

TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of *The Daily Star*

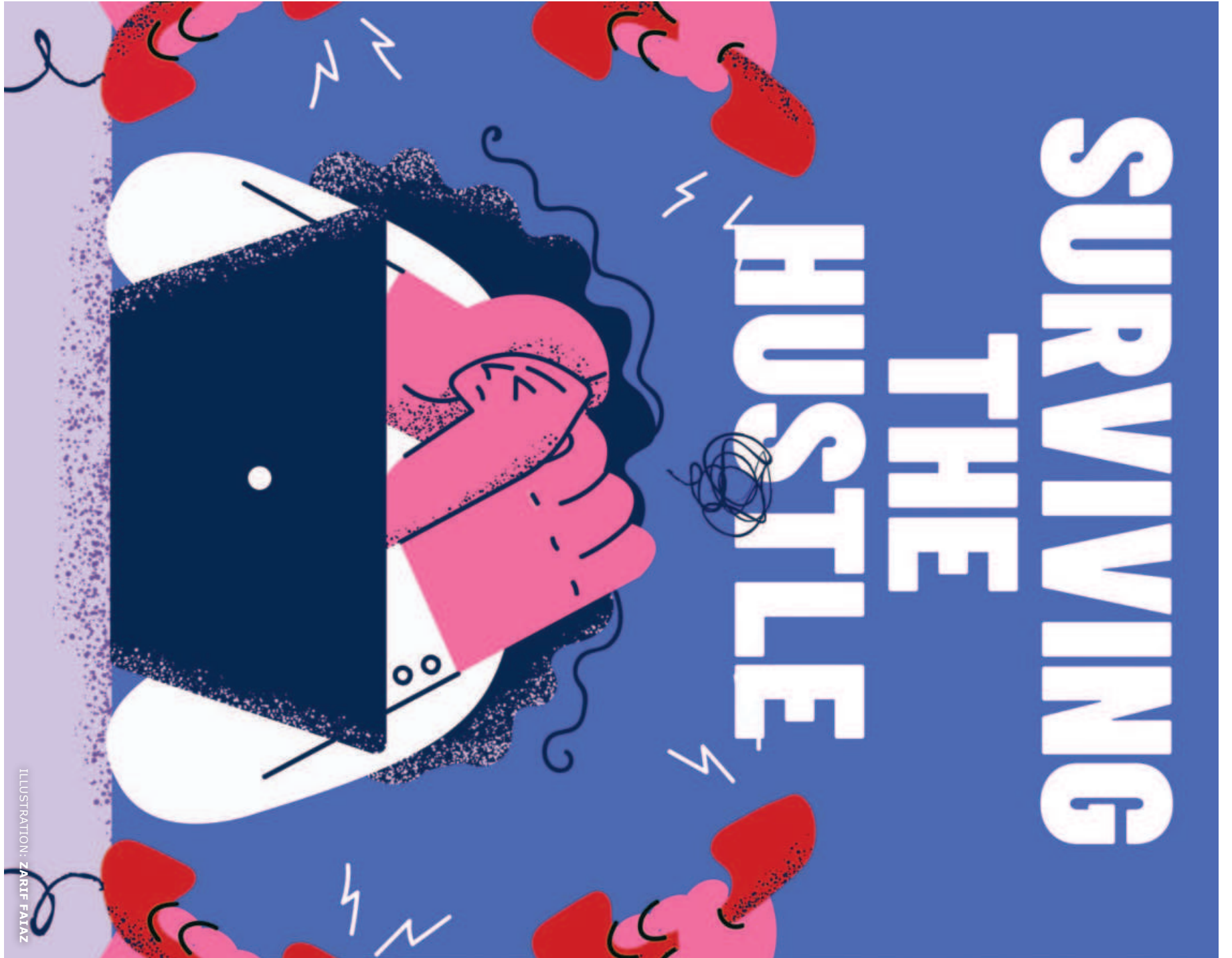


ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FATAZ

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Be careful next time you take a Messenger chat screenshot

