

TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of *The Daily Star*

WHAT'S REAL?



STAYING SAFE FROM CYBER ATTACKS | PAGE 3
CHINA'S VERY OWN OS | PAGE 8

COVER: ZAMIR FAHAZ



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Elon Musk launches new AI company called xAI

Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX and owner of Twitter, has announced the launch of a new AI company called xAI. The company aims to delve into the mysteries of the universe and “gain a deeper understanding of its true nature”. “The goal of xAI is to understand the true nature of the universe,” said the company website.

The team members behind xAI are experienced professionals who previously worked at reputable organisations such as DeepMind, OpenAI, Google Research, Microsoft

Research, Twitter, and Tesla. They have been involved in notable projects including DeepMind’s AlphaCode as well as OpenAI’s GPT-3.5 and GPT-4 chatbots.

Musk’s intention with xAI appears to be positioning the company as a competitor to established players like OpenAI, Google, and Anthropic, which have developed leading chatbot technologies such as ChatGPT, Bard, and Claude. Reports from April indicated that Musk had obtained a substantial number of GPU processors from Nvidia, potentially to power a large language model for xAI. In an interview on Fox News Channel during the same month, Musk revealed plans for another AI tool called “TruthGPT,” expressing concerns about existing AI companies prioritizing systems that conform to political correctness.



Notorious BlackCat hackers steal over 170 GB sensitive data from Krishi Bank

Notorious ransomware group ALPHV, also known as BlackCat, has claimed responsibility for a targeted attack on Bangladesh Krishi Bank. According to a post by ALPHV on July 7, 2023, the hackers successfully breached the bank’s security, gaining access to sensitive data and paralysing its operations.

ALPHV, also referred to as ALPHV-ng, BlackCat, and Noberus, is a ransomware-as-a-service (RaaS) group that emerged in November 2021. This notorious threat actor employs the triple-extortion technique to target organisations globally, spanning various sectors.

According to the ALPHV post, On June 21, 2023, ALPHV infiltrated Bangladesh Krishi Bank’s network, extracting over 170 GB of crucial information. Their presence went undetected for 12 days, allowing them ample time to study internal documentation and steal valuable data with impunity. The compromised information includes highly sensitive financial records such as account details, statements, and tax information. The hackers also acquired employee data, including emails, passport copies, labour papers, and employment contracts, potentially exposing the



personal information of the bank’s staff. The threat group also obtained the bank’s SQL backup on June 19th, 2023.

According to the post made by ALPHV, the bank did not respond to the attack and did not engage in any discussions regarding data recovery. This decision prompted ALPHV to issue a warning, urging all investors who entrusted their funds to Bangladesh Krishi Bank to withdraw their investments within seven days. The warning message was dispatched to contacts and emails procured from the stolen data.

With a deadline of 72 hours starting from July 8th, 2023, ALPHV expected the bank’s top management to initiate contact to address the situation.

The hacker group also disclosed that they implanted potent backdoor tools deep within the bank’s network infrastructure. This ensures persistent access for the hackers, enabling them to return at will to execute their threats.

ALPHV also openly criticised the bank’s IT management, asserting their lack of qualifications and skills in adequately protecting valuable data. “IT-management of this bank does not have enough qualification and skills to protect their data,” the post by ALPHV further said.

EDITOR’S NOTE

The setting sun

AI has been at the forefront of most discussions these days, recently becoming a major topic of debate as Hollywood writers and actors struggle against studios preferring the ease of AI over natural human talents. Is there an end to this everlasting battle? We try to tackle this conundrum in this week’s Cover Story.

As for other pages, we have two product guides, a guide on how to protect your workplace from cyberattacks, and a list of some cool off-road vehicles. Variety? Always.

With that, let’s join hands in hopes of a brighter future. Keep in mind that everytime the sun sets, the promise of a better tomorrow awaits. A new journey is always right around the corner.

Shams Rashid Tonmoy
Sub-editor & Feature Writer

Skoot and Walton to locally produce electric bikes

Skoot Ltd., a local startup under the Innovation Design and Entrepreneurship Academy (iDEA) project, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Walton Digi-Tech Industries Ltd. to produce e-bikes in Bangladesh.

As per the MoU, the two companies will jointly manufacture environment-friendly electric bikes in the country to improve the riding experience for local customers.

The partnership also plans to improve the e-bike industry in Bangladesh through the introduction of technologically advanced products. As per a press release, the two companies hope to create a better future for e-bike enthusiasts, while offering them innovative and sustainable transportation options.

