

QUIRKY SCIENCE

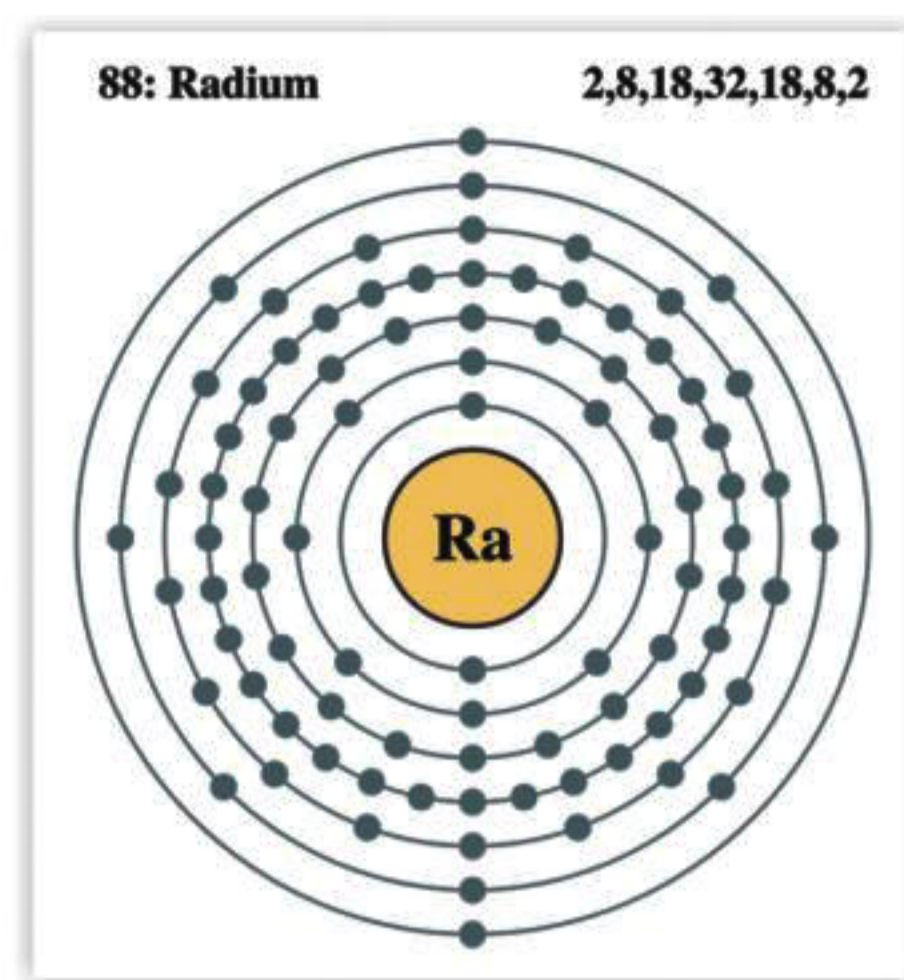
Marie Curie was a Polish physicist and chemist who lived between the years
Madam Curie
the Nobel Laureate