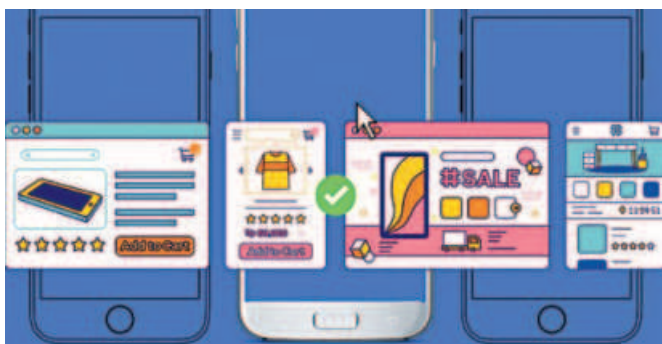
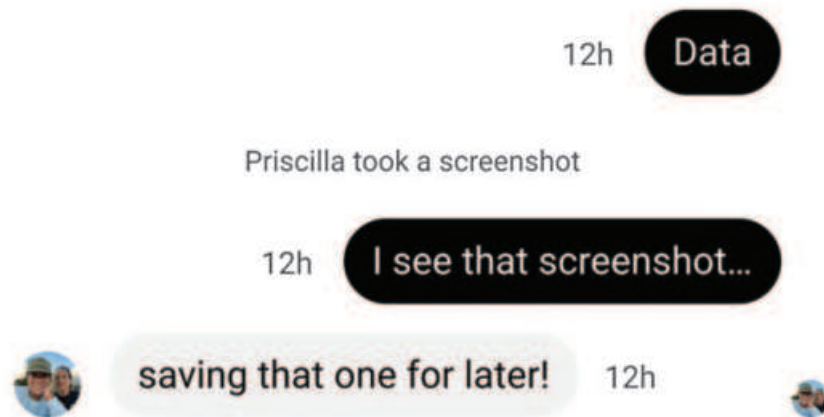
Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook and its parent company Meta, recently announced a brand new feature for Messenger end-to-end encrypted chats. In this update, if someone takes a screenshot of the disappearing message, the other person will get a notification.

According to the screenshot shared by Zuckerberg, the encrypted chat will show a notification inside the chatbox whenever a screenshot is taken, and include the name of the user who took the screenshot. This feature can be used only after activating disappearing messages, in which messages will be removed 12 hours after they have been seen.

The announcement was made on 27 January on Zuckerberg's official Facebook page. In the post, Zuckerberg further added that reactions, stickers

and GIFs, which are commonly used features in regular Messenger chats, will be added to Messenger end-to-end encrypted chats as well.

Encrypted chats were added to both Facebook and Instagram in November 2020, and have been a popular feature among users since.



Unique ID program for online traders launched this week

To bring the e-commerce sector of the country under further regulation, the government is launching Unique Business Identification (UBID) numbers for e-commerce platforms. Traders who operate in the e-commerce industry, meaning any individual or business, small or large, that trades goods and items on Facebook, must also register to get their own UBIDs.

An app, called UBID Apps, has been created to facilitate the registration process. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi inaugurated the app at the Secretariat on 6 February.

Apart from this, the Central Logistics Management System (CCMS) is also being set up to resolve any grievances against any registered organisation. Preliminary work is also underway to create a digital financial transaction platform called 'Binimoy'. Money can be sent to any bank from any existing mobile financial service providers (MFS) through the 'Binimoy' app.

These two services will also be officially launched in a few weeks. A Central Logistics Tracking Platform (CLTP) will also be launched soon after CCMS and 'Binimoy'.

Rockstar announces Grand Theft Auto 6



Rockstar has confirmed that it is working on a new Grand Theft Auto, GTA, game. In a recent Grand Theft Auto community update post, a Rockstar spokesperson wrote, "We are pleased to confirm that active development for the next entry in the Grand Theft Auto series is well underway. We look forward to sharing more as soon as we are ready, so please stay tuned to the Rockstar Newswire for official details."

Rockstar hasn't revealed much about the game itself as of yet. According to previous reports, the initial version of GTA 6--if it's called GTA 6--may be smaller than GTA 5, with updates used to improve it over time. According to other reports, the game will be set in a Miami-inspired Vice City.

Rockstar patented a new NPC navigation system last year, which some believe will be used in the next GTA. The system is intended to create more lifelike road users and more realistic traffic behaviour, among other updates.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Putting out the fire

It seems we have been going on a rant about the hustle culture lately. Sure, work is what keeps us financially stable, but do the detrimental effects of overwork outweigh the benefits? At what point is constant daily work considered unhealthy? While we can never truly answer such questions, we can still address problems such as toxicity, over-competitiveness and burnout in professional workplaces. Such matters are delicate and will require a sensitive approach, but it is important to keep in mind that even the smallest of steps forward can propagate the improvement of your health, both physically and mentally.

Our Cover Story this week talks about how you can avoid burnout in your job. Whether you are suffering from overwork or just tired of the competition around you, you should take care of the minute factors that will eventually pile up to form a black cloud over your head. On the academic side, check out our picks for essential apps that will help you manage your studies better on this week's Tech Tips. In our latest product guide on Bytes, we picked some budget options for gaming keyboards.

Even if things get tough, don't give up. Just one step at a time. You will get there.

As always, stay safe everyone. Have a great weekend.

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TOGGLE

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Unilever is transforming the way it does business

ZAKIA SAMEEN NOOR



The local FMCG company Unilever Bangladesh Ltd (UBL) is known for its wide brand portfolio, which includes brands such as Sunsilk, CloseUp, Lifebuoy and Dove. Recently, Unilever



has branched out by introducing a transformative change in its operations through the app Lever Bazar.

Lever Bazar is a business-to-business (B2B) self-ordering digital platform. It is marketed as an e-commerce solution through which retailers can easily place their orders without waiting for company representatives. Lever Bazar is intended to make the product ordering processes easier and more accessible for thousands of retailers from the most remote, rural and urban areas of the country.

