

# TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of The Daily Star



PHOTO: AHBAR MILKY



up to

# 10

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# Casio's flagship keyboard CT-X series launched in Bangladesh

Casio, the leading musical instruments company, launched a new CT-X Series of portable keyboards in Bangladesh. With new AiX Sound Source and advanced specifications for beginners to performers and players. This keyboard is aimed at musicians who already know their favourite sounds and are looking for a simple plug-and-play interface.

The new CT-X series is available in four models CT-X700, CT-X8000IN, CT-X9000IN & CT-X870IN. It is equipped with AiX Sound Source which allows the keyboard to emit the sound of acoustic instruments such as guitars, drums, basses, brass, wind



instruments, string ensembles and more. The CT-X series provides high-performance Digital Signal Processor (DSP) effects that combine various algorithms to realise the perfect effect for each instrument sound.

The CT-X700 and CT-X870IN's stunning instrument tones are perfect for beginners or advanced players

that need an affordable and portable instrument while the CT-X8000IN and CT-X9000IN provide additional rhythms, tones, DSP editing features, USB drive for music playback, phrase pads, expression pedal inputs as well as more powerful speaker systems suitable for all grade music examination & powerful performance.

The CT-X8000IN has a 6W+6W speaker system and the CT-X9000IN has an incredible 15W+15W high-output amplifier delivering sound output for rehearsal or performance applications. For an everlasting experience, the new CT-X series comes with a one year warranty.

## Facebook hired firm to run smear campaigns against TikTok, report suggests

Facebook's owner Meta has hired a consulting firm to carry out a US campaign denigrating its fierce rival TikTok, according to a Washington Post report Wednesday partially confirmed by AFP.

The campaign reportedly includes placing letters in major US news outlets and promoting negative stories about TikTok, allegedly using the type of tough tactics familiar to Washington politics.

Meta, which shed hundreds of billions in value earlier this year due to doubts about its future, is in a pitched fight against the video-sharing platform popular with young social media fans.

"We believe all platforms, including TikTok, should face a level of scrutiny consistent with their growing success," Meta told AFP in a one-line statement in response to the article.

The consulting firm, Targeted Victory, confirmed having worked for Meta and did not deny having put forward negative information about

TikTok.

"We're proud of the work we've done to highlight the dangers of TikTok," the firm's CEO Zac Moffatt tweeted.

Employees at Targeted Victory worked to undermine TikTok, which is owned by Chinese



company ByteDance, by promoting an effort to have it portrayed as a danger to American children, the Post reported, citing the firm's internal emails.

The Post quoted one message saying Targeted Victory needed to "get the message out that while Meta is the

current punching bag, TikTok is the real threat, especially as a foreign-owned app that is #1 in sharing data that young teens are using." One effort reportedly included getting parents to sign on to letters raising concerns that were submitted to US newspapers, some of which published them.

Targeted Victory also alerted elected officials and journalists to alleged trends on TikTok that encouraged students to vandalize their school premises, known as "devious licks" or the "slap a teacher" challenge.

The "challenge" urging young users to attack teachers did not start on TikTok, but on Facebook, according to an investigation by the "Reply All" podcast, with the investigator was unable to find any videos on this topic on TikTok.

"We are deeply concerned that the stoking of local media reports on alleged trends that have not been found on the platform could cause real-world harm," TikTok told AFP in a statement.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

## Making it work

It's the first week of Ramadan, and our glucose levels remain relatively low throughout the day. Getting out of the house feels particularly daunting, especially with the heat and the unbearable traffic that we must get through. Thank heavens for the weekend. \*insert grateful emoji\*

We shine the light on the buzzing car scene in Dhaka as we feature two riveting car meet and greets - one for the vintage lovers and the other for the underground petrolheads.

Air purifiers also get our attention as Dhaka's air has become the most polluted in the world. So better get one of these before they get pricier. Also, if you can relate to some of the pointers from the job switching piece, then the writing's on the wall.

That's a wrap.

Tanzid Samad Choudhury  
Sub-Editor

## TOGGLE

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# Meta provided user data to hackers who forged requests: reports

Meta, Facebook's parent company, provided user information to hackers who pretended to be law enforcement officials last year, a company source mentioned recently.

Imposters were able to get details like physical addresses or phone numbers in response to falsified "emergency data requests," which can slip past privacy barriers, said the source who requested anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Criminal hackers have been compromising email accounts or websites tied to police or government and claiming they can't wait for a judge's order for information because it's an "urgent matter

of life and death," cyber expert Brian Krebs wrote recently.

