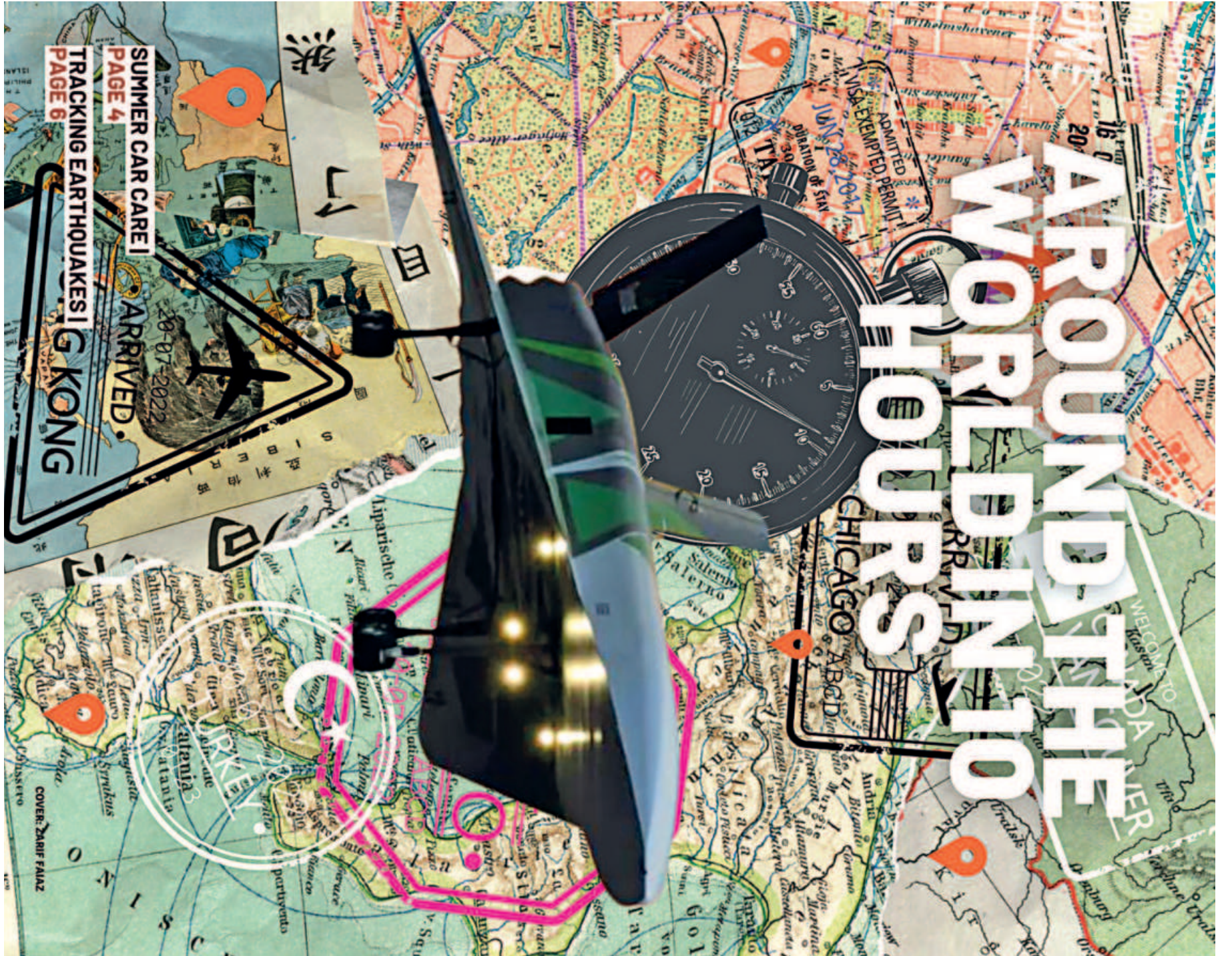


TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of The Daily Star



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IBM plans to replace 30% jobs with AI

Arvind Krishna, CEO of the multinational technology firm IBM (The International Business Machines Corporation), recently stated in an interview with Bloomberg that he plans to downsize the company's workforce by almost a third because he believes most jobs can be done by modern AI. He also said that the company plans on pausing hiring new employees, as well as reducing the wage of 7,800 jobs over several years.

