



Morocco quake kills over 1,300

Rescue teams comb for survivors; 1,832 injured; no Bangladeshis reported harmed

STAR REPORT

The deadliest earthquake in Morocco since 1960 has killed more than 1,300 people, as troops and emergency services scrambled to reach remote mountain villages where casualties are still feared trapped, authorities said yesterday.

The 6.8 magnitude quake struck late Friday in a mountainous area 72 kilometres (45 miles) southwest of tourist hotspot Marrakesh, the US Geological Survey reported.

With strong tremors also felt in the coastal cities of Rabat, Casablanca and Essaouira, the quake caused widespread damage and sent terrified residents and tourists scrambling to safety in the middle of the night.

However, no Bangladeshis were injured, said the Bangladesh embassy in Rabat.

"All Bangladeshi expatriates are safe," Ummul Husnaeen, chargé d'affaires at embassy, told The Daily



A woman standing in front of her earthquake-damaged house in the old city in Marrakesh yesterday. A powerful earthquake shook Morocco late Friday. PHOTO: AFP

Respond to global crises unitedly

PM urges G20

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for strengthening global solidarity and adopting coordinated response to address crises.



"Here G20 and international financial institutions have crucial roles to play, and Bangladesh is ready to support their efforts for tailoring actionable recommendations to tackle the crises," she said while putting forward four recommendations concerning the existence of mankind and the Earth.

Hasina was addressing the "One Earth" session of the G20 summit in New Delhi, report BSS and UNB.

The premier was attending the summit at the Bharat Mandapam convention centre at the invitation of her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi.

In her second recommendation, Hasina said bold, concrete and concerted actions must be taken at the global level for ensuring global peace and stability for the greater benefit of humanity.

In her third recommendation, the premier urged all to operationalise Loss and Damage Fund as early as possible for creating additional financing mechanisms to address climate induced migration.

Hasina in her fourth recommendation said that all humans should have equal rights.

"The global community must not forget ensuring of the return of the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals to Myanmar and it must continue its humanitarian support," she said.

The PM made the recommendations as one of the champions of the UN secretary-

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

It was the strongest-ever quake to hit the North African kingdom, and is the region's "biggest in more than 120 years."

Bill McGuire, professor emeritus at Britain's University College London

Star in a WhatsApp message around 6:48pm yesterday.

She said they have been in constant touch with the Bangladeshis present in the country and remained alert to provide any support given the current situation.

There are about 50 Bangladeshis enlisted with the mission who live in different parts of Morocco, the official said.

A few of them are business people while several others are in blue-collar jobs, she added.

In the mountain village of Moulay Brahim near the quake's epicentre, rescue teams searched for survivors in the rubble of collapsed houses while residents began digging graves for the dead on a nearby hill, reports AFP.

It was the strongest-ever quake to hit the North African kingdom, and is the region's "biggest in more than 120

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

EVERYTHING WAS SHAKING VIOLENTLY — PAGE 2

Macron due in town today

PORIMOL PALMA



French President Emmanuel Macron is arriving in Dhaka today on a two-day visit, in a testament to the growing importance of Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Delhi declaration adopted amid divides over war

Ukraine says statement 'nothing to be proud of' as it makes no mention of 'Russian aggression'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The G20 summit in New Delhi under India's presidency yesterday reached a consensus on the leaders' joint declaration after India changed the text on the deeply divisive issue of the Ukraine war.

The announcement about the consensus on the declaration and its subsequent adoption came hours after India circulated a new text to the G20 countries to describe the Ukraine conflict.

There have been several rounds of

negotiation without any consensus on the text on Ukraine before India yesterday shared a new narrative on the Ukraine crisis for the joint declaration.

The new draft emphatically said the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is "inadmissible," which diplomats saw as an indirect message to Russia. There was, however, no direct mention of Russian aggression in Ukraine.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4
US, INDIA, SAUDI, EU UNVEIL RAIL, PORTS DEAL — PAGE 7

Seamaster

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The Seamaster has served every kind of ocean adventurer from solo free divers to entire racing yacht crews. Continuing this fine tradition is the 42 mm Seamaster Diver 300M in steel, available on a matching bracelet or blue rubber strap. Crafted with a special seahorse logo on the caseback, it features a new wave-pattern dial in Summer Blue, varnished with a gradient finish to reflect its stated water resistance of 300M. We celebrate our oceangoing icon, with a promise to keep defying the depths and delivering new levels of precision.



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DENGUE OUTBREAK

Of lost loved ones
and incomplete
goodbyes

10 more die, 2,748 infected

MOUDD AHMED SUJAN

Asrafullah Jamal, a dengue patient being treated at the capital's Kurmitola General Hospital, had a difficult time bidding farewell to his son, Kazem Ashraf.

The 15-year-old, who was also battling the mosquito-borne disease in the same hospital, passed away yesterday morning, within 24 hours of being admitted.

Asrafullah had to be shifted to the Intensive Care Unit as his health condition sharply deteriorated following his son's burial in their ancestral graveyard in Bhola's Lalmohon upazila.

On Thursday afternoon, Kazem was discharged from a private hospital in Dhaka's Badda, after receiving dengue treatment for four days. However, his condition deteriorated rapidly, with diarrhoea and convulsions beginning that night.

"Perhaps, Kazem would have a better chance at survival if he had stayed at the hospital for a few more days," said his cousin Zubaer Khan.

According to Zubaer, Kazem was refused treatment at two other private hospitals in the capital before he was admitted to Kurmitola.

Both Kazem and his father were diagnosed with dengue infection on Monday — around five days after the onset of fever.

"The only family member that could attend Kazem's burial was his brother-in-law, who took the body to Bhola via a launch. My aunt, Kazem's mother, is too

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



A mother tries to feed her child, who is suffering from dengue, at Mugda Medical College & Hospital in the capital yesterday. At a time when the country is already grappling with a record outbreak of dengue fever, the current active monsoon conditions may contribute to the further spread of the mosquito-borne disease this month, say experts.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

FAKE VISA

Three held
for swindling
Tk 1.35 crore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of frauds has long been luring fortune seekers with employment prospects in Kuwait and scamming them by providing fake documents and visas.

