

Facebook parent Meta opening first physical store

Meta, Facebook's parent company, is opening its very first physical store in Burlingame, California, US. Officially announced by Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg on his Facebook page, the store is opening on May 9.

Aside from selling Meta-branded products, the store will be promoting Meta's virtual reality project, Quest 2.

Meta Quest 2 is the rebranded name of Oculus Quest 2, a series of virtual reality headsets developed by the VR hardware company Oculus. The rebranding took place after Meta bought Oculus for \$2 billion in 2014.

Meta Quest headsets can run virtual simulations and VR games, many of which were recently announced in the Meta Quest Gaming Showcase, hosted April 20. Among Us VR, Red Matter 2 and The Walking Dead: Saints & Sinners - Chapter 2: Retribution are some VR games slated to launch in the



Metaverse within the next year.

In the photos of the new store Zuckerberg shared on social media, he demonstrated how Meta Quest 2 can be used to project what the wearer is experiencing on a big wall.

According to Zuckerberg, the projection wall is "a great way to see how Meta products connect people today". He says that this store is a big first step towards building the Metaverse.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Streaming into the future

Like most 90s kids, I grew up with TV, movies and video games. I remember being filled with wonder the first time I saw a video game being streamed, like a movie on the TV screen. Nowadays, streaming is a popular art form that has made its way to Bangladesh as well. If you're an aspiring streamer, check out this week's Cover Story on essential know-how to kickstart your streaming career.

Tune in to Next Step for our recommendations on free online courses to hone professional skills. For Shift, we featured the legendary Bosozoku bike gang of Japan. As always, variety for everyone.

Stay safe everyone. Have a great weekend.

Shams Rashid Tonmoy
Sub-editor & Feature Writer

Samsung Galaxy A23 launched in Bangladesh



Samsung Bangladesh has recently launched the Galaxy A23, the latest addition to its A-Series.

Samsung Galaxy A23 features a Snapdragon 680 2.4GHz+1.9GHz Octa-core processor, Samsung One UI 4.1 powered by Android 12. The device boasts 128GB ROM storage alongside 6GB RAM.

Samsung Galaxy A23 also features Samsung Knox Security and a Sensor Side Fingerprint.

It has a 6.6-inch Infinity V-Cut display with a 90Hz refresh rate. The

Corning Gorilla Glass 5 ensures its durability. The Galaxy A23 also has a 5000mAh battery and supports 25W Super-fast charging.

The device has a quad-camera setup, consisting of a 50MP OIS primary camera, 5MP ultra-wide camera, 2MP depth camera and 2MP macro camera, as well as an 8MP front camera.

Samsung Galaxy A23 comes in three colours: blue, peach and black. It is currently available at Tk. 25,599/- in Samsung outlets.

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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.

Changes we can expect in Twitter after Musk's takeover

The virtual world has been buzzing since the news of tech billionaire Elon Musk's acquisition of Twitter for a staggering \$44 billion was officially disclosed.

The microblogging platform has been flooded with users expressing their overjoyed reactions as they believe that Musk's takeover of Twitter will bring back free speech on the platform. Exactly how Musk plans on changing Twitter remains to be seen, though we can make a few surmises based on his past activities.

Emphasis on free speech: Musk has

always been a big advocate of free speech on the platform, even before he bought shares or the company itself. In tweets made right after his takeover, Musk stated that free speech is the bedrock of democracy.

"I hope that even my worst critics remain on Twitter, because that is what free speech means," said Musk. Thus, we can expect Musk to make Twitter a more inclusive, open platform with more emphasis on free speech.

Edit button for tweets: Musk held a

public vote on Twitter's need for an edit button for tweets. The result was an astounding 'yes'. Since Musk has expressed interest in this feature before, chances are he might implement it in the coming days.

Removal/revision of shadow ban rules: Since Musk is an advocate of free speech, he might consider revising or removing 'shadow bans' altogether. Currently, Twitter can delete your posts without any notification and also block or 'shadow ban' you if you disobey the community

guidelines, effectively removing you from the platform.

Spam control: The Tesla CEO said on April 14 that one of his top priorities for Twitter would be to eliminate "spam and scam bots and the bot armies", including those connected to crypto scams.

All things considered, Musk's buyout of Twitter consolidates his remarkable business portfolio as the world's richest man adds another feather to his cap with the latest acquisition of the microblogging giant.