According to Unilever, 80% of their business is in the retail market. Thus, Lever Bazar should provide to be an effective solution for remote retailers struggling to maintain business. Nahiyen Hye, Customer Development Excellence Head, Unilever, said, "When retailers used to place orders in the traditional way, they would receive their supply from a limited number of brands. Now, with the advent of technology, Lever Bazar democratises the retailers who get to pick and choose what they want."

Hye says that because of the accessibility and ease provided by this new app, retailers will be able to expand on their product knowledge, even if the retailers are located in remote rural and remote villages. "Retailers will also have the freedom to order whenever they want," added Hye, "In the traditional ordering process, retailers would have to order through the distributors. Depending on the outlet size, they would decide on the number of times they would send their people to retailers. With Lever Bazar, retailers will no longer have to wait or depend on an external ordering schedule."

One such retailer who has been benefitted is Md Faruk, a shopkeeper from Uttar Badda Kacha Bazar. "I highly appreciate that I am not dependent

on the sales representatives. If there is any product shortage, I can easily order through the app," said Faruk. He stated that the app has benefited his business, but added that next-day delivery options would have helped him a lot more rather than waiting for one or two days for each delivery.

Uzzal Mia, a small shopkeeper from a remote area in Kurigram, has a similar story. "I really needed an uninterrupted supply of Lifebuoy Handwash, as the demand for hygiene products skyrocketed during the recent lockdown. I was panic-stricken when our stock was almost running out and the sales representative couldn't visit us in that particular week due to the strict lockdown," said Uzzal Mia. He used to place his orders to the Distributor Sales Force (DSF). However, once he found out about Lever Bazar and its 'self on-boarding pack' feature, he has started using Lever Bazar for his product shipment ever since. The shopkeeper also added that the app can be translated into Bangla, which makes it much easier to use for those lacking proper English education.

Amit Saha, a shopkeeper from Tongi Bazar commented that he found the ordering process quite smooth. "I receive next-day delivery so long as I place my order by noontime. Alongside, availing the offers from the app has been beneficial in selling to my customers," said Saha.

Alongside the freedom to order anytime from anywhere, retailers can make more informed purchase decisions with this app. They can browse the products, read the product details in comprehensive Bangla and make informed decisions based on their customers' preferences. This helps local traders push products based on the consumers' needs, thus creating a micro e-commerce ecosystem.

Additionally, new product and offer alerts are sent to the retailers' phones, enabling shopkeepers to know all about Unilever launches and offers without having to interact with a salesperson. Retailers can check transaction histories to understand how much is spent on which category to track expenditure digitally. By providing sharper products and offering recommendations to the shopkeepers, Lever Bazar enables an easier ordering experience.

According to Unilever, the average daily order count of Lever Bazar stands at over 6,000. Unilever Bangladesh plans to stay vigilant, stay open to new adaptations and hopes to further empower local retailers all across the nation.