They would open Facebook pages using fake IDs to attract those aspiring for overseas employment by promising them visa and handsome salary. If someone agrees, they would provide the fortune seekers with fake visas and documents in exchange for hefty fees, before going into hiding.

The scammers not only used to shatter their dreams, but also used to take their hard-earned money.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested three members of such a gang from Bandarban's Naikhongchhari and Dhaka's Vantara areas on Friday. Additional Commissioner of Police (DB) Mohammad Harun

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

MURDER OF TEEN
Site engineer
led the brutal
killing: Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The brutal killing of a teenager in Mohammadpur was led by the site engineer of an under-construction building, where he was beaten to death by the construction workers, Rab said.

The Rapid Action Battalion arrested three persons, including the engineer, in different areas of the capital on Friday, Khandaker Al Moin, director of the legal and media wing of Rab, told a press briefing at the Rab Media Centre yesterday.

The arrestees are — Mir Moazzem Hossain Pranto, 25, Firoz, 18, and Mostafizur Rahman, 35.

Akash Mia, 14, a seventh-grader at a local school, along with several friends, went into an under-construction building near Barab Government Primary School on Wednesday night.

Akash was trapped while his friends managed to escape when construction site workers chased them.

They later tortured him to death.

The Rab official said that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

What will BNP
do now?Asks Obaidul Quader at AL rally
referring to Biden's selfie with PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League's General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP's ongoing movement has no public support, and even the US has turned its back on them.

Quader said the BNP leaders got a "terrible shock" yesterday seeing US President Joe Biden himself taking a selfie with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her daughter autism expert Saima Wazed Putul while exchanging pleasantries on the G20 Summit sidelines in New Delhi.

"But what is seen today? Biden himself took a selfie with Sheikh Hasina... in Delhi."

"What will happen to BNP after seeing this scene? What form of movement will you wage now?" he asked while addressing a "peace rally" organised by Dhaka city (south) unit AL protesting the "terror and anarchy" of the BNP in front of the AL headquarters in the capital's Gulistan.

Claiming that the BNP's road-march programme failed to gather a crowd, Quader said, "I don't think people will join their rally again. There was no people's engagement [in their movement] and [after today] their activists will no longer look up to America."

In response to the BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir's remark that Bangladesh is becoming a playground of big powers, Quader said Bangladesh is following "friendship towards all, malice towards none," dictated by the father of the nation.

"There is no enmity here... Sheikh Hasina has maintained this policy, it will be proved in the coming days."

Quader said that their peace rally will continue till the next elections.

He also claimed that the BNP is secretly preparing for the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

People's govt
after ousting ALSays Mirza Fakhru at BNP
rally in Nayapaltan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said a "people's government" will be established in the country after the Awami League government is ousted by a united front of political parties and mass people.

He again urged AL to resign saying "People don't want the Awami League government to stay in power even for a second."

Mirza Fakhru made these remarks at a rally jointly organised by BNP South and North units in front of the party's central office in the capital's Nayapaltan.

The opposition rally, which came after a two-week break, started around 4:30pm as part of their one-point demand for the resignation of the AL government and holding the next national polls under a non-party caretaker government.

Yesterday, the party leaders and activists took out two mass processions in the capital as part of their movement. Dhaka south city unit of BNP brought out the procession from near Kamalapur Railway Station at 2:30pm while the north city unit BNP started from Rampura at the same time.

Around two hours later, causing immense suffering to city dwellers, both the processions ended in front of the party headquarters at Nayapaltan.

Fakhru, addressing the rally as the chief guest, lauded the huge crowd. He also demanded the government's resignation before the announcement of the election schedule and urged AL to form a neutral and non-party government.

He said people will only participate in the election if it is held under a new election commission, formed by a new government.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Road accidents
down by 21pc in
August: RSF

STAR REPORT

Road accidents decreased by 21.13 percent and fatalities by 34.03 percent in August, compared to July this year.

Road Safety Foundation, an organisation working on road accidents, released these statistics yesterday.

In a press release sent to the media yesterday afternoon, the foundation said 403 road accidents were reported in the country in August. As many as 378 people were killed and 794 injured. In July, 573 people were killed in 511 road accidents.

Of the 378 people killed in August, 44 were women and 51 were children. A total of 146 were killed in 142 motorcycle accidents, which is 38.62 percent of the total deaths.

At least 93 pedestrians were killed in road accidents, which is 24.6 percent of the total deaths. Some 57 drivers and their helpers were killed, which is 15.07 percent of the total deaths.

The accident statistics have been prepared on the basis of information from nine national dailies, seven online news portals and electronic media.

The Road Safety Foundation also said 17 people were killed in 11 boat accidents during this period and nine people were injured and six were missing.

Meanwhile, 37 people were killed and 19 injured in 28 accidents on the railway tracks.

According to the analysis of road accident data, 169 accidents took place on national highways, 148 on regional roads, 45 on rural roads, 37 on city roads and four in other places.

Dhaka division recorded the highest number of accidents and fatalities; 126 people were killed in 143 accidents. Sylhet division had the lowest number of accidents with 19, which claimed 16 lives. Gazipur has the highest number of accidents as a single district with 29 people killed in 31 accidents.

'Don't harass
Dr Yunus'Speakers say at a
discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday urged the government to stop harassing Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus.

They made the demand while speaking at a discussion organised by the Bangladesh Projonmo Academy, a pro-BNP platform, at the Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital.

"He [Yunus] is not beyond the law. But there is a perception everywhere in the country and abroad that he is being harassed. How are we benefiting from this? Rather, if we had made him a travelling

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



(Left) Awami League activists, protesting the "terror and anarchy" of BNP, gather for a "peace rally" in front of their central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital; (right) BNP activists gather for a rally in front of their Nayapaltan party office to press home their one-point demand.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, AMRAN HOSSAIN



Chanchal Chowdhury



Mehazabien Chowdhury



Afran Nisho



Bidya Sinha Mim



Pritom Hasan

MERIL-PROTHOM ALO AWARDS

Honouring stellar performers of 2022

Apart from the performances, the audience also enjoyed the company of hosts Siam Ahmed and Pritom who made sure that the evening was enjoyable to all.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The highly anticipated Meril-Prothom Alo Awards 2022 took to the centre stage on Friday evening at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center's Hall of Fame in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

This star-studded event brought together luminaries from the entertainment world, making the occasion an unforgettable one.

