

# TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of The Daily Star

## HOW TO NOT CONSUME FAKE NEWS



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

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OFF ROADER'S  
CHECKLIST: PAGE 4

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# Apple officially discontinuing the iPod after 20 years

Apple is discontinuing the iPod, more than 20 years after the device became the face of portable music, Apple said in a blog post recently.

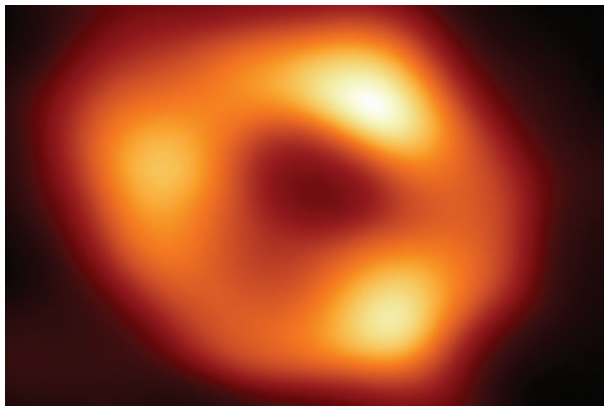
The iPod had kickstarted Apple's meteoric rise into one of the world's biggest companies.

Since its launch in 2001, the iPod took on a storm of competing music players before being eclipsed by smartphones, online music streaming and within the Apple pantheon, by the rise of the iPhone.

The iPod has undergone several iterations since its inception featuring a scroll wheel, the capacity to store 1,000 songs and 10-hour battery life. The version that has been carried to date - the iPod Touch - was launched in 2007, the same year as the iPhone.

Apple stopped reporting iPod sales in 2015.

The iPod Touch, the only version of the portable music player still being sold, will be available till supplies last.



## There's black hole at the centre of our galaxy, here's its first image

An international team of astronomers recently unveiled the first image of a cosmic body known as Sagittarius A\*, a supermassive black hole at the centre of our own Milky Way galaxy.

The image, produced by a global team of scientists known as the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) Collaboration, is the first, direct visual confirmation of the presence of this invisible object, and comes three years after the very first image of a black hole from a distant galaxy.

Black holes are regions of space where the pull of gravity is so intense that nothing can escape, including light. The image depicts not the black hole itself because it is completely dark, but the glowing gas that encircles the phenomenon, which is

four million times more massive than our Sun, in a bright ring of bending light.

Sagittarius A\*, abbreviated to Sgr A\*, which is pronounced "sadge-ay-star", owes its name to its detection in the direction of the constellation Sagittarius. Its existence has been assumed since 1974, with the detection of an unusual radio source at the centre of the galaxy.

In the 1990s, astronomers mapped the orbits of the brightest stars near the centre of the Milky Way, confirming the presence of a supermassive compact object there, work that led to the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics.

Though the presence of a black hole was thought to be the only

plausible explanation, the new image provides the first direct visual proof. Because it is 27,000 light-years from Earth, it appears the same size in the sky as a donut on the moon.

Capturing images of such a faraway object required linking eight giant radio observatories across the planet to form a single "Earth-sized" virtual telescope called the EHT. These included the Institute for Millimetre Radio Astronomy (IRAM) 30-metre telescope in Spain, the most sensitive single antenna in the EHT network.

The EHT gazed at Sgr A\* across multiple nights for many hours in a row, a similar idea to long-exposure photography and the same process used to produce the first image of a black hole, released in 2019.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Don't believe everything you read on the internet

In today's edition of Toggle, we bring you a host of ways in which you should NOT consume fake news. That's right. While content is king, it is essential to verify the real ones from the imposters.

You can find an off-roader's checklist on Shift to get you started on your off-roading experience.

Get a summary of all the officially revealed products and software updates Google announced in its I/O 2022 event on Bytes.

For Spotlight, we feature a Bangladeshi team that made it to the top 5 of the European Robotics League. We also continue our buying guide within a budget, focusing on Tablets this time. Find out more on Tech Tips.

As for the rest, read along to find out.

Godspeed.

