

TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of The Daily Star



THE UNDERGROUND LIFE

PHOTO: ABRAR SHAREQUE KHAN

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'Meghna Cloud': Bangladesh's first cloud data centre

Bangladesh Data Center Company Limited (BDCCL) and Gennext Technology have recently signed an agreement to set up Meghna Cloud, Bangladesh's first cloud data centre.

According to a press release, this joint venture will be under the initiative 'Made in Bangladesh Cloud', which will make it possible

to keep the country's data stored within the country. By not depending on foreign data storage facilities, the government can save foreign exchange in purchasing and using cloud technology from other countries.

The new local data centre can provide services to both government

and private organisations in Bangladesh. The press release also states that a brand new Research and Development (R&D) Centre will be set up for Meghna Cloud, which will include teachers and students of government and private universities along with Bangladesh's data centre industry.



Meta fined \$414 mn for breaching data laws



Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, was recently fined 390 million euros (about \$414 million) on accounts of breaching EU's personal data laws. The announcement comes from a statement made by the Irish Data Protection Commission, which explains that Meta has breached their obligations in regard to transparency in how the personal data of Facebook and Instagram users are used. According to the Ireland-based regulatory commission, Meta has used an "incorrect legal basis" to process personal data to cater "behavioural advertising" to their users.

The statement indicates that the final decision regarding the fine has been made, and for violating EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Meta will be fined 210 million euros (about \$223 million) for Facebook and 180 million euros (about \$191 million) for Instagram.

As a response, Meta said they will appeal the fine. The accompanying statement from Meta emphasised that the company "strongly believes" their approach respects EU's GDPR. Furthermore, Meta added that they comply with the targeted advertising standards set by the GDPR.

Samsung may reveal Galaxy S23 on February 1

Samsung might reveal their newest flagship smartphone, Samsung Galaxy S23, at their upcoming Unpacked event, leaks suggest. The information stems from a leaked screenshot of Samsung's Colombian website, which stated that the first Samsung Galaxy Unpacked event of 2023 will be held on February 1.

Even though the screenshot did not specifically state that Galaxy S23 will be announced, it did say "meet the new Galaxy" in Colombian, which suggests that the S23 lineup will be announced on February 1. Last year, Samsung Galaxy S22 was unveiled on February 8. Following that timeline,

fans expect the release of Samsung Galaxy S23 to really be on this year's February 1. At the time of writing, the leak is no longer available on Samsung's Colombian website, and Samsung has not yet said anything official regarding their next Unpacked event.

As for expected features, rumours suggest that it will look similar in design to S22. The same leaker who posted the Colombian website screenshot previously stated that S23 Ultra will have a 200 MP main camera, which makes it slightly bigger than the iPhone 14 Pro but smaller than other Android flagship phone sensors coming in 2023.



OPPO launches A77s

OPPO has recently launched A77s, the latest addition to their A-series smartphones, in Bangladesh. OPPO A77s features 33 W SuperVOOC fast charging, 5000 mAh battery, 6.56-inch waterdrop notch HD+ display, 90 Hz refresh rate, 50 MP rear camera, 2 MP depth camera and 8 MP front camera. It also has expandable storage, dual speakers and IPX4 water resistance.

The smartphone comes in an ultra-slim retro design with ergonomic styling and uses the OPPO glow design, which utilises a glass mold that combines thickness and a sparkling visual effect. Previously, this glow design was only available in OPPO's high-end smartphones. OPPO A77s is available in two colours: starry black and sunset orange. It is currently priced at Tk. 24,990/-.



EDITOR'S NOTE

Kickstarting the year with a bang!

The new year started with a lot happening in the local automobile scene and the global tech scene. The basement of Jamuna Future Park saw the congregation of some of the sleekest cars from the underground automobile scene recently. We have a 2-page feature dedicated to the meetup in this week's Cover Story.

For Bytes, we highlight some of the coolest gadget announcements from this year's Consumer Electronics Show (CES), which featured one of our very own local brands for the first time. You can also find a hands-on review of the Samsung Galaxy S22 Ultra today. We also jotted down the fundamentals of networking in this week's Next Step. As for the rest, flip through the pages and enjoy your weekend reading with Toggle.

Happy weekend.