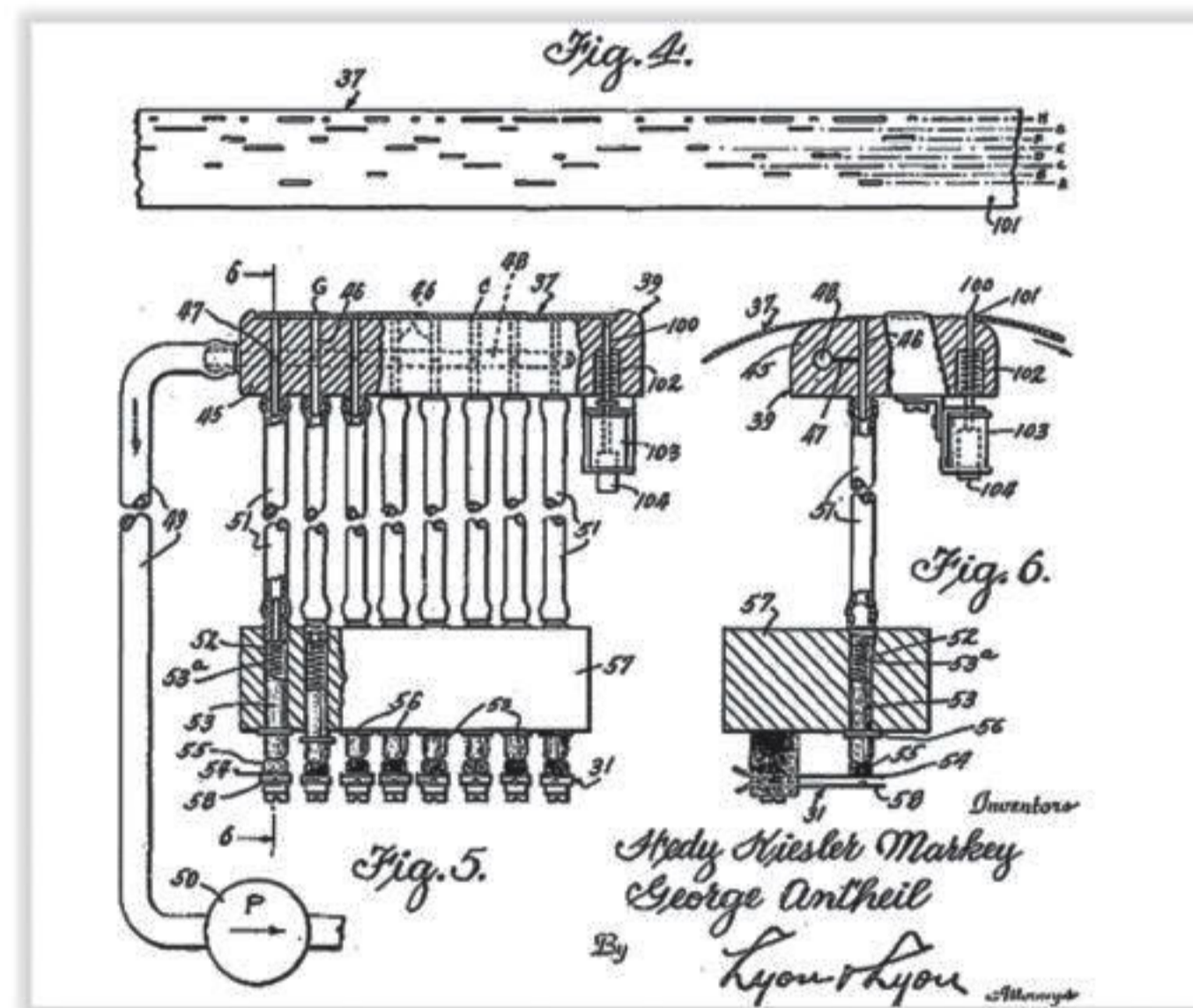
Madam Curie

1867-1934. Together with her husband, Pierre, she discovered two new elements (radium and polonium, two radioactive elements that they extracted chemically from pitchblende ore) and studied the x-rays they emitted. She found that the harmful properties of x-rays were able to kill tumours. By the end of World War I, Marie Curie was probably the most famous woman in

the world. She had made a conscious decision, however, not to patent methods of processing radium or its medical applications. Her co-discovery with her husband Pierre Curie of the radioactive elements radium and polonium represents one of the best known stories in modern science for which they were recognised in 1901 with the Nobel Prize in Physics. In 1911, Marie Curie was honoured with a second Nobel Prize, this time in chemistry, to honour her for successfully isolating pure radium and determining radium's atomic weight.



Hedy Lamarr
the Goddess
of Wireless



Hedy Lamarr

Although better known for her Silver Screen exploits, Austrian actress Hedy Lamarr (born Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler) also became a pioneer in the field of wireless communications following her emigration to the United States. The international beauty icon, along with co-inventor George Anthiel, developed a "Secret Communications System" to help combat the Nazis in World War II. By manipulating radio frequencies at irregular intervals between transmission and reception, the invention formed an unbreakable code to prevent classified messages from being intercepted by enemy personnel. Those inventions have more recently been incorporated into Wi-Fi, CDMA and Bluetooth technology and led to her being inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2014. Lamarr and Anthiel received a patent in 1941, but the enormous significance of their invention was not realized until decades later.

