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# Think twice before using Google's 'incognito' mode

Google, the world's largest search engine, apparently collects data on users who think they can be anonymous if they use a "private browsing" mode, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in the USA claimed recently, filing an amended privacy lawsuit against the Alphabet-owned enterprise.

US states including Texas, Indiana, Washington, and the District of Columbia filed separate suits against Google in January in state courts over what they called deceptive location-tracking practices that invade users' privacy.

Paxton's filing adds Google's Incognito mode to the lawsuit filed in January. Incognito mode or "private browsing" is a web browser function that Paxton said implies Google will not track search history or location activity.

The lawsuit said Google offers the option of "private browsing"

that could include "viewing highly personal websites that might indicate, for example, their medical history, political persuasion, or sexual orientation. Or maybe they simply want to buy a surprise gift without the



gift recipient being tipped off by a barrage of targeted ads.

The suit said, "in reality, Google deceptively collects an array of personal data even when a user has engaged Incognito mode.

Google recently said that Paxton's filing is again "based on inaccurate claims and outdated assertions about our settings. We have always built privacy features into our products and provided robust controls for location data.

"We strongly dispute these claims and will vigorously defend ourselves to set the record straight," it added.

Paxton previously alleged Google misled consumers by continuing to track their location even when users sought to prevent it.

Google has a "Location History" setting and informs users if they turn it off "the places you go are no longer stored," Texas said.

In January, an Arizona judge ruled allegations Google deceived users with unclear smartphone location tracking settings should be weighed by a jury, refusing to toss out a lawsuit brought by the state's attorney general.

## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

## Staying connected

Keeping contacts is something we tend to undervalue, yet its importance is paramount in nearly every stage of our lives. In this week's Cover Story, we talk about the importance of keeping relevant contacts right after graduating, and how it might help you land the job you always wanted.

In Shift, we featured the latest Nissan Magnite launch. For Bytes, yet another product guide, this time on wireless mechanical keyboards.

As always, stay safe. Until then.

**Shams Rashid Tonmoy** Sub-editor & Feature Writer

# **TOGGLE**

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# Samsung Galaxy M33 5G launched in Bangladesh targeting heavy users



Samsung has recently launched its newest addition to the M series of smartphones - the Samsung

> This new entrant has been power-packed with Samsung Exynos 1280

5nm Octa-core processor (Dual 2.4GHz+Hexa 2.0GHz), heavy-

duty 6,000mAh Battery, Quad Rear Camera setup, consisting of a 50MP (f/1.8) rear Main Camera, 5MP (f/2.2)Ultra-Wide Camera, 2MP (f/2.4) Macro Camera, and 2MP (f/2.4) Depth Camera, along with an 8MP (f/2.2) Front Camera, 8GB RAM, 128GB ROM, 6GB virtual RAM, 6.6-inch FHD+ Infinity-V display with 120Hz display etc.

Price: Tk. 30,999/- and comes in three colours: Blue, Green and Copper.

# After the US, now Canada plans to ban Huawei & ZTE's 5G equipment

After the US, now Canada plans to ban the use of Huawei & ZTE 5G equipment. On May 19, Canadian Industry Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said that Canada plans to ban the use of these two brands for the sake of Canada's national security. The announcement comes as Canada is joining the rest of the so-called Five Eyes intelligence-sharing network.

"We intend to exclude Huawei and ZTE from our 5G networks," Champagne told reporters in Ottawa. "Providers who already have this equipment installed will be required to cease its use and remove it under the plans we're announcing today."

Champagne added that companies that will be required to remove their 5G gear by June 2024, would not be reimbursed. Companies using their 4G equipment



must be removed by the end of 2027.

The decision - widely expected - had been delayed amid diplomatic tensions with China. The rest of the Five Eves network - which consists of Canada, the United States, Britain, Australia and New Zealand - has already banned the equipment.

In September 2018, Canada first announced it would review the possible threats to national security in adopting Huawei equipment.

Then in December of the same year, Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou was arrested in Canada on a U.S. warrant, creating a long-running dispute with China that finally ended last September with Meng's release.

After Meng's arrest, two Canadians were arrested by Beijing and accused of espionage. The two men were released the same day as Meng.