"These non-customer-facing roles amount to roughly 26,000 workers," Krishna said. "I could easily see 30%



of that getting replaced by AI and automation over a five-year period." Back office employees are only a

fraction of IBM's roughly 260,000 workers, and the company has continued to hire in certain roles, even after recently letting go about 5,000 workers in other areas, the Bloomberg report said.

In a recent statement to AFP, an IBM spokesman cautioned that "there is no blanket hiring 'pause' in place" at the company, based in Armonk, New York. "We're being very selective when filling jobs that don't directly touch our clients or technology," the IBM spokesman added.



Motorola to locally assemble smartphones with Edison Group

Edison Group has recently signed an agreement with the international mobile brand Motorola to assemble smartphones in Bangladesh. As per the agreement, Motorola will use Edison Group's mobile factory, Edison Industries, to locally manufacture new handsets. Edison Group will also act as Motorola's partner in Bangladesh. Previously, the online shopping platform Salextra has been the national distributor of Motorola in Bangladesh.

During the agreement signing, Motorola also unveiled two new smartphones to their lineup: the E32 and E22s. Motorola E32 will feature a 6.5-inch HD+ punch-hole display, 90Hz refresh rate, 5000 mAh battery, 2.3 GHz octa-core processor, 4 GB RAM and 64 GB memory that is expandable up to 1 TB. This phone will also have a 50 MP main, 2 MP depth and 8 MP front camera setup.

Motorola E22s will feature a similar 6.5-inch HD+ punch-hole display, 90Hz refresh rate, 5000 mAh battery, 2.3 GHz octa-core processor and the same RAM and memory specs as E32. However, the E22s will feature a 16 MP PDAF rear camera instead.

Both the E32 and E22s will be available in two colours: Eco Black and Arctic Blue. Motorola E32 is priced at Tk. 15,999 and Motorola E22s is priced at Tk. 14,999.

Samsung brings Galaxy A34 5G and Galaxy A54 5G in Bangladesh

Samsung Bangladesh has added two new smartphones under its 'AWESOME' A series in Bangladesh: the Galaxy A34 5G and the Galaxy A54 5G.

The Galaxy A34 5G features a large 6.6-inch Super AMOLED display with a 120 Hz refresh rate. The device is equipped with a 48 MP OIS camera and boasts a 5000mAh battery that ensures long-lasting usage. The Galaxy A34 5G comes in three colours - Graphite, Silver, and Lime, and is priced at Tk. 49,999 for the 8/128 GB version.

The Galaxy A54 5G has a 6.4-inch FHD+ Infinity-O display with a refresh rate of up to 120 Hz. The device is equipped with a 50 MP main camera and Samsung's 'Nightography' feature. The Galaxy A54 5G also features Gorilla Glass 5 and comes in four colours - Lime, Violet, Graphite, and White. The device is priced at Tk. 59,999 for the 8/128 GB version. Both the devices feature IP67 dust and water resistance and offer 4 OS updates.



Smart delivery lockers to be installed in metro rail stations

Digibox, a locally developed smart delivery locker system, is set to be installed in Dhaka's various metro rail stations, according to a recent press release. Using this secure delivery box, Metro Rail users can receive goods they have ordered from local e-commerce platforms. These boxes work via an OTP (one-time password) that will be sent to the user's smartphone. Users can collect their products at any time of their convenience without the presence of delivery men.

The agreement is subject to the terms and conditions of DMTCL's Rent/Lease Policy 2023. Within the conditions, a2i can use dedicated spaces in all MRT-6 stations on a commercial basis. As per the press release, an internet-based IoT system will be used to install and manage these smart delivery lockers. These spaces will also be used for cost-effective delivery, facilitation, and payment of various government services, including emergency and e-ticketing services.

