

TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of *The Daily Star*



WHAT PUSHES YOUR BUTTONS?

AI creating
art – PG 6



Masks:
Create,
disinfect,
reuse – PG 7

Conditions Apply



Md. Wajed Ali Got Tk. 10 Lac Buying Walton Fridge
from Hazi Electronics, **Kaliakoir, Gazipur**



WOW!

Digital Campaign 2020
Season-7

Mega Festival

In this Eid buying Walton Fridge,
Washing Machine & Microwave
Oven you may be the Millionaire or
owner of Tk. One Lac. Crores of
Taka Cash Voucher Assured

Getting Million/Lac Taka may vary depending on Sales

WALTON
Smart Fridge

Conditions:

- Have to complete product registration through SMS after buying Walton Fridge, Washing Machine & Microwave Oven
- This campaign is conducted by fully computerized system fairly
- Digital campaign facilities will be void in case of more than 3 registration of fridge from the same mobile number in a year
- In case of cash payment, customer will be paid through cheque after deduction of Source Tax at the rate determined by National Board of Revenue (NBR)
- The authority reserves the right to change the campaign anytime

This initiative is taken to ensure maximum customer facilities through research & development of products and digitalization
Return SMS may be delayed for the technical network problems

Md. Wajed Ali, Father's Name: A. Kader
Padma Housing, BKSP, Kashimpur, Gazipur

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12 Years Guarantee

At Home and Office
NUSDOT-UTS
Customer Support Center
Walton Ltd. Dhaka, Bangladesh

Helpline: **16267**
waltonbd.com | **WALTON**

Xiaomi launches Redmi Note 9 Pro, Redmi Note 9S and Redmi Note 9 in Bangladesh

Xiaomi has launched three smartphones together in Bangladesh. Ziauddin Chowdhury, Country General Manager, Xiaomi Bangladesh said regarding the launch, "Redmi Note 8 series set new benchmarks continuing the Redmi Note legacy and evolved as one of the most sought-after series. We hope that our Mi fans would appreciate these products that we continue to bring with the best specs, highest quality and at honest pricing."

Redmi Note 9 Pro

Features a 16.9cm (6.67) FHD+ Dot Display with a 20:9 cinematic screen. Powering it is the Qualcomm® Snapdragon™ 720G and Adreno 618 GPU. It features a massive 5020mAh battery while maintaining a slim profile. A quad camera setup includes 64MP Samsung ISOCELL Bright GW1 sensor, 8MP ultra-wide sensor with a 119° field of view, 5MP macro and 2MP depth sensor. Available in 6GB+64GB and 6GB+128GB storage variants for BDT 26,999/-, BDT 28,999/- respectively.



Redmi Note 9S

Features the latest Snapdragon™ 720G and has a 48MP Samsung sensor along with 8MP ultra-wide-angle lens, a 2MP depth sensor and a 5MP macro sensor with a 16MP sensor in the front.

Available in 4GB+64GB and 6GB+128GB storage variants for BDT 22,999/- and BDT 25,999/- respectively in gray, blue and white.

Redmi Note 9

Focusing on photography, it has a 48MP main camera and 8MP ultra wide-angle lens. A 2MP macro lens and 2MP depth sensor completes the quad-camera setup. 6.53" display covers a MediaTek Helio G85 processor making it the world's first smartphone to feature the new chipset. Backup is from a 5020mAh (typ) battery. Available in green, gray and white, 4GB+128GB storage variant is selling for BDT 19,999.