Now diplomatic tensions between China and Canada have eased somewhat. On Wednesday, China removed a threeyear restriction on imports of Canadian canola seed, reversing what was considered a retaliatory move for Meng's arrest.

The ban decision comes after telecom companies in Canada already opted to use other companies' 5G hardware.

# Importance of building a network as a fresh graduate

TANZID SAMAD **CHOUDHURY** 

There is a saying that goes, "Your network is your net worth". In this digitally-ruled world where everyone is looking to become the next Elon Musk, a properly nurtured professional network can help you stand out among your peers. Networking usually includes sharing information or ideas with new people and building relationships with them along the way, and as a fresh graduate, you will often need useful contacts as much as your degree.

The importance of networking is endless. The information shared and the relationship formed between the people

field of interest from experts in the same field. Aside from the knowledge gained from your degree, you will appreciate the first-hand knowledge you gain as well. Growing your network grants you connections with like-minded people with common interests, leading to the gathering of a wealth of knowledge over

A vast network of knowledgeable, interconnected contacts enables access to valuable information. It also broadens your scope of opportunities to receive sound guidance from professionals who know what you want. As a result, it's good practice to actively stay in touch with your contacts and discuss recent developments to expand your knowledge. The best way to gain competency, in these cases, is to accept the fact that you don't have it all figured out and approach every networking opportunity with an open

### Networking helps you to build longlasting relationships

Once you start networking, there's no turning back. Networking is the stepping stone, and best initiated during your university days. The main objective is to build a solid and lasting relationship with people. That is where the genuine value of networking is at, as it can lead to meaningful relationships with people you admire - not to mention the instant access that you will receive to relevant advice and guidance whenever you require it.

Keep in mind that networking requires a long-term commitment. You need to make sure that you are in it for the long run. Even as a fresh graduate, make sure to keep relevant contacts with people from your university and high school. It is also vital to provide support to your contacts when they need it. Otherwise, vou'll be perceived as someone who only takes but never gives back. Such an image will hurt you in the long run. Building a good rapport is of the essence, as it can make or break your relationships with your peers.

### Networking enables you to increase your visibility

Once you begin working on building your network, you will start getting noticed by people who work in your industry. While your degree will certainly help you land your job, being visible to your network can help you climb the corporate ladder, as people want to interact with those they see often. You

can increase your visibility by taking part in university club meetings and social events, as you will be exposed to more

Additionally, increasing your visibility in professional spheres will allow you to stand out in front of recruiters, as they are always scouting for talents to join their ranks. This is where being in university clubs or keeping in contact with event organisers can help. Remember to maintain visibility within your network to stay relevant in the competitive job market.Networking allows you to get more meaningful opportunities

Ever wonder why that friend of yours is making waves in his career while you're stuck in a rut? Chances are that your friend has been networking from an early part of his student life and has been making connections ever since. As a result, he has been getting referrals in his work life to aid him in his career progression. Even if your degree will be your path to employment opportunities, relevant contacts can help out a lot more.

Don't worry, as you can start networking from today to reach your full potential and meet people from different walks of life. The key here is to get started. There are many ways in which you can build your network. You can attend professional networking meet and greets, seminars, fairs, club gatherings, online conferences, or even join voluntary organisations that work for the welfare of society. All these initiatives that you take to step out of your comfort zone will propel you to go further in your professional career, as you meet new people and mingle with them.

As you meet more people, you will gain more perspectives, not to mention being able to relearn plenty of things that you probably didn't question before. In this case, having the right mindset can help you to become more approachable and let others know about what you bring to the table.

### Final words

So how do you start networking? The truth is that networking requires a lot of effort and doesn't come naturally to most people. Therefore, you need to put in the extra effort to get yourself out there and converse with people.

As dreadful as networking may seem, it is equally rewarding, if not more. So why not start now?