GAP10 OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY

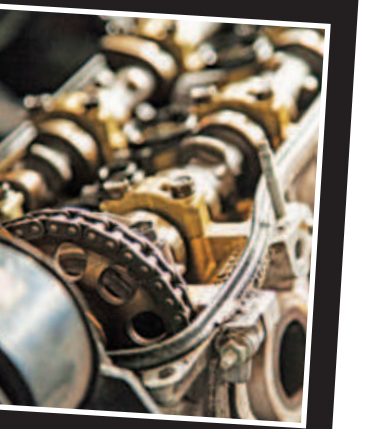
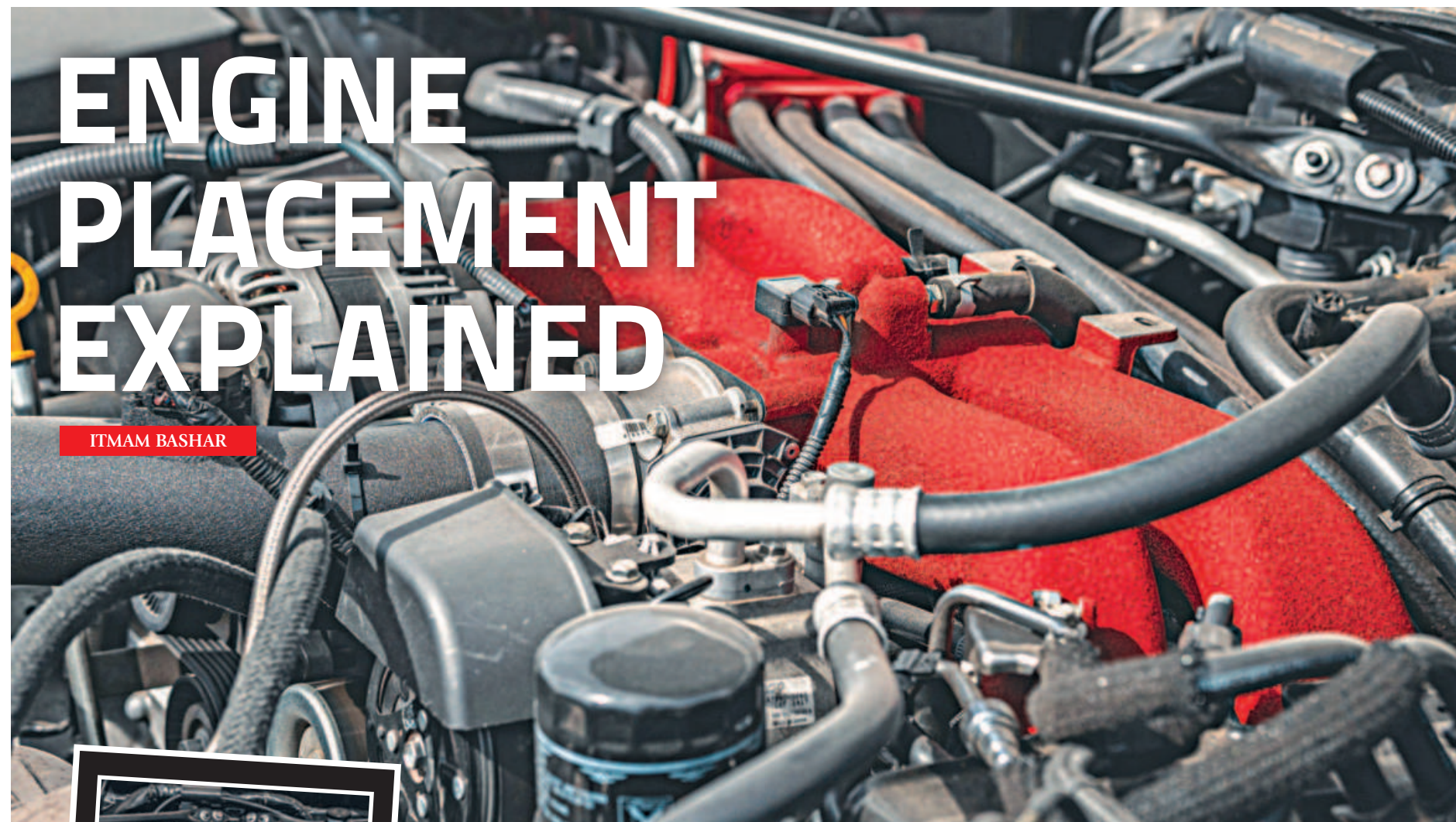
BSRM WINS THE BEST BRAND AWARD FOR THE 10TH TIME IN A ROW

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM
building a safer nation

ENGINE PLACEMENT EXPLAINED

ITMAM BASHAR



Engine placement is one of the more crucial elements when it comes to automobile design. It can affect the handling, cabin space, cooling necessities and weight distribution of the automobile. Commonly, when it comes to four-wheelers, there are three configurations of engine placement: front, mid and rear-engined. Each type comes with a unique setup and a set of characteristics that make it good for some applications but bad for others. Let's break down what each engine placement is useful for and why they are used. Front-engined cars

As we all know, a little over 90% of cars have a front-engined layout. Why? For starters, they are mostly front-wheel-drive (FWD) cars. So it makes sense to have the engine over the front wheels for more traction, to make it more forgiving to steer for run off the mill econoboxes. This makes the vehicle stable while maintaining a balanced weight distribution when accelerating.

However, FWD front-engine cars often suffer from understeer as they lose traction when accelerating, due to the weight of the car being shifted to the rear wheels. It's still a very efficient way to get the power down, since the distance from the engine to wheels is short, which minimises losses through rotational components. They are also very efficient due to easier and more effective cooling.

The engine in the front offers more space in the cabin, which makes the vehicle more comfortable for passengers. This is relatively safer than other engine placements due to the crumple zone being longer when compared to the rear and mid-engined cars. The engine in the front will also, more likely, absorb more

impact in an event of a collision. The front of the cabin is often larger than the rear and when properly designed can provide plenty of room for engine work. Although, many modern cars' engine bays are cramped with new technology. Rear-engined cars

The world's first car was rear-engined but in the modern world, these cars are hard to come by - unless you are on a racetrack. The cars with a rear-engine layout are often rear-wheel-drive (RWD), as having an engine on top of the driven wheels at the rear provides more accelerative traction. Not only will the accelerative traction be good from a standstill because of the weight distribution at the rear end but also will have a greater grip as the car accelerates when the weight is shifted to the back of the car. This allows the rear-engined cars to strongly accelerate without losing out the tires.

However, that same power to the back wheels can cause problems as the rear tends to snap out. These cars are prone to a lot of oversteers since the power and weight in the back will tend to shift to the front. Oversteering is not easy to fix as understeering in FWD cars. But with the right chassis and suspension tuning, these sports cars can be amazing to drive, like the Porsche 911.