Bloomberg news agency, which originally reported Meta being targeted, also reported that Apple had provided customer data in response to forged data requests.

Apple and Meta did not officially confirm the incidents but provided statements citing their policies in handling information demands.

When US law enforcement officials want data on a social media account's owner or an associated cell phone number, they must submit an official court-ordered warrant or subpoena, Krebs wrote.

But in urgent cases authorities can

make an "emergency data request," which "largely bypasses any official review and does not require the requestor to supply any court-approved documents," he added.

Meta, in a statement, said the firm reviews every data request for "legal sufficiency" and uses "advanced systems and processes" to validate law enforcement requests and detect abuse.

"We block known compromised accounts from making requests and work with law enforcement to respond to incidents involving suspected fraudulent requests, as we have done in this case," the statement added.

Apple noted its guidelines, which say that in the case of an emergency

application "a supervisor for the government or law enforcement agent who submitted the... request may be contacted and asked to confirm to Apple that the emergency request was legitimate."

Krebs noted that the lack of a unitary, national system for these types of requests is one of the key problems associated with them, as companies end up deciding how to deal with them.

"To make matters more complicated, there are tens of thousands of police jurisdictions around the world - including roughly 18,000 in the United States alone - and all it takes for hackers to succeed is illicit access to a single police email account," he wrote.

# HOW TO PREPARE FOR UK SCHOLARSHIPS

FAIJA TASFIA

The UK is the dream choice for many students but not everyone can afford to fulfil that dream. There are several scholarships available but people fear that those options are highly competitive and thus seemingly out of reach. There are also other factors tied to scholarship applications that many don't know, but a little bit of guidance can help their whole application process.

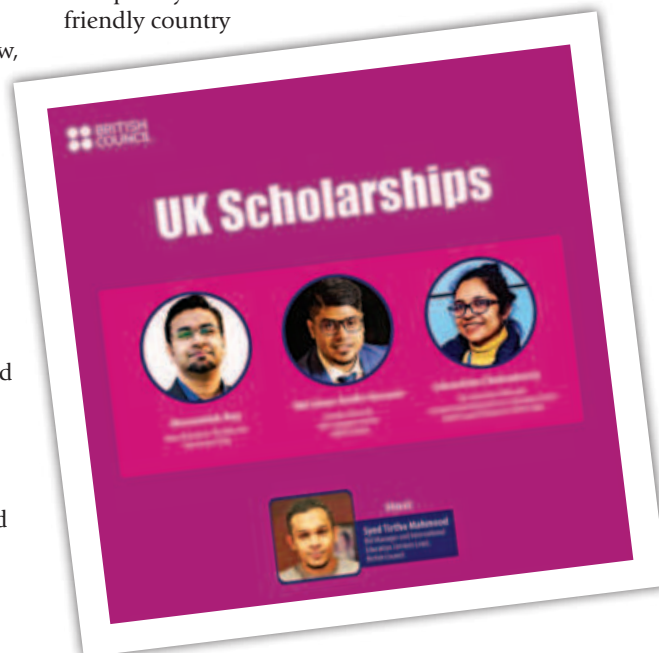
In the fourth iteration of the webinar series by The Daily Star and the British Council, guest speakers discussed various issues, application tips and information about education and scholarships in the United Kingdom, while enlightening the youth and clearing misconceptions regarding UK scholarship applications.

This session was hosted by Syed Tirtho Mahmood, Bid Manager and International Education Services Lead British Council Bangladesh, who brought together Shuvashish Roy, Chevening Scholar, Md. Ishan Arefin Hossain, GREAT Scholar and Udvashita Chakraborty, British Council Women in STEM Scholar. They talked about the prestigious Chevening, Women in STEM and GREAT scholarships while also shedding light on the application process, life and challenges in the UK.

The webinar addressed critical points about the application process, like the success factors for an application. Md Ishan says a good statement of purpose, strong academic background and IELTS scores make an application stronger. Shuvashish said, "Always go for demonstrated ideas instead of generic ones in the statement of purpose essays. Give real-life examples of how you solve issues. Write about your

vision and how you are going to achieve it."

