

TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of *The Daily Star*

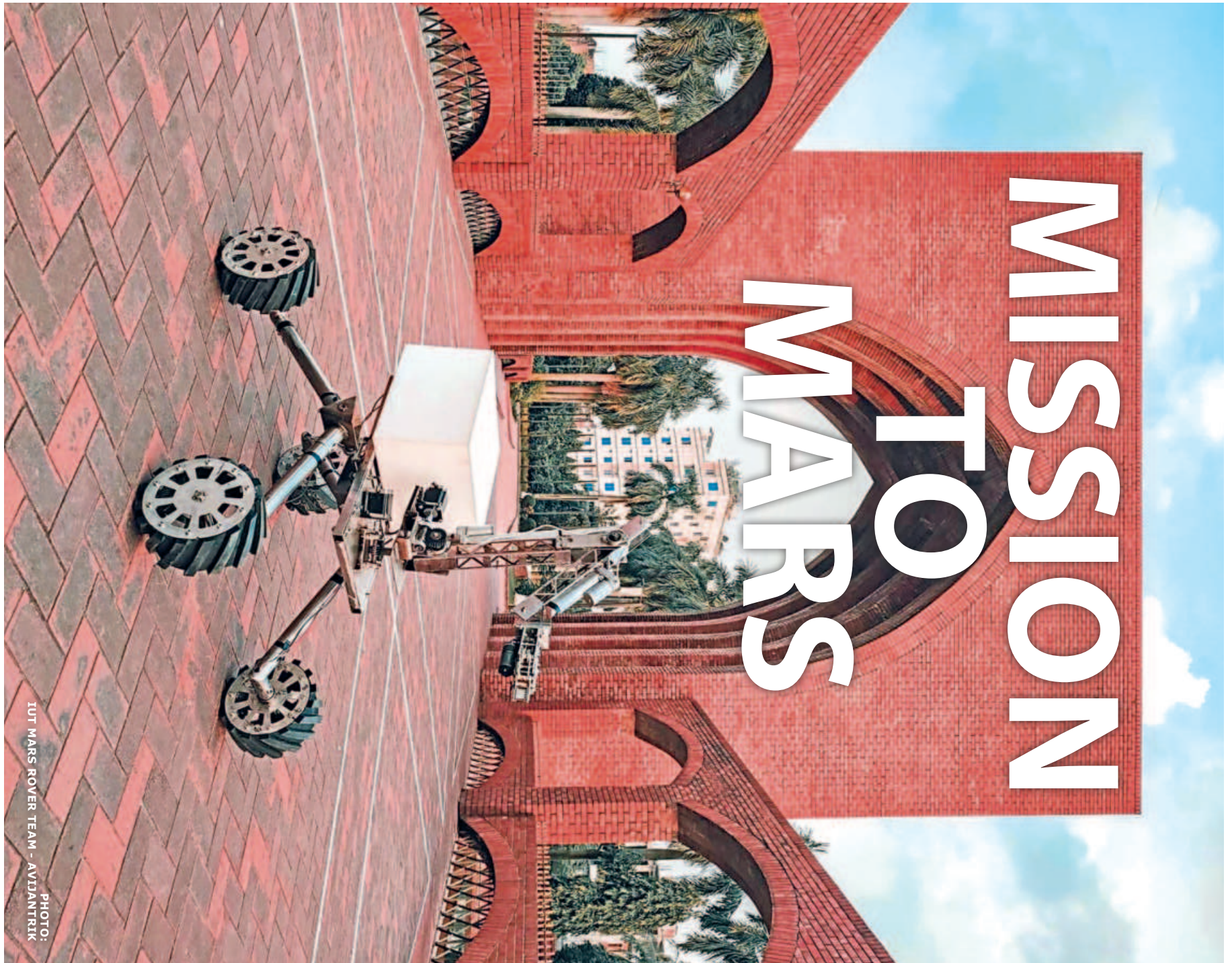


PHOTO:
IIT MARS ROVER TEAM - AVIANTRIK

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টেকনোলজিসমৃদ্ধ ফ্রিজে

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ওয়ালটন ফ্রিজের Artificial Intelligence ভিত্তিক 3D Matrix Speed Optimization ইনভার্টার প্রযুক্তি কনসুমারের গতি নিয়ন্ত্রণের মাধ্যমে অধিক বিদ্যুৎ সাশ্রয় নিশ্চিত করে।