National IT Competition for Youth with Disabilities awards 12 winners

The National IT Competition for Youth with Disabilities 2023 recently awarded 4 individuals as the first-place winners this year, among 12 participants who reached the final round. The day-long contest tests the participant's knowledge in using Microsoft Office programs, namely Word, Excel and PowerPoint, as well as general internet skills.

The competition is divided into 4 categories: visually impaired, physically impaired, speech and hearing impaired and Neuro-Developmental Disorder (NDD). This year, a total of 117 participants took place in the 7th

iteration of this annual competition. The top three winners from each category, i.e. a total of 12 contestants in 4 categories, were awarded. Additionally, one person from each category, i.e. 4 meritorious names in 4 categories, is declared the winner.

Organised by the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) of the ICT Division, this year's contest took place at the BUBT University campus in Mirpur, Dhaka in collaboration with the Center for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) and the Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT).

EDITOR'S NOTE

Flying to new heights

As technology advances, so does the way we travel. With self-driving cars to electric vehicles, the future of transportation is looking brighter than ever. This week, we talk about a startup that plans to release a hypersonic plane that, in theory, can take you from Hong Kong, China to Memphis, Tennessee, US in under 4 hours, instead of the typical 16 hour flight. Now that's fast travelling!

Zoom to the other pages to find a handy guide on understanding employee benefits in your new job, in Next Step, and a list of the top earthquake detector apps you can find on the app stores, in Bytes. Variety, as always.

And that's another week wrapped up. Stay safe everyone. Until then.

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Understanding work perks in your new job

Congratulations on your new job! In the current overly competitive job market, it can be difficult to land the job you want - and even then, the job you want might not turn out to be how you had pictured when applying. Nevertheless, any new job comes with a certain period of self-adjustment, owing to the new environment, new colleagues and of course, new management. One smart way to fit right into a new job is to familiarise yourself with your work perks - including the terms and conditions you are compelled to follow. Here is a quick guide on what these perks can be, and how you should be wary of them in your new job.

What are work perks?

Work perks, sometimes also called employee or workplace benefits, are additional incentives implemented by the employer for the employees. These incentives are outside the set salary or wage the employee is paid, and are designed to make the workplace more appealing to the employees. Usually, the goal of work perks is to ensure the employees are working to their satisfaction while retaining good quality and quantity of work. Work perks can greatly vary depending on the type of company, business or industry, but here are some common ones you should be familiar with.

Working hours

Your working hours are the first work perk you should check in your new contract. How many hours are you expected to work in a day? If your work consists of a specific number of hours every week, be sure to read the fine print very carefully. Your remuneration may be affected if you don't put in enough hours, so, when you get that new contract, make sure to negotiate any discrepancies you may find between your agreed work hours and what has been stated in the official papers. If in-office work hours end up being too troublesome for you, you can ask your employer or the company's HR about working hybrid or shifting to work-from-home.

Holidays/time-offs

Not only should you expect your company to give you time-offs in case of emergencies and medical leaves, but you should also have annual time-offs for national holidays. Be sure to check your



job contract for how many days you are allowed paid leave - which can include voluntary vacations and/or unexpected sick leaves. Usually, you will be asked by your employer to notify them a few days or a week beforehand and leave a signed form in case you apply for a temporary leave - which may or may not be covered under your paid time off.

Flexibility

When receiving your new job contract, go through all the important details and try to deduce how much flexibility you're being offered. This can be flexibility in work hours - how often are you expected to show up; flexibility in work method - can you work hybrid or from home; and flexibility in your involvement outside office hours - are you expected to work during break days or after the office is over. While you're of course bound to follow your company's rules and regulations, as an employee, you can always ask if there's room for flexibility in your work, as long you don't compromise the work done in the process.

Employee discounts

If you're working under a business selling its own line of products, you may be eligible for employee discounts when buying those products for yourself. Employee discounts are mostly common in service industries as well as hospitals and schools, where employees are granted a certain percentage of reduction when paying for admission or utility fees from the institutions they work under. Sometimes, employee discounts can extend to family members of employees as well - so if you're working in the service industry, be sure to check out any such benefits stated in your contract.