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Tesla slashes prices in Asian markets as sales stumble

Tesla cut prices in China for the second time in less than three months on Friday, fuelling forecasts of a wider price war amid weaker demand in the world's largest autos market. The U.S. automaker also cut prices on its best-selling Model Y and Model 3 electric vehicles in Japan, South Korea and Australia in what a person with direct knowledge of the plan said was part of an effort to help stoke demand for output from its Shanghai factory, its single largest production hub.

The shift is the first major move by Tesla since appointing its lead executive for China and Asia, Tom Zhu, to oversee global output and deliveries that have

been at the heart of the company's recent challenges after falling short of its 2022 delivery target. Tesla shares closed up 2.5% at \$113.06 last Friday. However, the stock has lost 70% of its value in the last year.

Tesla slashed prices for all its Model 3 and Model Y cars in China by between 6% to 13.5%, according to Reuters calculations based on the website prices. The starting price for the Model 3 was cut to 229,900 yuan (\$33,427), from 265,900 yuan. Those

models are now priced 24% to 32% lower than those in the United States, Tesla's largest market, Reuters calculations showed, reflecting several factors including material and labour costs.





4 reasons why networking is important - and how to do it the right way

Networking is an essential part of career development and personal growth. It allows individuals to build relationships and connections with others in their industry, expand their knowledge and skills, and increase their visibility and opportunities.

However, networking can often be intimidating and overwhelming for many people, especially those who are new to the job market or are introverted by nature. That's why it's important to understand why networking is important and how to do it right. Here are some reasons why networking is crucial for your career:

It helps you learn about new job opportunities

Networking allows you to learn about job openings and career opportunities that may not be advertised publicly. By building relationships with professionals in your industry, you can get insider

information about potential job openings, company culture, and what skills and qualifications are necessary for certain roles.

It increases your visibility and credibility

Networking helps you get noticed by potential employers and clients. By building a strong network of professional connections, you increase your visibility and credibility in your industry. This can lead to more job opportunities and more business for your company.

It helps you develop new skills and knowledge

Networking allows you to learn from and collaborate with others in your field. You can learn about new trends and techniques, as well as gain valuable insights and advice from experienced professionals. This helps you stay current and competitive in your industry.

It can lead to valuable partnerships and collaborations

Networking can lead to valuable partnerships and collaborations with others in your industry. By building relationships with others, you can work together on projects and ventures that can benefit both parties.

So, how can you network effectively and build valuable connections? Here are some tips:

Attend industry events and conferences

Attending industry events and conferences is a great way to meet new people and learn about new opportunities. These events often have networking sessions and opportunities to meet with industry professionals. Be sure to bring business cards and be prepared to talk about yourself and your career goals.

Connect with people online

Social media platforms like LinkedIn are

great for networking and connecting with others in your industry. Join professional groups and participate in discussions to make yourself known. You can also reach out to people in your network and ask for introductions to other professionals.

Volunteer and join professional organisations

Volunteering and joining professional organisations is a great way to meet new people and make valuable connections. These organisations often have events and opportunities to network with others in your field.

Follow up and maintain relationships

Networking is not just about meeting new people, but also about maintaining relationships with those you have met. Follow up with people you have met and keep in touch with them regularly. This will help you stay top of mind and keep the relationship strong.



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FLEXING THE WHEELS AGAIN

ARFIN KAZI

After two years of the world being closed because of a pandemic, car meets are now a thing again. While automobile enthusiasts around the city have been waiting for a long time for their beloved car meets to return, 2023 starts off with a highly anticipated one. From tuner cars to classics as well as featuring some supercars here and there, the latest auto meet held in the Jamuna Future Park basement had it all.

Auto Rebellion, primarily a digital automotive community platform, arranged the first meet of the year

- held on January 7. Meets such as these come with big hopes to spread the car culture to people all over, and this iteration was a hit - bringing more than 200 modified cars in one place, as well as having official sponsors from Subaru Bangladesh, who brought an STi S208 to showcase. There were all sorts of rare cars in the meet, such as the country's sole Honda NSX, Nissan GTR34, one of the two RX7s, a couple of Nissan GTR35s and much more. Most of the cars that showed up were Japanese-made, but there was a fair share of European cars,

notable ones being the Audi R8 and the Porsche 911 Targa.

The meet also had a die-cast collectors section with a wide variety of models from 1/64 all the way to 1/18, with well-known makes from makers such as AutoArt, Kyosho, INNO and much more to choose from.