The event commenced with a welcome address from Prothom Alo Associate Editor Anisul Hoque. Following his remarks, Prothom Alo Editor Matiuir Rahman and Square Group Managing Director Anjan Chowdhury took to the stage, setting the tone for an evening of glitz and glamour.

Eminent singer Syed Abdul Hadi was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award at the event which was presented to him by noted singer Runa Laila.

"I have always longed for love and respect, and this award gave me both," said Hadi, the five-time National Film Award winner.

He was handed over a cheque worth Tk 2 lacs, which he donated to Prothom Alo trust.

Prominent faces of the industry, including Jayanta Chattopadhyay, Tariq Anam Khan, Nima Rahman, Chanchal Chowdhury, Runa Khan, Azmeri Haque Badhan, Bidya Sinha Mim, Mehazabien Chowdhury, Sabila Nur, Puja Chery, Pritom Hasan, and Xefar, among many other popular names, graced the event.

In the popular choice category, Bidya



From left, Runa Laila, Syed Abdul Hadi and Anjan Chowdhury



From left, Nusrat Imrose Tisha, Nazifa Tushi and Mostofa Sarwar Farooki

Sinha Mim won the Best Film Actress Award for her outstanding portrayal of Ananya in *Poran*, while Chanchal Chowdhury bagged the Best Film Actor Award for his exceptional performance in *Hawa*. Rodela Tapur, the young talent, received the Best Debutante Award for her performance in the film *Deshantor*.

In the category – Television Drama, Limited Feature Film, Digital Medium, TV Series, and Web Series – Mehazabien and Afran Nisho were awarded Best Actress and Best Actor (popular) for *Punorjonmo 3*, respectively.

Meanwhile, Nazia Haque Orsha received Best Actress (critics) for *Galiber Prem O Boshonter Kabbo* and Pritom received Best Actor (critics) for *Araal*.

Coming to the Critics' segment, Mejbaur Rahman Sumon bagged The Best Film Director

Award for his directorial debut *Hawa*, while Nazifa Tushi earned the Best Film Actress Award for playing Gulti in the film. The Best Actor title was claimed by Chanchal for his stellar performance in *Dui Diner Duniya*.

Shaaticup claimed the Best Web Series Award while the Best Director (web series) was awarded to Nuhash Humayun for *Pett Kata Shaw*.

Alongside the award distribution, many prominent faces took to the stage, presenting dance and musical performances.

Apart from these entertaining segments, the audience also enjoyed the company of hosts Siam Ahmed and Pritom who made sure that the evening was enjoyable to all.

The glamorous night concluded with a promise to a grander show in the following year.

Mithila to appear next in spy thriller

After donning the dynamic role of a modern lady Macbeth in Raajharshee De's *Mayaa*, Rafiath Rashid Mithila is now gearing up for Dulal Dey's upcoming spy-thriller project *Aranyer Prachin Probad*.



According to media reports, Mithila will be paired with Indian actor Jeetu Kamal in this film.

Director Dulal Dey spoke about his project, saying, "My story has many shades. The hero becomes a detective unexpectedly when he gets entangled in a mystery. He also has a love for Bengali literature."

In addition to Mithila and Jeetu, *Aranyer Prachin Probad* features Suhotra Mukhopadhyay, Silajit Majumder, Loknath Dey, and others.

25 poets to act in 'Street Philosopher'

The realms of poetry and philosophy are set to intertwine in a cinematic experience as director Masud Pathik begins his latest project, *Street Philosopher*.

The film will bring together a remarkable ensemble of 25 poets from Bangladesh, including Nirmalendu Goon, Ashim Saha, Kachi Khandkar, Dr Tapan Bagchi and Aslam Sani amongst many others, in the movie that delves into the philosophical musings of French and German thinkers Michel Foucault and Bertolt Brecht, respectively.

The poster of the movie was unveiled recently and the shooting of the project will begin from October 15.



ISPAHANI

The Daily Star

Let us have a look at the nominations for Best Director this year

Ispahani Tea Limited and The Daily Star have collaborated to recognise the best of OTT and Digital Media once again.

Nominations for Blender's Choice- The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2022 have been announced, and this is your opportunity to vote for your favourite artistes and content makers for their performances in 2022 on OTT and digital platforms.

To vote, visit : ottdcawards.thedailystar.net



The Daily Star
OTT & DIGITAL CONTENT AWARDS 2022

Best Director (Series)



Syed Ahmed Shawki

The director is nominated for the much-hyped production of 2022, *Karagar*, creating a benchmark in the OTT industry.



Shihab Shaheen

Known for romantic projects, the director wowed the audience with his web-series *Syndicate*, featuring Afran Nisho, Tasnia Farin, and Nazifa Tushi in the leading roles.



Nuhash Humayun

The young director stunned everyone by introducing the horror genre to the web platform with his debut series *Pett Kata Shaw*.



Tanim Noor

Kaiser was one of the most-loved productions of 2022. The director brilliantly executed the entire series, which earned him a nomination.



Mohammad Touqir Islam

The director surprised the audience with his debut production *Shaaticup*. The crime-drama explores a new narrative of the localities of Rajshahi in their own language.

Best Director (Film)



Robiul Alam Robi

Robi's *Cafe Desire* explores human relationships, which connects the plot in a hyper-linked narrative. His excellent direction earned him the nomination.



Vicky Zahed

Vicky's first web film, *Redrum*, explores the old-school traits of a 'whodunit' through characters that are realistic and relatable.



Anam Biswas

Dui Diner Duniya is the mystery-thriller that tells how life's simplest philosophy of retribution has the strangest ways of manifesting itself. Anam Biswas masterfully brought the story to the screen.