When it comes down to braking performance, these cars provide the best among the setups mentioned. When decelerating, the load is transferred to the front wheels. Rear-engined cars tend to have a weight distributed towards the backend, and this load tends to even out between the front and rear axles, which allows for optimal braking.

Having the engine in the back of

the car usually moves the passenger compartment forward, reducing the crumple zone, which can be more dangerous compared to front-engined cars. The front of the car in this case is usually used for small cargo space. Mid-engined cars

Mid-engined cars are self-explanatory for the most part, where the engine sits in between the front and rear axles of the car. Cars with this layout are said to have the best handling among the setups, as the weight distribution tends to be in a more neutral position. By putting the engine close to the centre of the car, engineers balance the front and rear weight putting out equal traction on four wheels. Since its mass is in the centre of the car, it tends to be nimble, more agile and less resistant to rotation, making the cars incredibly stable in corners.

Cars with this layout will have a much more even weight distribution under deceleration compared to front-engined cars. The rear tires can perform a major portion of the braking, ultimately allowing for better stopping distances as the tires are evenly weight distributed. This also helps disperse the heat from deceleration better across four brake discs, thus reducing brake fade.

As good as mid-engined cars sound, it comes with a couple of drawbacks. The cabin space is very small as the engine is located where the back seat of a car should be. If by any chance you ever lose control of such a vehicle and once it starts to spin, it will be hard to stop as the centre of gravity is low with a mass that is distributed at the centre of the car. Still, most supercars and hypercars follow this layout for the best control of the car.

Competition is a constant factor in the equation of workplace culture. It is the secret motivation that drives employees to excel and bring in more contributions to the organisation. But sometimes this competitive culture can lead to feelings of incompetence, physical and emotional fatigue and lack of achievement — resulting in a debilitating state we call burnout. Burnouts can jeopardise long-term career prospects and are attributed to causing hypertension, insomnia, depression and relationship problems.

While burnouts may sound like a problem only for the employees, they aren't. The impact of employee burnout

Set well-defined goals for yourself
Working in a competitive setting can be challenging. You may often feel like your coworkers are moving too fast, which can be unnerving at times. But if you continue contending with others, the only outcome is you sitting at your work desk with furrowed brows, feeling absolutely burned out. Remember to fight the temptation to go head-to-head with others when it comes to vain goals such as bids for recognition. Stay focused on your long-term objectives instead.

Don't view your work as a zero-sum game and your coworkers as obstacles to advancement. Their promotion or success doesn't necessarily mean that you're doomed to fail. If you constantly strive to better yourself and build skills that make you indispensable, you'll reach your ultimate goals without going through the searing experience of burnout. Whenever you feel overextended, remind yourself to take on challenges — and only those challenges — that align with your goals.

Build better relationships with coworkers
Developing strong interpersonal relationships with colleagues can help you ward off burnout and feel connected and engaged in your work. Working side-by-side with coworkers can you make a trustworthy member of the organisation. Praise others, accept constructive criticism, deliver on commitments and collaborate well.

Use the person you measure yourself against — your comparative other — as a source of inspiration. If comparison

direction in life. The best solution to such bouts of burnout is time away from work. Take it down a notch by prioritising good sleep habits, nutrition, exercise and social connections. These habits will allow your body and mind to rejuvenate and your productivity to flourish.

Also, engage in practices that promote equanimity and well-being, like journaling, meditating and travelling. If you can't squeeze such activities into your jam-packed schedule, give yourself some time to assess exactly how you're spending your time. This will help you limit spending time on tasks that aren't important or put you in a negative mood, and make space for things that replenish your energy.

Establish frequent contact with employees
Finally, we'd be remiss not to mention what company leaders can do to prevent employee burnout. In this context, holding regular meetings may help, as frequent, informal check-ins with managers often keep employees engaged and motivated. At the beginning of these meetings, managers can take a few minutes to ask the employees how they are doing and how they feel about their roles. Then converse with them about any work-related problem they might be encountering and any assistance they might be in need of.

Moreover, managers shouldn't forget to publicly recognise each employee for the contribution he or she has made in the preceding weeks. Establishing a cadence of meetings for this purpose fosters relationships, improves communication and translates into better job performance.

Don't add extra stress to an already intense workload
Company leaders bear the responsibility for fending off employee burnout because they control the employees' workload. They should keep the lines of communication open with employees and include them in any decision that is relevant to the work. Managers can set individual, work-related goals for employees at the beginning of each quarter, which can help gauge how employees are performing. On top of that, having clear goals help employees complete their work while factoring in their time off.

Managers also need to delegate tasks appropriately and reasonably. If an employee has a major deliverable due, others may be considered to pitch in for the short term. Most importantly, under no circumstances should managers pit employees against one another. They should instead encourage competition as a route to developing skills, staying motivated and reaching shared goals. Competition should not be used to cultivate workplace toxicity.