Networking is an integral part of one's career and studying abroad gives you an excellent opportunity to expand your network. "The UK is a friendly country



and you will build lifelong friendships there. You can work part-time jobs and take new opportunities in the UK. For instance, I worked as a head of marketing while doing my Master's in a startup there. I met the founder at a Halloween party. It was a good opportunity to gain work experience and

expand my network," stated Shuvashish. "There are part-time opportunities here. I worked in academia part-time. There are various websites here through which you can apply," added Arefin.

Cultural shock is a factor to keep in mind when travelling to a new country. For all of them, the weather was a significant change, to the point of extreme. For Udvashita, homesickness was the biggest challenge. According to her, at times like these, what you need the most is support. There are well-being centres in every university, and one can go there if they are having difficulties dealing with life abroad. There are different modes of accommodation as well. You can rent an apartment, or if you are lucky like Arefin, you can get a seat in the university hall with all the facilities you could want.

At the end of the session, they shared some tips for students applying or thinking of applying. "Make sure your application shows your individualism and confidence. Give it a try and apply. You can explore a lot of things during the application process itself," said Arefin. He added, "If you have earlier research publications, link them with your statement of purpose. Your application should be personalised and be positive during the time."

Arefin and Udvashita are continuing their Masters. In the end, Shuvashish shared how life has been during his stay in the UK. "I learned new and innovative things there, and I implemented those after coming back to Bangladesh. It helps me in my current job." Living in the UK has been a life-changing experience - a statement everyone agreed with.

## Relate with these? Maybe it's time to switch your job

NAVID HOSSAIN

If you're feeling burnt out and thinking of taking a break, here's how to be sure you're along the right track:

### STRESSFUL ENVIRONMENT

We all know stress is bad, especially when it accumulates over time. The work pressure from jobs creates a hefty amount of stress. Fieldwork-related jobs often create the most stress. It is recommended to take a good amount of rest. If you feel tired too often, maybe it is a sign that your body cannot take pressure too well. It is time to quit and rest until you can get back at it or switch to something different.

### THE DREAD IS HIGH

The monotony of a job does not

take long to hit. This creates dread. When you're stuck following the same routine for years it gets boring and repetitive. That drags you down. You lose the excitement you once had. You realise the performance you once gave is all gone. You are underperforming and no matter if you grow or switch it is still the same. You can momentarily get your excitement back. The dread comes back like that ex whom you refuse to let go of. It starts affecting your mood and you are crankier than ever. This is the time when you should quit the job, breath, and find a new passion that does not feel like a dreadful process.

### RESPONSIBILITIES FEEL LIKE A BURDEN

Over time, responsibilities keep growing. You are drowning in more and more work every day. You are tired and filled with dread and your balance went out the window. At that point, those responsibilities, which made you feel powerful are now a burden. That's a surefire sign of you not enjoying your work. Hit that switch.

While these words may seem easy, in reality, it's not so black and white all the time. Switching a job is a major life decision and you should properly weigh all the pros and cons before you make the next big step.







# LIKE THEY DO IT UNDERGROUNDS

ITAM BASHAR

Car meets are a special place for automobile enthusiasts to get together, talk about cars, check each other's rides and often learn a thing or two. Due to the raging pandemic, the car scene of Dhaka has been dormant for about two years. As the world opens up, for the sake of the car community, Sami Zaman and Riza Mostafa stepped up to organise a car meet of their own in Mirpur with the help of the Mirpur DOHS car community.



They were inspired to create a safe space for the enthusiasts at the Mirpur DOHS Shopping Complex basement parking lot since, for auto festivals, underground parking lots are always preferred. The event 'DOHS Underground Meet' took place on 25 March 2022 from 3 pm to 6 pm. It was a private event where most of the locally known drivers and cars were present. They were able to control the environment professionally and avoided reckless drivers doing stunts that endanger people around them.

This is the third Mirpur DOHS underground meet and is the biggest one yet. The first two events were exclusive to the DOHS car enthusiasts but this third iteration was open to all. This meet may have been small compared to the usual Dhaka Motor Show, but it was more wholesome and controlled with all the known people since it was completely exclusive.

According to Sami Zaman and Riza Mostafa, the main purpose of the event was "to have a chill, fun and thrilling car meet that everyone has been missing for two years since the pandemic. We decided to build a space for the enthusiasts, to escape from the harsh reality and enjoy a

small event with a common love for cars. This event had a positive impact on the automotive scene and the Mirpur DOHS car community."