Training programs

Some employers will provide professional development opportunities for their employees, including workshops, skill development courses or in-depth training. Depending on where you work, some training programs may be mandatory so you can be more competent in your job - but some training programs can be voluntary as well. At your new job, you should take advantage of any such opportunities to

further build yourself for the future.

Insurance and retirement plans

Some companies offer health insurance plans to help cover medical expenses, though terms and conditions can significantly vary across workplaces and employee levels. A lot of local companies also have pension plans in place that benefit older employees when they retire. Keep a close eye out for both insurance and retirement plans in your contract, and see if you can negotiate depending on what you're offered.

Miscellaneous perks

In your workplace, you may be allowed to have free snacks, a personal workspace that you can decorate, and/or an office lounge or cafeteria for relaxation. You may also have access to mental health services or gym memberships for your personal well-being. Look out for any and all of these perks in your new contract. These miscellaneous benefits can greatly vary depending on where you work, but more or less exist in every modern workplace, and goes a long way in keeping employees satisfied during work.



MAINTAINING CARS DURING EXTREME SUMMER HEAT

With the scorching summer still going on, it's imperative to keep ourselves hydrated and cool to combat fatigue and heat strokes. Those who commute every day will also often find that cars tend to get heated quickly when under the extreme summer heat - something that can cause all sorts of problems for the engine and the overall longevity of the vehicle. There are also instances of cars catching fires when it is too hot, an instance you must avoid to ensure your car's well-being. Here are some basic maintenance tips to keep in mind to keep your car cool even during the summer heat.

WHY DO CARS CATCH FIRE?

No matter how new your car may be, it can be prone to catching fire for a variety of reasons, and not all of those reasons have to do with extreme heat. One of the main causes of cars catching fire is faults in electrical wiring, which can cause short

circuits and cause ignition without notice. Fuel leaks or faults in the fuel tank can cause gasoline to spill, which is highly flammable and can ignite if it comes in contact with a heat source. Be sure to check any malfunctions in the exhaust system, as a damaged or faulty exhaust can lead to temperatures in the car rising very high - risking a fire.

Aside from faulty parts or malfunctions, your car's engine or exhaust system can get heated up if exposed to high temperatures for a long time. While regular summer heat might not be a problem, temperatures higher than the standard can be problematic, so always be careful and park your car under a cool shade when not in use. Avoiding smoking inside the car and not leaving flammable materials inside are also obvious but safe ways to avoid car fires.

COMMON CAR PROBLEMS IN EXTREME HEAT

If you live in an area with high temperatures or a lot of humidity, your car can be prone to some common problems, including but not limited to overheating, tire blowouts, problems in the internal electrical system and battery failure. Some of the more problematic ones are listed below.

AC problems: During summer, one of the most common car problems regular commuters face has to do with the AC, which is overexerted during hotter days and thus becomes prone to damage in the long run. Overheating, in general, can also damage the engine - so be extra careful to check the engine regularly for signs of exertion and heating. Regular servicing of the AC and other internal electric wirings will also help you stay on top of your car maintenance during summer.

Tire pressure: Overheating can cause the air inside your car's tires to expand, which

can always lead to blowouts or leaks. As such, it is crucial to regularly check your tire pressure during summer. Look out for any signs of tears or overinflation. The general tire pressure for passenger cars is between 30 to 35 PSI, but if you aren't sure, consult an expert or a mechanic.

Fuel evaporation: While fuel doesn't evaporate as fast as water, the fuel inside your car's tank is still prone to evaporation in areas with high humidity or during high temperatures. As such, you should keep a closer eye on your fuel consumption during summer, and keep the tank at least half full so the risk of evaporation is reduced. You should also be on top of your coolant fluid levels, which you can check using the indicator lines on the coolant reservoir unit of your car. Sufficient coolant fluid will help prevent your car from overheating.

