ILLUSTRATION: **FAISAL BIN IQBAL**

5 YouTube channels to learn mobile app development

The nine-week-long course is very detailed in terms of content and ends with a lesson on how to develop a simple weather app. Apart from this, Nate also posts a lot of insightful podcasts and shares useful tips and advice on software development, jobs, career, and many more.

FARNAZ FAWAD HASAN

If you have landed on this article, chances are you have had the desire to develop your own mobile app at least once in your lifetime. And if you haven't yet considered it, perhaps you should explore the realm of coding and dip your toes into app development to see if it sparks your interest.

To learn mobile app development, you first need to decide whether you are learning it for a career move or just for fun because it takes a lot of time and commitment. Whatever the reasons, it is recommended to create and follow a roadmap before diving into anything new.

Check out these five well-curated YouTube channels that will help you build your first mobile application.

Smartherd

Smartherd, hosted by Sriyank Siddhartha, is an excellent resource for learning app development.

He has a lot of full-length videos on Android app development which cover Java, Flutter, Dart, and many more. The channel is well-organised into playlists which makes it easy for beginners to get the hang of it.

The courses on *Smartherd* are designed to cater to different skill levels, from beginners to advanced learners. They typically include video tutorials, coding exercises, and practical projects to reinforce the concepts taught. *Smartherd's* teaching style focuses on a hands-on approach, encouraging learners to actively engage with the material and apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios.

Goobar

Goobar is highly regarded for its playlist on Kotlin which provides a clear look into the fundamentals of Android development. Nate Ebel, the creator of this channel, was also featured in a freeCodeCamp lesson as an instructor, and the video racked up over a million views. Nate's videos are beginner-friendly, easy to follow, and provide clarity into questions of "why" instead of "how".

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Coding in Flow

Florian Walther takes you through the highs and lows of app development in his channel. He has a plethora of practical project based videos on app development using Kotlin, Java, and Retrofit to name a few along with deft web dev content on MERN.

Florian's tutorials are very good for their step-by-step approaches, clear explanations, conciseness, and practical examples.

Rivaan Ranawat

Rivaan Ranawat is one of the most underrated Flutter tutors on YouTube. When it comes to Flutter development, his proficiency and mastery are unparalleled. His understanding of the framework is unmatched, and his ability to create stunning and functional applications is truly divine. Ranawat also has beginner-friendly playlists on Flutter design patterns and state management.

Let's Build That App

Brian Voong, the creator and instructor behind *Let's Build That App*, is an experienced software engineer and iOS developer. He has a passion for teaching and sharing his knowledge with aspiring app developers. His tutorials often cover a wide range of topics, including building user interfaces, integrating APIs, implementing complex functionalities, and discussing best practices in iOS development.

Brian ameliorates difficult topics and makes them seem less complicated. He is a great teacher for anyone interested in learning iOS development.

Farnaz Fawad Hasan is a disintegrating pool noodle wanting to stay afloat. Reach her at farnazfawadhasan@gmail.com

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How a Jhenaidah-based entrepreneur is inspiring local youth to earn through freelancing

AZIBOR RAHMAN, *Jhenaidah*

A young entrepreneur, AP Polash, 26, is making a living and earning through freelancing in Jhenaidah. Instead of the usual 9-5 jobs, Palash decided to work as a freelancer and is doing so successfully.

Polash is the son of Abdul Aziz of Sreepur village under Shailkupa upazila in Jhenaidah. The local youth look up to Polash as an inspiration in this digital age. The fact that someone from their locality is currently earning a lot of money by working as a freelancer online has inspired the local youth to look for similar opportunities.

Polash told The Daily Star recently that after completing his MBA in 2020 from the National University, he was whiling away his time during the Covid-19 pandemic. His father is a farmer, and back then, his family was going through a difficult financial situation.

Given the circumstances, Polash began thinking about how he could contribute to his family's finances. Then, while scrolling through YouTube, he came across videos on freelancing. Having not found any freelancing expert in his area, Polash was struggling to get started with this form of profession. After about two months, he came in contact with a Dhaka-based freelancing expert and entrepreneur named Abu Sayed.

With Sayed's help, Polash got himself involved with work related to Facebook and Google ads

after eight months. In November 2020, he started his journey as a freelancer and began to earn. Over time, Polash came into contact with other freelancers and sought their advice as well. In the last month, he went on to earn BDT 3.5 lakh through freelancing.

Seeing his success, the local youth came to Polash to seek advice regarding freelancing. Polash went on to train 25 people from the local youth community, and they are currently supporting their families with the money they earn through freelancing.

"I was passing my time idly when I came to learn about Polash and how he was earning a handsome amount every month working from home," said Mamun Hossain of Harinakunda upazila. "I then decided to visit him for advice regarding outsourcing and freelancing. Now, I am earning 50 thousand taka per month."

"Inspired by Polash and his endeavours, I too decided to learn how to earn through freelancing and outsourcing. Currently, I am earning 40 thousand taka per month," said Arodro Asif, another youth from Chaklapara in the district town.

Rokaiya Tanjila, Assistant Programmer at the Department of ICT, Shailkupa upazila, said, "Polash comes to me very often. He earns a lot through outsourcing. If the youth aren't too eager to run after typical 9-5 jobs, they can consider outsourcing and working as freelancers where they'll be able to earn while staying at home."

The bittersweet experience of planning your school's senior week

JAIYANA CHOWDHURY

School is many things – a place for learning, an endless pit of academic pressure, a second home where you grow up, and so on. Stepping into my last year of high school, I looked forward to moving on from board exams and early mornings, but I also knew that this was the last first day of school, and the first of many lasts.

The year starts with a long list of events you want to plan and experiences you want to have with your batch before you part ways. Yet, in the blink of an eye, you're at the end of the year with your senior week and graduation a few days away.

Throughout high school, we look at dance performances and fun activities and tell our friends "We're doing this at our graduation", and yet when the time arrives to finalise plans for the last week of school, confusion and a hundred undecided matters surround us. At this stage, cooperation and a mutual understanding between the whole batch are perhaps the most crucial. It's important to consider everyone's opinions, as every person is

PHOTO: **ORCHID CHAKMA**

entitled to have their last few days of school neatly tucked in their heart as a perfect core memory.

Your batchmates are the ones who were with you through the epic highs and lows of high school, as wisely reflected by Archie from *Riverdale*. So, a few relationships that soured over time are a given. It's only normal for uncomfortable situations to arise between two people who have history or don't necessarily gel together. At times like this, the best you can do is try to urge the people involved to remain calm and avoid dramatic confrontations, for the sake of the picture-perfect senior week.

If you're one of the people involved in these situations, it's best to just be the bigger person and act maturely as at the end of the day, you'll most likely regret making a scene on a day important to so many people, yourself included.

If dealing with so many widely different people wasn't enough, you'll also need to negotiate and get the necessary permissions from the school authority. Different institutions have different rules and regulations, so the difficulty level of this mission varies across institutions.

Last, but not the least, there are the issues that come with budgeting and logistics. There's a long list of things that need to be arranged, from custom t-shirts and colours to speakers and food. Moreover, while dividing costs equally among students is the norm, not everyone might be willing or able to pay the same amount. Taking care of all this can prove to be a task, but not one that can't be completed successfully by a team of students looking to have a memorable end to their school journey.

Despite all this, when you finally wrap up the week's events, the memories you take back with you will be worth it. Not everything will go as planned but the only thing that matters is that you manage to look at the bright side of things and sing, dance, and laugh with your friends to your heart's content.

Jaiyana is currently reminiscing about her imperfect but perfect senior week. Share your stories with her at jaiyanachy@gmail.com