In the opinion of one of the head organisers, Sami said, "The best parts of the event were when tons of exciting different cars were modified to fit the owner's preference and the diversity of the

felt surreal to me because I am a JDM classic enthusiast as well."

The planning and organising took weeks of effort, but the team managed to pull off the event with great success, making attendants and fans look forward to DOHS Underground Meet 4.0. An event like this will indefinitely inspire others to hold private car meets of



cars that showed up. It felt amazing to see all petrol heads gathered under one roof and appreciating their fellow enthusiast's build." Riza, the other head organiser, said, "The entire event was pretty special to me, and if I had to pick the best moment, it would be when all the 90s JDMs gathered in one corner and a lot of people were admiring the cars. That scene

their own with local friends and fellow enthusiasts, sharing their love for vehicles with stories of the builds they are working on or the history of their cars. In the end, the bonding of car communities coming together in Dhaka gives us hope for a better future and amazing shows to look forward to.

PHOTO: OMAR ALI RAHMAN



# THE CLASSICS' DAY OUT

AHBAAR MILKY

Last Friday saw Dhaka's classic cars and vintage bikes meet at the Italian embassy in Dhaka, organised by Durjoy Bangladesh Foundation, in collaboration with penthouse livings, to celebrate the occasion of 50 years of friendship between Italy and Bangladesh. The early hours of the one-day-only event saw DNCC mayor Atiqul Islam paying a visit with his faction of the cacophonous press in tow, hence the decision to visit in the later hours proved to be a wise one.

Members from all sorts of automotive clubs, such as Mercedes-Benz Classic Car Club Bangladesh, VW Fan Club Bangladesh and Vintage and Classic Car Club of Bangladesh took part in the



grandiose display of over 45 classic and real steel. The oldest participating car was a 1920s Austin, while the newest car was a Toyota MR2. All sorts of classics, including bikes, were on display for the public from the morning till late afternoon.

The off-road vehicle section saw a pair of Land Rover Series 3, amongst other gems such as a perfectly maintained SWB owned by John Cooper (you probably might have bought something from his



bakery) and a Wagon (rescued from the fire service department) mechanically restored and owned by Afraz Hussain with patina for days. John Cooper's immaculate J60 Land Cruiser almost made me drop dead.

But perhaps what garnered the most attention was the only Italian sports car on the roster; Akbar A. Sattar's beautiful Fiat X1/9. Saad Mujtaba Zaman's



impressive restoration of his 1968 Triumph Spitfire MKIII in British racing green also held the attention of the crowd. Durjoy Rahman's immaculately restored Chevrolet 210 Wagon had quite a story to tell being part of the presidential fleet and supposedly chauffeuring around both Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Ziaur Rahman. Over at the BMW corner, Abrar Musa's restomod 2002 sat alongside a 2000 Tilux.

Although in my humble opinion, what stole the show for me was a humble white workhorse corolla E11 Kombi (wagon) belonging to the Italian embassy, stashed quite coyly inside their premises. A close second for me would be the three W123 Benz trio in silvergreen, black and red.

And the group of Beetles. Gotta love the love bug.

PHOTOS: AHBAAR MILKY





# AIR PURIFIERS FOR HOME AND OFFICE

## Our recommendation

TASNUVA KINNORI

Dhaka was just named the world's most polluted city, with the city's air registering 184 on the Air Quality Index (AQI). With the very air we breathe officially being branded as 'unhealthy', air purifiers are quickly becoming a necessity. People who suffer from respiratory problems and seasonal allergies can benefit greatly from using an air purifier.

A purifier for your home or office also provides an extra layer of protection against everything from airborne pollutants to dust particles, pet odours, smoke and even viruses. But with so many types and brands of air-purifying machines available on the market, it can be difficult to discern which air purifier will be the best fit for you. Thus, we have listed some of the top air purifiers for your homes and offices:

**THE SQAIR**

Price: Tk. 14,500/- (Tk. 15,500/- for the added carbon filters)  
CADR: 315 cubic metres/hour  
Coverage area: 430 square feet  
Weight: 6.3kg  
Power consumption: 6 - 38 W  
Noise level: 23 - 52 dB  
Where to buy: Smart Air Bangladesh shop, Daraz

The Sqair by Smart Air is a good option if you are looking for an air purifier that is both cost-effective and easy to store. With a Clean Air Delivery Rate (CADR) of 315 cubic meters/hour and a maximum noise level of only 52 decibels, this purifier is as efficient as it is quiet. Within 25 minutes, The Sqair promises to clean spaces up to 40 square meters or 430 square feet.