Air filter clogging: Air filters help keep your car clean from outside dust and dirt, while ensuring the engine is safe from harmful debris. Because air filters tend to soak up a lot of dust during warmer weather, you should clean them regularly. The air filter is usually located on top of the engine, often with a cover which you will need to remove before taking out the filter to clean it.

Emergency cooling: If you are on the road and find your car is overheating, you need to conduct an emergency cooling. First and foremost, pull over to a nearby shade and turn off the engine. Let the car cool for at least 10 minutes, after which you should open the hood to let any trapped air escape. Once you feel the car has cooled off, turn on the ignition without starting the engine. Keep an eye on the temperature gauge - if it shows a normal range, feel free to start the engine. However, if there are noises from the car or the temperature remains high, keep the engine off and seek professional help.



MEET THE STARTUP THAT MAY FLY YOU FROM DHAKA TO NEW YORK IN 4 HOURS

Destinus aims to make its planes fly some 7000 miles in 3.5 hours or so

Imagine leaving Dhaka after breakfast to catch a lunch meeting in New York, or an afternoon date in London, on the same day. While it may sound like fantasy, Destinus, a European hypersonic startup, is in fact making rapid progress towards its goal of ushering in a new age of hypersonic travel. With their prototypes already making successful test flights and their third prototype set to take off by the end of the year, Destinus aims to make its planes fly at hypersonic speeds, cutting down flight duration to less than a quarter of current commercial air travel.

The company's approach involves the development of smaller autonomous drones before scaling up to larger passenger-carrying aircraft. The company's prototypes are blended-body planes in the wave rider shape, a hypersonic design first conceived in the 1950s but never before reaching production. Additionally, CNN reports that Destinus is using hydrogen as its fuel of choice due to its renewable and clean energy source, increasing affordability, and ability to help the company achieve its long-range and high-speed goals. The company's long-term goal is to be fully hydrogen-powered and zero-emission, but for now, they plan to use Jet A for takeoff and then switch to hydrogen once they reach supersonic speeds.

According to a CNN report, Destinus has already secured private investment and public funding, including grants worth 26.7 million euros (\$29.4 million) from the Spanish government to expand its hydrogen propulsion capabilities.

The company's ultimate goal is to



have multiple classes of passengers, including economy, and to significantly reduce the price of ultra-long-range flights by the 2040s. However, Destinus acknowledges that their plans are dependent on the hydrogen market, which they do not control. To address this, Destinus recently acquired Dutch company OPRA, which has gas turbines that are already built and being sold. This acquisition will provide additional revenue and help the company weather any challenges.

Hypersonic air travel has been a topic of fascination for decades. The idea of flying at incredible speeds, reducing travel times significantly, has captured the imagination of engineers

and scientists for generations. The first hypersonic flight was achieved by the North American X-15 rocket-powered aircraft in the 1960s, reaching a top speed of Mach 6.7. Since then, various countries and companies have continued to explore the potential of hypersonic travel, with NASA, the US Air Force, and private companies such as SpaceX and Blue Origin all working on hypersonic projects.

On the note of super-speed air travel, Concorde was a supersonic jet that operated from 1976 to 2003, developed jointly by British and French engineers. It was a technological marvel, capable of reaching speeds of Mach 2.04, or more than twice the speed of sound,

and flying from New York to London in just over three hours. However, Concorde ultimately failed to take off as a commercial success due to a number of factors, including high operating costs, noise pollution, and environmental concerns. Additionally, a tragic accident in 2000, when an Air France Concorde crashed shortly after takeoff, killing 113 people, dealt a severe blow to the aircraft's reputation and ultimately led to its retirement from service in 2003.

While there have been some setbacks and failures, the pursuit of super-speed air travel continues, with companies like Destinus aiming to finally make it a reality for commercial use.



Top 5 apps to track EARTHQUAKES in real time

A 4.3 magnitude earthquake jolted Dhaka around 6:00 AM on May 5. To stay alert, it is essential to stay informed about seismic activity in your area and also around the world. Luckily, technology has made it easier than ever to track earthquakes in real-time, thanks to a variety of earthquake tracker apps available on both iOS and Android platforms.