New car this week



Ferrari's new SF90 Stradale is breathtaking, both in terms of look and raw performance. The new prancing horse is a hybrid, meaning it's turbocharged 4.0 liter V8 is backed up by a three-motor electric system. The combined powerplant gives the car total output of 986 HP and 590 lb-ft of torque, which is delivered to the car's all four wheels through an eight-speed dual-clutch transmission. Translated to performance, it means this 1,570Kg car can go from 0-100 in a face whitening 2.5 seconds and can reach a top speed of 340 km/h. To ensure all that power stays on the ground, the car's beautifully sculpted body incorporates advanced aero work, capable of generating 390 kg of downforce at 250 km/h. On the inside, the controls



resemble something one would expect to find in a spaceship. Instead of a gauge cluster and infotainment screen, there is a single wraparound 16.0-inch HD screen, backed up by an advanced head-up display. Every button has been replaced by touch sensors, including those placed on the steering wheel. The only notable physical buttons left in the cars are the gear selectors which for some reason, looks like volume control bars found in old TV and radios. All in all, the SF90 Stradale is the most powerful road-going Ferrari ever produced and a technological marvel. Pricing starts around \$500,000 and can reach up to 600,000 with options, which is surprisingly reasonable when compared to other supercars with similar performance.

Zantrik develops AI-based driver monitoring system

Zantrik, the Dhaka-based on-demand vehicle maintenance services company, claims to have developed an AI-based system called 'Drive Safe' that can monitor a driver's real-time driving behavior.

It observes a driver's body language, trajectory and build a profile to alert him/her in case of sleepiness with improvement suggestions. Data can be analyzed and used for research by insurance & ride sharing companies, vehicle manufacturers or even BRTA.

"Drive safe" has participated in a two-month rigorous selection process and development program, jointly organized by the "National University of Singapore" and "Center of Excellence (CoE) for Frontier Technology".

Shubho Al-Farooque, CEO of Zantrik said, "Every year road accidents kill 5k+ people in Bangladesh and 1.35M worldwide. When we started this project, we just wanted to solve a real problem."

EDITOR'S NOTE

We're red, yellow and green

Most of Dhaka is now divided into colour coded areas of 'no-go', 'maybe go but better not' and 'roam free and court death', respectively. Life has turned into a dystopian video game. You have your zones. You pass checkpoints, you gain XP and you battle your nemesis to win or die. Points are accrued in the number of days. Each passing 24 hours is victory. There's just one caveat. You can't respawn. There is rest button. Game over is final.

That's bleak. Which is why we have some old school games this week to cheer you up. These really never get old. If mashing buttons is not your thing, we have an amazing initiative that gets you book while helping bookshop entrepreneurs earn some livelihood. You read and others benefit. How cool is that? All this and more to keep you busy while you make masks when you can't get a replacement.

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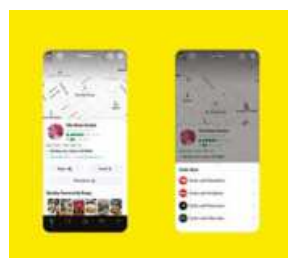
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TechBits



HBO Max temporarily removes 'Gone with the Wind' for 'racist depictions'

Huawei's Google free P40 Pro+ handset goes international on June 25



Quibi gets Chromecast support on iOS and Android

First beta of Android 11 becomes available on select Pixel dives



Snapchat redesigns its app with a new action bar

Got time? Level up with these five free skill upgrades

SADMAN SAKIB PANTHO

While offices and workplaces are mostly open, the quarantine hasn't yet ended for students. For university students like us, this extra amount of time at home doesn't necessarily need to be all about online classes and virtual working or browsing social media. It's the perfect time for you to learn that new language you always wanted to learn or master that software you weren't able to find the time for. And the best part is you can do these without spending a dime.

Digital Marketing

Google Digital Garage gives you in-depth knowledge about the fundamentals of digital marketing. This free certified course is 40 hours long with 26 modules. It demands time if you wish to cover each video tutorial thoroughly. On the bright side, the video tutorials are short, crisp and very interesting. If you have already mastered the basics, then check out Blue Array Academy's SEO Manager Certification courses. The courses are worth £997 and will remain free till the end of June. To avail this you just need to add the coupon code 'WeGotYouCovered' before checkout and not even enter any credit card details.

Graphics Design and Animation

Graphics designing and animation are very hands-on subjects and it's important to choose the right tutorials for learning. The YouTube channel Gareth David Studio, formerly known as TastyTuts, has some amazing tutorials if you are just getting into graphics designing. There are free downloadable "Project folders" that allow you to follow along in the tutorials and learn through practical application rather than solely relying on passive viewing. The YouTuber has tutorials for Photoshop, Illustrator and After Effects covering a wide range of their functionality.

