

# TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of *The Daily Star*



ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: ZARIF FAIAZ

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## As Russia blocks Facebook and Twitter demand for VPN surges



As Russian and Ukrainian websites fall victim to cyber-attacks and Moscow restricts access to some foreign social media, internet users across both countries have turned to online tools to help circumvent the blocks.

Demand for Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) that encrypt data and obscure where a user is located has soared, data from monitoring firm Top10VPN showed, peaking 354% higher in Russia last week when compared to the daily average from 16 to 23 February.

Russia, which calls its actions in Ukraine a "special operation", invaded its neighbour on 24 February, attacking from land, sea and air. At home, it is battling to control the narrative, threatening restrictions on foreign and local media that stray from its official version of events. [read more](#)

Photos and videos were slow to load on Facebook, owned by Meta Platforms Inc, and Twitter, both of which have been targeted by state communications regulator Roskomnadzor.

"VPN demand surged in Russia as authorities restricted Facebook and Twitter over the weekend in a bid to control the flow of information from its invasion of Ukraine," Top10VPN said.

Russia banned several VPNs last year but has failed to block them entirely, as part of wider campaign critics say stifles internet freedom.

In Ukraine, Russian hackers were blamed for a spate of cyberattacks that briefly knocked Ukrainian banking and government websites offline, days before the invasion. Russia denied involvement.

VPN demand in Ukraine began noticeably increasing on Feb. 15 in light of cyberattacks, Top10VPN said, and skyrocketed after the invasion, with demand peaking 424% higher than the daily average in the first half of February.

Last week, the websites of several Russian media outlets were hacked, with their regular sites replaced by an anti-war message and calls to stop President Vladimir Putin's invasion.

## Global neon production limited due to Russia-Ukraine war

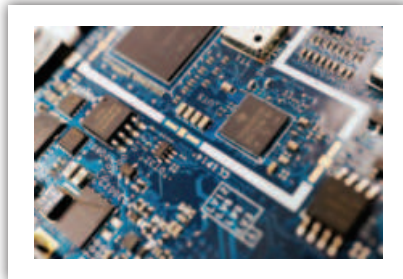
Ukrainian neon supply firms Ingas and Cryoin have recently closed down following the continued attack on Ukraine from Russia.

According to reports, Ukraine alone produces half of the world's neon, which are important components in the production of electronic chips. Reports further suggest that there have been threats to raise prices and aggravate the semiconductor shortage as well.

Some 45% to 54% of the world's semiconductor-grade neon, critical for the lasers used to make chips, comes from two Ukrainian companies, Ingas and Cryoin, according to Reuters calculations based on figures from the companies and market research firm Techcet. Global neon consumption for chip production reached about 540 metric tons last year, Techcet estimates.

Both firms have shuttered their operations, according to company representatives contacted by Reuters, as Russian troops have escalated their attacks on cities throughout Ukraine, killing civilians and destroying key infrastructure.

The stoppage casts a cloud over the worldwide output of chips, already in short supply after the Covid-19 pandemic drove up demand for cell phones, laptops and later cars, forcing some firms to scale back production.



Before the invasion, Ingas produced 15,000 to 20,000 cubic metres of neon per month for customers in Taiwan, Korea, China, the United States and Germany, with about 75% going to the

chip industry, Nikolay Avdzhly, the company's chief commercial officer, said in an email to Reuters.

The company is based in Mariupol, which has been under siege by Russian forces. On Wednesday, Russian forces destroyed a maternity hospital there, in what Kyiv and Western allies called a war crime. Moscow said the hospital was no longer functioning and had been occupied by Ukrainian fighters.

Cryoin, which produced roughly 10,000 to 15,000 cubic metres of neon per month, and is located in Odessa, halted operations on 24 February when the invasion began to keep employees safe, according to business development director Larissa Bondarenko.