Competition is a Capital-T Truth of work life. Who doesn't feel stretched thin at the end of a busy day? Who doesn't find previously enjoyable tasks arduous at times? When heavy workloads and tight deadlines push you to burnout, consider it a serious problem. Burnouts affect not just your own performance and well-being — both on and off the job — but that of your organisation as well. Burnouts can often feel insurmountable, but it doesn't have to be a life sentence. Hopefully, implementing the strategies suggested above will help you face new challenges in a happier and healthier way.

Five ways to beat burnout in a competitive work environment

MORIUM KULSUM



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIZ

can be pretty damaging on organisations. Burnout can result in lower productivity, engagement and turnover as well as higher absenteeism. Thus, the issue of employee burnout needs serious attention from both employees and employers.

There will always be competition to keep you on your toes — no matter where your career leads you. But this competition doesn't have to be the source of self-doubt and stress. Let us discover ways to manage stressors that can cause burnout so you can achieve sustainable career success, fair and square.

makes you feel insecure, shift your perspective and learn from what others are doing right, for some tips may be applicable to you. Better relationships will enable you to open up to coworkers who are being overly competitive and hurting team morale. Such frank communication may be all it takes to kick hyper-competitiveness to the curb.
Prioritise self-care
Focusing on unrelenting work culture, intense time pressure or simply having too much to do can sometimes erode your sense of self - to the point where you neglect your health and lose

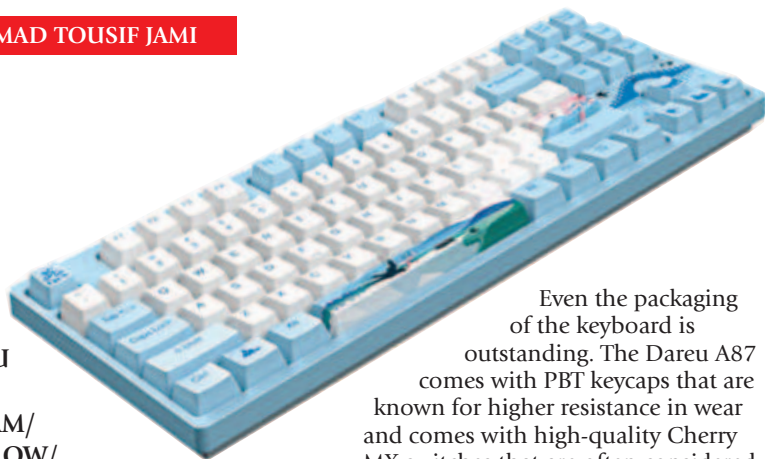
Our top picks for gaming KEYBOARDS under Tk. 8,000/-

AHMAD TOUSIF JAMI

DAREU A87 (DREAM/ SWALLOW/ SUMMER)

Price: Tk. 5,800/-

Switch: Cherry MX Blue/Brown/Red
The design of Dareu A87 is genuinely aesthetically pleasing. It comes with unique color schemes and themes that change the eloquence of any setup.



Even the packaging of the keyboard is outstanding. The Dareu A87 comes with PBT keycaps that are known for higher resistance in wear and comes with high-quality Cherry MX switches that are often considered one of the best-manufactured switches in the current market. There is no RGB lighting, only LED lights, but still perfectly complement the aesthetics of the rest of the design. If you are looking for a stunning keyboard, this is definitely recommended.

The local gaming community is still rapidly growing in Bangladesh, and many enthusiasts are exploring options to create their gaming setup. Most don't have unlimited budgets, and other gaming components are also quite expensive. So, people often look for good value for money when it comes to options in gaming keyboards. While one can always make their custom gaming keyboards, we will focus on pre-built ones here. If you are a gamer looking for a good gaming keyboard to buy and complement your gaming setup on a budget, check out our top picks.

SKYLOONG SK64S

Price: Tk. 5,600/-

Switch type: Gateron Optical Switch Blue/Brown/Red

Our pick for the top compact gaming keyboard goes to Skyloong SK64s. With its compact 60% layout, this hot-swappable keyboard comes with the N-Key Rollover feature, allowing many keys to be pressed simultaneously. The keyboard's optical switches also make it a good pick for gamers who do not prefer mechanical switches. This

keyboard is fully programmable, so the switches can be adjusted however you want. If you prefer your keyboard to take up less space in your gaming setup, consider this as a good option.



RK84

Price: Tk. 4,800/-

Switch: Huano Blue/Brown/Red

The RK84 is a popular choice for customisation. This is a great pick for enthusiasts who do not want a barebone kit and build a keyboard from scratch but looking for a well-built quality keyboard that can be customised. The keyboard has good ergonomics - the magnetic padfoot makes it easier on the user's hand. The RK84 hot-swappable switches allow the swapping of three pins and five pins. For gaming where latency matters less and you want to try wireless gaming, the RK84 is a good option to consider thanks to its three-mode connectivity, including a 2.4 GHz dongle for convenience.