With its high-efficiency particulate absorbing (HEPA) filter, The Sqair captures over 99% of viruses, bacteria, PM2.5 and other dangerous pollutants. But if you are looking for some added protection, consider going for The Sqair Chemical Warfare set, which comes with an additional carbon filter for harmful Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), odours and smoke.

**SHARP FP-J30E-B AIR PURIFIER**

Price: Tk. 17,900  
CADR: 200 cubic metres/hour  
Coverage area: 226 square feet  
Weight: 4 kg  
Power consumption: 13 - 50 W  
Noise level: 23 - 44 dB  
Where to buy: Esquire Electronics, Pickaboo.  
Sharp FP-J30E-B Air Purifier comes with the same HEPA filters, cost-effectiveness

and noise-less efficiency as the previous purifier on our list. But what sets this purifier apart is Sharp's award-winning Plasma Cluster Ion Technology (PCI), which cleans the air by dispersing ions that deactivate airborne threats such as viruses, allergens, bacteria and microbes. Sharp's air purifier also comes with features such as Anti-Dust Mode, HAZE mode, OFF Timer, Auto Restart, etc.

**BLUEAIR 203S AIR PURIFIER**

Price: Tk. 24,990  
CADR: 263 cubic metres/hour  
Coverage area: 240 square feet  
Weight: 11 kg  
Power consumption: 20-80 W  
Noise level: 32 - 56 dB  
Where to buy: Singer Bangladesh  
The Blueair 203s Air Purifier comes with HEPASilent Technology for a noise-less experience. With advanced filtration and electrostatic charge, this purifier captures 99.97% of airborne pollutants, allergens, mould, dust, pet dander, smoke particles and pollen. Other noteworthy aspects of the Blueair 203s include ozone reduction, 3 fan speeds, odour removal and smoke stop filters with activated carbon (which are sold separately). With energy star ratings for best in class energy performance, the Blueair 203s is great for power-saving too.

**PHILIPS AC2721 AIR PURIFIER**

Price: Tk. 44,000  
CADR: 250 cubic metres/hour  
Coverage area: 699 square feet  
Weight: 9.9 kg  
Power consumption: 30 W  
Noise level: 32 dB  
Where to buy: Daraz, Panna Electronics, MarsonsBD  
Philips AC2721 is a 2-in-1 purifier and humidifier. With a dedicated sleep mode, easy-to-set timers, child lock and dual HEPA filters, this air purifier is a reliable choice. In addition, the Philips AC2721 also comes with filter replacement alerts, 3 level fan speeds and a 3-step light indicator to show the air quality level in the room.

**Tips for buying an air purifier**

If you're new to buying air purifiers, or just want the best value out of your purchase, here are some handy tips to remember.

Pick an air purifier with sufficient coverage capacity taking into consideration the size of the room it's going to be placed in.

Always compare the CADR ratings. Higher the rating, the more effective the purifier at filtering specific pollutants.

Choose an air purifier that's effective at filtering out pollutants specific to your needs (e.g removing pet dander at home or cigarette smoke for the office). Look for HEPA filters, which are the gold standard for indoor air purifiers.

Check the noise level specifications. The lower the decibels, the quieter the air purifier. If you're thinking about the power bills, check the specified power consumption for the air purifier to estimate the ongoing costs.



# Our top picks for budget monitors within Tk. 16k

AZRA HUMAYRA

Buying good monitors is a game-changer for some and crucial for many. A budget monitor is easy on your wallet and caters to your needs. Budget monitors can provide an excellent overall user

experience for both gamers and people searching for an office monitor with a smaller size, simpler designs and fewer extra features.

Even when you are buying

budget monitors you do not have to compromise much on basic speculations. The resolution, aspect ratio, size, refresh rate, curvature, viewing angle, response time and synchronisation technology are

some specifications that we have looked into. Here are six budget monitors you should look at. Please note that the actual price might vary from market to market.

**XIAOMI REDMI 1A**  
Price: Tk. 13,900  
Display: 23.8"  
Resolution: 1920 x 1080  
Refresh rate: 60Hz  
Response time: 6ms  
Display type: IPS  
Interface type: HDMI/VGA  
Contrast ratio: 1000:1  
Colour: 16.7M  
The 24-inch screen is the standout feature,

with an IPS panel for brilliant colours, HDMI and VGA inputs, as well as 16.7 million colours to choose from. For most people, a refresh rate of 60Hz is sufficient. It is ideal for games where a fast response rate is not required, as 6ms can put players at a disadvantage.