PowerPoint and Excel

Microsoft PowerPoint and Excel are essential software no matter what field you are studying or working in. If you haven't learned these already now is a

perfect time. For PowerPoint, 10 Minute School's YouTube channel has a couple of o playlists that cover pretty much everything you can do with PowerPoint. Another alternative to PowerPoint is Adobe InDesign. The channel Gareth David Studio also covers this software. ExcellisFun is the go-to YouTube channel for learning about everything Excel. The explanations are simple but advanced enough to have a genuine understanding of pretty much all the topics. There are also downloadable spreadsheets that match the video lesson allowing you to play with the



formulas and test them out yourself. One downside of this channel is that it's difficult to navigate through. You should also check out the All Things Excel app, available only for android, for all the formulae, examples and hotkeys in Excel. It's perfect for beginners.

Programming

If you are interested to pick up HTML, SQL or JavaScript, Khan Academy has some of the best tutorials for beginners. For Python, W3schools is good for beginners. The downside is that it isn't very comprehensive. If you have

free access to Coursera courtesy of your university, Python Programming: A Concise Introduction is a perfect course to enrol into. It is offered by the Wesleyan University and is ideal for even students with zero programming experience.

AI and Machine Learning

Elements of AI by Helsinki University is for anyone who wants to understand what AI does and what it can be used for, without getting involved in the underlying mathematics. It is an elementary level course made available for the

entire world. Google AI also covers the fundamentals of AI and machine learning and its practical application. Check out the course Machine Learning course offered by Stanford in Coursera, even if you don't have free access. It is considered one of the most valuable online resources when it comes to learning AI. You will be able to learn for free but not get the certification, which is still completely worth it. AI for Everyone by deeplearning.io in Coursera is free for business major students and is highly recommended.





**BSRM WINS
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Here's the coolest sub-1500cc cars you can and should have

RAHBAR AL HAQ

Car taxes going up in Bangladesh? Seems like a nightmare for some. Cosindering that the entry bracket could be 25000taka AIT for cars upto 1500cc, here's a few cars a petrolhead should consider before giving up life and hopes with an Allion.



Fiat Abarth 124 Spider
Engine: 1,368cc MultiAir Inline 4 turbo
Power: 168 bhp and 184 lb-ft of torque
Yes, it's a rebadged Miata without the "good" Mazda engine. But if you are looking for a handsome Italian roadster on a budget, you can't go wrong with this. It will still go from 0-100 in 6.8 seconds and tear through corners like a good sports car.



Suzuki Wagon R
Engine: 1,197cc K12M Inline 4
Power: 81 bhp and 83 lb-ft of torque
Ever wanted a Kei car with actual legroom? A car that you car ride with your claustrophobic friends? Head to your local Suzuki dealer and get yourself a brand new Wagon R. It is just as quirky as its JDM counterparts and it even comes with a warranty.

Daihatsu Copen
Engine: 658cc KF-DET Inline 3 turbo
Power: 63 bhp and 70 lb-ft of torque
From short-of kei cars to an actual one, the Daihatsu Copen is a Miata with 50%



off. You get half the engine, half the wheelbase and no cargo space. But, you will grin like an idiot as you drive the car through a corner at 80 km/h.



Ford Escape
Engine: 1,497cc Ecoboost Inline 3
Power: 181 bhp and 185 lb-ft of torque
The newest crossover from the blue oval, the Ford Escape can be easily mistaken as the long lost sibling of the new Aston Martin DBX. Sure, the interior is nowhere as opulent, but it will start when you want it to and won't lose half of its value within three years of purchase.



Suzuki Swift
Engine: 1,197cc K12M Inline 4
Power: 81 bhp and 83 lb-ft of torque
The Swift keeps coming back on our list of recommendations. A perfectly good, reliable and sporty family hatchback that is seemingly loved by enthusiasts, very few people in Bangladesh actually buy

one. They just don't know. So if you are a young soul looking for your first family car, keep it in mind.