QuakeFeed

4.8 rating on Apple App Store
72.6k total ratings

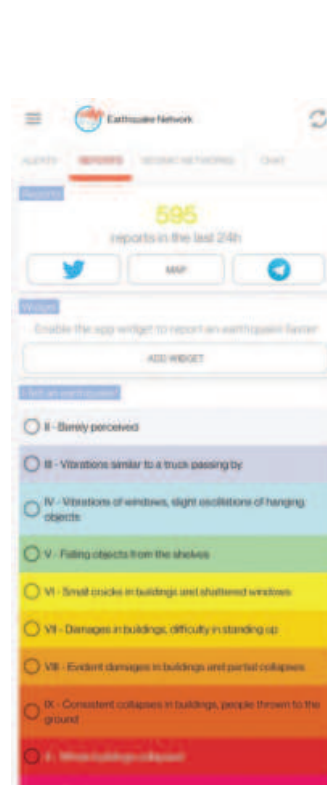
One of the best earthquake tracker apps available is QuakeFeed, which offers a customisable interface that allows users to track earthquakes in specific areas or filter by magnitude. The app also provides users with detailed information on each quake, including its location, magnitude, and depth. Plus, with real-time notifications, users can stay informed of any significant seismic activity in their area.



Earthquake Network

10M+ Downloads
4.5 rating on Google Play Store

For those looking for a more interactive earthquake-tracking experience, the Earthquake Network app allows users to report their own experiences of an earthquake and contribute to a community-based global earthquake monitoring system. The app also offers users the ability to customise notifications based on the severity of the earthquake and its proximity to their location.



MyShake

500K+ Downloads
3.9 rating on Google Play Store

Last but not least, the MyShake app, developed by the University of California, Berkeley, uses smartphone sensors to detect earthquakes and alert users in real time. The app also allows users to contribute to a citizen-science project by providing data that helps improve earthquake early warning systems.

My Earthquake Alerts

1M+ Downloads
4.6 rating on Google Play Store

Another highly recommended earthquake tracker app is My Earthquake Alerts, which uses data from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to provide real-time earthquake information. The app offers users the ability to filter results by location, magnitude, and time range, as well as a map view that displays earthquake activity worldwide.



GeoNet

100K+ Downloads
4.6 rating on Google Play Store

If you want a quick list of the latest earthquakes around the world and get notified within minutes of any recent shaking, GeoNet is a decent app to consider. The app is run by the organisation of the same name, which operates a large network of seismic stations that transmit data to their main data management centre. The information is then analysed automatically and made viewable on the app.





How to stay safe while using public Wi-Fi

If you are a remote worker or love travelling frequently, you will often need to rely on public Wi-Fi at airports, restaurants, hotels or libraries to get your work done on the go. However, being publicly accessible networks, these Wi-Fi hotspots come with certain risks you should be wary of. If you regularly use public Wi-Fi, here are some tips to always keep in mind.

Don't share sensitive information

Public Wi-Fi networks are usually not secure, so it is best to avoid accessing sensitive information such as banking and credit card information, social security numbers and other personal information. This runs the risk of your important information being stolen or used in malicious ways.

Turn off automatic connectivity

Your device may automatically connect to a Wi-Fi network, including public networks. You should turn off automatic connectivity in public Wi-Fi to avoid inadvertently connecting to a public network without your knowledge. This is important because public Wi-Fi networks are often unsecured, meaning that anyone on the network can potentially access your device or intercept your data.

Turn off file sharing

If you're connected to a public Wi-Fi network, it's important to be cautious about file sharing to protect your personal data. To turn off file sharing in a public Wi-Fi network, start by going to 'Control Panel'. From there, open the 'Network and Sharing Center' panel and click on 'Change advanced sharing settings' in the left-hand sidebar. You will

then see the options to turn off network discovery as well as file and printer sharing - two options you should disable when using public Wi-Fi. These steps should help to ensure that your files are not shared with others on a public Wi-Fi network.