Tata reportedly to become first ever Indian iPhone maker

Indian conglomerate Tata Group is reportedly on the brink of finalising an agreement to acquire a factory in Karnataka, India, currently owned by Wistron Corporation—a key supplier for Apple Inc. If the deal is successfully closed by August, it would mark the first instance of an Indian company engaging in the assembly of iPhones.

According to reports, the factory in question employs over 10,000 individuals and holds an estimated value exceeding \$600 million.

Presently, it is responsible for the assembly of the latest iPhone model, the iPhone 14. With Wistron Corp.’s commitment to shipping iPhones worth \$1.8 billion by the fiscal year ending in March 2024, along with plans to triple the factory’s workforce by next year, Tata Group is reportedly expected to honour these obligations upon acquiring the facility. Consequently, this move will bring an end to Wistron Corp.’s iPhone manufacturing operations in India.

Indian TV channel introduces AI news anchor

Odisha TV (OTV), an Odia-based news station in India, has unveiled its first artificial intelligence (AI) news anchor named Lisa. Lisa made her debut appearance in a video tweeted by OTV, where she introduced herself to the world. In her announcement, she declared the moment as historic and revealed her upcoming role as a news update host. Lisa reportedly possesses the ability to communicate fluently in multiple languages, including Odia, English, and others.

OTV highlighted the considerable challenge of training Lisa to speak Odia,



a regional language of India. The news station acknowledged that while progress has been made, efforts are ongoing to enhance Lisa’s proficiency in Odia and enable her to engage seamlessly in

conversations with others. Additionally, Lisa has a strong presence on various social media platforms, such as Instagram and Facebook, allowing viewers to find and follow her.

This development follows the footsteps of another major Indian news organisation, the India Today Group, which introduced their AI news anchor, Sona, in March. Described as “bright, gorgeous, ageless, tireless who speaks multiple languages and can always be controlled,” Sona represents another step forward in the integration of AI technology in the media industry.

TOGGLE

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Safeguarding workspaces from escalating cyber attacks: A comprehensive guide

In recent times, Bangladesh has witnessed an alarming surge in cyber-attacks and data breaches, necessitating a heightened focus on fortifying digital defences for both organisations and individuals. Incidents such as the suspected leak of five crore citizens' data from the Office of the Registrar General, Birth & Death Registration (BDRIS) have underscored the urgent need for proactive cybersecurity measures.

This article provides a comprehensive guide on how organisations can safeguard their data, secure their employees' information, prevent cyber attacks, and respond effectively in case of a breach. It also offers valuable insights into individual measures to enhance personal cybersecurity.

Establishing a robust cybersecurity framework

Organisations must prioritise the establishment of a robust cybersecurity framework tailored to their specific needs. This framework should encompass regular risk assessments, secure network configurations, strong access controls, encryption protocols, and effective incident response plans.

By conducting thorough risk assessments, organisations can identify potential vulnerabilities and devise appropriate strategies to address them. Secure network configurations, including robust firewalls and intrusion detection systems (IDS), play a pivotal role in safeguarding against unauthorised access and detecting potential threats in real time.

Strong access controls ensure that only authorised individuals can access sensitive information and systems. Furthermore, encryption protocols should be implemented to protect data at rest and in transit, rendering stolen information indecipherable to unauthorised individuals.

Finally, organisations must develop comprehensive incident response plans, detailing the steps to isolate affected systems, conduct forensic investigations, notify stakeholders, and initiate the recovery process with minimal disruption to normal operations.

Promoting employee training and awareness

Human error remains a significant factor in cyber breaches. Therefore, organisations should prioritise regular cybersecurity awareness training for employees to cultivate a culture of security. Training programs should educate employees

about common cyber threats, such as phishing attacks and social engineering techniques. Additionally, employees should be trained on password hygiene, emphasising the importance of using strong and unique passwords for all accounts and avoiding password reuse across platforms.

Employees should also be encouraged to keep software and applications up to date to mitigate the risk of exploitation through known vulnerabilities. By fostering a culture of cybersecurity awareness, organisations can empower their employees to recognise and respond effectively to potential threats, ultimately reducing the risk of successful attacks.

Implementing multi-factor authentication (MFA)

One of the most effective ways to enhance



security is by implementing multi-factor authentication (MFA). MFA adds an extra layer of security by requiring users to provide multiple authentication factors, such as a password and a unique verification code, before accessing sensitive information or systems. Even if passwords are compromised, MFA significantly reduces the risk of unauthorised access. Organisations should encourage the use of MFA for all applicable accounts and systems to bolster security measures.