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Apple to use in-house wireless chips for future iPhones: reports

Apple is planning on dropping the use of chips manufactured by external suppliers, and instead will be using in-house wireless chips in iPhones from 2025, states a recent report by Bloomberg. This move will reportedly

include excluding parts made by Broadcom Inc., which is currently one of Apple's biggest suppliers.

Bloomberg further reports that to prepare for the shift to homegrown components, Apple plans to release

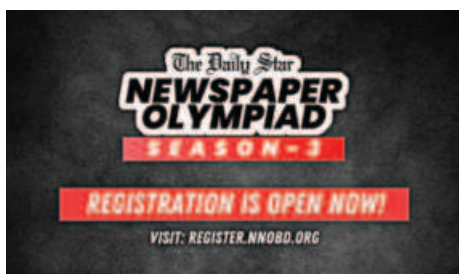
their first cellular modem chip by 2025. Apple's upcoming wireless chip will combine Bluetooth, cellular and Wi-Fi functionality into one design, which will save memory space and make future iPhone production easier, states reports.

Infinix launches Note 12 Pro smartphone in Bangladesh

Infinix has recently released the Note 12 Pro, the latest addition to its Note series smartphone line-up in Bangladesh. Infinix Note 12 Pro features a 6.7-inch FHD+ true-colour AMOLED screen, a 108MP triple camera with a 1/1.67-inch image sensor and a 16P selfie camera. It has 256GB storage, expandable up to 2TB and 8GB RAM, which is expandable up to 13GB through memory fusion.

The device features an Helio G99 octa-core processor, two Cortex-A76 Processors

clocking up to 2.2GHz and a Mali G57-class GPU. It has a 5,000mAh battery and 33W supercharge functionality. It is also equipped with Dual Speakers with DTS Stereo surround sounds. The Infinix Note 12 Pro will be available in three colours: Volcanic Grey, Tuscany Blue and Alpine White. It is currently priced at Tk. 26,499/-.



National Newspaper Olympiad season 3 registration now open

The National Newspaper Olympiad, NNO, is going to organize season 3 of its flagship Olympiad, jointly with The Daily Star, for the third time.

NNO started its journey in 2018, having more than ten thousand participants from all over the country in its first season, and more than thirty thousand participants in its second season.

People of all age ranges can participate in this event, in their respective age categories. To participate in the regional selection round, you can visit: register.nnobd.org.

There are 5 categories:

- Category A: 3rd-5th grade
- Category B: 6th-8th grade
- Category C: 9th-10th grade
- Category D: 11th-12th grade
- Category E: University and above

Every participant will be receiving a certificate of participation, a free workshop and a participation gift. Regional champions will get the chance to participate in the national round in Dhaka. They will also be receiving t-shirts, medals and certificates showcasing their achievements and they will have the opportunity to meet with the most distinguished media personalities in the nation. NNO will also be hosting a "Media Camp" with this year's champions.

OpenAI to monetise ChatGPT



OpenAI is planning to release a premium version of the popular chatbot, ChatGPT. In a recent announcement made on OpenAI's official Discord channel, the company has released a waitlist for a monetised version of ChatGPT. In the waitlist form, OpenAI has stated that the premium version of the AI, called ChatGPT Professional, is made for "professional use", with the added benefit of always being available (i.e. no blackout windows).

The waitlist also states that this premium version of ChatGPT will provide faster responses than the regular version, and users can message as many times as they want, with two times the regular daily limit. As per the terms stated by OpenAI, once you fill-up the form, you will be eligible to be selected. Once selected, OpenAI will ask you to set up a payment process and a pilot. OpenAI has yet to state when the premium version of ChatGPT will launch, or what will happen to the current free version afterwards.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mars or Mercedes

This week, we take you on a journey towards creating your own Mars Rover in our Cover Story. We then take a look at the modern and classic cars that were showcased in the recently concluded Mercedes Heritage Meet 4 on Shift.