Tanzid Samad Choudhury  
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## TOGGLE

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## EA breaks up with FIFA, new games will be called EA Sports FC FIFA 23 will be the last of its series

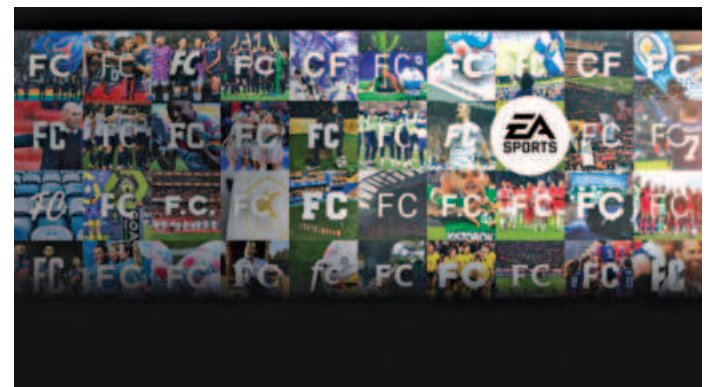
After a nearly 30-years run, Electronic Arts, EA, announced Tuesday that FIFA 23 will be the final title to bear the branding of world football's governing body. EA Sports FC will be the company's flagship football video game starting in July 2023.

"Everything you love about our games will be part of EA SPORTS FC – the same great experiences, modes, leagues, tournaments, clubs and athletes will be there. Ultimate Team, Career Mode, Pro Clubs and VOLTA Football will all be there. Our unique licensing portfolio of more than 19,000+ players, 700+ teams, 100+ stadiums and 30 leagues that we've continued to invest in for decades will still be there, uniquely in EA SPORTS FC," said Cam Weber, EA Sports' General

Manager, in a statement published on the EA news blog.

Cam Weber said last year that the company was reevaluating its licencing agreement with FIFA, citing the game's massive patchwork of licences from individual soccer leagues and teams, as well as what the FIFA brand added to the product. The same day, EA filed trademarks in the United Kingdom for a game called "EA Sports FC."

Even though the World Cup and other FIFA-controlled events will no longer be included, most of the world's famous clubs and stars will still be playable thanks to separate licencing deals with their teams and leagues.





# PURSUING DOUBLE MAJORS: IMPORTANT FACTORS TO CONSIDER

AHMAD TAUSIF JAMI

A double major means pursuing two distinct degrees simultaneously for one complete bachelor's degree. Currently, only a few reputed private universities allow their undergraduate students to pursue a double major in Bangladesh. The decision to pursue or not to pursue a double major impacts their university experience and plays a major role in shaping their future. Therefore, it is essential to consider vital factors in order to make the best possible decision that aligns with their long-term aspirations. If you're considering pursuing double majors, here are some important pointers to keep in mind.

## ARE YOU DETERMINED?

University can be challenging, even if you are studying for one major. The stress nearly doubles when you have to do twice the coursework, making it incredibly challenging to balance life

and studies. According to Obydullah Al Marjuk, a senior lecturer at a country-leading university, the rigorous determination required to complete a double major is not everyone's cup of tea. Students often do not think about whether their determination is strong enough to survive through the process. One key question that helps to get a sense of their true determination is to consider the worst-case scenario and then simulate whether the student can still make it through the hurdles. "Your priority should be to build yourself rigorously. Only when you have that true commitment should you sign up for a double major," says Mr Obydullah.

## WHAT ARE YOU TRADING OFF?

While some students will have to spend more money on their tuition fees, many others will need more than their estimated graduation time. For some, it may also mean giving up a year of professional experience or just generally cutting down on other external activities. The value of all these trade-offs differs among individuals. Thus, students should carefully consider everything they need to give up before confirming whether they will be content in the long run. If students are clear about what they will have to lose when they sign up for a double major, this will also make the navigation easier. That way, their losses will not come as a shock but as expected events that they are prepared to handle.