Mini Cooper S
Engine: 1,198cc B38A12U0 Inline 3 turbo
Power: 101 bhp and 133 lb-ft of torque
If you looked at the Swift and though, "I want something more expensive, quirkier and with Anglo-German heritage", well then what you are looking for is the Mini Cooper. Its iconic design and Bimmer heart ensure that wherever you go, you will have fun with it. As long as it lasts.



Alfa Romeo Giulietta
Engine: 1,368cc MultiAir Inline 4 turbo
Power: 168 bhp and 184 lb-ft of torque
Giulietta is probably not that Alfa everyone aspires to. It's sporty sure, but it's also cramped, poorly built, and repairs will drain your bank account. Though, that pretty much sums up the Alfa ownership experience. Not recommended but can you deny the cool that oozes for this?

Hyundai Elantra
Engine: 1,397 cc Kappa Inline 4 turbo
Power: 138 bhp and 179 lb-ft of torque
The mid-sized family from the Korean brand Hyundai, the Elantra is quite a surprise for anyone who is willing to



give it a closer look. It is remarkably well equipped for its price point and can be quite fun at roads, provided you give it the full beans. Oh, and turbo.



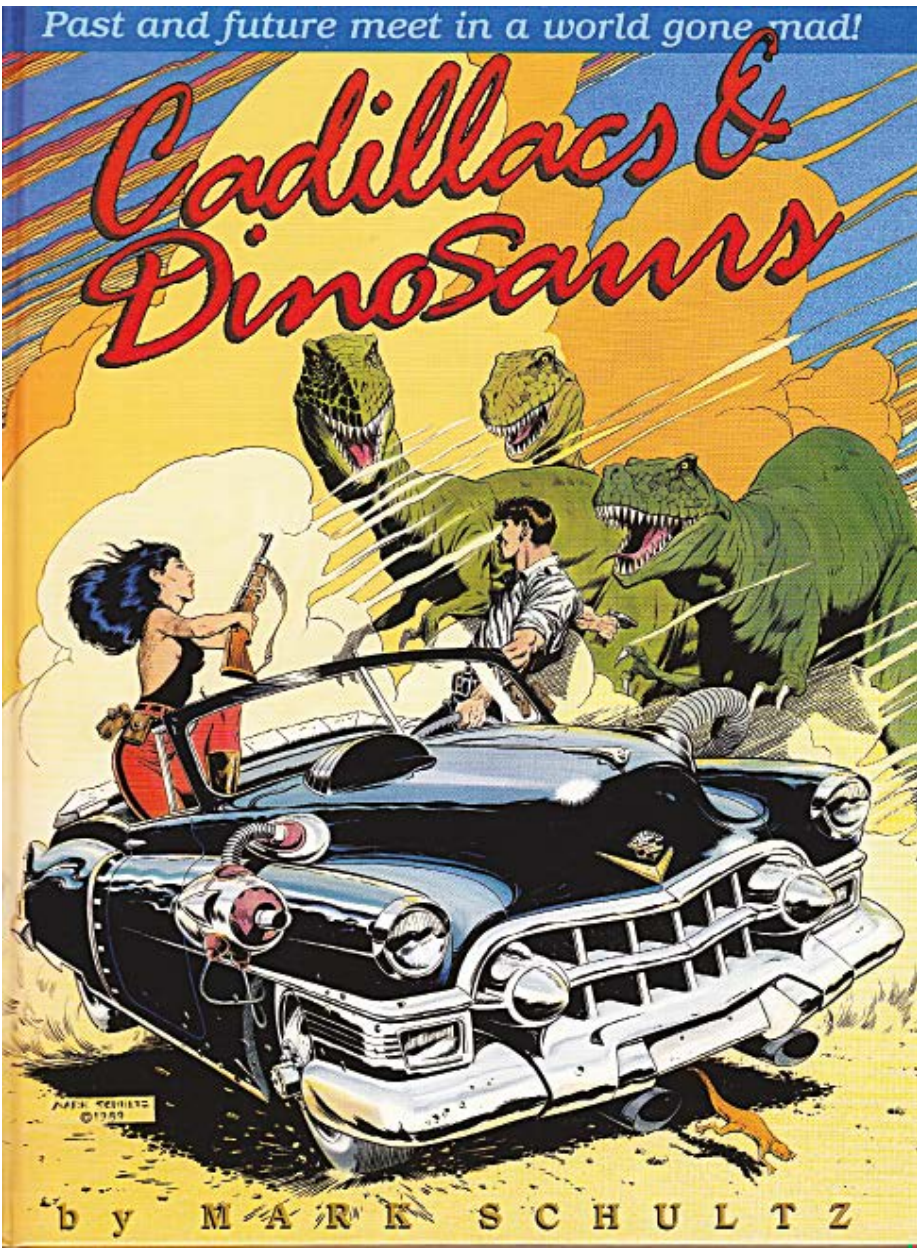
Toyota Arius
Engine: 1,197cc 8NR-FTS Inline 4 turbo
Power: 114 bhp and 136 lb-ft of torque
Used to be unremarkable but puberty finally happened. The combination of rock-solid reliability, a screaming turbocharged I4 and fun but the practical hatchback is hardly "boring" for anyone.