Raihan Rafi

The director is known for introducing twists in each of his works. *Taan* is no different. Raihan Rafi surely deserves a nomination for this film.



Sanjoy Somadder

The director managed to highlight the emotional journey of a mother and a child, facing many social turbulences in his web film *Daag*.



VISUAL: REHNUMA PROSHOON

The terror of Dhaka University's guest room culture



Saleh Uddin Sifat is a student of Dhaka University and the director of Students Against Torture (SAT).

SALEH UDDIN SIFAT

Getting into Dhaka University is a dream-come-true for many, but those dreams are usually shattered when students encounter the harsh reality of this institution. Generally, new students cannot get accommodation in the dormitories – or residential halls. For those who do not have relatives nearby or the financial means to arrange off-campus accommodation, residential halls are their only option. However, the hall administrations ignore the students' plight by citing a lack of vacancy. Taking advantage of this situation, leaders of the student wing of the ruling political party place these unfortunate students in *gono* (common) rooms.

Take the case of Zahid, who enrolled at DU in 2018, for example. Attached to Surja Sen Hall, he was denied a room when he sought accommodation from the hall administration. Left with no alternative, Zahid appealed to a political leader and was ultimately allotted a space in one of the hall's *gono* rooms. This is a common story for almost all freshers at DU.

Every hall has at least one *gono* room. And the term lives up to its name. While a *gono* room is meant to house only four students, it is usually crammed with almost 20 people. The freshers do not have proper beds, lack basic hygiene facilities, and there is no space for even a study table. The rooms are akin to prisons, and during summer these rooms become hell on earth.

While the nightmare begins with *gono* room placements, more sinister events follow soon after. At night, Chhatra League's second-

year partymen summon first-year students and direct the latter to the hall's guest room, supposedly a place of hospitality. Far from a warm welcome, what the freshers experience there is nothing but hostility, alongside mental and physical torture. The guest room is synonymous with ragging or hazing; it is a place where the notion of senior students being supportive mentors quickly crumbles. A first-year student is taught "etiquette and manners," such as greeting seniors in a specific way, attending political programmes of Chhatra League, staying on call at all times, and not criticising the government. Those who fail to comply face brutal punishment, and even expulsion, from the halls.

Although all halls have actual guest rooms, the term has lost its literal meaning and is now used to categorise the manner of abuse that occurs in any of the hall's rooms. Informally, there are three types of guest rooms: general, mini, and single. In the general ones, all freshers stand amid their seniors every day and bear a flurry of profanities for their so-called misconduct; the profanities sometimes turn into physical violence. Mini rooms are more brutal than their general counterparts. There, a selective number of freshers with "severe faults" are abused. In the single guest rooms, only one victim is targeted and abused both verbally and physically within the four walls. Most of the severe levels of torture happen in the mini and single guestrooms.

Our recent study found that 27 DU students were tortured, mentally and/or physically, in 2022. However, we are aware that the actual number could be quite higher. Most incidents of torture go unreported as the victims are forced to stay silent. They are intimidated to such an extent that they sometimes withdraw complaints or do not even dare to complain to the authorities, thinking that the administration will not ensure justice. This shows a lack of trust in authority, which is sometimes tacitly responsible for perpetuating this guest room culture. In August last year, Chhatra League leaders confined a student over a message criticising their political programmes. Later on, after checking the victim's smartphone and accusing him of militancy, the hall provost handed him over to the police. The police, finding no *prima facie* evidence against the student, let him go.

Due to such incidents, victims prefer seeking solace and justice by publicising their suffering, talking about their condition through social channels, hoping for societal redress and resistance.

The hall administrations, even after being fully aware that Chhatra League assigns seats in the halls, turn a blind eye to this matter. The administrations' tacit compliance is deeply concerning. The provosts and house tutors sweep aside their role in monitoring abuse while political leaders rule the halls.

Instead of turning a blind eye, it is incumbent upon the hall administrations to take action against all illegal residents, prioritise the welfare of freshers, and prevent guest room torture. As the campus is buzzing with the arrival of freshers, this is a call for transforming Dhaka University into a nurturing academic institution, driven by goodwill and structural changes. If the administration truly values the ideals of an academic atmosphere, it will surely find ways to ensure the rights and dignity of every student on campus.

Dear marketing gurus, don't take consumers for idiots

The make-believe world of advertising and selling



Dr Sayeed Ahmed is a consulting engineer and the CEO of Bayside Analytic, a technology-focused strategy and management consulting organisation.

SAYEED AHMED

Can a hand-washing liquid with added vitamins give any health benefits? Well, a consumer-product manufacturer claims just that.

Increasingly, making false claims and presenting distorted facts have become a trend to increase sales. Another such company brags that you can have all the nutritional benefits of an egg without eating one because their shampoos and conditioners are combined with all the good egg things. A detergent company smirks because it sells soap bars in huge numbers by stating that these have "the cleaning power of blue and orange!" (What on earth could that mean?) Perhaps the epitome of a bizarre commercial is one advertising a "halal soap." It became so successful – in misleading consumers – that Professor Philip Kotler mentioned it in his book *Principles of Marketing*. But wait, there is another, even more bizarre (and outrageous) example I am coming to in a while.

It's not just the big corporations

must rely on visual inspection, your experience with that seller, and market opinion.

But fruit sellers or sweets traders are petty operators compared to the corporations selling unnecessary things by creating a false sense of need with sleek advertising campaigns. When I complained about TV channels showing too many commercials, a friend reminded me of the Greek philosopher Socrates. His well-off disciples took him to a marketplace to show him all the luxurious things, while the more loyal ones were uneasy about how the master might react. But he only said, "How many things I can do without!" Then, my friend added what he had to say: the TV channels are doing their job of informing the public of its needs, which people wouldn't otherwise know of.

Of course, advertising is not only a consumer society thing. Politics, international affairs, warfare, mainstream news, social media and

that much of it was a lie.