Bondarenko said the company would be unable to fill orders for 13,000 cubic metres of neon in March unless the violence stopped. She said the company could weather at least three months with the plant closed but warned that if the equipment were damaged, that would prove a bigger drag on company finances and make it harder to restart operations quickly.

Ukrainian neon is a byproduct of Russian steel manufacturing. The gas, which is also used in laser eye surgery, is produced in China as well, but Chinese prices are rising steadily.

Neon prices rose 600% in the run-up to Russia's 2014 annexation of the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine, according to the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Companies elsewhere could initiate neon production but it would take nine months to two years to ramp up, according to Richard Barnett, chief marketing officer of Supplyframe, which provides market intelligence to companies across the global electronics sectors.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

## Taking it to the next gear

From winning pro racing competitions to engineering world-class vehicles in international events, Bangladesh has recently made amazing strides in the world of automobiles. This week's Cover Story focuses on the five Bangladeshi teams participating in year's Formula Student, a global motorsport competition for university students. Check out our full feature on these teams and how they are preparing to represent our country on the grand stage.

Aside from cars, we also talk about building a professional portfolio for writers in Next Step and some handy tips for your new tablet in Bytes. As always, plenty to look forward to.

Stay safe everyone. Until then.

Shams Rashid Tonmoy  
Sub-editor & Feature Writer

## TOGGLE

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Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000.

## Volkswagen unveils a new electric version of the classic Buzz

Volkswagen, the German automotive giant, has finally revealed the new electric version of its classic ID Buzz.

With a long wheelbase, a flat front and short overhangs, the new ID Buzz reminds people of the classic old microbus from the past. But while the original 'hippie bus' ran on a small four-cylinder engine behind the rear axle, the new ID Buzz runs completely on electric power.

Volkswagen's latest gem sits on its Molecular Electric Drive Matrix (MEB) electric

architecture. It has a 201-horsepower, 150-kW electric motor powering the rear wheels. Having an onboard battery of 77 kWh, the electric range is expected to be around 400 kilometres.

The two models of the ID Buzz, the ID Buzz people carrier and the ID Buzz Cargo van, have 170-kW charging, implying that the battery can be charged up to 80% in 30 minutes.

The ID Buzz people carrier has a capacity for carrying five passengers.

At the highest specification level, the ID Buzz will have around 30 assist systems on board, including the 'Car2X' communication. It will allow it to download data through the cloud from nearby Volkswagens and learn about traffic nearby. A memory function will 'teach' the van to navigate through multiple scenarios, such as parking the car.

The production of the Buzz ID is set to start later this year, with the first vehicles expected to be on sale in Europe at the end of 2022.



# How to build an online portfolio as a professional writer

FAIJA TASFIA

As a writer, we all know how important a portfolio is. It can single-handedly give your career the long boost you are looking for. But for that, you will need to curate a portfolio that speaks your work and credibility to potential clients. For a professional writer, a portfolio means showcasing your best works as well as featuring the range of your skills and expertise. Below are some important tips to keep in mind when creating an online portfolio as a professional writer.

Google Sites and Wix that are perfect for website hosting.

## WEBSITE ARRANGEMENT

An issue that often comes up when creating a professional portfolio is how to arrange the website. What you might want to add depends on what kind of skills and works you want to showcase. You can start with a cover page with your name and job title. Then add a bio, writing samples, contact information and your updated resume. A couple of recommendations

professional showcase of your work. As a professional writer, your writings should attract clients and employers while displaying the range of your writing skill. Before adding the samples, decide on your strong suit - what is your niche and how you should cater for the audience with that niche.

Don't go overboard with the writings and add anything you might find. It makes the website cluttered and shows your lack of organisation to clients and employers. Focus on what kind of clients you are looking for. Then add the pieces. If you have samples of different niches, add them accordingly in various sub-menus.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

A professional portfolio should contain the writer's core skills apart from the writings. When adding the required set of skills, keep in mind what current employers are looking for. Most of the writers go with the skills that a writer should have. But the employers today are looking for writers who can't just write but also make a marketable presentation of their content. In the end, the content represents the employers/organisations themselves.