Regularly updating and patching systems

Software vulnerabilities are often exploited by cybercriminals. To mitigate this risk, organisations must ensure that their systems, applications, and devices are regularly updated with the latest

security patches and fixes. Regular updates provide crucial protection against known vulnerabilities and reduce the likelihood of successful attacks. Organisations should establish procedures to regularly monitor for available updates and promptly install them across all systems.

Emphasising data encryption and backup

Encryption plays a vital role in protecting sensitive data. Organisations should implement encryption protocols to ensure that data is encrypted at rest and in transit. By encrypting data, organisations make it significantly more challenging for unauthorised individuals to decipher stolen information. Additionally, organisations should prioritise regular backups of critical data and store them securely. Regular backups serve as a

risk of successful attacks and enhance their overall cybersecurity posture.

Developing an incident response plan
Organisations should have a well-defined incident response plan in place to address potential cyber attacks. This plan should outline clear steps to isolate affected systems, conduct forensic investigations, notify relevant stakeholders, and initiate the recovery process while minimising disruption to normal operations. By establishing a comprehensive incident response plan, organisations can respond swiftly and effectively to mitigate the impact of a breach.

IN THE EVENT OF A CYBER ATTACK

In the unfortunate event of a cyber attack, organisations should take immediate action to minimise damage and restore normalcy:

1. Isolate and contain: Organisations must isolate affected systems and devices from the network to prevent the spread of the attack. By containing the breach, organisations limit unauthorised access to sensitive information and systems.

2. Engage cybersecurity professionals: Organisations should promptly engage cybersecurity experts, such as CIRT or reputable third-party firms. These professionals can assist in assessing the situation, mitigating the attack, and conducting forensic investigations to determine the extent of the breach.

3. Notify authorities and stakeholders: It is essential to notify the relevant authorities, such as the Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT) and law enforcement agencies, about the breach. Timely notification helps in coordinating response efforts and facilitates the investigation process. Additionally, affected individuals or stakeholders should be promptly informed to ensure transparency and enable them to take necessary precautions.

4. Preserve evidence: Organisations should preserve all available evidence related to the breach, including log files, network traffic records, and any communication with the attacker. Preserving evidence is crucial for investigations and potential legal proceedings.

5. Enhance security measures: After addressing the immediate impact of the breach, organisations should conduct a thorough analysis to identify vulnerabilities and areas for improvement. Implementing enhanced security measures can help fortify defences against future attacks.

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CONQUERING THE WILD

10 classic off-road vehicles

When it comes to venturing off the beaten path and conquering the untamed wilderness, there are a select few classic off-road vehicles that have stood the test of time. These rugged machines have paved the way for modern-day adventurers, combining legendary performance, iconic design, and unmatched capability. Join us as we embark on a thrilling journey through the top 10 classic off-road vehicles that have left an indelible mark on the world of off-roading.

Land Rover Defender

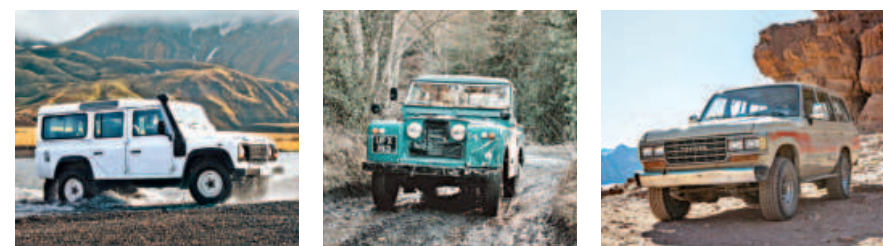
No list of classic off-road vehicles would be complete without the venerable Land Rover Defender. Born in 1948, the Defender has become synonymous with off-road capability and endurance. With its unmistakable boxy shape and go-anywhere attitude, the Defender has tackled treacherous terrains across the globe, proving itself as the ultimate expedition companion.

Jeep Wrangler

From its humble beginnings as a military vehicle in World War II, the Jeep Wrangler has evolved into an off-road icon. With its removable doors and roof, the Wrangler offers unparalleled freedom and versatility. Whether it's crawling over rocky trails or splashing through muddy swamps, the Wrangler's rugged spirit is unrivaled.

Toyota Land Cruiser

The Toyota Land Cruiser has earned a



proven, has captured the hearts of enthusiasts for decades. Born in 1966, this American legend has endured the test of time and returned after a brief hiatus. With its impressive power, advanced off-road technology, and removable top, the Bronco is a true off-road champion.

Mercedes-Benz G-Class

Combining brute strength with luxurious refinement, the Mercedes-Benz G-Class has been an off-road titan since its introduction in 1979. Originally developed for military use, this German masterpiece blends ruggedness with opulence, making it equally at home on the trail or the red carpet.