Duterte heavily manipulated public opinion in the Philippines before the 2016 presidential election using fake Facebook feeds. But don't make him the only one responsible. In 2013, Facebook, in a bid to increase its user base, started subsidising internet access to the platform on mobile devices in countries where cellular data was not affordable for many despite having smartphones. With 100 million people, the Philippines was the perfect ground for testing this out. Facebook offered them "free Facebook" without caring about how it might be abused by Duterte's campaign managers (marketing experts). He won, which everyone saw. But few realised that the bigger winner was Facebook. It has since been used worldwide to spread disinformation, one instance of which likely contributed to the 2017 Rohingya genocide in Myanmar. Amnesty International stated, "In the months and years leading up to the atrocities, Facebook's algorithms were intensifying a storm of hatred against the Rohingya, which contributed to real world violence."

In a sleek marketing campaign, again, the current Russia-Ukraine war is presented as a direct outcome of Putin's invasion. But the root cause of the conflict remains unaddressed, which Joseph S Nye, Jr, a professor at Harvard University and a former US assistant secretary of defence, makes adequately clear in his op-ed "What



PHOTO: REUTERS

Increasingly, making false claims and presenting distorted facts about products have become a trend to increase sales.

selling things by making out-of-this-world claims about their products. When I buy a piece of papaya, pineapple or a kilogram of oranges, the seller almost invariably endorses it as extremely sweet (*kora mishti* in Bangla). "Don't pay now; take it home and enjoy, and pay me only if it's sweet," they add without a wink. Of course, you will not do that, but instead pay for it in good faith. Depending on your luck, the fruit can be sweet or sour, but that has nothing to do with the seller's pitch.

Point to any item in a sweets shop and ask, "When did this come in?" The answer is always, "Just a while ago." Never will any seller say that the sweets were made the previous day or earlier. Before buying, you

everything else use marketing to attract attention, manipulate public opinion, distort facts, and spread misinformation and disinformation. In 1997-98, when then US President Clinton was deep in the Monica Lewinsky mess, he tried to absolve himself by using a strongly worded, dramatically phrased, meticulously scripted sentence, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman." He had.

President George W Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair jointly launched a massive misinformation campaign on Saddam's imaginary stockpile of weapons of mass destruction to justify their 2003 military assault on millions of Iraqis. The US administration later admitted

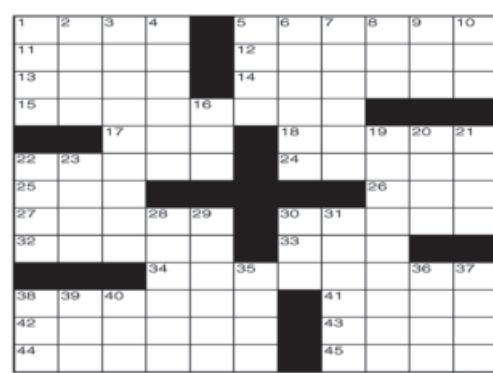
Caused the Ukraine War?" Most news outlets manipulate public opinion by putting the West on a high moral ground, making Moscow the sole villain.

The ultimate winner, however, is whitening creams. All consumer product makers sell it with the promise of lightening one's skin tone despite the product's high health risks. But the sellers portray it as a beauty enhancer, thus creating an otherwise non-existent need. This is the ultimate in marketing that is downright disgraceful, humiliating, racial, discriminatory, and devoid of morality or ethics.

Finally, you don't need a fancy hand wash at home. A simple soap is adequate to wash your hands.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Yard tool
 - 5 Terre Haute's river
 - 11 Farm team
 - 12 Broad street
 - 13 Pub orders
 - 14 Dock worker
 - 15 Pledge of
 - 17 Allegiance noun
 - 17 Cruise setting
 - 18 Steer clear of
 - 22 Prepared
 - 24 Derivative look
 - 25 Caribou's kin
 - 26 Quarterback
 - 27 Manning
 - 27 Vote in
 - 30 Thicket
 - 32 Surgery tool
 - 33 Pound sound
 - 34 Knot-tying
- DOWN**
- 1 Stadium sound
 - 2 Auto bar
 - 3 Mementos
 - 4 Followed as a result
 - 5 Mural spot
 - 6 Steers clear of
 - 7 Sailing signal
 - 8 Plus
 - 9 Take to court
 - 10 That woman
 - 16 Howl at the moon
 - 19 Counterfeit videos
 - 20 Salon supplies
 - 21 Buffalo's lake
 - 22 Lively folk dance
 - 23 Singer Fitzgerald
 - 28 Sidewalk stuff
 - 29 See the world
 - 30 Compact, e.g.
 - 31 Meadowlark's cousin
 - 35 Quite uncommon
 - 36 Hold tightly
 - 37 Relaxed
 - 38 Yak it up
 - 39 Pilot's guess: Abbr.
 - 40 Word of denial



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Is AI a concern for chartered accountants?

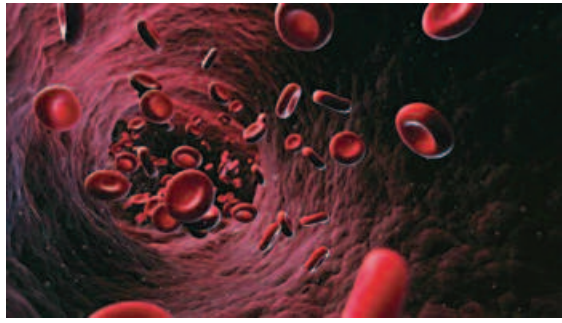
Imagine spending your blood, sweat, and tears on passing 10-15 exams to get the title of CA, only to hear that you could be replaced by a man-made, emotionless robot someday. This should come as no surprise to you because the use of AI has taken over every industry and might not leave accountants untouched.

To explore this question, we must delve into how these changes in technology can be viewed from a finance perspective. AI might be perceived as an opportunity if it automates repetitive tasks and frees up time for professional accountants to focus on more challenging, value-adding work. On the other hand, it might be seen as a threat when it replaces many traditional roles and activities, resulting in job losses.