Choosing a target audience ultimately boils down to the range of your writing skills. Some must-have skills for a professional writer are strong research and collaborative skills, a good grasp of grammar and the ability to cater to different niches.

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Apart from the aforementioned fundamental skills, modern employers also look for writers with a strong SEO background. A writer with solid SEO knowledge and experience with SEO-centric articles will know the tricks needed to reach a greater audience and make the content visible on the internet.

A good vocabulary is also essential. When we say vocabulary, we don't mean learning all the complicated words. You should make sure you know how to write in everyday words - in a structured and coherent manner so readers of all levels can understand what you are saying.

In the end, remember that your work and skills will speak for you. So, don't put too much pressure on yourself and your portfolio. Follow the fundamental protocols and refrain from overdoing anything, and you will be fine.

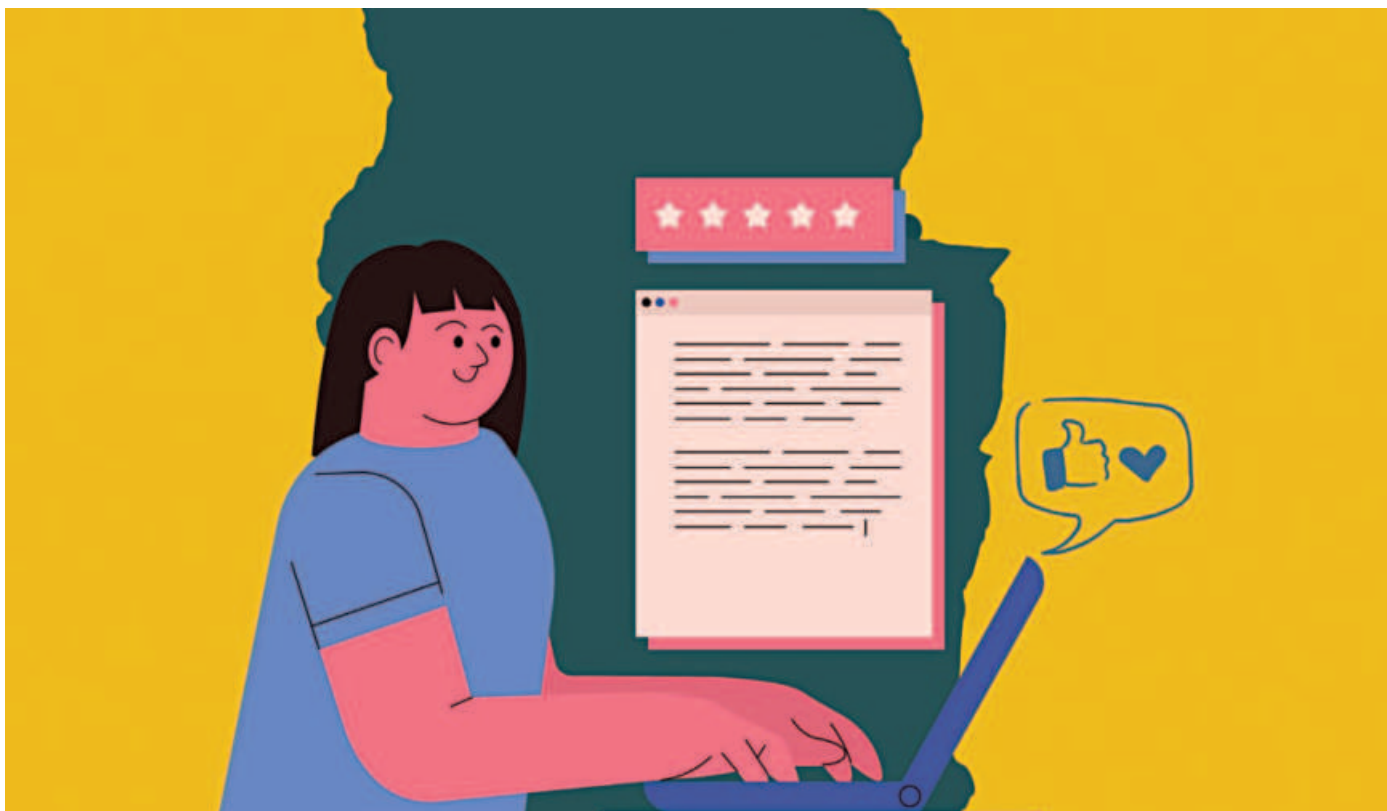


ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: ZARIF FAIAZ

## WEBSITE DOMAIN AND HOSTING

The first step of creating your professional writer portfolio is to purchase a domain name. You can add your name to the website since the goal is branding yourself. However, there are availability issues. See if the domain is available first. If not, expand the words, omit them or add something else. You can start with something based on your name or your internet alias, the choice is up to you. But make sure it's a name that clicks with potential clients and your expected range of audience. Afterwards, figure out where you want to host your portfolio. There are different sites like WordPress, Upwork,

from your previous clients and employers will be a good addition. The bio should describe yourself and your work and keep it short and straightforward.

In the case of writings, add hyperlinks, not the whole article. When designing the website, keep the organisation in mind. Don't have too many buttons and menus. For additional information, add sub-menus. Think about what you would prefer as a client when entering a website.

## WRITING SAMPLES

The next step is to curate your pieces in the portfolio. This is considered the most important part when building a





# REPRESENTING BANGLADESH IN FORMULA STUDENT UK 2022

ARFIN KAZI AND ITMAM BASHAR

PHOTO: COURTESY



Formula Student (FSUK) is one of Europe's most prestigious motorsport competitions. Held at the Silverstone Circuit every year, hundreds of universities from all over the world participate in FSUK to create amazing pieces of racing vehicles. It is also said to be a benchmark for engineering students to learn about real-world engineering expertise, technical knowledge and team management.