We also talk about work ethics, room heaters and have a smartphone review in today's edition. Flip the pages to know more. Plenty of variety for everyone.

Happy weekend.

- Tanzid Samad Choudhury
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TOGGLE

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Bangladeshi creators will be able to earn through YouTube Shorts

YouTube has announced that it will allow content creators to earn revenue through original Shorts videos starting from February 1, with Bangladeshi creators being eligible for the rewards. Under this new initiative, a

separate monetisation program will be launched for short-video creators. As a result, content creators will get a certain share of the revenue from the advertisements shown in the short video.

Through this, creators will be able to earn separately by making short videos in

addition to regular YouTube videos. But for this, short-video creators must join YouTube's new Partner Program. To meet the eligibility requirement to earn revenue, creators must have 4,000 hours of non-Shorts content views or reach 10 million views on publicly available Shorts during the last 90 days. On top of that, creators must also have at least 1,000 or more subscribers to qualify for the ad revenue.



Work ethics in modern workplaces

The dos and don'ts

AHMAD TOUSIF JAMI

Work ethics are more important than ever in today's fast-paced, competitive business environment. Not only do they set the tone for how employees behave towards one another and the company, but they also play a crucial role in the success and reputation of a business. Regardless of the industry you work in, you should always maintain some crucial ethical practices. Here are some essential modern workplace work ethics that everyone should be familiar with.

Be punctual and reliable

Punctuality and reliability are among work ethics' most basic yet essential aspects. This means showing up on time for work, meetings and appointments, as well as being reliable in completing tasks and meeting deadlines. This not only shows respect for colleagues and the company but also demonstrates professionalism and commitment to the job.

Staying focused is key to maintaining this. According to Mir Shahrulh Islam, Managing Director & CEO of Bondstein, "Maintaining focus and being rational always helps one uplift their performance and create a mindset for collaboration." You can also build a good rapport with your colleagues if you're seen as a punctual and reliable individual.

Behave appropriately

Inappropriate behaviour in the workplace can take many forms, including harassment, discrimination and unethical conduct. It's important to remember that the workplace is a professional setting and that inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behaviour must be reported to management or HR as soon as possible.

"A healthy and respectful work environment is essential for productivity and success. Inappropriate behaviour has no place in the workplace and should be dealt with swiftly and decisively," shares Sanzida Sayedul Surma, a specialist engineer of a local telecommunication service provider. According to her, everyone is responsible for speaking up and ensuring that the workplace is free from harassment, discrimination and unethical conduct.

Communicate effectively

Effective communication is another crucial component of work ethics. This means communicating clearly and concisely, listening actively to



others and being open to feedback. It's important to remember that effective communication is a two-way street, and it's up to individuals to ensure they are understood and understand others.

Communication is the foundation of both personal and professional successful relationships. When our thoughts are conveyed, effectively listened to and understood by others, we are better able to collaborate and achieve common goals. Proper communication is also the best way to maintain healthy workplace relationships and even build long-lasting friendships with coworkers. Show respect for others. Respect is an integral part of work ethics, and it's essential to respect colleagues, supervisors, and clients. This means being polite, courteous, and professional, even in disagreement. "Integrity and good work ethic are stepping stones for creating a legacy," says Shahrulh. According to him, these are the most important traits to build a strong personality in workplaces, which can

lead to both personal and professional success.

Conduct professionally

Unprofessional conduct can take many forms, such as being rude or disrespectful to others, engaging in gossip or spreading rumours, or failing to maintain

confidentiality. It's important to remember that conduct reflects not only on specific individuals but the company as a whole and that unprofessional conduct will not be tolerated.

Another aspect of professionalism is a display of work ethic. No matter who you are communicating with, be it a senior colleague or a coworker who is just starting out, maintaining professionalism in all aspects will pay dividends. This is more the case when going up the ladder in your career, as a work ethic like this stands out and works as a brownie point. Shahrulh warns that an average work ethic could be a potential deal breaker in progressing one's career.