KEYCHRON C1

Price: Tk. 6,500/-

Switch: Gateron Mechanical Blue/Brown/Red

For Tenkeyless (TKL) layout lovers, the Keychron C1 is a good choice. This keyboard is a balance for those who are into light gaming but also wish to use the same keyboard for professional work purposes. This is also a solid option for Macbook users, as this keyboard has a Mac multimedia keys layout. It is Type-C wired and can easily fit into any setup. The Keychron C1 is a fairly simple keyboard that gets the job done well for most casual purposes. However, we would not recommend this as a suitable option for hardcore gamers.



KT87

Price: Tk. 7,600/-

Switch type: Kailh Box Red

The KT87 is our top pick for an all-around budget gaming keyboard. This RGB mechanical gaming keyboard has a pre-built anti-ghosting feature, so simultaneously, multiple keys can be depressed and registered to trigger special moves. Furthermore, this also has a pre-built noise dampener foam, so the keyboard comes with generally less rattle or vibration. The KT87 has an excellent build quality that is very durable, fully customisable and makes it a solid pick for anyone considering a safe bet on gaming keyboard choices.

ESSENTIAL APPS TO STREAMLINE YOUR STUDIES

MUSHFIQUE FAHIM

Uninterrupted, efficient and focused studying has never been an easy task for any student. The overly competitive world of today demands more from students than ever before. The contest is overwhelming and what we learn must be thorough both in terms of concept and practical skills. The good news, however, is that there are many apps that can help students streamline their studies and stay on top of the competition. Tactical and strategic use of these applications will provide a head start for the mindful student.

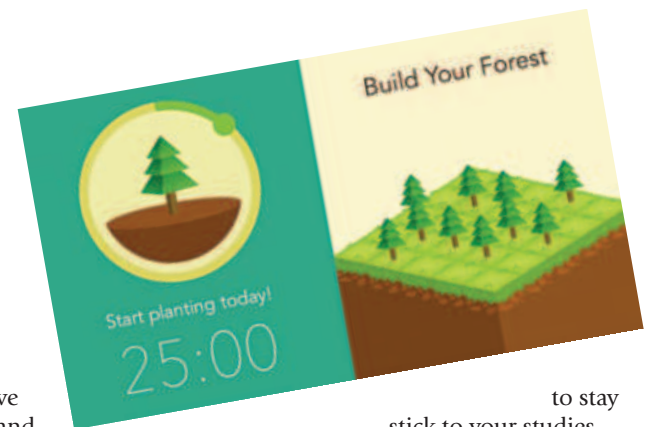
ISTUDIEZ PRO

The first thing an involved student need is an effective scheduling system. Without an organiser, it's easy to forget a crucial assignment, be late for an important class or miss a deadline. iStudiez Pro is one of the best organising tools available for free. It helps students keep track of their classwork, homework, projects, assignments, papers, classes and even grades - all in one place. It can be synced across multiple devices and different platforms such as iOS, Mac, Android and Windows. iStudiez also offers integration with Google Calendar and provides timely notifications on what's coming up. You only have to update the important dates and deadlines and the app will remind you to catch up on the homework you were about to overlook!



FOREST

A mindfulness app with a wonderful twist. Notifications are the modern-day enemy of a productive study session. They are designed to distract and draw you away from the task at hand. Forest is a productivity app that provides you with a beautiful incentive away from your phone and In the timer you set for a session, a virtual tree starts growing in your forest in the app. If you leave the app to check any notifications, the tree dies and you have to start over. The app is simple, effective and cute. What's more - they are actually partnered with a tree-planting organisation! Depending on downloads, the app actually donates to plant trees across the globe. There is no surer way to keep you from checking your Facebook unnecessarily than the possibility of a baby plant withering and crumbling.

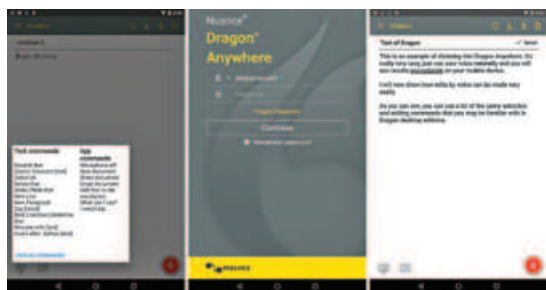


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DRAGON ANYWHERE

Need to make notes on the go? Is the lecture going by too fast to jot things down by hand? Dragon Anywhere is a dictation application that will help you solve these problems. Much more accurate and powerful than Siri Dictation, this app comes at a US\$15/month subscription fee after an initial seven-day trial period. But the multifaceted use of the app makes it worth the investment. It captures all your dictations and lectures in both audio and text format. There are a bunch of useful voice commands to edit your notes such as 'Scratch that' or 'Go to the end of line'. Dragon can also be integrated with Google Drive and Google Calendar, and it offers the feature of importing your notes to other platforms such as Evernote. Overall, if you need to keep fast, clean and accurate notes through dictation, you cannot go wrong with Dragon Anywhere.