This year, the events are divided into two sections - static and dynamic. Static events include an engineering design, cost and manufacturing comparison, technical inspections by various judges and business competitions. Dynamic events include a skidpad, autocross, an acceleration competition, an endurance competition and a comparable fuel economy competition.

For Formula Student UK 2022, five teams have joined the event from Bangladesh with various local institutions and universities with their top of the line in-house creations. We got to talk to the teams participating to know about their insights for the competition, which is hosted by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers (IMEchE). Keep reading to find out more about the current progress of the race cars and the teams representing Bangladesh on a global scale.

### KILO FLIGHT

Kilo Flight is getting ready to participate in the upcoming events of Formula Student Germany for the first time from Bangladesh and Formula Student UK. They hope to make the best use of their experience gained from FSUK 2020 and 2021 in both FSG and FSUK 2022 with combustion vehicles. They have built racing cars with innovative technologies and enhanced performance, called the 'Kilo Flight ALPHA'.

Currently, the team is busy with the upgrade of the vehicle from real-time data as the event of Germany and the UK is getting closer. Right now they are also looking for sponsors and patrons to successfully attend the events and for further progress. They hope to triumph with support from dedicated fans across the country.



### AUTOMAESTRO

Automaestro is nearly halfway done in terms of project plans and is determined for Formula-S UK 2022. They are using experience gained from the International Gokart-Championship India 2020, where they came in 9th overall. They also won the Innovation Presentation Champion for JFRC and Automotive

Styling Champion titles. The team has a strong structural distribution for both technical and project management skill development for students. They have completed the design and development of the car, working hard to design the most reliable car possible.

Currently, they are working on sponsorship management and component collection from India. Some work has been postponed due to exams but full manufacturing will resume from



April. They hope that factors such as lack of sourcing of proper graded materials, advanced manufacturing facilities and funding don't hold them back. According to them, the opportunity to turn dreams into reality and fly the Bangladesh flag high at Silverstone has greatly motivated them.