Mercedes-Benz A-Class Sedan
Engine: 1,461cc OM608 Inline 4 turbo diesel
Power: 114 bhp and 192 lb-ft of torque
This entry-level offering from the German luxury brand has a frugal French heart. It might not break any lap record, but it will take you where you want to without too many fuel stops. Besides, if the luxurious interior does not encourage you to take it slow, this car isn't for you anyway.

Rediscovering yesterday's hot game titles for some righteous button smashing

ISRAR HASAN



As we head into another extended phase of social distancing and public lockdowns, many of us often look to old passions such as video games to settle old scores with our erstwhile younger self and at the same time, to seek the old adrenaline rush that would keep us awake many nights, mess up study hours, and occasionally be a point of contention between our parents.

Just as many of us turned to old books and magazines gathering dust during this pandemic, old passions are set alight as we get our game mode on and play the "old school" games that were instrumental when we were all coming of age. In an age of where technology was still progressing with new breakthroughs in graphics and storytelling, we came across games, mostly on our first computer, introducing us to a favourite pastime and for many, a general passion moulding them in becoming the avid gamers they are today. Games like Aladdin, Lion King, Road Rash, the initial NFS series, Virtua Cop, Tetris, and others often frolic in our mind when thinking about the old days of playing video games.

A long summer
Mikhael, a medical student says, "I recently found my love of old school video games right after the lockdown as I wanted to get into playing Age of Empires II and Civilization IV." Mikhael stopped playing games during his tenacious MBBS degree course.

Strategy games are often seen as a recluse from the highflying action arcade games many of us grew up playing and allow the player to use the mind in the use of the game. The controlling strategy



and the course of action is what Mikhael likes the best of the yesteryear strategy games. Moreover, this virtual world, he feels is more near to the current world we are living in where just like in the games he is playing, a potential danger threat looms large in both worlds. With everything in lockdown and university life

still on hold, he does not mind racking his brainboxes to guard his empires and build new ones on the bones of the previous ones. While both of these games are more than a decade and a half old, they still hold sway for many fans seeing them as an instrument of going back to the old times.

Just like strategy games have been on the comeback, many fans also have a strong inclination towards "House of the Dead" and "Road Rash" has a sizeable following amongst many of us.

Sanjana, a graduate, remembers the most enjoyable game of her childhood being House of the Dead with its gory detail and horror theme gameplay, which she found both exhilarating and frightening when growing up. With

the work pressure gradually less and everything being conducted from home, she says, "I am not a tech-savvy person or not a gamer at all. But when my nephew told me he had downloaded some old games and I spotted House of the Dead, I immediately got hooked and started playing it".

House of the Dead alongside with Virtua Cop, are first-person shooter games which came in downloaded with our first PCs, making the memory of playing them after a long time a truly nostalgic moment. Nothing better than to shoot zombies and criminals and just for the fun of it, the annoying civilians. The guilt would be something to die for in those days.