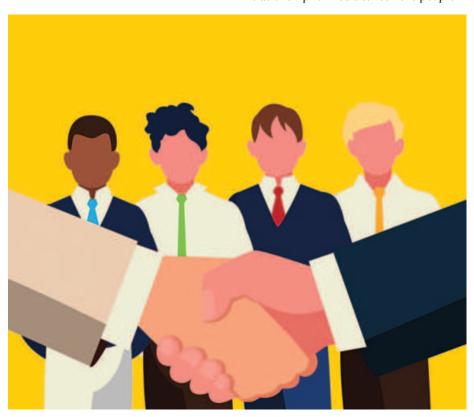
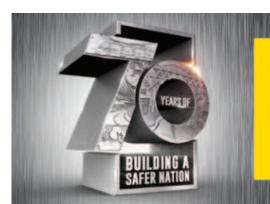


ILLUSTRATION: TANZID SAMAD CHOUDHURY

involved is often mutually beneficial and allows for mentorship opportunities for youngsters, while also allowing veterans to learn from their successors. Here are some of the more noteworthy points to consider when building a network as a fresh graduate:

### Networking allows you to gain firsthand knowledge

Networking is a fantastic way to learn new things and get ideas from people who know the best industry practices. It allows fresh graduates to learn more about their



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# **GRAMEENPHONE ACADEMY** A step towards getting the workforce future-ready

In a brand new initiative to make the youth of today ready for the workplace of tomorrow, Grameenphone has launched Grameenphone Academy to train fresh graduates for local and global professional challenges. Courses provided by Grameenphone Academy (https://grameenphone.academy/) are designed to build industry skills, entrepreneurship acceleration and make the Bangladeshi youth future-ready and more efficient and competitive in the workforce.

In a sit-down interview, Toggle had a conversation with Cecilie B. Heuch, EVP and Chief People Officer, Telenor Group; Yasir Azman, CEO, Grameenphone and Sved Tanvir Husain, CHRO, Grameenphone, to understand the philosophy, motivation, outlook and impact of Grameenphone Academy.

### What was the motivation behind Grameenphone Academy?

Cecile: As a telecommunications company we have a big role to play when it comes to digitising countries like Bangladesh - where we have seen

a distinct digital divide and a lack of digital skills. Bangladeshi youth have the potential to grow, and we have the opportunity to help them. An initiative like Grameenphone Academy can help them grow and bridge the digital skills

How does this project align with Telenor's

Cecile: Climate, environment and digital skills are areas where we as a telecommunication company can make a bigger difference than others. As we have seen with Covid-19, there has been a fast track of digitalisation in every

aspect of society. This led to a bigger gap in skills and expectations, which is widening every day. Thus, we need to provide solutions to bridge that gap and give youth the opportunities to be competitive in both local and global

Where do you think Bangladesh stands in terms of skills, competency and talent? **Yasir:** Going by the statistics, the Bangladeshi youth population is very

resilient. Aside from environmental factors such as natural disasters and the climate, there are many obstacles However, despite being in such

constrained situations, the country is progressing, both in terms of growth and innovations. The attitude and resilience are already there, but we need to bridge those factors with the right skill set to truly unleash the potential of the Bangladeshi youth. We need to inspire them by bringing in the right tools and equipment while showing them the correct path - that is what I believe a leader must do in society.

Do you think there is a noticeable lack in the current global market or is this lack limited to Bangladesh only?

Yasir: In the current post-pandemic

**SPOTLIGHT CONTENT** 

resilience are already there, but we need to bridge those factors the right skill set to truly unleash

Bangladeshi youth."

Grameenphone

the potential of the



'The most common required skill sets would be cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, blockchain, machine learning, data analysis, cloud management, etc." Cecilie B. Heuch, EVP and Chief People Officer, Telenor Group

Cecilie B. Heuch, EVP and Chief People Officer, Telenor



to participate in our recruitment interview process. They can skip a few steps because they are graduates of Grameenphone Academy." **Sved Tanvir** Husain, CHRO, Grameenphone

Syed Tanvir Husain, CHRO,

times, we have seen an acceleration of digitalisation. Society has fast-tracked in many senses, but it left behind a gap in the right skills. This is, however, a universal issue at this point, and not just in Bangladesh only. Even our global and technological partners are also struggling when retaining talented sources. Since this is a global challenge, we need to bring solutions fast.

What are some common skills and knowledge areas that are currently lacking in the global and local markets?

Cecile: I would say the most common required skill sets would be cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, blockchain, machine learning, data analysis, cloud management, etc.

