hard to live up to, Nintendo promises to stun once more as Link returns with new paragliding mechanics, floating cities and an all-new threat to shield Hyrule against.

## HORIZON FORBIDDEN WEST

2022 is set to be an exciting year for RPG fans with yet another epic open-world adventure awaiting release in February. In the sequel to Horizon: Zero Dawn, gamers will be reunited with Aloy as she sets out to do what she does best- hunting robots and saving the world. With fans especially excited to see how the franchise exploits next-gen gaming mechanics, Forbidden West heavily teases new locations to explore, mysteries to unearth and machines to fight as Aloy's journey continues in post-apocalyptic Earth.

## ELDEN RING

The latest addition to FromSoftware's Soulsborne



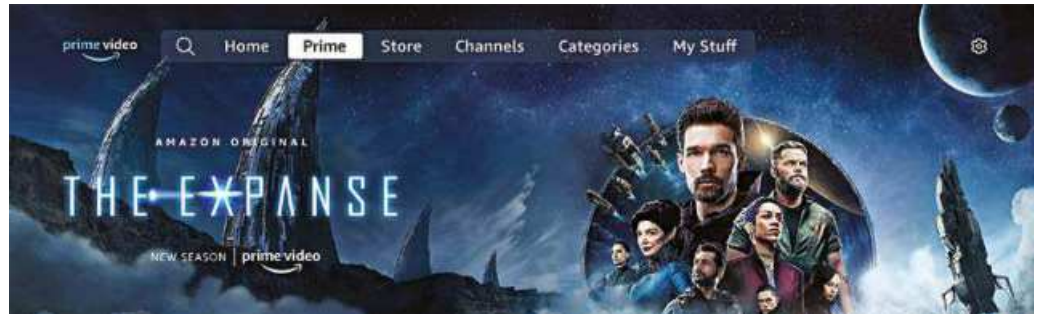
franchise is well worth the hype- not only for hardened gamers but for fans of Game of Thrones author George R. R. Martin as well. Set to release in February for PC and all major consoles, Elden Ring adds the first truly open-world experience to the usual unforgiving yet immensely rewarding formula of Soulsborne games.

## HOGWARTS LEGACY

The next anticipated title in our list also benefits from an author's masterful world-building to deliver a mesmerising video gaming experience. Based on the foundations of J.K Rowling's Wizarding World, Hogwarts Legacy tells a unique tale that is sure to excite fans, new and old.

While the previous Harry Potter games had gamers fill the shoes of the titular hero, Hogwarts Legacy lets you craft your very own wizarding story with customisable characters and tons of potions, spells and talents to master. The much-hyped game, paired with the release of the next Fantastic Beasts movie, makes 2022 a year to look forward to for Potterheads around the world.

So whether you're waiting to face off against Norse gods, fight towering robots or soar across the sky on a hippogriff- the coming year has something for all. As the video gaming industry kicks into full gear after the pandemic, 2022 promises to be an exciting year for gamers indeed.



# Tired of Netflix? Check out these three alternatives

REHENUMA RAYSA

Netflix's popularity is unparalleled when it comes to streaming services taking over the entertainment world. However, many other companies followed suit and are making an impact to ensure our weekend leisure and ahem, weekday procrastination finds something to watch that is worthy of our time and weakening eyesight.

Today we focus on a few other streaming platforms you can check out to explore a new entertainment space to break free from the autocracy of Netflix. These options have their own 'educational' values, are good entertainment sources, and are pocket-friendly.

## AMAZON PRIME

Amazon Prime, a subsidiary venture of tech giant Amazon has been bringing amazing content to the masses since 2005. They let you watch their content on up to 3 devices at any given time.

You can enjoy all their originals, as well as other movies and TV shows of your choice for a subscription fee of approximately BDT 650



per month.

Also, if you are a student, you can enjoy their services for up to 3 months straight free of charge, and after that, you will have to pay the usual amount according to Amazon Prime's subscription chart.

## BONGOBD

Bongo BD started early, marking the emergence of streaming services in Bangladesh in 2013.

Bongo offers original content, as well as international content on their platform simultaneously. They also let viewers enjoy Live TV, although you get access to limited TV channels. Bongo even made certain shows free for the masses during the pandemic, which

led to more people clicking on for at-home entertainment.

## CHORKI

Chorki, though relatively new in the streaming service arena, is bringing us quality content at a subscription charge of 300 for 6 months. You can enjoy some Humayun Ahmed classics along with other Bangladeshi gems on your screen anywhere at your convenient time.

Their latest releases including Unoloukik, Munshigiri, Adkhana Valo Chele Adha Mostaan etc. produced originally under their banner have won many praises, which successfully gave hope to the deshi content seekers while giving them a chance to shine.

us on /Sandalina

ঐতিহ্যের আর এক তাম্র আধুনিকতা  
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

স্যান্ডালিনা  
সোপ

রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...

KOHINOOR  
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