There were not just cars in the meet, there was a fair share of sports bikes as well, such as a 500cc Kawasaki Ninja, a couple of heavily modified Yamaha R15s, and CBRs which were ear-blindingly loud but were a delight

to watch go around the lot.

The event ended with a performance from SkibKhan from the Bangladeshi rap crew Deshi MCs. There were also a couple of burnouts and revving of exhausts - the 'music' the whole community showed up for in the first place.

In the end, the meet was one of the more popular ones so far, and it helped start the year with a bang for local car and bike enthusiasts. As we move past the pandemic-induced lockdowns, we can expect more of such meets along the way.



PHOTOS: ABRAR SHAREQUE KHAN



photo taken by samsung galaxy s22 ultra

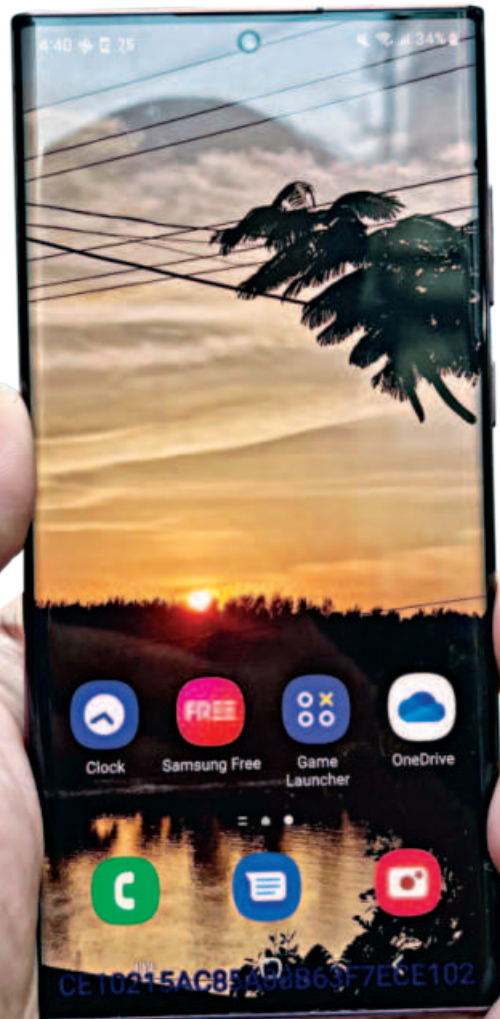
HANDS-ON REVIEW

Samsung Galaxy S22 Ultra

How does it fare almost a year later

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

Almost a year back, Samsung unveiled its coveted flagship: the Galaxy S22 Ultra. Maintaining its OG form factor, Galaxy S22 Ultra was expected to meet the expectation of both – the S Series users and the Note series users. To appease these two camps, Samsung went all-in in terms of hardware and performance. We ran an extensive review of the device over a prolonged period very recently. Here's our take:

**It's fast!**

The phone is blazing fast. It can take care of the most multitasking operation without any hiccups. Thanks to the 4 nanometer ultrasmall yet uber fast Qualcomm SM8450 Snapdragon 8 Gen 1 processor. For Androids, this is the fastest processor commercially available in the market. Most of the graphics-intensive games – were smooth as butter. However, one little caveat that did not escape our attention was a tiny bit of lag in the loading or transition animations in the phone after a long day of usage. The more than adequate RAM and memory of the phone complemented the phone's powerful engine perfectly.

What an incredible camera!

Out of ten people, nine would say that a camera is a substantially important consideration for them when purchasing a smartphone after the 2020s. Samsung Galaxy S22 Ultra, in this particular aspect, is leaps and bounds ahead. My colleagues and I unequivocally agreed that this is one of the best camera phones money can buy right now, even almost a year after the launch of the phone. Every aspect of the phone- the autofocus (I have been told this is an essential feature from my better half, who takes close-up snaps), colour rendition, saturation, zooming etc. of the back camera is excellent.

Though the front camera might not be as feature-rich as the back camera, it still can deliver great snaps. The software processor of the phone also does a stellar job of stitching panoramic photos and cleaning up the noise of the photos taken in night mode. The hi-res and highly responsive super bright display also plays a critical

part in appeasing the users.