In general, we can group "data collection" and "data processing" as activities that are at a risk of being automated, while "applying expertise," "stakeholder interactions," and "managing others" are activities which require human skills and personalisation to be able to create value for the organisation.

Hence, it is safe to say that AI-driven technologies can be a helping hand for accountants but can never eliminate their necessity. We must embrace these innovations for the opportunities they bring and find ways to mitigate their threats.

Nujhat Nowrin
North South University



Anaemia rates among adolescent women on the rise: urgent action needed

STAR HEALTH REPORT

A recent study published in PLOS Global Public Health sheds light on the alarming increase in anaemia among adolescent women in India from 2015 to 2021. Anaemia, a condition characterised by a lack of healthy red blood cells, can have severe health consequences, and it disproportionately affects women in India. Almost 6 in 10 female adolescents in India are anaemic, with 21 of 28 states reporting increased prevalence since 2015, per national surveys.

The study analysed data from the fourth and fifth rounds of the National Family Health Survey, covering over 100,000 adolescent women aged 15 to 19. Shockingly, the prevalence of anaemia surged from 54.2% to 58.9% during this period.

The study also found various factors associated with anaemia, including having more than one child, lacking education, belonging to Scheduled Tribes, being in the lowest wealth quintile, and being underweight.

This rise in anaemia rates is a cause for concern, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to address this public health issue. Anaemia can lead to fatigue, weakness, and a range of health complications, especially during pregnancy. As such, it is essential that efforts are made to improve the overall health and well-being of adolescent women and reduce the burden of anaemia they face.



Raising awareness and taking action: International Overdose Awareness Day 2023

STAR HEALTH DESK

August 31 is International Overdose Awareness Day. In 2019, around 600,000 deaths were attributed to drug use, with 25% related to opioids. Opioids have analgesic and sedative effects and are commonly used for the management of pain.

Opioids are a class of compounds that include natural, semi-synthetic, and synthetic substances with properties that interact with opioid receptors in the brain. They are known for their analgesic and sedative effects and are commonly used for pain management. Opioid medications like morphine, codeine, and fentanyl are widely used for this purpose, while methadone and buprenorphine are used for treating opioid dependence. However, the misuse of opioids for non-medical reasons can lead to dependence and various health issues.

Globally, approximately 5.8% of the population aged 15-64 used drugs in 2021, with around 60 million people using opioids. Drug use disorders affected about 39.5 million individuals that year, and the proportion of those using prescription opioids is increasing.

Opioid use can result in fatal opioid overdoses due to their impact on the brain's respiratory regulation center. Signs of opioid overdose include pinpoint pupils, unconsciousness, and breathing difficulties. In 2019, approximately 600,000 drug-related deaths occurred worldwide, with opioids contributing to nearly 80% of these deaths and around 25% of opioid-related deaths attributed to overdose, causing approximately 125,000 fatalities.

The number of opioid overdoses has been on the rise, partly due to the increased availability of prescription opioids for chronic pain management and the presence of potent opioids in the illicit drug market. In the United States, opioid



overdose deaths surged, particularly involving synthetic opioids, from 2013 to 2019.

Fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid, is about 50-100 times more potent than morphine. While it is included on the World Health Organisation's (WHO) model list of essential medicines for its pain-relieving properties, it has also contributed to a spike in opioid overdose deaths. Drug dealers often mix fentanyl with other substances, including heroin, increasing its potency and making it challenging for users to detect.

Several risk factors increase the likelihood of opioid overdose, including opioid use disorder, injection drug use, resumption of opioid use after abstinence, unsupervised use of prescription opioids, high prescribed opioid dosages, combined use with other substances, and underlying medical conditions.

Efforts to prevent opioid overdose include increasing access to opioid dependence treatment, rationalising opioid prescribing practices, monitoring opioid dispensing, and restricting over-the-counter sales of opioids. However, there is a significant gap between recommended actions and their actual implementation.

Naloxone, an opioid antidote, can reverse opioid overdose

effects if administered promptly. It is currently limited to health professionals in many places, but some countries have made it available without a prescription. Programmes providing naloxone to individuals likely to witness an opioid overdose, along with training on its use and resuscitation, have been successful in reducing overdose deaths.

Prevention strategies also involve improving access to opioid dependence treatment, reducing inappropriate opioid prescribing, and monitoring opioid use trends and related harm. WHO recommends a range of treatment options for opioid dependence, including opioid agonist maintenance treatment (e.g., methadone and buprenorphine), psychosocial support, and pharmacological treatment with opioid antagonists (e.g., naltrexone).

In conclusion, opioids have significant medical benefits but also pose risks, particularly regarding dependence and overdose. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-pronged approach, including prevention, harm reduction, and access to appropriate treatment and overdose response measures. If you suspect someone is having an overdose, contact an emergency healthcare provider immediately.

Source: World Health Organisation

HAVE A NICE DAY

How much is too much? - Part III

DR RUBAUL MURSHED

Many factors affect how much money you need to live comfortably, such as location, lifestyle, age, and health. It also varies from culture to culture and between Western and Eastern philosophies. That is why the definition of happiness varies from culture to culture.

Health is one of the most crucial things in life that money can not buy. And 'health' does not always come from medicine; it may come from peace of mind and soul. It comes from kindness and gratitude. Even wealthy people can never trade their money for this 'health'. But unfortunately, there are many real-life cases where people sacrifice their health to pursue wealth.

Studies show that money-centric mindsets have developed to focus too much on financial issues. This focus can be so great that they neglect human, intellectual, and social assets in their families. It means that making more does little for their happiness. It does not take a wise scholar to see how misguided this mindset is! It has also been seen that too much wealth creates toxic relationships that can negatively drain someone's energy and impact his or her mental and physical health. The more time someone spends with them, the more euphoric and fantasy world one will live in.

Today, money-driven people generate so much waste because of our consumption-based economy and lifestyle; as a result, an unimaginable number of people suffer. 'Too much money' has become a dreadful master and an evil servant.