EVERNOTE

The next most crucial thing after efficient organising is, of course, note-taking. Revising notes is the cornerstone of preparing for the upcoming exam, and Evernote remains the uncontested app of choice for this purpose. Evernote makes organising all your notes fun. It offers some really cool extra features on the paid version, but the free subscription is more than enough to be a master of the notes you take. Evernote lets you enhance your notes with checklists, attachments, links, images, drawings and even audio clips. The free version offers features such as searching for text inside an image, clipping web pages, syncing across two devices and applying a passcode. It is hard to find a better replacement for Evernote when it comes to keeping your notes streamlined.



QUIZLET

Flashcards! A proven and tested method of learning. Instead of old-school paper flashcards, there are now many smart flashcard apps that make memorising less tedious and more exciting. Quizlet is one of the most widely used flashcard applications. Essentially turning memorising into it helps students study a of subjects. A student can sets already created by other users and professional instructors. Ranging from world history to GRE vocabularies, there are thousands of topics to learn, readily available for free. Quizlet is an excellent tool for learning language-based subjects. Whether to add a little spice to a boring course or to quickly go through the essential points before an exam, Quizlet is a truly helpful app.



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practically endless variety

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Improv on its toes: Murderville

AZRA HUMAYRA



Regular viewers of Saturday Night Live (SNL) know that SNL sketches like Debbie Downer or The Californians maintain viewership thanks to the crew's consistent improvisation capabilities. Netflix's new crime-solving improv show Murderville allows viewers to get a taste, albeit acquired, of improv in a six-episode season.

Terry Seattle (played by Will Arnett) is a loose cannon homicide detective who just can't seem to keep a partner. Struggling to get over his divorce with the police chief Rhonda Jenkins-Seattle (played by Haneefah Wood), Terry is assigned a new murder case and a new celebrity detective partner each episode. The catch - these celebrities do not have a script to follow and have to improvise their way out of the ordeal. There are obvious and not-so-obvious clues carefully placed throughout the scenes and at the end of each episode, the guest stars have to piece the clues to find the real murderer.

Murderville is the US adaptation of the award-winning British comedy Murder in Successville. Creator Krister Johnson intended to deliver a cross between a comedy reality show and a large-scale prank for the celebrities involved, though

the success is debatable. Will Arnett deserves special credit for maintaining the arduous task of keeping a straight face and carrying on with the script even during the most ridiculous moments. The guest stars have to combat the gruelling situation Terry puts them through, with only their improv skills to keep the show's comedy quotient up.

Improvising is a skill few can do masterfully. The first guest star of Murderville, Conan O'Brien, who has many years of comedy under his belt, obviously has more experience at comedy improv than the established, yet relatively inexperienced in comedy, actress Annie Murphy. Scenes tend to quickly devolve if there aren't enough prompts and castmates who know how to read the room. However, there are still some hysterical moments that look as smooth as scripted comedy, such as the unexpected chemistry between Will Arnett and NFL star Marshawn Lynch in the second episode's introduction scene.

It is this chemistry that makes or breaks this show. Guest stars Kumail Nanjiani, Annie Murphy and Sharon Tate were more muted as Terry's partners. Will Arnett had to do most of the work to keep the show a

'comedy', and in most of the episodes, he tries his best to fling random lines at his guests - to which the replies range from hilarious to cringe.

Murderville works because of Arnett's adaptability and whimsy, but it also because of good celebrity casting, which stops the show's generally predictable gags from becoming tedious. Each celebrity reacts to Terry's shenanigans differently so it is a surprise for the viewers each episode. Some of the scenes are funny because of how ridiculous the situations are created to be. There are even scenes where both Arnett and the featured guest star could not contain their laughter - such is the ridiculousness of some improvised scenario.

The episodes follow the same formula: having exactly three suspects each episode, detective Terry getting in the way of the interviews and an undercover scene where Terry gets the guests into trouble. Due to the repetitiveness, there are times the show feels repetitive and tiresome. How much of the show is unscripted? How do they know which questions to ask? In an interview with Yahoo Entertainment, creator Krister Johnson confirmed that the guest stars are only given story points and

signposts to work with. These signposts are placed to ensure the guests see the important clues and are actually able to solve the murder.

According to the creator, the show's unscripted components include a lot of scripted moments, but at the heart of it, it is still the guest stars who drive the show forward. They are at the crux of Murderville's improvisation. The rest of the cast has to improvise according to the guests' reaction, and sometimes, the accompanying cast is the best part of a scene.

Murderville is a show that requires minimum to zero brain effort to enjoy. Improv is not everyone's cup of tea and Netflix is testing grounds to welcome new shows that the audiences are not familiar with. While the show is not jam-packed with hysterical jokes and sometimes the awkwardness of bad lines is palpable, the natural zaniness of the guests shines throughout the six episodes released so far.

Yes, this is not a genre-defining or life-altering show that the viewers are going to remember for a long time. But this is still a sweet, short and easy watch to unwind to after a long day.

us on /Sandalina

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