One of the best Android experiences On Android, Samsung Galaxy S22 Ultra offers one of the best experiences – the credit goes to One UI. This must be admitted that the full credit does not only goes to Samsung; the competition has some role to play here. As OnePlus and Pixel kept dropping the ball in the recent past, One UI, quietly and firmly, has been repositioning itself as one of the cleanest and most intuitive UI in the market. From One UI 3.0 to the latest One UI 5.0, the sleek UI has significantly improved with every iteration, from managing to multitasking apps to offering detailed customisation options to the users. Samsung has also been the leader in pushing updates to its flagships before its competition, making the experience of using a flagship device a bit smoother over some time.

Room for innovation??

From a design point of view- Samsung has become comfortable with their ways for non-foldable devices. The stale design reeked on their flagships – and S22 Ultra is no exception. Samsung played safe with it- by sticking to the proven form factor and cramming the best features from the Note and S Series. Some consumers might feel indignant about it, some might not even notice that. Innovation in design is something we missed in this device while reviewing it.

Will cost you a queen's ransom!

The best things in life are free. But the things that improve your life come with a hefty price tag. The Galaxy S22 Ultra is no exception. Even a year later, the phone will cost you around Tk 155k. For most people, this is not an amount you can invest in a phone. Then again, this is not a regular phone- it comes with the latest and most sophisticated hardware available on the market. We recommend buying this phone if Tk 150k does not put a dent in your pocket or if you need the best smartphone experience on an Android.

7 coolest gadgets from CES 2023

Known for introducing brand-new consumer technology in the international market, Consumer Electronic Show (CES) is one of the most influential tech events in the world. This year's CES, held in Las Vegas, USA, from January 5 to 8, had over 3,000 exhibitors, including Bangladesh's own local electronics giant Walton. Here's a quick look at some of the coolest gadgets that were unveiled at CES 2023.

The world's thinnest gaming laptop



Alienware recently introduced the thinnest 14-inch gaming laptop in the world. The second-gen Alienware x14 is the smallest of the four laptops that Alienware announced at this year's CES. Its display has a 2,560x1,600-pixel resolution with a 165Hz refresh rate and a 100% P3 colour range. Full-HD cameras, Dolby Atmos and Dolby Vision support, taller 16:10 screens, and a thermal material for the CPU and GPU for improved heat dissipation are all included in this sleek device.

BMW's colour-changing car

BMW has presented the prototype of a vehicle that can change colour in addition to displaying digital elements like projecting driving information across the inside of its windshield. Dubbed the 'I Vision Dee', the car's body can be customised in a wide range of colours. While the BMW I Vision Dee is now just a notion, it is intended to influence the styling of the luxury automaker's upcoming models. From 2025, the technology will be offered in BMW's Neue Klasse EV vehicles.



Motorola's ThinkPhone for ThinkPad superfans

Motorola's newest ThinkPhone will resemble Lenovo's ThinkPad PCs in terms of design - right down to the red button. For the business-oriented ThinkPhone, Motorola, which is owned by Lenovo, seems to have concentrated on security, durability, and productivity. The ThinkPhone also comes with several productivity tools that make it simpler to connect the phone to your PC. Many of these capabilities are already accessible on Motorola phones that have previously been released thanks to the company's 'Ready For' software.



Samsung shrinks micro-LED

Among the many new TVs Samsung announced at CES 2023, perhaps the most innovative among them is their new micro-LED lineup, which Samsung says can range from 50 to 140 square inches. Micro-LED TVs are famous for being high-quality TVs of impressive sizes,

with an 89-inch from Samsung revealed at last year's CES. However, if the newest models can be as small as 50 inches, or at least as small as the 76-inch micro-LED CX that Samsung showcased at CES this year - this might pave the way for a new era of home entertainment.

Samsung's 'Premier' projector

Samsung also revealed their ultra-short throw projector with 8K resolution called 'The Premiere' during CES 2023. An improved version of 2020's 4K The Premiere, it is a single box that is intended to be placed on a small table a few inches beneath and close to the wall or screen. The Premiere produces images up to 150 inches across the wall using specialised lenses and video processing. It can also fully illuminate and fill a room with sound thanks to built-in speakers and Dolby Atmos.



LG's wireless 97-inch OLED TV

One gigantic device that can receive video and audio without any wires is LG's newest OLED TV. The 97-inch LG Signature OLED M TV features 4K resolution. Additionally, it can wirelessly produce audio and video without the use of connections. The television can do this thanks to a tiny wireless HDMI transmitter unit known as the 'Zero Connect'. Having three HDMI connections on the Zero Connect box, all of which support 4K at 120Hz, makes it a good but pricey alternative for people who want a larger-than-life viewing experience.