## DOES THIS HELP YOU GET JOBS?

A double major would equip you

with more knowledge and skills in most instances. More often than not, employers appreciate individuals with more than one specific set of knowledge, and in today's work culture, cross-team collaboration is more critical than ever. For instance, Munzeleen Sarwar, a student, is pursuing a double major in Finance and Accounting because according to her, many finance-related job openings prefer accounting skills. Munzeleen believes her pursuit of the Finance-Accounting double major will help her stand out from the applicant crowd. It is worth noting that a double major does not guarantee a job - it just increases the possibility of a well-rounded individual.

## IS A MASTER'S DEGREE BETTER?

When it comes to the dilemma of choosing to pursue your second major in a subject that you could potentially pursue a master's degree in instead, it is necessary to understand the functions of these degrees. An undergraduate degree offers an intensive, comprehensive and insightful scope of the major. However, a master's degree, although in most instances covers the core concerns from basics to advanced level, does not necessitate the required time to build up a solid foundation as much as an undergraduate degree can. This is inherent because a student spends, on average, at least four years in their undergraduate studies compared to an average of one year in master's studies.

## ARE YOU IN DOUBT?

It is perfectly normal and often very common for students to be in doubt about such a crucial decision in their lives. Raian Hossain, a lecturer at a country-leading university, says, "You need to garner more information, such as course descriptions, to develop clarity in your thinking." The students may take help from their assigned advisor, concerned department facilitator, practitioners and seniors in the university to understand the description. They can find contacts and information on their university website or at the relevant department's office. "If you like two majors, you may certainly consider pursuing them to save yourself from future guilt," adds Raian Hossain. It is not uncommon for graduate students to complain about what they would have done differently. If they pursued both of their desired options, they would at least know they had tried and, therefore, would be less harsh on themselves. Ultimately, you need to weigh in on your choices before making the shift.





# ESSENTIAL OFF-ROADER CHECKLIST

AHBAAR MILKY



With the monsoon coming in heavy, off-roaders are rejoicing and planning their next mud-filled vacation. If you're planning a similar off-road journey, there are a few things you might need beforehand. Here is a checklist of things you might require, should the situation arise, before you head off-road again.

## AN OFF-ROAD RIG

You're not planning on rolling in a Hyundai, are you? An optimum off-roader should have a working and functional low and high range gearbox and locking differentials. The latter will be required the most, often in combination with a low range in situations with low traction. A second-hand Hilux or a Hilux Surf is your best bet. Sadly, a good Defender is out of reach in today's market.

## TRACTION PADS

In case your vehicle gets stuck in unprecedented road conditions, make sure your traction pads are sufficiently adjusted. Ideally, an onboard winch is your saviour, but a lower technological option remains in plastic traction pads. Found on Daraz for about Tk. 3,000, plastic traction pads should get you back on track even when stuck on the road. To use them, simply put them underneath the driving wheels.

## WINCH

On the off chance that you fumble the bag, be prepared to break the bank and take a hit financially as winches won't come cheap. Installing one also means you're the designated driver for off-road recovery in your group.



## TIRES

Don't expect to be an instrument of driving genius just because you have got the fancy bells and whistles. Tires will forever be the limiting factor on and off track. Road tires will be no good on loose surfaces, but you will be doing wheel spins for days. Mud or all-terrain tires are optimal, even though your fuel economy might take a noticeable hit. While you're at it, look for portable air compressors too.

## LIGHTS

Light bars are guaranteed to make your off-roader ten times cooler. They also offer great functionality when your primary headlights get covered in mud. But the best use of LED light bars might arguably be an accessory to road rage as you can use them to blind annoying traffic on several occasions.



## SNORKEL

If you're planning on taking a dip and not hydro locking your pride and joy, you should look for snorkels. They will give you extra wiggle room in knee-deep situations while looking cool.

## A HEAVY WALLET

Be prepared to look for heavy construction equipment near you should things go south. Recovery won't come free.

## BUY MUDRUNNERS OR SNOWRUNNERS

Does everything seem expensive in the real world for you? Video games once again have you covered. SnowRunners on PC and consoles depict a sense of realism related to off-roading exceptionally well. Great way to learn while not getting your hands dirty.