### TEAM SWAPNOJON

Team Swapnojon is an enthusiastic bunch of petrolheads and is currently in the R&D phase waiting for the approval of the structural equivalency spreadsheet. They have first participated in HVC '17 winning two awards and experienced Formula Bharat 2021, where they received notable mentions for formula student debut and engineering design (innovative use of materials). They are ordering and waiting

and funds that local teams do not have. However, Team Swapnojon wants to set a new benchmark for Bangladesh and prove themselves against all odds. They consider themselves hardworking, passionate and dedicated - pushing to the limit where they can triumph over more experienced and well-facilitated teams.

### FORMULA IUT

Formula IUT is an energetic new team that started this December 2021 and have been potentially enthusiastic to reach the



target in this Formula-S 2022. They are the only team participating in concept class this year but their goal is to advance into the process in future.

Formula IUT thrives to not only win but also to learn from the competition. Since they are a new team, they aim to keep learning to achieve greater heights in the upcoming competitions. They feel that strength is in teamwork even though it is difficult to maintain workflow due to the uncertain Covid-19 times. According to them, the pressure to represent Bangladesh and their institution for the first time on this international platform is pushing them forward.

### CIRCUIT MAESTERS

Circuit Maesters 2022 is an exciting team mentored by former members and leader of Team Primus - the first Bangladeshi team in Formula-S UK (2019). They have already built a combustion engine Formula-S car and are waiting for a shipment for the project completion. As they wait, they are building a dataset to train an AI model.

Circuit Maesters is confident due to their strength as a team that can take risks on such a calibre while being optimistic of the outcome. According to them, they are ahead of their scheduled plan and are currently in need of sponsors since there is some ongoing financial struggle to maintain the project. They feel both scared and excited as they are the only team from Bangladesh building an autonomous electric car and participating in the AI class.

All the teams are working hard and preparing for Formula-S UK 2022. They all have a similar goal of setting a new benchmark and making Bangladesh proud at Silverstone. However, they are all facing similar challenges of not getting enough funds. With little to no access to proper facilities and parts that take too long to arrive, maintaining such strenuous projects become a hard stuck barrier for most local engineering students.

Nonetheless, these teams are still determined to win it big, even versus more well-equipped and experienced international competitors. Stay tuned for more news from Formula Student UK 2022 as these five teams make our country proud on the grand stage

We all love working on our smartphones. However, if we carry a lightweight backpack, why not have a tablet that can get regular tasks as easily and efficiently as other mobile devices? Apart from playing games and videos, your tablet will help you become organised and let you handle work from anywhere. Here are some handy hacks to get the best out of your new tablet.

SOFIA NOOR RAFA



# GETTING THE BEST OUT OF YOUR NEW TABLET

ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: ZARIF FAIAZ

## GET THE RIGHT ACCESSORIES

Unlike your laptops and desktops, tablets can lay flat on surfaces. You can opt to attach a compatible detachable keyboard with your tablet to get the most out of it. If you are a fan of wireless devices, see if you can find an additional Bluetooth-enabled headset and a keyboard for your tablet. Choose a headphone that would fit your tablet's headphone port perfectly. Soon, you will have set up a mini-computer!

As for other accessories, you can never go wrong with a stylus. Styluses let you draw, write or paint, and the right stylus can make any work possible on modern tablets. If you are looking for a new stylus for your tablet, our recommendation would be the Wihu Pencil Max Universal Stylus Pen. It

currently costs under Tk. 4,000/- and in one charge, lasts up to 12 hours. Microsoft's Surface Pen is also a feasible stylus to draw on your tablet. You can use apps like Adobe Illustrator Draw to familiarise yourself with electronic painting.

## CHOOSE APPS FOR YOUR TABLET TO WORK ON

Think about which app you need on your tablet. Using e-commerce apps on your tablet is usually a better idea than using them on your smartphone. Since tablets offer a significantly bigger monitor experience, using apps for online shopping on your tablet can allow you to inspect items in a more organised manner.