Tanvir: Every year about 400,000 students are becoming graduates. However, they don't get jobs right after graduation, staying unemployed. If they have the right skills and find the right job, imagine how well they can fuel the national economy and boost their own growth momentum. If we look into the global perspective, most of the students who are working said that they had to



take extra courses and training sessions to match their requirements from employers, alongside what they have learned from universities. The curriculum itself is not sufficient to be active, productive or efficient in workplaces. Thus, the gap definitely exists globally. Corporations will have to work very closely with universities to bridge this gap. Grameenphone Academy is an example of such an effort in bridging

Are existing Grameenphone employees also trained to keep up with current market demands?

Cecile: Internally, our employees need to stay updated as well. We have to renew their skill sets and make sure they are sufficiently upskilled. If you want to be an attractive employer, you need to have these things. People are not always loyal to their employers but they are loval to their own skill and competency development.

What are your expectations regarding Grameenphone Academy?

Vasir: We want to come to a position where we can collaborate with others and create an impact together. We have the potential to become a knowledge-based economy and create a collaborative platform where we can inspire others to join. If we can make that happen, we can bring economic freedom to the youth and take the country towards



bigger goals. Thus, the expectations for the future include making people independent and economically free.

Do you think other companies in the industry would follow suit and open similar platforms? Would they contribute towards upskilling development in Bangladesh?

Tanvir: This is an area everyone is talking about and willing to contribute. In Bangladesh, as a private sector, we have taken the lead. Other organisations are now willing to join and they have the same intention. In this area, we don't want to compete, but rather collaborate to create a bigger impact.

When is Grameenphone Academy going to be publicly available? Would it be free



for everyone? What kind of courses and faculties would be available

Yasir: Grameenphone Academy is free and open for everyone. Our main intention is to prepare fresh graduates for the job market. We have a launching pad and career development courses

instructed by industry readers from various sectors. There are also specific training programs, especially on the digital skill side, alongside a module called entrepreneurship development, which we have been working on for the last 5 years. We also have an accelerator program where we take the students to a four-month boot camp.

Cecile: Regarding the courses, some of our focus areas are cybersecurity and Python programming

Is Grameenphone Academy going to be helpful for existing Grameenphone employees, especially those who want to further develop their skills?

Tanvir: We are very big in upskilling and reskilling our employees, but skills are changing faster every day. We have to keep our employees relevant. It's only possible when we take them through a structured learning process. We are one of the only companies in Bangladesh that give bonuses to their employees for going through training. Every employee must reach 40 hours of training each year, but our employees reach an average of 60 hours. During the pandemic, we blocked everyone's calendar for one hour every year and dedicated it as a learning hour. We are very serious about training and development. Every employee discusses with their line manager individual development plans based on their knack. Our employees also contribute to different projects in fluid capacity, which might require different skill sets than what they do normally. To sustain a multiskilled workforce, you need a robust training and development program. GP Academy would only complement this.

Is there any certification enabled with this program that can be recognised by other

**Tanvir:** Top performers will get a ticket to participate in our recruitment interview process. They can skip a few steps because they are graduates of Grameenphone Academy. Regarding certification, students who pass our courses can get a national level certificate. There will be exams monitored or conducted by the government authority so that the certificate is valued by anybody and everybody within Bangladesh.

Are there any similar platforms available in other Telenor operations?

Cecile: We are going to have a similar collaboration with Cisco in Thailand. The initiative won't be exactly the same, but it is going to be in line with Grameenphone Academy.

Any final words you would like to share, especially regarding helping the youth? Yasir: We would like to increase impact through collaboration, inclusiveness and addressing the needs and challenges of today's youth.

Cecile: We are trying to prepare the youth with skills that are needed for the future in terms of technology and soft skills. We can come together to create a future-ready Bangladesh. The youth is the powerhouse that can propel the economy and really help us to reach the ambition of digital and smart Bangladesh





# **NISSAN MAGNITE** launches in Bangladesh

Nissan recently launched its latest B-SUV model Nissan Magnite. The launch ceremony took place in Nissan Bangladesh's Tejgaon showroom on May 21.

Previously launched in 15 other countries including Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka, the 1000cc Nissan Magnite comes with features such as HRA0 1.0L turbo engine, HRA0 X-Tronic CVT, cruise control and wireless connectivity with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay in-car assistant systems.