The Sims recently completed its

twentieth year anniversary this year. The Sims has been largely associated with many of us growing up with guiling life simulation gameplay enabling the player to do as he or she fits. For many gamers who like play without a centralized plot, this game goes a long way for them. With the availability of varied options on the net as well as mediums of technology, the Sims can be played with relish on the phone as well as on the desktop making it one of the most enjoyable yesteryear games.


Reconnecting with old memories
Samin Khan, a corporate worker, has always been a fan of racing games and with a busy schedule; he could not enjoy the precious family time with his young 6-year-old son. With Ramadan and quarantine taking place simultaneously, he gets to play the old NFS games with his young son after Iftar and before Sehri channelling him through the old memories that he was closely associated with growing up.

"My favourite NFS games were Most Wanted and Underground 2 and it feels great to have my son sitting on my lap playing the NFS series from the oldest to the new", remarked Samin on the road down the memory lanes embedded in the world of virtual street racing.

Pokémon games have been a fan favourite for many of us and have been a major yardstick when it comes to role-playing games. With the help of emulators, players can play the games which kick-started the Pokémon fandom in the first place with games such as Pokémon Yellow, Ruby, Sapphire, and Emerald on their fingertips. Nothing to fire up the inner child inside you than to have fiery gym battles and to have become the Pokémon Master Ash Ketchum waited 23 years to become.

As the crisis of the pandemic rages on, many of us cooped up in our own rooms have plenty to explore including our childhood favorite games that are easily available to us than before. At times, taking a trip down vicariously in the virtual world is one way of eking out nostalgic memories and many moments of ease.


Note: Special shoutout to Cadillacs and Dinosaurs, the coin hungry game of kids from the late 90's. A side scrolling game based on the comic book *Xenozoic Tales*. Four adventurers who battle boss after boss while spending many a 2 Taka note. Now you can play the ported version of it on your phone.



MITSUBISHI MOTORS

What displacement means for engines

The capacity of an engine or "displacement", is calculated using the total volume of all cylinders that are displaced by pistons. Traditionally, engines with larger cylinders made more power but did so at the cost of burning more fuel. However technological advances –such as fuel injection and forced induction– have allowed smaller engines to bridge the power gap without sacrificing their excellent fuel economy. For example, the turbocharged 1.5 liter 4B40 engine found in the new Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross outputs 152 hp and 250 n-m of torque.



NOW YOU KNOW

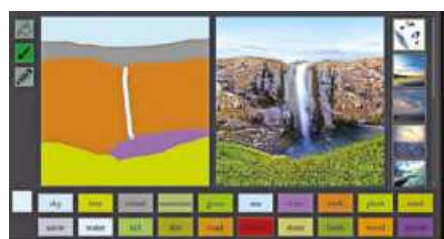


'Colourised scene from Satyajit Ray's Pather Panchali'

AI now shaping the world of creative arts

SADMAN SAKIB PANTHO

The second industrial revolution gifted us with photographic films which paved the way for the rise of photography as a creative art. As we stand at the doorstep of the fourth industrial revolution, artificial intelligence is taking centre stage. Here's four instances AI has changed how we experience creative arts.



1 - Breathing in new life to old movies

Based on the work of researchers from the University of California, Berkley many independent researchers and film enthusiasts have started using deep AI, to colourize many classic black and white films. The entire movie is upscaled and then digitally colourized using deep neural networks known as CNNs. A recent upscaled and colourised clip from Satyajit Ray's masterpiece *Pather Panchali* has taken the netizens by storm. The work was uploaded on YouTube by a professor of AI at the University of Maryland. This technology is still in early stages of development, but the promise showed by its application already has film lovers at the edge of their seats.

2 - From doodles to landscapes

Using Nvidia's prototype AI software called GauGAN, you can create a realistic

landscape in seconds just by doing a rough outline of a scene, doodling some trees or hills, and filling them in with natural textures such as clouds, water, grass, or rocks. It is a very intuitive tool and can be used by designers in different capacities, but Nvidia hasn't said anything about releasing it commercially.