Land Rover Series I

As the forefather of the Defender, the Land Rover Series I holds a special place in off-road history. Introduced in 1948, this humble vehicle became an icon through its sheer versatility and ruggedness. The Series I paved the way for all subsequent Land Rovers and showcased the British brand's commitment to off-road excellence.

Nissan Patrol

The Nissan Patrol, often overshadowed by its competitors, is a formidable off-road contender in its own right. With robust engineering and a proven track record of

conquering deserts, mountains, and everything in between, the Patrol has become a symbol of adventure and reliability in the off-road community.

Chevrolet Blazer K5

The Chevrolet Blazer K5, born in the '70s, exudes a classic charm that resonates with off-road enthusiasts. With its aggressive styling and impressive power, this American legend offers an exhilarating off-road experience. Whether traversing rocky trails or tackling steep inclines, the Blazer K5 is a true off-road companion.

Range Rover Classic

The Range Rover Classic, introduced in 1970, redefined the concept of luxury off-roading. With its elegant design, plush interior, and formidable off-road capabilities, the Range Rover Classic became the go-to vehicle for those seeking both refinement and adventure. It set the benchmark for luxury SUVs that followed.

Suzuki Jimny

Last but certainly not least, the Suzuki Jimny completes our list of classic off-road vehicles. Despite its small size, the Jimny has proven itself as a formidable off-roader. Its compact dimensions and impressive agility make it ideal for tackling narrow trails and navigating tight spots with ease.

CONCLUSION:

These top 10 classic off-road vehicles have etched their names in the annals of automotive history. From the wild expanses of Africa to the treacherous trails of the Rocky Mountains, they have conquered the most demanding terrains on Earth. With their unwavering spirit and unyielding capability, these off-road legends continue to inspire adventurers, ensuring that the thrill of exploration will never fade away. So, buckle up and prepare for an unforgettable off-road adventure with these timeless machines.



THE RISE OF AI IN HOLLYWOOD: ACTORS AND WRITERS VS AUTOMATION

AI - a topic of heated discussion almost anywhere these days. Ever since the introduction of powerful art generators like Midjourney and advanced chatbots like ChatGPT, the debate regarding AI replacing human jobs has been at the forefront of many professional discussions. Recently, Hollywood has been having its fair share of internal conflict due to AI, as SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists) and WGA (Writers Guild of America) are, at the time of writing, still on strike against AMPTP (Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers), primarily regarding the trade association's recent stance on AI.

As per reports, AMPTP has allegedly put forward a proposition that would grant studios the ability to employ AI-generated replicas of background actors for an indefinite amount of time. In exchange, the actor willing to have their likeness copied by AI will be paid only a single day's worth of payment, which can be as low as \$200. The suggested contract also details that the scanned AI-based likeness can be used "for the rest of eternity in any project they want with no consent and no compensation." As such, without mincing any words, the studios can be allowed to replace actual human beings with AI.

That's not even the end of it. The reasons behind the initial strike by the WGA writers range from inequality in payment, prevalence of streaming platforms to unfair working conditions. However, concerns regarding creative jobs being replaced by AI has reached an all-time high as well. Artists and screenwriters who are part of the WGA union have joined hands to fight against the very real potential of having their creative contributions to modern media and film being substituted by automated counterparts. This draws a very clear line between the importance of 'human creativity' versus the obvious ease and preference of AI to generate 'human-like' creative content. Unfortunately, many studios are steadily leaning towards the

The question of whether actors should be replaced by AI is a complex topic. As per a recent article by the Hollywood news portal Deadline, Duncan Crabtree-Ireland - the National Executive Director & Chief Negotiator at SAG-AFTRA - stated that the intention of the strike is not to explicitly ban AI. Through negotiations, the union wants to state that the use of AI in media and films has to be done "in a way that respects actors, their human rights to their own bodies, voice, image and likeness". While there is no clearly defined explanation (yet) of how the use of AI can "respect" actors, the concerns from affected parties are understandable. It cannot be denied that using AI in media and film production comes with certain advantages.

Unlike humans, AI can be programmed to portray a wide range of characters, which will allow audiences to witness a wide diversity of characters and representations impossible from a single human actor. AI can simulate and generate scenes more quickly, which can reduce production costs - a boon any

that lifeless beings will not be able to comprehend. The empathy and connection a human audience will feel from an authentic human actor should, in comparison, pale to that of AI-generated performances. As such, the nuanced understanding involved with interpreting scripts and making on-spot creative choices will not always result in a 100% success rate when translated to the cold, hard algorithmic calculations of a machine.