The exterior of the car features 16inch diamond-cut alloy wheels, chrome door handles, silver skid plates, ORVMs with turn indicators, integrated spoilers and side cladding, roof rails and a chrome beltline.

The cockpit contains a 17.78 cm TFT display which shows information regarding fuel history, tyre pressure and trip duration.

The car features an anti-lock braking system (ABS) with electronic brakeforce distribution (EBD) to make driving on

busy roads much safer. It also features a ground clearance height of 205 mm.

In terms of interior storage, the car has a 336-litre cargo space with 60:40 rear split and a 10-litre glove box, alongside 1-litre door pockets on each side.

Nissan Magnite is currently priced at Tk. 30,50,000 (30 lakh 50 thousand). It comes with a 3-year warranty, with Nissan providing free servicing for the first year.

PHOTOS: AKIF HAMID















# Our top picks for wireless mechanical keyboards under Tk. 8,000/-

### AHMAD TOUSIF JAMI

Mechanical keyboards are becoming more and more mainstream in Bangladesh. As a result, the number of users has increased substantially as well. Many of these users prefer to use a wireless keyboard for convenience, such as using it from a distance. Although there are many enthusiasts in the market, most of them are individuals who can spare a minimum budget for their keyboard setups. If you are looking for an affordable mechanical wireless keyboard that will complement your workstation, this guide is for you.

### **RK84**

Price: Tk. 4,800/-

Switch type: Huano Blue/ Brown/ Red

The Royal Kludge RK84 is one of the best wireless mechanical keyboards in this price range. It is also a popular choice for customisation options. The keyboard has a good build quality and a detachable case with it. It also has three-mode connectivity and a 2.4 GHz dongle, making the wireless capacity excellent. Furthermore, the ergonomics are good and the magnetic padfoot makes it easier on the user's hand.





### Akko 3068b

Price: Tk. 7,500/-

Switch type: Akko CS Jelly Pink/ Purple

The Akko 3068b is one of the best compact options for wireless keyboards. It hosts a Beken Multi-modes Chip that includes Bluetooth 5.0, 2.4GHz dongle and Type-C. This is a 5-pin hot-swappable keyboard, except number 1/2. With an 1800 mAh battery, this 65% keyboard is an excellent buy to consider. If you appreciate more free space on your setup, you will like the form factor of the Akko 3068b.

## Skyloong SK96s

Switch type: Gateron Brown/ Blue

The Skyloong SK96s has one of the best battery life for wireless keyboards in this range. It boasts a powerful 4,000 mAh battery, one of the largest in any budget keyboard. With the latest 5.1 chipset, up to four devices can be connected with seamless transition. Additionally, the dual system layout provides dedicated Mac and Windows keys, allowing you to use shortcuts for a pleasant and smooth typing experience.





## Keychron K3

Price: Tk. 8,000/-

Switch type: Gateron Mechanical Brown Switch

The Keychron K3 is a relatively ultra-slim form factor keyboard. The K3's Bluetooth 5.1 chipset ensures seamless interaction with other devices, whether you're working at home or the workplace. In addition, the low-profile switch is nearly half as small as traditional switches. Given its sleek aluminium shell, the K3 is one of the world's thinnest and lightest wireless mechanical keyboards. The keyboard also has two different ergonomic angles, making the keyboard more comfortable to type on.

### Akko 3068 V2 Year of the OX

Price: Tk. 6,500/-

Switch type: Akko CS Ocean Blue

If you are looking for a limited edition aesthetic keyboard, this keyboard is one of the best possible picks. This keyboard has an excellent and unique design celebrating the Chinese New Year theme that will surely set your setup apart. Unfortunately, being a limited edition means that this keyboard will not be reproduced once sold out. This hot-swappable keyboard with a JDA profile comes with Bluetooth 5.0 and is RGB backlit. This keyboard will help create a workstation to soothe your eyes besides offering you a good work experience.



All of these keyboards are available at several local shops. You can check out popular shops such as Tech Land BD, Vibe Gaming, Spark Technology, Tech Diversity and Lunar Gaming to find your preferred mechanical wireless keyboard.