E-mail: rubaulmurshed@shomman.org



WORLD PHYSIOTHERAPY DAY 2023 Prevention and management of OSTEOARTHRITIS

DR M SAIDUR RAHMAN

September 8 is observed as the World Physiotherapy Day. The day marks the worldwide physiotherapy community's unity and solidarity. It is an opportunity to appreciate the work physiotherapists do for their patients and society. The focus of this year's World Physiotherapy Day was the prevention and management of osteoarthritis.

Arthritis is a disease that affects your joints. Arthritis usually involves inflammation or degeneration (breakdown) of your joints. These changes can cause pain when you use the joint. Arthritis is most common in the following areas of the body: feet, hands, hips, knees, and lower back.

Experts have identified some genes that might cause arthritis, including arthritis of the knee. They predict that there are more genes not yet discovered. You could have a gene linked to arthritis without knowing it, and a virus or injury could trigger arthritis of the knee.

Though the cause is unknown, some risk factors increase the possibility of arthritis of the knee. Risk factors for osteoarthritis, specifically, include:

Age: Osteoarthritis happens to older adults more often than younger adults and children.

Bone anomalies: You are at a higher risk for osteoarthritis if your bones or joints are naturally crooked.

Gout: Gout, also a type of inflammatory arthritis, might lead to osteoarthritis.

Injuries: Knee injuries can

cause arthritis of the knee.

Stress: A lot of stress on your knees from jogging, playing sports, or working an active job can lead to osteoarthritis of the knee.

Weight: Extra weight puts more pressure on your knees.

There are many signs and symptoms of arthritis of the knee: creaking, clicking, grinding, or snapping noises (crepitus); difficulty walking; joint pain that changes (gets better or worse) depending on the weather; joint stiffness; knee buckling; knee joint pain that progresses slowly or pain that happens suddenly; skin redness or swelling.

Healthcare providers cannot cure knee arthritis.

But they have some tips that might reduce the severity of your symptoms and possibly stop the arthritis from getting worse, including maintaining a healthy weight and exercising using low-impact activities (swimming, cycling) instead of high-impact activities (jogging, tennis). Aim for about 150 minutes of exercise per week; wear shock-absorbing inserts in your shoes; apply heat or ice to the area; wear a knee sleeve or brace; do physical therapy exercises that help with flexibility, strength, and motion; use a cane; receive acupuncture and platelet-rich plasma.

Check with your healthcare provider before you try any of these tips.

The writer is the Chief Consultant (Physio), at the Reactive Physiotherapy Centre, Tejaon, Dhaka.



Sugar substitute scrutiny: aspartame's carcinogenic concerns

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have jointly released assessments on the health impacts of the artificial sweetener aspartame. These assessments come amid concerns about the potential carcinogenicity of aspartame and its widespread use in various food and beverage products since the 1980s.

IARC has classified aspartame as "possibly carcinogenic to humans" (Group 2B), citing limited evidence for its carcinogenicity, specifically in relation to hepatocellular carcinoma, a form of liver cancer. This classification is based on limited evidence in both humans and experimental animals and limited understanding of the mechanisms that may lead to cancer.

On the other hand, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) reaffirmed the acceptable daily intake (ADI) of aspartame at 40 mg/kg body weight. JECFA concluded that the available data did not provide sufficient reason to change this established limit, indicating that aspartame consumption within this range is safe.

Both assessments noted limitations in the available evidence for cancer and other health effects associated with aspartame consumption. Notably, JECFA factored in IARC's classifications but found the evidence on cancer risk in humans not convincing.

Both IARC and WHO stressed the need for more research to refine our understanding of whether aspartame poses a carcinogenic hazard. They will continue monitoring new evidence and encourage independent research groups to conduct further studies on the potential health effects of aspartame exposure.

The assessments aim to provide clarity on aspartame's safety and its potential implications for consumer health, particularly regarding cancer risk.

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- Help doctors to monitor the effectiveness of treatment



ঢাকার ধমনীতে নতুন গতি
প্রথম ঢাকা এলিভেটেড এক্সপ্রেসওয়ের শুভসূচনা

সিমেন্ট ও রেডিমেট কংক্রিট
অন্যতম নিরাপদ সহযোগী

শাহ সিমেন্ট

Batting lets Tigers down again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Batting failure once again led to the downfall of Bangladesh in their 21-run defeat against Sri Lanka in a crucial Super Four encounter in the Asia Cup at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

Chasing a victory target of 258, Bangladesh were bowled out for 236 runs with eleven balls remaining, with Towhid Hridoy's 82 the only notable batting performance for the losing side.

With consecutive defeats in the Super Four stage, Bangladesh's hopes of reaching the final are left hanging by a thread, with only one game for them remaining, that against seven-time champions India on September 15.

Bangladesh's top-order batting once again failed to complement the spirit shown by the bowlers on a tricky Premadasa surface, and despite a 55-run opening stand between Naim Sheikh and Mehedi Hasan Miraz, the Tigers found themselves in all sorts of trouble after losing four wickets for

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



Sri Lanka wicketkeeper Kusal Mendis successfully catches the ball to dismiss Bangladesh batter Litton Das during their Asia Cup Super Four fixture at the R Premadasa Stadium yesterday. After restricting Sri Lanka to 257, Bangladesh were bowled out for 236 to lose the match by 21 runs.

PHOTO: AFP

Lavrov gives 'rationale' for Ukraine war

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov explained why Russia "had to" start military intervention in Ukraine during his interaction with the Soviet Alumni Association, Bangladesh (SAAB) in Dhaka on Friday.



Lavrov, who was in Dhaka on a 20-hour visit on September 7 before attending the G20 summit in New Delhi, spoke to the members of SAAB, an association of Russian those who studied in Russia, at the Russian embassy before wrapping up his visit to Bangladesh.

The Russian minister explained that after the breakup of the Soviet Union, the US in 1990 committed to not expand NATO eastwards, said Mizanur Rahman, director of the Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs, quoting Lavrov.

Rahman did his LL.M and PhD in International Law from the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia.

However, in violation of that commitment, NATO expanded to more East European countries, Rahman told the correspondent yesterday, quoting Lavrov.