As is the case with any debate, each side of this argument has notable pluses and minuses. This is why the union's suggestion to cooperate with AI rather than being completely replaced by it is a sound decision. Keep in mind that technology itself exists to make the lives of humans easier. AI, being an amalgamation of human knowledge and skills, should be no more than a tool that can enhance aspects of our daily lives. The same can be done in Hollywood as well. For example, AI can be used to create realistic visual effects that will assist actors in enriching



latter option.

A recent example of studios preferring AI-generated content can be found in Marvel Studio's newest episodic series, Secret Invasion. While MCU movies and shows have never been shy of using CGI and computer-generated effects, this time, the opening of the show was completely AI-generated, notably full of alien-like humans that an experienced eye can easily spot to be the work of AI. According to Method Studios, the creators of this particular opening, no human artists' jobs were replaced when making this opening sequence. The intended "otherworldly and alien look", as per their quote in an article from The Hollywood Reporter, could only be achieved using a custom AI tool. Given that the show's core story revolves around aliens secretly replacing humans, the fact that the opening itself uses AI over humans fits right into the theme!

studios will gleefully. Furthermore, an AI-generated likeness of a human actor can be used to perform dangerous stunts that may harm the actual human body. Also, AI can bring back iconic performances from the past and recreate them for new audiences. A recent example can be found in The Flash, in which a deepfaked version of the deceased Christopher Reeve's Superman was seen.

Nonetheless, 'acting' in its purest form is a humane act. It is creativity at its finest and the accumulation of heart-touching writing, casting, directing, and performing coming together to create memories that last a lifetime. AI, no matter how many large-language models and references are used to train it, will not reach the sheer complexity of a human mind or the magic inside a human soul. Acting, as a whole, is an expression of pure emotions, a trait

their performances and adding more depth to their roles. While deepfaking and replicating likeness are mired with ethical concerns - and will always be - an agreement between conflicting parties can be possible as long as the aforementioned point of "respect" is kept intact.

When I asked ChatGPT about its stance on AI replacing actors, it, as you might expect, strongly stated that as an AI, it cannot generate its own opinion on real-life matters. However, its response was anything but brief. Towards the end of its three-paragraph answer, it stated, word to word: "Ultimately, the future of AI in acting will likely involve a balance between utilising AI as a tool to enhance performances and preserving the authenticity and artistry of human actors." So even ChatGPT believes that AI and humans can coexist in the realm of entertainment and acting!

Our picks for deep freezers under BDT 40k

MEHNAZ IRTIKA

Deep freezers are preferred over other forms of refrigerators due to their ability to maintain lower temperatures, ensuring food stays fresher for longer periods. Offering ample space and efficient freezing power, deep freezers have become a preferred choice for those seeking long-lasting freshness and reliable performance. To aid you in the quest for finding freezers, we have curated a list of five deep freezers available under BDT 40,000, tailored to make storing meat a breeze - within a budget. Please keep in mind that prices and availability will differ across stores.



Walton | WCG-2E5-GDEL-XX (Inverter)
Price: Around BDT 40,000/-
Dimensions (WxDxH): 1085 x 725 x 855 mm
Capacity: 255 litres
Compressor: Intelligent Inverter compressor
Store: Waltonbd.com, Daraz
 Redefining elegance with a touch of

modern technology, our very own Bangladeshi brand Walton's inverter freezer is a good choice for a new deep freezer. This energy-saving marvel incorporates advanced inverter technology, providing efficient cooling while minimising power consumption. With a generous 255-litre gross capacity, it offers ample storage space, making it ideal for larger families to

store abundant quantities of meat. Additionally, this eco-conscious appliance operates with a CFC-free refrigerant, ensuring an environmentally friendly operation. Safety and accessibility are prioritised with its recessed handle and lock system, while the anti-fungal gasket prevents fungus and bacteria build-up, guaranteeing hygienic storage.

Vision | GD RE 250L
Price: BDT 33,400-36,000/-
Dimensions (WxDxH): 1048 x 644 x 860 mm
Capacity: 250 litres
Compressor: High energy efficient compressor
Store: Vision.com.bd, Rflbestbuy.com

Vision's reputation for producing reliable appliances is further cemented with their glass door chest freezer RE 250L, available in the magic line maroon colour. This freezer not only catches the eye with its striking exterior but also offers a considerable storage space of 250 litres, providing

ample room for your frozen goods. Demonstrating their commitment to environmental sustainability, Vision has designed this freezer to be HFC & CFC free, promoting a greener lifestyle. The rustproof protected body ensures extended durability, guaranteeing that this appliance will stand the test of time.