PHOTOS: AHBAAR MILKY

# How to verify online content and deal with misinformation

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

Misleading news propagated through social media and the web can influence public actions and opinions adversely.

In this context, misrepresentation of images in different news articles helps to legitimize any fake news as people are more likely to accept images as a truthful representation of a story. Here are some ways you can verify information before jumping into a bogus narrative.

## CHECK THE SOURCE

The link of fake news often has spelling errors in its URL or web address. Cybercriminals do domain spoofing by faking or imitating web addresses where such errors are common. Unusual or less conventional domain extensions such as ".offer" or ".infont" may also help to spot fake news links. Do not forget to go through the 'About Us' section of the particular website to get an idea about its authenticity. You can also copy the web address and paste it into a new tab to see if it looks the same. If not, then it may be a sign of a homograph attack.

## ALWAYS CROSSCHECK NEWS

Every news media always remains super alert to cover important news. If the news contains lucrative offers or has something related to public concerns, multiple news media must have covered it as well. Having no coverage of such news in other media may indicate that it is fabricated in that particular website.

## CHECK THE WEBSITE'S GOOGLE PAGERANK

If the Google PageRank is high, it probably indicates that the site or the news is authentic. It is one of the methods that Google uses to determine the relevance or importance of a page. CheckPageRank.net is a free tool to check Google PageRank, which is based on backlinks. With more quality backlinks, a site gets a higher PageRank.

## THINK CRITICALLY AND CHECK FACTS

Fake news has the ability to grab our attention and our decisions get driven by deep-seated emotions. Question yourself if the news provokes any strong emotional reactions by promoting something extreme, such as extreme religious or political views. Does it seem to spread a certain agenda or cause? Positive answers to such questions may show signs of fraudulent news. On the other hand, fake websites can contain incorrect or unusual dates and timelines. Do not forget to check when the article was published.

## IS IT SATIRE OR PARODY?

Before you announce a news story as fake

or misleading, check if the site contains satirical stories. These stories do not aim to harm or mislead readers. There is a thin line between fake news and satire. Fake news is crafted to misinform readers purposely, whereas satire is written using sarcasm and exaggeration to create a humorous tone. While some satire may be intentionally titled as fake news, they certainly aren't, so keep an eye out for that.

## FIND OUT IF THE PICTURE IS REAL

Any photograph with news tries to validate that it is authentic. The verification of the picture can tell us about the authenticity of a claim or news.

## REVERSE IMAGE SEARCH

To recognise the actual source of a picture, reverse image search can help us with its algorithms. The procedure is quite simple. Just upload that image in the search bar of any reverse image search tool and it

will find relevant appearances and original sources from the web and databases for you. Google Image Search and TinEye are some of the most powerful and easiest search tools to identify duplicate images.

## EXIF DATA

Sometimes one may not find any information about the picture with the help of a reverse image search tool. In that case, Exif metadata should be checked. A web app named Jeffrey's Exif Viewer can confirm images by showing data regarding their date, time and location. Geolocation shown here is also a key in the case of verification.

## USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO IDENTIFY THE ODDS

If you have already failed to get any proof through reverse search tools and

Exif metadata, use your general knowledge to find clues.

But this can be a bit tricky.

See the surroundings thoroughly to check anomalies. Check out for questionable things in the picture. Does it look forged or manipulated? Look carefully to see the tell-tale signs of photo manipulation. Missing shadows, blurred edges or reverse texts are the signs of fake pictures.







# New smartphones, smartwatch and earbuds: Here's everything Google recently announced

Google officially revealed a plethora of new products and software updates in their Google I/O 2022 event, held on May 11.

Some of the most anticipated Google products finally received confirmation, including the upcoming Pixel 6a and Pixel 7 smartphones, the new Pixel Buds Pro, the updated Android 13 OS and Google's first-ever smartwatch, Pixel Watch.

## GOOGLE PIXEL 6A

Google's new mid-range smartphone will be released soon, featuring notable similarities with the Pixel 6. Pixel 6a will reportedly feature Google's 5 nm Tensor chipset, the same as Pixel 6, and the signature Pixel camera bar. According to Google, the frame is made of recycled aluminium.