Sony-Honda Afeela EV

Sony revealed a prototype of the new 'Afeela' electric cars that it will manufacture alongside Honda at CES 2023. Sony plans to use its large library of entertainment content to compete in the market for next-generation cars. The Afeela, which has rounded sides and a sleek black roof, was displayed by Sony during the CES event. The vehicle will make use of Qualcomm gear, notably its 'Snapdragon' digital chassis.



Inside the grand Vespa meet-up in Dhaka

ARFIN KAZI

Vespa, a reliable, small and economical scooter from Piaggio, originated in Italy around 1946, to reconstruct the country's shattered economy after World War II. Vespas were mainly used to commute around the city in the most cost-efficient way possible. With easy-to-fix, modular parts, the Vespa has been a favourite among riders for decades. These days, the Vespa has grown a large cult following, mostly around the old models - some of which are kept in pristine conditions by enthusiasts all around. Some of the old models also get restored from the ground up, where, if parts are not available, new parts are remanufactured for their scooters. Newer Vespas have been nibbling through pop culture with collaborations with singer Justin Bieber as



Gentleman's Ride is inspired by an international two-wheeler event, namely 'The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride', which raises awareness for men's mental health. It is mainly for classic two-wheeler enthusiasts, and all that is required to join is formal attire and a two-wheeler - which could be anything and not just specifically Vespas or mopeds. The Gentleman's ride in Bangladesh is hosted by Vespa Club Bangladesh. Founded in 2013, the club started as a collective which then grew with more enthusiasts with more organised events. The latest Gentleman's Ride had about 100 motorcycle enthusiasts from around the country - joining under one roof to share their love of all things Vespa.

Arranging meets post-pandemic

As 2022 saw the world shifting from the lockdowns and entering the post-pandemic era, many public events started being physical again - with this Vespa meet being no exception. According to the organisers, keeping Covid in mind while arranging the event meant keeping precautions in check. However, the meet still urged everyone to be careful and follow hygiene practices, such as wearing a mask and having a bottle of sanitiser. The organisers also discouraged anyone to attend if they have symptoms that fall under the category.

Types of Vespas present

There were primarily 4 eras of Vespas seen in the meet, ranging from the 1960s to the

design. Moving to the 1980s and 90s, this is the era when plastic entered the picture. The horn cover, headset and certain parts were manufactured with plastic. These models are also larger as far as size is concerned.

The most recent array of Vespas, which have opted for a more modern design, stems from the 2000s, and comes with automatic CVT gear and completely different design dimensions from past iterations. As any Vespa fan would admit, what renders Vespas timeless is their mechanical simplicity, featuring elegance that is built to last generations. Witnessing so many classic Vespas together in Bangladesh was a memorable occasion for any local two-wheeler fan.

Future of the club

According to the organisers, the Vespa Club Bangladesh strives to progress in making communication between all Vespa riders, enthusiasts, mechanics, parts sellers and anyone in the community more convenient. As they have been organising more event contributions in multiple aspects of this ecosystem for the past decade, spare parts have become more available locally. Local technicians have also become more active, with the vintage Vespas beginning to receive the value they truly deserve.

Vespa Club Bangladesh is a hub connecting all Vespa enthusiasts. They are, at the core, a niche group composed

PHOTOS:
AKIF HAMID, BHANGARI

well as with luxury fashion brands such as Christian Dior.

On December 30, 2022, Vespa Club Bangladesh hosted their Gentleman's Ride event in Shimanto Square. Being one of the last automobile meets of the year, a plethora of Vespas and mopeds showed up, each having their own special character and stories attached to it - resulting in a hugely versatile meet with a lot to see. The meet featured models starting from the 1960s to more recent models, as well as some other mopeds such as the country's only Yamaha Vino and much more.

What exactly is 'Gentleman's Ride'?



2000s. The oldest models are the Vespa 150 VBB, which are the most common vintages from the 60s, featuring rounded designs and curved chassis. In the 1970s, we saw VBC Vespa 150 Super and other models which became more angular in

of true 'gentle' people connected with their love of Vespas. Anyone who shares a common interest is welcome to join their events. All they have to do is find a stunning formal attire and wear it to the next Gentleman's Ride!