Haier | HCF-230
Price: BDT 35,000-38,400/-
Dimensions (WxDxH): 940 x 550 x 845 mm
Capacity: 203 litres
Compressor: High-efficiency compressor
Store: Haier.com, Transcomdigital.com
 Haier, a renowned global leader in home appliances, presents the HCF-230L

chest freezer, a notable addition to their lineup. Designed with practicality in mind, this freezer boasts a substantial 203-litre net capacity, making it suitable for average-sized families. Equipped with a super-freezing function, it ensures rapid cooling when new items are added, preserving their freshness and flavour. Thanks to its energy-

efficient compressor that reduces power consumption, it will help you save on energy bills. It is also equipped with a reliable safety lock and key, providing enhanced security for your stored items. The interior is crafted with easy-to-clean aluminium, simplifying maintenance and ensuring a hygienic storage environment.

Singer | SRREF 215-GL-DR
Price: BDT 37,990-40,990/-
Dimensions (WxDxH): 965 x 534 x 788 mm
Capacity: 205 litres
Compressor: Standard compressor
Store: Singerbd.com

Next on our list is the Singer chest freezer 215-GL-DR, boasting a capacity of 205 litres. This freezer earns its reputation for durability and robust performance, guaranteeing years of reliable service. The adjustable thermostat enables you to customise the

temperature settings according to your preferences, ensuring optimal storage conditions. The easy-to-clean interior promotes hygiene, making maintenance a breeze. To enhance organised storage, a convenient basket is included, adding an extra layer of convenience.



Sharp | SCFK250XLWH2/3
Price: BDT 37,000-40,000/-
Dimensions (WxDxH): 950 x 564 x 845 mm
Capacity: 250 litres
Compressor: Tropical compressor
Store: M. K. Electronics, Daraz
 Rounding up our list is a Sharp chest

freezer, a practical choice that combines functionality and efficiency. With its large 250-litre capacity, this chest freezer provides ample space for storing a wide range of food items. Equipped with an energy-efficient and robust compressor, it ensures optimal cooling performance while consuming less power. The adjustable thermostat allows for flexible

temperature settings, allowing you to customise the freezer's environment to suit the specific requirements of your stored items. Also, the freezer features a safety lock and key, providing added security. To top it off, the fast freeze mode offers instant cooling, enabling quick preservation of perishable goods..

Refrigerators below BDT 50k: our recommendations

RAHNUMA TASNIM

It goes without saying that refrigerators are an essential addition to any household. Not only do they help preserve food by slowing down the growth of bacteria, these helpful devices ensure our all-important sustenance remains fresh and edible for many days. With numerous options available in the market, choosing the right fridge can be quite challenging. Modern fridges come with numerous features as well which make choosing the right one for your home especially difficult. Here's a list of our top picks for refrigerators that you can buy below BDT 50,000. Keep in mind that pricing and availability might differ across stores.



Samsung | RB21KMFH5D3
Price: BDT 45,900-46,900/-
Capacity: 218 litres (gross volume)
Compressor: Digital inverter compressor
Defrosting: Manual
Store: Transcom Digital, Electrabd

If you prefer metal doors over glass ones, then this is one of the best of the many options available for you. With a beautiful silver or purple exterior and a blue LED display, this fridge will show off your elegant taste. The twin cooling plus technology in Samsung refrigerators produces a suitable climate for maintaining fresh food. It comes with a built-in natural odour eliminator, a mono-cooling system, a digital inverter compressor, a 2-year warranty on spare parts, and a 10-year warranty on compressors.



Singer | FBDS260-BG
Price: BDT 47,090 - 48,590/-
Capacity: 260 litres (net volume)
Compressor: Low voltage compressor
Defrosting: Manual
Store: Singerbd.com, Daraz

The special feature of this model is its 50:50 compartment ratio for the freezer and refrigerator, meaning it has a large freezer section which can be very handy for storing meat. It also features a built-in stabiliser and odour-control technology. Singer refrigerators use advanced 'nutrilock' technology that helps to keep food fresh and nutrients intact for longer periods compared to many other brands. There is also a 2-year and 10-year warranty on spare parts and compressors respectively.

Vision | VSN GD Refrigerator RE-160L Mirror Iris
Price: BDT 27,720 - 30,800/-
Capacity: 160 litres (net volume)
Compressor: N/A
Defrosting: Manual
Store: Vision.com.bd

A locally-made brand manufactured with Italian technology, Vision refrigerators have become quite popular. With a fast cooling speed, it is up to 50% energy-saving and has an anti-bacterial gasket for germ-free food preservation. Despite being a bit smaller in capacity compared to other mentions in this list, it is reasonably priced for any household. If you want a refrigerator on a slightly lower-end budget, Vision offers many other options within this price range.