**LG 22MK430H-B**  
Price: Tk. 13,900  
Display: 22"  
Resolution: 1920 x 1080  
Refresh rate: 75Hz  
Response time: 5ms  
Display type: IPS  
Contrast ratio: 1000:1  
Colour: 16.7M  
The display is designed for gaming but it may also be used for other purposes. It has

a 75Hz refresh rate panel, which is not significantly faster than 60Hz but feels slightly smoother when seen closely. Response time is 5ms which gives you an extra edge if you are a gamer on a budget. It has an IPS panel that produces vibrant colours with AMD Freesync included.



**SAMSUNG LF22T350**  
Price: Tk. 15,500  
Display: 22"  
Resolution: 1920 x 1080  
Refresh rate: Max 75Hz  
Response time: 5ms  
Display type: IPS  
Contrast ratio: 1000:1  
Colour: 16.7M  
Another amazing monitor for the money. It offers beautiful colours, requires

very little tuning once out of the box, is wall-mountable and has an IPS display with a 75Hz refresh rate. The top, right and left borders are quite thin. This has HDMI compatibility as well. Good for gaming, workplace and colour-accurate jobs like Photoshop, Illustrator, Lightroom and Premiere Pro, among others.



**ASUS VZ229HE**  
Price: Tk. 15,800  
Display: 21.5"  
Resolution: 1920 x 1080  
Refresh rate: 75Hz  
Response time: 5ms  
Display type: IPS  
Contrast ratio: 80000000:1  
Colour: 16.7M  
This one is

similar to LG 22MK430H-B but offers better colours out of the box. It is not the best option for gaming but it is a great option for colour grading and colour correction. It does not include AMD Freesync.

**ASUS VP229HE**  
Price: Tk. 16,000  
Display: 21.5"  
Resolution: 1920 x 1080  
Refresh rate: 75Hz  
Response time: 5ms  
Display type: IPS  
Contrast ratio: 1000:1  
Colour: 16.7M

It is essentially a combination of Xiaomi Redmi 1A and SAMSUNG LF22T350. Asus VP229HE delivers incredibly sharp imagery with its

frameless IPS panel for wide-angle viewing. Its 75Hz response rate and adaptive Freesync technology eliminate tracing and ensure crisp video playback. Expanded Vision with a 178° IPS wide viewing angle panel gives consistent accurate colour at any angle to minimise the colour shift and give you a better viewer experience. It is safe to say that it is highly favoured for gaming and work purposes.



**LG 22MK600M**  
Price: Tk. 15,900  
Display: 21.5"  
Resolution: 1920 x 1080  
Refresh rate: 75Hz  
Response time: 5ms  
Display type: IPS  
Contrast ratio: 1000:1  
Colour: 16.7M