Maintain a positive attitude

A positive attitude can go a long way in the workplace, and it's crucial to maintain a positive outlook even when things get tough. This means being flexible, open to new ideas and willing to lend a helping hand to colleagues. A positive attitude helps create a positive work environment suitable for everyone.

A positive attitude can and does make all the difference in the workplace. It's not always easy to stay positive, especially when faced with challenges, but it's crucial to maintain a constructive and solutions-focused mindset. Surma suggests approaching every situation with a can-do attitude as it helps to bring out the best even in difficult situations.

While maintaining most of these work ethics can seem like a no-brainer, their importance cannot be emphasised enough. If you're new to your workplace and looking to make a name for yourself, make sure you follow these crucial work ethics to a tee and stand out for your work and professionalism.



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The day of the classics

ABRAR SHAREQUE KHAN

Following the hype of the latest iteration of the underground meet, local automobile fans got treated to yet another annual car event: the Mercedes Heritage Meet 4. While previous versions of the event got delayed due to the pandemic, this was a welcome return for Mercedes owners and enthusiasts alike to gather in one spot and share their unified love for all things four-wheelers. Hosted on January 13 in Chef's Table's Courtside,



the Heritage Meet was the hub for many classic vehicles - a treat for any car lover out there.

The open parking space in Chef's Table Courtside provided the perfect place for cars of all shapes and sizes to gather in one spot. Despite the event being named after Mercedes, there were the latest cars from all different brands as well. Some memorable cars that caught our eyes included: the brand-new fully electric EQC400, G-Wagons, E-Classes, CLA-180, CLA-45, CLA-45s, GLS450, C200 Cabriolet, C200 and a S550 with Maybach kits and rims. Any fans of modern cars would have been enthralled at the glorious collection of vehicles,



truly a sight to behold.

However, it wasn't just modern cars that took the stage, for this was truly the day of the classics. Fans present at the event got to see, among many coveted classics, a bunch of beautiful W123s, W126s and the oldest-of-the-bunch and perhaps the biggest attention grabber of the event: a W110. Dedicated fans will remember the classic Mercedes-Benz W110 as one of the most popular cars from the 1960s era and quite the iconic car in general.

As the event wrapped up with live music and fireworks, fans gathered at the venue took one last look at the amazing classics that were gathered around them - wrapping up a day filled with a memorable showcase of both the old and new in the world of automobiles.

PHOTOS:
ABRAR SHAREQUE KHAN

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN MARS ROVER



PHOTOS: BUET MARS ROVER TEAM - INTERPLANETAR

AHMAD TOUSIF JAMI

Space exploration has always been a big fascination of mankind. Ask anyone, and they probably have wanted at some point to explore the Moon or our closest planetary neighbour, Mars. Building a Mars rover may seem like a daunting, or even impossible, task to many, but with the right knowledge of basic engineering principles and suitable materials, you can even try to make your own Mars rover at home! While there are different approaches to making a DIY Mars rover, there are some common steps towards successfully building one. Read on to find out how you can make your own Mars rover.

3D designing your rover

The 3D model design of the rover depends on what the rover will be used for. Since they are aimed to be able to run on Mars, it is essential to consider mobility when designing your rover. So, a solid suspension system should be included in the design. This should include technical specifications such as critical dimensions in width, length, height, the distance between the wheels, rocker-bogie suspension, etc.

"If you are looking to make a lightweight Mars rover, 3D printing will enable you to make highly complicated components easily," says Mir Tanzid Ahmed, Administrator of Team Atlas, an independent award-winning rover team. It is also essential to keep in mind how the electrical aspect of the rover will operate so that there is enough space for the PCB boards and wiring throughout the rover. It is normal to go through several iterations of rover design to get the right one.

Gather materials

The specific material you need will depend on your design and the functionality you aim for. Generally, some materials you will need include a chassis or frame to hold the rover's components — motors for traversal and wheels or tracks for mobility. You will also need a power source, such as batteries or solar panels and electronic components like microcontrollers and

sensors. You will also need tools such as soldering iron, wire cutters and a drill. Building a robust rover according to a set design takes a long time.