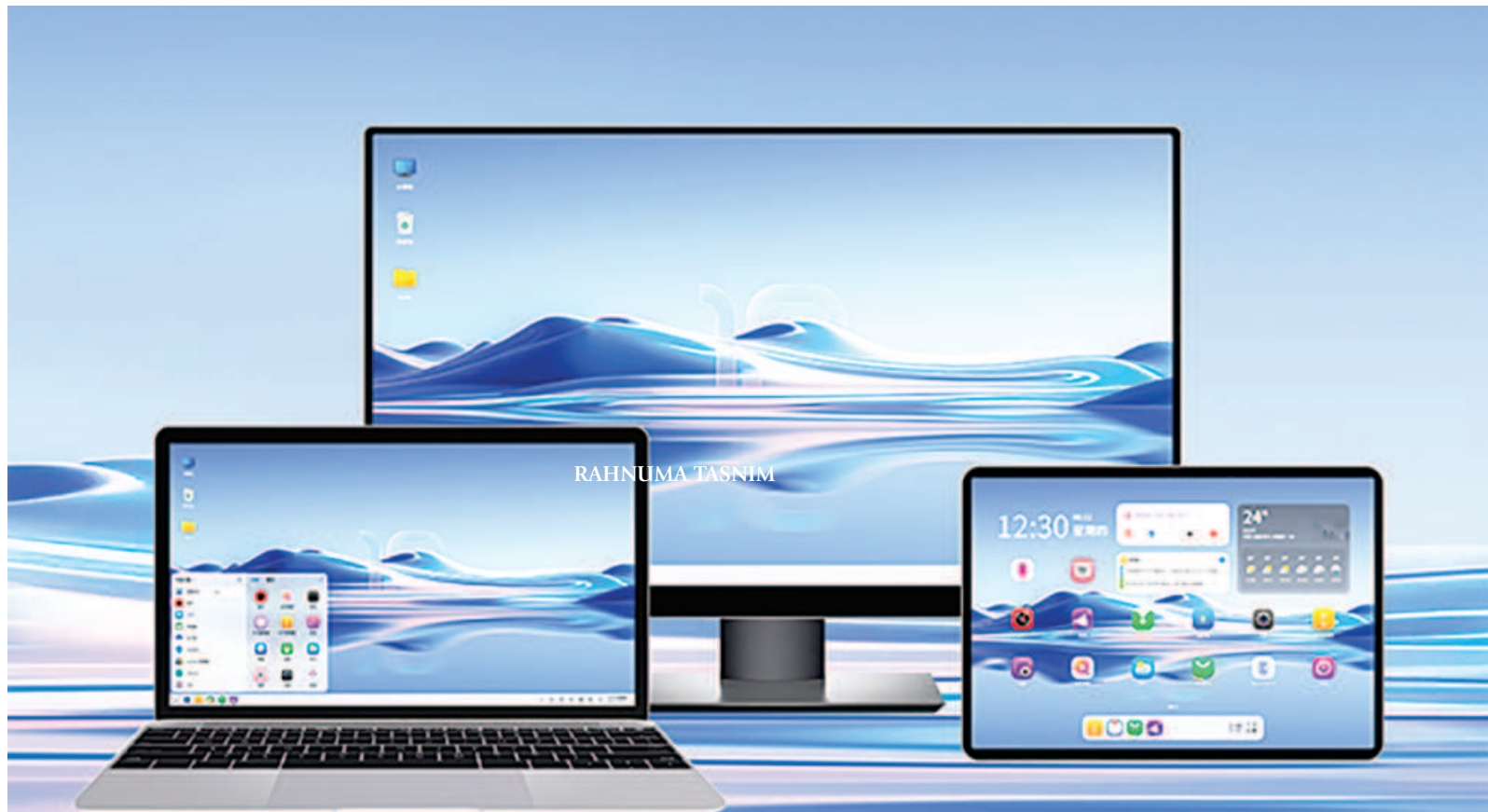
Haier | HRF-275EPDA
Price: BDT 39,150 - 43,500/-
Capacity: 255 litres (Gross volume)
Compressor: RSCR
Defrosting: Manual
Store: Haier, Daraz

This model stands out among many brands and models for its advanced features like turbo icing cooling technology, low voltage range (150V-260V), LED light display, good compartmentalisation, and an additional lock system. It also uses R600a as a cooling agent which is eco-friendly. The model also comes with a beautiful purple exterior. If you want high-quality features and storage capacity at a relatively low price, then this model is a good deal for you.