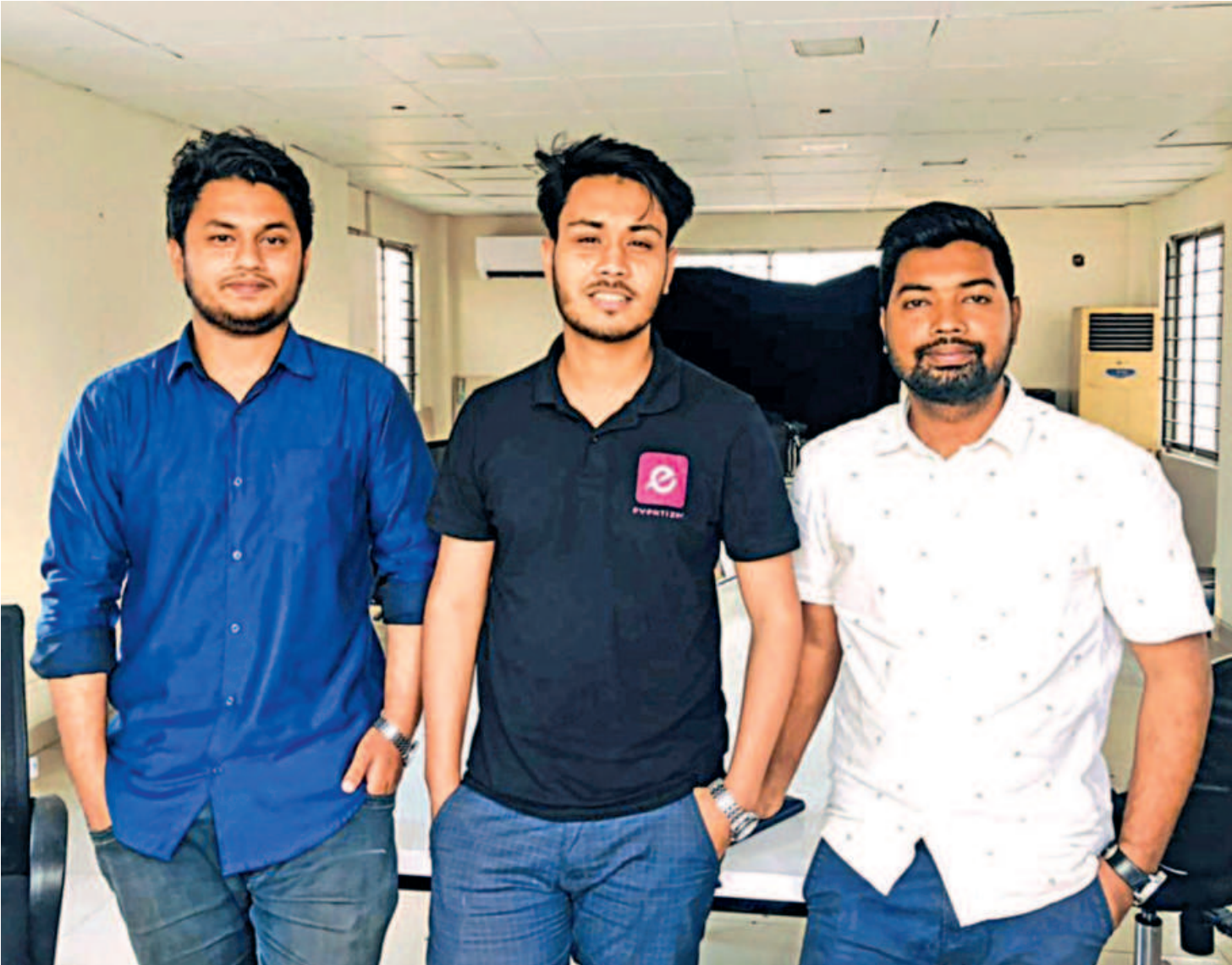
It is similar to the SAMSUNG LF22T350. LG's 22MK600M high-definition monitor features an IPS liquid crystal display for realistic colour reproduction. A comfortable viewing experience helps to lessen eye fatigue for office work and is ensured with improved full HD quality. Gamers may enjoy flawless fast-paced games with the Radeon FreeSync option.



If you are looking for decent home and office monitors that do not break the bank try to go for a 22-24 inch 1080p IPS or VA panel. If you are able to stretch your budget a little more, go for a 27 inch 1440p IPS or VA panel. Whether you are looking for a monitor for home or business work, low-impact gaming or a replacement, there are a plethora of capable and some very fascinating monitors available. Having a good monitor is a great help when you are spending a hefty amount of time in front of a desktop. It is even better when it does not break the bank.



# EVENTIZER RECEIVES PRE-SEED INVESTMENT



The local event service platform Eventizer recently announced that they have received a pre-seed investment worth Tk. 2 million. The announcement stemmed from a press release and was later confirmed on their official Facebook page.

According to reports, the investment came from Mohammad Maaz, known for investing in early tech startups such as Markopolo and Merchant Bay.

Labib Muhannad, CEO of Eventizer, said that Eventizer is always keen on helping customers in planning their dream events. "There is currently no active web platform that offers individual and bundle bargains for any event," said Muhannad, "We're concentrating on making our platform more user-friendly for our customers so that we can build the largest event services platform possible."

Eventizer is an online platform offering event-related services such as invitation cards, party attire, hotel bookings, venue reservations, custom designing and interior decoration. By filling out a form on their website, anyone can avail of their services to host events of any variety, as well as receive professional event planning, management and guidance.

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ঐতিহ্যের আর এক তান্ন আধুনিকতা  
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

**স্যান্ডালিনা**  
সোপ

রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...

KOHINOOR CHEMICAL