If you have never used alternative social media or communication applications like Peach or Hangouts (apps that do not come with a homepage/feed but help with messaging/calling), give them a go on your tablet. Even if your smartphone

or quick editing, you can always use your tab to remotely control other devices. You can type, open a file, delete something, zoom in and out of the monitor to fit your sight as well. TeamViewer is a program that allows you to operate other devices using one 'central' device. Using such software on your tablet will help solve day-to-day problems from remote locations. Remote functionality can make your tablet the go-to hub to control everything else in your life.

## OPERATE FROM ANYWHERE

There is a high possibility that your tablet might become your favourite gadget, only if you do not stash it away to only watch YouTube tutorials. If you are travelling, it can get difficult to carry your laptop along with you. Instead, use your tablet to operate both work and daily activities from anywhere. Use alternative versions of desktop applications on your tablet like Office apps and photo editing apps to make your everyday functionality easier and more accessible. This way, you can operate from anywhere even if you do not have a computer.

## USE YOUR TABLET TO HOLD INSPIRATIONS

Use your tablet to find newer ways to get inspired. Pinterest and Tumblr look better when your screen is larger than the average smartphone screen. Apps like Easy Notes from Google Play Store let you insert pictures from your device and write/draw notes alongside. You are allowed to make your draw-outs atypical as well. You can brainstorm and keep your ideas safe using your tablet.

Tablets are great companions for electronic reading since they offer substantial screen experience, just like a book. Apps like ReadEra are available to help you read books anytime from your tablet.

## WORK MORE ON YOUR TABLET

It takes time to familiarise yourself with anything new. Working with a brand new tablet is no exception. Perform more chores on your tablet to get the best out of it. Try apps you never did and experiment with stuff like casting your tablet's screen to your Wi-Fi-enabled TV.

Depending on your work-chart, install apps that you need to use to get you moving. For instance, if you are typically used to writing programming languages on your computer, try apps that help you write codes on your tablet, such as C++ Compiler IDE. Do not rely entirely on your computer for cinema-watching or programming. Try them out on your tablet as well.

Despite not being as mobile as smartphones or as powerful as laptops, tablets are a great handy companion for everyday work. They can be an excellent balance between smartphones and laptops, in being able to do both their work on more manageable mobility on a more accessible screen. With just a bit of personal tweaking, your brand new tablet can be your next best friend.

doesn't work, you can replace it with your tablet in most cases. You can run apps on your tablet for entertainment or fitness purposes. Find lighter versions of the apps you regularly use and install them on your tablet. Enable dark mode anywhere possible to avoid excessive battery consumption.

## USE YOUR TAB TO REMOTELY CONTROL OTHER DEVICES

Check if screen sharing or casting is available on your tablet. By tapping that option, you can view other screens as well. Apps like Google Home displays your tablet's screen on a TV. To do so, you simply need to open the app, select the screencasting option and choose the device on which you want to cast the screen.

For emergency cases like file rescues

# APPS FOR YOUR LITTLE CHAMPS

SOFIA NOOR RAFA

Modern technology has made an infinite volume of resources available for people of all ages and statuses. Since children are more flexible towards learning new things than aged adults, even the least impressionable thing can leave a lasting impact. Regardless of age, there are apps that cater to the various needs of children so they can have fun while learning something new and interesting. Below are our picks for free, at-hand apps that are safe and useful for children. All these apps are available on the Google Play Store.



## LOGIC GAMES: JIGSAW FOR KIDS

Logic games: jigsaw for kids has sixty levels designed to challenge the players' thinking ability. With soothing background music, the game aims to challenge children with mild to slightly difficult puzzles. These puzzles also

strengthen logical thinking in three different stages, revolving around pattern recognition, understanding objects and their orders, organisational sense, size recognition and deep thinking. Children aged from seven to twelve years can try this app for a fun, brain-stimulating pastime.