Google Pixel 6a reportedly has a 6.1-inch display, 12.2 MP and 12 MP dual main camera setup, 8 MP selfie camera and runs on Android 12 OS. It also comes with 128 GB internal memory, 6 GB RAM and a Li-Po 4410 mAh battery.

Google Pixel 6a will be available for pre-order from July 21 and is currently priced at \$449 in the US.

## GOOGLE PIXEL 7

At the Google I/O 2022 event, Google also announced their latest flagship: the Pixel 7 and Pixel 7 Pro. While not a lot regarding these new phones have been confirmed by Google yet, the rumour mills are already full of speculations.

What is confirmed though, is that the Pixel 7 and Pixel 7 Pro will feature the "next generation" Google Tensor chipset, and will run on the brand new Android 13 OS. Based on how the phone looks, the display size of the Pixel 7 should be around 6.2 to 6.4 inches. To note, the Pixel 6 has a 6.4-inch display.

Google has also confirmed that the Pixel 7 will be available in three colours: obsidian (black), snow (white) and lemongrass (yellow). The company has further stated that the new flagship phone will be released this fall, alongside the Pixel Watch.

## GOOGLE PIXEL WATCH

Google Pixel Watch features an improved Wear OS 3 UI with voice-enabled functions, Fitbit integration and apps such as Google Assistant, Google Maps and Google Home. It also features the

new Google Wallet app, as well as basic smartwatch features such as step counter and heart monitor.

As stated in the Google I/O presentation, Google's first-ever smartwatch is made of recycled stainless steel with customisable bands.

Google Pixel Watch is slated to release this fall, alongside the upcoming Pixel 7 smartphone. No other official details regarding the Pixel Watch, including the price, have been announced by Google yet.

## PIXEL BUDS PRO

Google also announced their latest flagship earbuds: the Pixel Buds Pro.

Keeping the design similar to its predecessors Pixel Buds, the new earbuds include features such as 11m dynamic speaker drivers, three microphones on each bud, Bluetooth 5.0, up to 11 hours of playback and other audio features such as active noise cancellation, spatial audio and ambient mode.

Google Pixel Buds Pro is currently priced at \$199 in the US. While pre-orders are not available yet, official sources state that the earbuds will be released in the US

on July 21.

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Other than brand new products, Google also revealed the second Android 13 beta, with compatibility with non-Pixel phones as well. The new Android version also comes with interactive features such as predictive back gestures, new alarm functions, new notification permissions and as always, improved security and privacy features.

Google has also rebranded Google Pay to launch the new Google Wallet app. With new functions such as storing credit cards, flight tickets and digital car keys, Google Wallet aims to digitalise the physical wallet. According to Google, Google Wallet will replace Google Pay in nearly all countries upon release, except the US, Singapore and India.

Google is also making the tablet experience more user-friendly by updating classic apps such as YouTube Music and Google Maps to function more smoothly on Android tablets. Third-party apps such as Facebook and TikTok will be getting tab-compatible UI updates as well, states reports.

# OUR TOP PICKS FOR TABLETS UNDER Tk. 50,000/-

MORIUM KULSUM

Since the pandemic hit, the tablet market has started to rebound after years of stagnation. Demand for tablets skyrocketed due to the need for large-screened devices at home for remote work and online learning.

However, choosing the right tablet has become quite challenging as many options are available. So, we analysed several tablet's display, processor, battery and storage to help you find the best 'value-for-money' option under Tk. 50,000/-.



## APPLE IPAD 9TH GENERATION (2021)

Apple iPad 9th Generation, also known as the iPad 10.2 (2021), features a 10.2-inch 60Hz screen that provides plenty of display real estate to work with multiple apps. From the 12MP ultra-wide selfie camera with the Centre Stage tech for use in video calls and video shoots to its True Tone display tech that helps with outdoor visibility, there is a lot to like about this tablet. It also has a 3.5mm headphone jack, thankfully.