### **TECHTIPS**

# Summer care for your car

NAYEEMA BUSHRA

During summer, it can become difficult to maintain a vehicle's maximum performance as heat and humidity affect both exteriors and interiors. Regular maintenance and proper attention to any irregularity can keep your car well-maintained, even during difficult weather. Here are some simple measures to be wary of when it comes to your car's summer care.

### Car battery

Batteries are vital to maintenance, especially in summer. The summer heat

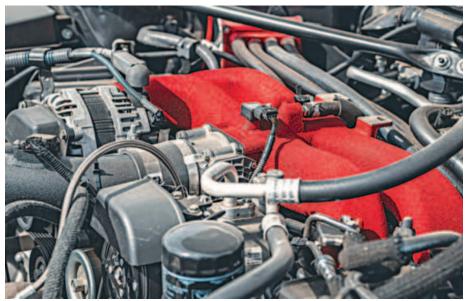


PHOTO: ITMAM BASHAR

can cause it to corrode, bulge or crack, so you have to inspect it at the start of every season. Strap it down in place properly and keep it clean. Continuously riding a car for a long time in summer makes the car battery hot. To reduce the rising heat, check the battery for alerts. Clean it regularly and give it a break when the battery gets excessively hot. Keep the voltage between 12.6 volts to 14.5 volts to avoid putting excessive pressure on your car.

### Air filters

The summer humidity and heat cause dust particles to accumulate in the air filters, causing various internal issues. Clean the air filters regularly for adequate airflow into the air conditioner. Check whether the filters are in the right condition and get them changed if necessary. The airflow in and out of the car's air conditioner depends on these filters. When dirty, it will hamper fresh and cool air from passing through.

### Air conditioner

Since the use of air conditioners increases the most during summer, this is one component that requires extra care and attention. Before summer starts, check your air conditioning system and get it recharged. Low freon on the AC will not cool down your car. The gas, air filters, coolant and refrigerant need to be checked. Any leak of the AC can also cause it to not function. Remember to check the fluids as well. If there is a problem with the filter, you can clean it easily. But if there is a leaking issue, you will need to take it to a mechanic.

### Coolants

Checking on the coolant falls under the general category of check-up of your car for summer. Make sure that the coolant is standard and certified for your vehicle. And you must check when the engine is cooled down. Coolant is responsible for keeping the temperature of the engines balanced. It is a mixture of water and antifreeze, so if you are planning on diluting coolant, you should use distilled water. Refilling coolants require caution and accuracy. Use water and antifreeze in the ratio of 1:1 for refilling purposes at home. Let the engine cool down before opening the coolant cap to check it, as checking a hot engine can cause burns.

### Checking car fluids

The most important parts of your car will not work properly in case of a fluid leak. Fluids are responsible for keeping your vehicle lubricated and functional. Fluids like engine oil keep your wheels running. Moreover, windshield cleaners

are also necessary to keep the windshields clean. Check for signs of leaks to avoid accidents. You can take your vehicle for a maintenance check and replace old and stale fluids with new ones before the summer. Doing so should ensure a trouble-free summer for your car.

### Tyre texture and pressure

Tyres come in direct contact with the road. Excessive heat can alter the tire in the summer and cause it to tear. The tyre needs to stay at an appropriate pressure as instructed by the manufacturer of your car company. If it increases or decreases, it can cause accidents. Also, make sure that your car has enough treads while riding on highways, as it can produce heat if not treated enough. Check the air pressure and treads of the tyres before hitting a long ride in the summer.

### Other factors

There are various other tips that you can practise to keep your car safe in the summer. Using reflective paints can decrease discolouration in the summer. A no-brainer is parking your car in shades to keep the engine protected from excessive heat. You can also opt for interior protectants like sunshades, cotton covers and curtains to reduce heat. Ventilating and cooling seat covers are another way to keep yourself comfortable inside your car in summer. Keeping your window glasses slightly open dissipates the hot air inside the cars.

### Self-care

Finally and importantly, the driver must stay hydrated while driving. Dehydration and heat strokes are quite common during summers. So it is necessary to maintain self-care when driving in excess heat. Keep an emergency kit inside your car to deal with unprecedented scenarios or accidents. Keep in mind that even if you maintain your car with the utmost care, you might not guarantee random mishaps. But it is still necessary to stay prepared for any situation beforehand. Remember to check your car regularly so you can enjoy relaxing rides all season long.