## KHAN ACADEMY KIDS

Khan Academy Kids can help children learn elementary-level lessons in any category. It offers an age-fit learning environment and acts as an easy first step towards e-learning. The apps' background sound and UI design, combined with an easy-to-use functionality mean that even younger kids can manoeuvre the app with basic instructions, like, tapping on an identified area on the screen. The app

is also great for children with delayed learning and the contents are made to be age-appropriate and children-friendly for two to eight years of age.

One thing to note, Khan Academy Kids requires a sign-in option to continue. According to the child's information entered by the parents, the contents will categorically appear on the app. Thus, parents will need to register for their child first.



Now can you match by Size, Color and Shape?



## LANGUAGE THERAPY FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM (MITA)

With its simple challenges and pattern-based dares, Language Therapy for Children with Autism (MITA) introduces an effective way to help children with object identification, orderly thinking and pattern recognition. Each level has fifty sublevels, so solving these tasks eventually leads the user to perform better in the long run. This app helps children with autism to enhance their language skills, and assists in developing basic communication functions. Language skills that require the ability to describe

and identify objects are included as well.

Language Therapy for Children for Autism is an app that has shown effectiveness in building language skills for children with autism. It stems from a practical experiment performed for a journal publication, in which the observation included 6,454 children. It was observed that children who took assistance from this app performed 120% better than others in similar early evaluations. Offered by ImagiRation LLC, children who need to start English language learning would find this app handy.

## LIGHTBOT: CODE HOUR

Coding with puzzles is the original idea for this app, which helps kids get started with coding. The app revolves around a video game in which the player has to use available options to complete the task. The game helps with a basic understanding of moving an object or doing a repeated job for a specific time or sequence or the figure. Fit for children aged six and above, this is a good app to get the hang of the most basic ideas related to coding and programming.

Children get to use tools to do the operations in the game. A player needs to play all the levels in one slot and move towards the next to advance. In programming, the programmer needs to think of coordinates and movement based on the problem's pattern to move something from one place to another. There are concepts like a loop - a continuous operation up to a specific time - that gets introduced in this app as well. The same task goes on in the games of this app to give children a visual idea of how programming works.



## OKY PERIOD TRACKER APP FOR GIRLS

Depending on growth patterns, sudden periods might occur to girls aged ten to twelve. Oky Period Tracker by UNICEF Digital Strategy is a cooperative app for girls who know little to nothing about menstruation but has gone through early menstruation. It helps young girls manage periods by giving updates and helping them keep track.

Menstruation is not as deadly as it seems, and with this app, the work gets much easier for girls. Hormone

secretion causes mood swings before menstruation and even in the days of menstruation. The app offers a regular update of mood shifts by tracking feelings for each day. It also gives a regular update for the possible date of menstruation to begin each month. The app also includes insights into puberty, nutrition, reproduction and family planning. Since menstruation can begin from an early age, it is important for young girls to be well informed as soon as they can.



PHOTO: COURTESY

# AVIK ANWAR

becomes 1st international motorsport champion from Bangladesh

Avik Anwar registered his name in the record books as he triumphed in the NGK Pro Car Championship in Dubai, UAE and became the first international motorsport champion from Bangladesh.

He won the prestigious championship after beating racers from all over the world in category 86 of the multiclass racing competition.

Avik won the championship with Bangladesh Motorsports, the first racing team in the country's history.

The championship started in November 2021 and ended in March 2022.

The 6 Rounds of the championship covered 12 Races and took place at the Dubai Autodrome and Yas Marina F1 Track race tracks.

Apart from being Bangladesh's first-ever motorsports superstar, Avik is also active on social media and is an avid car reviewer with 433K subscribers across his social media handles.

Like us on [Facebook](#) /Sandalina

ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা  
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

**স্যান্ডালিনা**  
সোপ

রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...

**KOHINOOR CHEMICAL**