"Since 2014, there has been ethnic cleansing of the Russians living in Ukraine. They wanted to be independent, but we said you could have autonomy. Thus,

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1,000-year-old mummy found in Peru

REUTERS, Lima

Archaeologists in Peru have unearthed a 1,000-year-old mummy in the latest discovery at an archaeological site located in a residential neighborhood of the country's capital, Lima.

The remains were found alongside ceramic vessels, textiles and other objects in the Huaca Pucllana site in the middle of Lima's affluent Miraflores district, the head of the team of archaeologists, Mirella Ganoza, told Reuters on Wednesday.

"This is an adult individual in a sitting position with bent legs," the expert said, noting that the mummy had long hair and a jaw that was nearly completely intact.

The uncovered mummy lived possibly as long as a millennium ago, at the beginning of the Ychsma culture that developed on the central coast of modern Peru during a period of social reorganization prior to the arrival of the Incas to the area, Ganoza said.

Mummies and ancient offerings have already been found in the Huaca Pucllana site, and experts see the site as a Pandora's Box with much more to be found.

While best known for the mountain-top Inca royal retreat of Machu Picchu, Peru was home to various pre-Hispanic cultures that thrived in the centuries before the Inca empire rose to power, mainly along the country's central coast and in the Andes.



COVID-19 LEARNING LOSSES

Most students didn't get help to cope

Shows Education Watch Study-2022 on primary, secondary levels

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR JEWEL

Almost three quarters of all primary and secondary school students did not receive any special assistance for their studies when schools reopened after the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to an Education Watch study report titled "Post Pandemic Education: Recovery and Renewal of School Education", around 85 percent students of classes eight and nine had to take private tuition classes to recover from the education losses caused by the pandemic.

Prepared by the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), the report was unveiled at a programme in its office in the capital.

Education Watch is an alliance of civil society members and researchers and is coordinated by CAMPE.

It shows 79 percent of primary and 82.5 percent of secondary level students followed commercially produced note-books to prepare for their lessons and exams in 2022.

Note-books are study aids containing specific notes summarised from textbooks.

Around 97 percent of teachers

COVID-19 FALLOUT

97% teachers said Covid-19 caused learning loss

75% secondary, 71% primary students got no assistance

85% class eight and nine students took private tuition

79% primary, 82% secondary rely on note-books

that private tutoring was arranged for their children to recover from learning losses, he added, quoting the study.

At the programme, CAMPE Executive Director Rasheda K Choudhury emphasised on coordinated efforts to help students recover from learning losses.

Contacted, Professor Nehal Ahmed, director general of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, said he cannot comment on the matter without seeing the report.

"We all know there were learning losses and we're taking various steps for recovery. We asked all the schools to hold extra classes, which some might not be able to do due to a shortage of teachers."

The Education Watch Study-2022 was conducted between January and October last year with 5,692 respondents, including 3,821 students, 562 teachers, and 584 parents from eight districts.

Government officials, school management committee and NGO officials were also on the list of respondents.

The study said that from January to September in 2022, parents

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

361 students died by suicide in 8 months

Says Aachol Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 361 students died by suicide in the first eight months of the year, according to Aachol Foundation.

The students were from schools, colleges, universities, and madrasas across the country, said the organisation for mental health, referring to media reports.

Of those who died by suicide, 169 were in schools, 96 in colleges, 66 in universities, and 30 in madrasas; of the total, 214 are girls and 147 are boys.

Over 8 percent of them were aged 12 years or younger, 67 percent were between 13 and 19, 21.6 percent between 20 and 25, the rest were over 25.

The highest 31.30 percent were from Dhaka division, 14.10 percent from Chattogram, and the rest were from other divisions.

"Students dying by suicide is just a number to us, but for the families, they meant the world," Tansen Rose, president of the foundation, told a virtual press conference on the eve of the World Suicide Prevention Day.

Good parenting can be a safeguard for future generations, he said, adding that misunderstanding can lead to self-harming behaviour.

Helal Uddin Ahmed, associate professor at the National Institute of Mental Health; Farida Yeasmin, additional deputy inspector general of Cumilla Sylhet region; Shahidul Islam, programme manager at health directorate, also spoke at the event.

In 2022, at least 532 students died by suicide, according to the foundation.

"Students dying by suicide is just a number to us, but for the families, they meant the world."

TANSEN ROSE
President of Aachol Foundation

No such thing as ghost case

Says IGP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, the inspector general of police, has said there is no such thing as a "ghost case".

"If someone has a specific complaint about a case, you should let us know, and we will investigate," the IGP told reporters in Bogura yesterday.

Lawsuits containing false charges against people, mainly opposition activists, are popularly known as ghost cases.

Asked about the allegation that 30 ghost cases were filed recently in Jamalpur and whether such cases would be filed in other districts, he said, "I don't know if there is any such thing as a ghost case."

The IGP visited the district to inaugurate Bogura Police Plaza.

Asked whether 20 lakh rubber bullets were procured by police to suppress dissent, the police chief said, "That is not the case. We buy these regularly. This is a normal process that happens every year."

Referring to political programmes, he said, "We have nothing to say about political events. But if law and order deteriorate and people's lives and properties are at risk, we will take legal action."



A Bailey bridge in Tangail's Delduar upazila collapses early yesterday when a sand-laden truck was crossing it. This severed direct road communication between Delduar upazila and Tangail town.

PHOTO: STAR

Celebrating the legacy of SD Burman

Sachin Dev Burman Sangeet Utsav concludes at BSA

DOWEL BISWAS

Thanks to timeless melodies like "Ke Jash Re", and "Tumi Aar Nei Se Tumi", the name Sachin Dev Burman needs no introduction to Bangla song lovers.



To pay homage to the legendary lyricist and composer, cultural organisation Banhishikha organised a two-day musical festival titled "Sachin Dev Burman Sangeet Utsav" at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the capital, starting on Friday.

It was inaugurated by State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid, who was also the chief guest.

In his keynote speech, he said, "Deliberate expositions are required on SD Burman for the development

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