"Some advanced components such as depth sensors or AI-based microcomputers may be unavailable locally, so you might need to source them ahead of time from overseas," shares Khondker Shihabul Hoque, former team leader of BUET Mars Rover Team - Interplanetar. According to Tanzid, it is best to do some initial market research before buying the materials to ensure that you can get better value and quality.

Assemble the rover

It is best to start assembling your Mars rover by installing your chassis in the frame. Once the top and bottom frames are ready, matching the 3D design, you need to insert the rocker-bogie suspension. The wheel joints need to be synced with the suspension as well. Once the body is ready, you need to install the electronic components, such as the microcontroller, sensors and any other devices you want to include. When assembling the camera unit, it needs to be placed at a location that works effectively, such as the front corner of the chassis.

"Assembling the rover is the most physically demanding job. It requires several iterations of modelling, assembling and testing cycle to get a

working Mars rover finally," shared Alif Arshad, Senior Member of IUT Mars Rover - Team Avijatrik. Thus, be prepared to go through a lot of trial and error in this crucial step - and of course, don't give up if you fail the first few times. Feel free to take time assembling to ensure it goes right.

Testing and calibration

The rover's mobility can be tested by moving it around and ensuring that the wheels or tracks function correctly. Also, the sensors and electronic components should be tested by sending signals to them and providing they respond correctly. During this stage, you should also calibrate the sensors, including the cameras, if you have any. This ensures that they provide accurate data and that the rover can navigate and avoid obstacles. It is necessary to confirm that your Mars rover is functional with its controlling modules such as the Arduino Uno or MEGA board.

Shihabul suggests testing the current handling capability of the motor driver, as otherwise, your rover may stop working while traversing steep slopes of rough terrain. Tanzid recommends using a suitable RC receiver that receives the commands and sends them to an Arduino board. According to him, the



sensors' functionality should be double-checked.

Fine-tuning and customisation

Once the rover works correctly, you can begin to fine-tune it and add any customisations you like. This can include painting the rover, adding additional sensors or even programming the rover to perform specific tasks. You can also add any scientific instruments, such as a weather station, a drill or a spectrometer to make your rover perform specific missions. You can add other features, such as an arm to collect samples or a robotic manipulator to perform tasks. Alif suggests experimenting reasonably with the Mars rover. He adds, "You can try implementing the engineering principles and your imaginations on your rover while customising."



SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

Foldable devices are not the handiest products out there. They bend, they break, and they have a lot of moving parts which makes them susceptible to external forces. But this problem comes with some juicy trade-off: The screen real estate. As we continually move toward bigger screens, the only logical approach is to fold the screen without impacting the form factor. The big names in the smartphone industry are now trying to adopt the fold philosophy and trying to improve the user experience in every iteration. The output of this same approach is the Xiaomi Mix Fold 2. We got to play with the device for a while, and here's our take:

The Xiaomi Mi Mix Fold 2 is a premium foldable smartphone designed with a focus on camera and performance. The device boasts a triple rear camera setup, including a 50MP primary camera, a 13MP ultra-wide camera, and an 8MP telephoto camera. The camera app offers a wide range of shooting modes,



including Night, Pro, and Video, which allow users to take high-quality photos and videos in a variety of lighting conditions. The photos are crisp, and the colour renditions are neat. Although we were having a hard time with the autofocus, that might be because this was a review unit.

The selfie camera of the phone comes with a 20 MP, 27mm lens. This allows for high-quality photos and videos with a wide range of features such as optical zoom, night mode, and portrait mode. Honestly, not the biggest fan of the selfie camera of the device, and you don't need to; most of the time, you are hooked with the rear camera.