Walton | WFC-3D8-GDEH-XX
Price: BDT 44,271 - 49,190/-
Capacity: 333 litres (net volume)
Compressor: RSCR, RSIR or BLDC
Defrosting: Manual
Store: WaltonBD.com, WaltonPlaza

A new arrival especially for this Eid, this model is equipped with the latest nano healthcare and DECS technology for bacteria-free and long-lasting food preservation. Along with the latest technology, its sleek appearance will also enhance the kitchen's look. The freezer section has two shelves and two door baskets, ideal for storing in large quantities. Walton also frequently offers special discounts for their refrigerators, so keep an eye out if you're interested.

China launches its own open-source operating system



China has recently released the country's first open-source desktop operating system. Named openKylin, the OS is considered a part of China's growing efforts in cutting down its reliance on US technology.

The Linux-based operating system openKylin was built by over 4,300 contributors. According to a report by Reuters, the OS is currently used in China's space programmes, as well as the country's finance and energy industries.

According to the openKylin official website, the community behind the

Chinese OS was founded by basic software and hardware enterprises, non-profit organisations, several colleges and universities, and a number of scientific research institutions and individual developers. Their collective goal was to create a cooperative, open-source, volunteer-based operating system that promotes the development of Linux open-source technology.

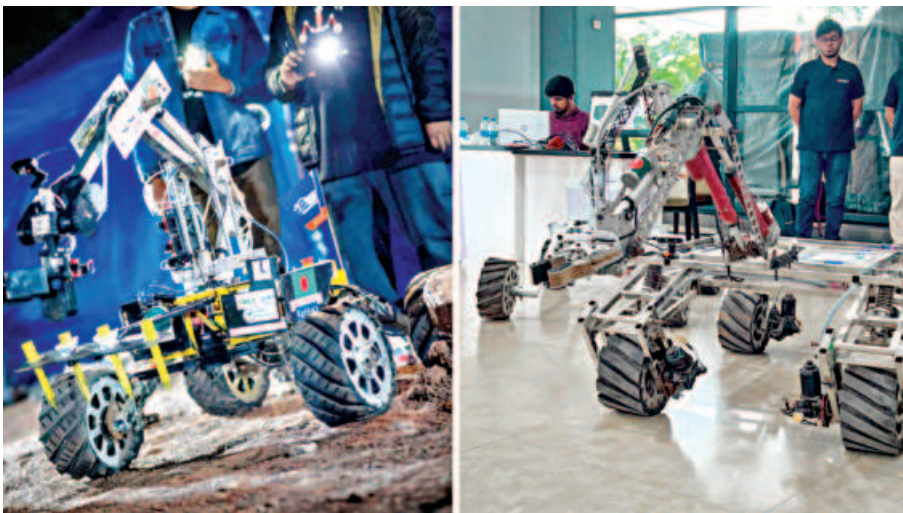
At the time of writing, the website states that the OS has 9,11,318 total users, 278 members, and 75 SIG (special interest group).

The current version of the OS, OpenKylin 1.0, supports X86, ARM and RISC-V architectures for PCs and tablets. The vast amount of compatibility it provides makes it ideal for both academic and professional purposes. Additionally, the ARM architecture has been adapted to Raspberry Pi, Cool Pi, Chillie Pi and other development boards, while the RISC-V architecture has been adapted to VisonFive2, HiFive, SG2042 EVB, Lichepi4a and Lotus2 development boards.

As per a report by The Straits Times,

the OS aims to replace foreign-owned products which are currently dominant in the Chinese software market. There has been notable tension between the US and China-based tech companies as of late, including the US's last year ban of Huawei and ZTE telecommunication equipment sales over cited "national security concerns".

While China is still far from abandoning sales of internationally popular OS such as Windows and Mac, creating an open-source, community-made OS is a welcome first step.



IUT and BUET advance to final round of European Rover Challenge 2023

Two teams from Bangladesh have secured places in the final round of the esteemed European Rover Challenge 2023, a highly competitive Mars rover competition held annually in Kielce, Poland. Out of the 54 global teams participating, 25 teams have successfully advanced to the final round, including Altair from the Islamic University Of Technology (IUT) and Team Interplanetar from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Project Altair, representing IUT, holds the 16th position globally as the best Bangladeshi team and the second-best among Asian teams. Team Interplanetar, representing BUET, secured the 25th position.

The European Rover Challenge provides a platform for innovative minds from around the world to showcase their skills and ideas. The final round of the European Rover Challenge 2023 is scheduled to take place from September 15 to 17, 2023.