3 - Reimagining dance choreography

Wayne McGregor, a multi-award-winning British choreographer, is working with Google regarding how artificial intelligence can be used to help choreographers bring in variations to come up with new dance styles. The project is called Living Archive. The AI uses dance videos uploaded to the archive to come up with thousands of iterations of its own. It's not about hiring

robot choreographers, rather the idea is to diversify dance moves by taking inspiration from a particular performer's style or even combining multiple ones to generate a hybrid.

4 - Classical music using machine learning

Artificial intelligence is being increasingly used in the music industry. But Aiva Technologies has broken all barriers by becoming the first AI in the world to receive the status of Composer in classical music. The company can create its own copyrighted music under SACEM. The technology uses deep learning algorithms and reinforcement machine learning techniques to read through a vast database of classical music pieces. From Bach to Beethoven to Mozart, Aiva can capture the essence of classical music theory using its algorithm upon existing musical works. Some of Aiva's creations have already been used in films and advertisements.

The incorporation of artificial intelligence is a promising leap towards the digitization of art as we know it today, but there is still a lot of room for development. With time, AI and technology could very well reshape our entire way of practising creative arts.

Project Gronthomogol: Pashe Achhi Initiative in aid of the Nilkhet booksellers

NAHALY NAFISA KHAN

The lockdown situation due to the coronavirus crisis took a heavy toll on a lot of small enterprises. Nilkhet, an ancient book-hub of the capital is no exception to this. The booksellers of the area with their small roadside and alleyway stores suffered tremendous loss over the last two or three months. Their customers are mostly university students, and even though the unofficial lockdown is mostly over and offices are open, universities are still closed to eliminate the risk of transmission. Hence, the sufferings of the booksellers of Nilkhet has not yet ended.

Members of Pashe Achhi Initiative, who are working to provide relief efforts through crowdfunding for the underprivileged in the times of the current crisis, were struck by the sufferings that the Nilkhet booksellers



and their employees are going through. That is how they came up with the idea of Project Gronthomogol. Tahmid

Hasan, the co-founder of the initiative said, "While travelling around the city for our usual relief works, we were one day passing by Nilkhet. All of the shops were closed, only two booksellers sat by their roadside store with books, in a helpless state without any customers. When we went up to talk to them we got to know of the financial problems that they were going through. They haven't had any sales for almost two months and couldn't even pay their house rents properly."

They realised that what these booksellers needed was an accelerated sales and book lovers who couldn't come out to their favourite place for

book hauling would love to have books delivered to them at their homes. They decided to buy books worth of BDT 25000 from the two booksellers, sell them online from their page for 200 bucks per book and use the money for their regular relief efforts.

"The initial plan was to connect the book lovers with Nilkhet amidst the current situation so that the booksellers can meet the bare minimum in life for a while. When we posted about Project Gronthomogol on our Facebook page, we really didn't expect this huge response. Books worth of BDT 25000 were all sold out within two hours. The

next day we went and got more books worth of BDT 150,000. This slot was sold out within two days", said Tahmid.

The members of the initiative take orders online through their Facebook page and collect books from Nilkhet as per the demand. The orders are managed by a 10-member volunteer team. One individual avail seven books per order. The packaging is done by two volunteers and two paid labourers, and the deliveries are done by some Pathao/Uber riders who are currently out-of-work due to the COVID-19 situation and are paid a handsome amount per delivery.

"We are also taking donations in the form of old books and have received 50-60 of these donations", said Tahmid. "We are not taking orders from outside of Dhaka since we cannot ensure a safe delivery process yet. Delivering books outside Dhaka via courier services can have severe health consequences under these circumstances", he added.

"So far we have sold almost 2000 books. Approximately 700-800 orders have been made. We really didn't expect this huge response. We are truly overwhelmed", said Tahmid. This project not only benefits the Nilkhet booksellers whose businesses have been abruptly stopped by the crisis but also underprivileged people from all classes and spheres who are benefitting from Pashe Achhi Initiative's regular relief efforts.

us on f /Sandalina

ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

স্যান্ডালিনা
সোপ

রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...

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