The tablet has the A13 Bionic chipset that packs plenty of punch to handle everything, ranging from multitasking to gaming, with ease. It can be paired with a Magic Keyboard and an Apple Pencil — both sold separately — to become a proper laptop replacement. It comes in 64GB and 256GB storage variants.

However, the tablet does not support LTE cellular connectivity and does not have a microSD card slot.

Price: Tk. 41,900/-

## APPLE IPAD MINI 6 (2021)

Apple iPad Mini 6 (2021) features the latest A15 Bionic chipset, which guarantees many years of software support and iOS updates. It sports a sleek design with an 8.3-inch 60Hz fully laminated display. Beyond that, it offers a premium aluminium unibody design, compatibility with second-generation Apple Pencil, and long-lasting battery life.

The iPad Mini comes with the same 12MP ultra-wide selfie camera with the Centre Stage tech as the Apple iPad 9. However, while the iPad 9 has an 8MP camera in the rear, the iPad Mini 6 has a 12MP rear camera.

Before shelling out for this tablet, keep in mind that it does not support LTE cellular connectivity, and does not have a microSD card slot. And yes, the headphone jack is also on the not-included list.

Price: Tk. 49,900/-



## SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB S6 LITE

The Samsung Galaxy Tab S6 Lite has a big 10.4-inch screen, and it comes with an S Pen stylus in the box. It is a great budget tablet, ticking all the right boxes with solid build quality, rich speakers, decent cameras and LTE cellular connectivity.

The S6 Lite has a 3.5mm headphone jack and a USB-C port to connect accessories. It has 4 GB of internal memory and 64 GB of base storage with support expansion up to 1TB via a microSD card.

In terms of cons, the tablet features a TFT LCD display, has no support for Samsung's desktop-like interface, Dex mode, and runs on a somewhat weak Exynos 9611 chipset.

Price: Tk. 40,999/-

## XIAOMI PAD 5

The highlight of the Xiaomi Pad 5 is its glossy display, which is an 11-inch IPS LCD screen with Dolby Vision that features a high 120Hz refresh rate. On top of that, it has impressive quad-channel speakers with Dolby Atmos support.

Xiaomi Pad 5 is powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 860 chipset that offers a fast and lag-free experience. Its selfie camera has a resolution of 8 MP, while the rear camera has a resolution of 13MP that can capture videos at up to 4K at 30fps. The tablet comes with 6GB of internal memory and either 128GB or 256GB of storage.

Unfortunately, the tablet does not support LTE cellular connectivity and a GPS module. It also has no headphone jack and a microSD card slot. The Xiaomi Smart Pen, though supported, has to be purchased separately.

Price: 6 GB + 128 GB - Tk. 30,999/-, 6 GB + 256 GB - Tk. 33,999/-







## Team from Brac University makes it to the top 5 of the European Robotics League

MORIUM KULSUM

The European Robotics League (ERL) is a prominent robotics competition that concentrates on how robots can come in handy during serious challenges. Dichari, a robotics team from Brac University's Engineering Faculty, has qualified for ERL's championship round — getting closer to clinching the title. The team will soon travel to Poland to take part in the grand finale in Poznań, wherein they will compete against four other foreign teams from 20 to 25 June.

After completing the first and second rounds, team Dichari is now required

to prove the viability of their ideas by operating their land and air robots along with extensive execution details in front of the jury panel during the finale. Assignments of the competition revolve around designing robots to aid in rescue missions. Sadikul Alim Toki, representative of Dichari, shares, “We have built a rover and a drone that will function to locate survivors trapped in disaster zones and dispatch emergency supplies to tackle crises.”

Under the supervision of expert

advisors, team Dichari is being led by Md. Firoz Wadud (Technical Lead and Autonomous Lead), Shams Fardous Arnab (Team Lead and Mechanical and Design Lead), Jahir Uddin (AI and Communication Lead), Sadikul Alim Toki (Research and Documentation Lead), Mahbub Ul Haque (Electronics Lead), Muntasir Ahad (Electronics Co-Lead), Sihab Sahariar (Control and Software Lead), Md. Amanto Amin (Management and PR Lead), and Tanzimul Alam (Management and PR Co-Lead).



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