Proving she was much more than just another pretty face, Lamarr shattered stereotypes and earned a place among the 20th century's most important women inventors. She truly was a visionary whose technological acumen was far ahead of its time. ■



SKETCH: YARIZ SIDDIQUI

FEROZA BEGUM
July 28, 1930 to 9 September 2014

Feroza Begum, a legendary singer, gave Nazrul's songs the passion with her unforgettable seasoned voice and she will remain afresh in the heart of millions. For her unstinting dedication to music, Feroza Begum has been awarded the Shadhinata Puroshkar including many other prestigious awards. She has been awarded the D Lit title from Bardhaman University of India as recognition of her special contribution in the musical arena.

Life and Career

At the age of 10 she started her career. And by that time she met poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and had the brief opportunity of taking lessons from the maestro himself. She first sang on All India Radio while studying in class 6. In 1942, HMV, the gramophone record company, recorded her first Islamic song. Since then, 12 LP records, 4 EP records, 6 CDs and more than 20 audio cassette records have been released. She lived in Kolkata from 1954 until she moved to Dhaka in 1967. In 1956, Feroza married Kamal Dasgupta, a singer, composer and lyricist.

“I always dreamt of recording my songs and hoped everybody would listen to my music.”

At the beginning of my professional career as a singer, I faced obstacles from my family. They told me to quit music and go back to Faridpur. They tried to marry me off, since they thought that an unmarried Muslim girl should not be allowed to continue an artistic career far from home.

For my family and three sons—Tahseen, Hamin and Shafin – I sacrificed the golden days of my life for six years.”

SOURCE: THE STAR MAGAZINE AND WIKIPEDIA

STARJOURNALS

PROTECTORS OR PREDATORS?



PHOTO: KAZI TAHSEEN AGAZ APURBO

A week ago, I was stopped at a traffic signal in Mogbazaar, because the PM was passing by. The rickshaw next to mine couldn't quite stop in time when the traffic police hailed us to, and went a little ahead in line. The place was surrounded by the police as can be expected, but what happened next shocked me to the core. One of the inspectors grabbed a hold of the "offending" rickshaw puller and started beating him mercilessly with a helmet. When his passenger, a young man with a Press ID around his neck, objected, the inspector drew his pistol and pointed it at his head! He then proceeded to swear at and threaten to kill him in the worst language possible while the rest of us watched in fear and shock. The traffic police eventually came to their senses and drew the inspector away, but the incident remained embedded in my mind and made me wonder who is left for us to trust in these uncertain times.

Aisha Islam
Eskaton, Dhaka

SHADY DEALINGS

The other day, I was passing by Rapa Plaza in Dhanmondi and I stopped to buy some cigarettes. When I approached the vendor sitting on the corner of the street, he handed me a piece of paper which had something lumpy inside. Confused, I opened it to discover it was marijuana. I started at him in surprise and asked what this was about just as he too realised he had mistaken me for someone else. The situation would have been quite comical if not for the sad fact that drugs are literally now available at every street corner and our law enforcers are doing little to nothing to put a stop to this damaging trade.

Ayeman Yasser
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Unexpected Kindness

On Valentine's Day this year, I was quite broke. Being a student, I have a part time job that doesn't really get me through the month. I was moping around the flower market in Shahbagh, dwelling on what I would tell my girlfriend when I showed up at her college empty handed, when a flower vendor asked me what was wrong. I was surprised at this, but he said he had been observing me for some time and asked me to have a cup of tea with him. He paid for the tea, to my further astonishment, and led me to his store as I told him my troubles. He listened sympathetically and at the end of my whining, gave me a beautiful red rose to give it to my girl. He asked me to give her his Salaam. In a city where no-one has time for anyone else, this kindness was unexpected and touching. I plan to return the favour as soon as I can.



Shahed Hossain
Dhaka

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