Use HTTPS on links

Websites that use HTTPS encryption are more secure, so look for the padlock icon in the URL bar before entering sensitive information. The padlock icon indicates an SSL certificate, which means it is encrypted. Accessing such sites doesn't cause the risk of your information being exposed to third parties. Conversely, accessing via HTTP instead might expose your traffic's visibility to anyone else accessing the same network.

Don't use public Wi-Fi to buy things online

Using public Wi-Fi to make online purchases is generally not recommended due to the potential security risks. Public Wi-Fi networks are typically unsecured, which means that anyone with the right tools and knowledge can intercept and read the data being transmitted over the network. To protect your personal and financial information while shopping

online, it's best to use a secure, private network such as your home Wi-Fi or a cellular data connection.

Keep your security software updated

To protect against random data leaks or suspicious activities online, you should always keep your antivirus and anti-malware software updated to their latest versions. Popular antivirus software like Kaspersky, Norton, McAfee, Bitdefender and Avast are especially proficient at keeping you safe while browsing the internet in a public network. These softwares also frequently launch updates with important patches - which you should definitely stay on top of for all your online security needs.

Be aware of your surroundings

Last but not least, be careful of your surroundings when you're using your laptop or smartphone connected to public Wi-Fi. Especially when using a laptop, your screen might be privy to random passersby - who just might glance at sensitive or personal information that you don't want to share. As such, be especially aware of the environment you're in and stay alert for any notable changes in the public setting.



Teams from Bangladesh win international Minecraft-based educational competition

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

eBLAZE, a local eSports club from the EMK Center, recently won top places at the Minecraft-based educational competition, the NASEF Farmcraft Tournament 2023.

NASEF Farmcraft is an educational gaming challenge that addresses the most recent challenges regarding global food availability and food safety. This year's competition featured the online participation of 8,542 students from 59 countries. While playing the Minecraft game, the participants learnt about a number of issues that are encountered by agricultural producers and distributors globally, with special emphasis on food commerce and food security.

In the Senior Division eBLAZE Fire, consisting of Farhan Labib (Shaheed Police Smrity College), Faiyaz Hossain (British Standard School), Mohtasim Billah (an O-Level private candidate) and Adnan Bin Mahmud (Adamjee Cantonment Public School), emerged as the winners.

eBLAZE Air, consisting of Raian Mahmud Rafin (Phulpur Pilot Govt. Model School), Mahatab Hossain Leon and Imran Hossain Shawon (Ahsania Mission College), clinched the runner-up

spot in the same category.

Another team, eBLAZE Water, including Tayeba Azrin Nazifa and Muhammad Bin Mosleh Howlader from Shaheed Police Smrity College, MD Raiyan Islam (Rajuk Uttara Model College) and Safuan Hossain Rafin (Banophool Adibashi Green Heart College), won first place in the All-Ages Division.

eBlaze aims to establish an ecosystem for young people to channel their love of video games, by connecting them to the North America Scholastic E-sports Federation (NASEF). It is also striving to build a secure environment where players can hone their abilities, play a variety of games, keep their minds healthy, and learn about blended learning.

The game challenge allowed the participants to experience the decisions that farmers face even before sowing their crops. The winners were announced after several weeks of intense competition. The category winners received a \$500 gift

card from Amazon, while the runners-up received gift cards worth \$250 and \$200 respectively. Furthermore, there was a raffle draw for the participants who managed to finish all of the challenges, and submitted their results to the leaderboard. The winners were chosen randomly from each region, and received a gift card worth \$50.

During the game, several distinguished guests and industry professionals from the fields of agriculture and transportation joined the live streams to share their insights. These sessions were hosted by Claire LaBeaux, Chief Marketing Officer, NASEF, and also featured student guests from different countries.

eBLAZE has indeed established a new standard of excellence in the Farmcraft Tournament by emerging victorious in two years, consecutively. It is not only a proud moment for the nation's gaming community but also a stepping stone for many more achievements.