In terms of performance, the Mix Fold 2 is powered by a Qualcomm SM8475 Snapdragon 8+ Gen 1 (4 nm). This is the industry-leading processor commercially available in the market right now. It also comes paired with high-speed 12GB of RAM. Our review unit had 1TB of internal storage. On paper, this makes it an excellent choice for gaming, video editing, and multitasking. The device also features a large 4,500mAh, which provides above-average day battery life if you are only

sometimes on YouTube. But it can be charged quickly with the (included in the box) 67W fast charger.

The star of the show is, as expected, a gorgeous foldable 8.02-inch AMOLED screen with a resolution of 1914 x 2160 pixels, which makes for an immersive viewing experience. The foldable design also allows for a more compact form factor when the device is closed, making it more pocketable than the competition's foldable phones. All the other refinements, i.e. HDR10+, Dolby Vision, 120Hz refresh rate etc, are also there. The cover screen, which gets most of the work done without opening the foldable one, comes in a 21:9 aspect ratio. The display is good enough for you to send text, emails and other non-multimedia activities.

One of the most notable things about the Xiaomi Mi Mix Fold 2 is that it does not run on Android OS. Instead, it runs on MIUI 12, Xiaomi's custom operating system. This may be a drawback for some users who are used to the Android interface and may need to be more comfortable with the learning curve of a new OS. Even we had a tough time navigating using the keyboard of the review unit as it did not have any of the popular English Keyboards. The Xiaomi Mi Mix Fold 2 will not be officially available in Bangladesh. Even if was, it would come with a steep price tag.

In conclusion, the Xiaomi Mi Mix Fold 2 is a powerful and feature-packed device that offers a great camera and top-of-the-line performance. The slim foldable design is a nice touch and, undoubtedly, makes the device more pocketable. But the lack of Android support is a significant downside, which may be a dealbreaker for some users. Overall, it is a good choice for Xiaomi fans or those looking for an affordable foldable device but for others, there may be better options.



PHOTOS:
SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

Our picks for room heaters this winter

FAIJA TASFIA

With the temperature continuing to fall every passing day, snuggling up in our jackets and comforters doesn't always cut it. Waking up to foggy windows and cold feet makes it hard to go on with our usual days. As such, a room heater is a perfect solution to combat this cold, dark winter. Here are our picks for room heaters you can buy right now. Keep in mind that price and availability will differ across stores.



Vision Room Comforter

Price: Tk. 1,580/-
Wattage: 2000 watts
Power supply: 220 V
Heat setting: 1000/2000 watts
If you're looking for an affordable room heater to reduce your financial burden, the Vision Room Comforter is a good option to consider. This heater offers a recessed carry handle for a non-obtrusive look. It also comes with a safety tip-over switch, overheating protection and a power indicator light. You can also adjust the settings to get cold, warm or hot air based on your needs.

Walton WRH-PTC007

Price: Tk. 1,690 /-
Wattage: 1000 watts
Power supply: 220-240V
Heat setting: 500/1000 watts
The Walton WRH-PTC007 is an ideal mini-room heater for a cosy day. The model is budget-friendly, making it a favourite among students and freshers. The heater has three adjustment choices along with safety overheat protection. You can switch between two heat settings – 500 Watt and 1000 Watt. Apart from these, they have a long-life heating element and thermostat control.



Miyako Room Heater PTC-A3

Price: Tk. 2,800/-
Wattage: 1500 watts
Power supply: 220-240 V
Heat setting: 1500/8502 watts
The Miyako PTC-A3 is a lightweight electric heater suitable for 100 to 120 sq. ft space. Weighing only about 2 kg, you can transport this heater from one place to another. The PTC ceramic and fan inside the heater will disperse the air all over the room. A heat protection machine will automatically shut down when the heat goes up. The thermal efficiency will adjust the room temperature accordingly.

Conion Room Heater BE-950N

Price: Tk. 2,290/-
Wattage: 1500 watts
Power supply: 220-240 V
Heat setting: 750/1500 watts
Conion BE-950N is an elegant and compact room heater. It comes with double protection capacity and an adjustable thermostat. The model offers a noiseless experience along with a faster heating technique. One of its best features is its ability to work in a fan-only mode. With its elegant design and dark ash colour, this heater will add a little glamour to the house.



THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND BEFORE BUYING A ROOM HEATER

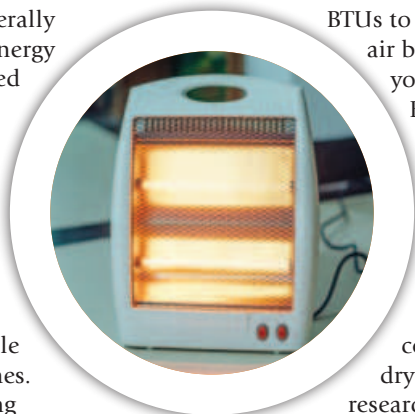
Despite the rising need for room heaters to combat chilling temperatures, you need to compare the cost and benefits they bring. No matter what, buying a heater is an investment for your home. So, it's important to invest in a good one. Keep these factors in mind when buying a room heater.

There are several types of heaters. The most prominent ones in our country are radiator heaters, electric heaters and portable heaters. When buying one, keep in mind what your usage is. For instance, if you are sharing one heater, a lightweight, portable one will be more suited to your needs. Fan heaters are

gaining more popularity since they are affordable and easier to maintain. Oil-filled radiators are generally costlier but are more energy efficient when compared with the other others. You can make a choice based on your budget and preference.

The electrical capacity of the heater should be measured beforehand to get a proper estimate and rule out the unnecessary ones. This will make choosing easier. Measure the space and temperature rise. The temperature rise

is the difference between your room and desired temperature. It takes 0.24 BTUs to heat 1 cubic feet of air by 1 degree. From here, you can find the required BTUs. Just divide the number by 3.41 to convert to watts, and that's your required heating power. Check the humidity level since there might be health concerns related to dryness. Doing some research regarding this is better, so you are not bombarded with information in front of the seller.



The heater is not just a one-time investment. You need to take care of the electricity bills and maintenance throughout. So, choose one that is compatible with your budget and future consumption. Moreover, make sure its capacity is compatible with your electrical appliances.

Always read the safety guidelines. Safe maintenance and installation are key features of room heaters. The power cord and airflow should have safety placement and unrestricted flow. Manufacturers put automatic internal switches as a preventive measure. Make sure all the safety guidelines have been met before purchasing the product.

TOP VIDEO GAMES coming out in 2023

Despite the development of many games being delayed or postponed because of the pandemic, 2022 saw the world adjusting to the post-Covid transition, subsequently allowing the release of many awaited titles. 2022 will remain memorable to gamers for the releases of 'Game of the Year' award winner Elden Ring, the post-apocalyptic cat simulator Stray and the latest iteration of Kratos' journey in God of War: Ragnarok. 2023, if the hype is anything to go by, will shape up to be a year of fantastic new game releases as well. Here is our list of the top new video games coming out in 2023.

HOGWARTS LEGACY

Release date: February 10
Platforms: PS5, PC, Xbox Series X|S (February 10); PS4, Xbox One (April 4); Nintendo Switch (July 25)



Potterheads will finally have something new to sink their teeth into, as the latest Harry Potter-based action RPG Hogwarts Legacy releases about a month into 2023 for three consoles. In this immersive new game, players can live the life of a wizard/witch similar to that of the Harry Potter books and movies - attending classes at Hogwarts, exploring the Forbidden Forest, visiting Diagon Alley, and of course, learning magic spells to fight enemies. Players can also tame and ride magical creatures such as hippogriffs, including animals from the Fantastic Beasts series. If you have ever wanted to live in the world of Harry Potter, this game should be a must-try.

LIKE A DRAGON: ISHIN!

Release date: February 21
Platforms: PS4, PS5, Xbox One, Xbox Series X|S, PC



Fans of the Yakuza video game series have been waiting for a long time for the international release of Like a Dragon: Ishin! - which was previously available only in Japan since February 2014. In this remake, you can explore the late Edo-period Japan of the 1850s as the legendary samurai Sakamoto Ryōma. The story involves Ryōma attempting to find the murderer of his mentor and joining the historic Japanese police force, the Shinsengumi. The original version of this game garnered excellent reception, both commercially and critically - and fans expect the upcoming international remake to fare similar success.

RESIDENT EVIL 4 REMAKE

Release date: March 24
Platforms: PS5, Xbox Series X|S, PC

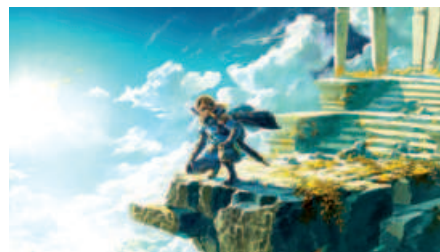


Everyone's favourite survival horror game

franchise returns this March, in a brand new remake. Resident Evil 4 Remake, as it implies, will be a remake of 2005's game of the same name. Capcom has stated that this reimagined version will preserve the original game's essence, but will also introduce new gameplay, a revamped storyline and updated graphics to make the 'state of the art survival horror' truly come to life. Fans expect improvements to the character models and controls as well and have high expectations considering the success of 2020's Resident Evil 3 Remake.

LEGEND OF ZELDA: TEARS OF THE KINGDOM

Release date: May 12
Platforms: Nintendo Switch



Released in March 2017, Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild is debated by fans as the best Nintendo Switch game thus far. Expectedly, its much-awaited sequel has received a lot of hype since it was teased in E3 2019. Last year, we finally received confirmation of the latest iteration of Link's open-world adventure game in Hyrule. Following the defeat of the Calamity Ganon in Breath of the Wild, Tears of the Kingdom will follow the same Hero of Hyrule, Link, in a brand new adventure - even taking towards the sky, as shown in trailers so far. While we don't know much else about this game yet, years of hype will finally meet its conclusion in May 2023.

STREET FIGHTER 6

Release date: June 2
Platforms: PS4, PS5, Xbox Series X|S, PC



The latest iteration of the classic fighting game arrives in 2023. The formula is the same as previous Street Fighter games: two fighters using special techniques to knock each other out in a contest to see who's the best. Street Fighter 6 will have three game modes, combining both local and online gameplays, including a single-player World Tour mode where you can explore 3D environments in a new action-adventure spin. As the game approaches release in mid-2023, more features are expected to be announced by Capcom as the months pass.

FINAL FANTASY 16

Release date: June 22
Platforms: PS5



Square Enix's Final Fantasy series reinvents itself in every new release - keeping dedicated fans hooked into this charming franchise. This year, the latest iteration, Final Fantasy 16, is set to feature the tried-and-tested action-adventure gameplay in segmented open areas. You will be in control of Clive Rosfield, the son of an Archduke who can harness the power of monsters called Eikons to aid him in combat. The story follows Clive in his revenge for the destruction of his kingdom and finding the dark Eikon called Ifrit.

MARVEL'S SPIDER-MAN 2

Release date: Fall 2023
Platform: PS5



Known for their critically acclaimed Marvel's Spider-Man video games series, Insomniac Games is set to release their third Spider-Man game in 2023. Fans expect the third iteration to follow the same formula as its predecessors - featuring an open-world, action-adventure gameplay in the sprawling metropolis of New York City, where you can swing around and fight enemies as the titular wall-crawling superhero. While we don't have a lot of confirmed information about the upcoming game yet, if the success of the previous two games is anything to go by, Marvel's Spider-Man 2 is going to be the next big release for the PlayStation 5.

ASSASSIN'S CREED MIRAGE

Release date: August 2023 (unconfirmed)
Platforms: PS4, PS5, Xbox One, Xbox Series X|S, PC



Classic gamers need no prior introduction to the Assassin's Creed series. The latest addition to the franchise and the sequel to 2020's Assassin's Creed Valhalla will feature the street thief Basim Ibn Ishaq in a 9th-century Baghdad. The gameplay will retain the stealth-action style that Assassin's Creed games are famous for, including spying, close combat and everyone's favourite - parkour. Ubisoft has yet to announce the specific release date of Assassin's Creed Mirage, but rumours suggest it might be somewhere around August 2023.