



ECHOES BY
ASRAR CHOWDHURY

John and Alicia

IN THICK AND IN THIN

We're always playing games. Sometimes we play together. Sometimes we play against each other. Sometimes we play the same game only once. Other times we play the same game more than once. Sometimes we know enough information about each other. Other times we don't know enough about each other. No matter how we play a game, we will all be happy if the following two statements are true at the same time.

1: I am doing the best I can, knowing you and others are also doing the best you can.

2: You are doing the best you can, knowing I and others are also doing the best we can.

If any one of the above statements is not true, at least one of us won't be happy. In that case, we won't reach what has now become folklore, a Nash Equilibrium.

My introduction with John Nash was not through the 1998 biography *Beautiful Mind* by Sylvia Nasar or the 2001 Oscar winning movie by the same name in which Russell Crowe made Nash a household name. Although I was vaguely familiar with Game Theory and the Nash Equilibrium ever since the first Nobel in Economics for Game Theory in 1994, it was not until January 2011 when the Economics Department of North South University asked me to take their Game Theory course that I entered a world to which I respond with pleasure whenever a call comes.



Before I made an effort to learn Game Theory and the impact of the Nash Equilibrium, I couldn't make rhymes and reasons of many phenomena in economics. The simplicity of the Nash Equilibrium and the coincidence that my birthday is on June 12, and Nash's on June 13 made me more and more inquisitive about Nash.

Economics is no stranger to mathematicians. Ever since the middle of the 19th century, mathematicians have come and gone with one model after another. What

makes Nash unique is that he remains one of the few mathematicians who can show original mathematical contributions in both economics and pure math. We have a romanticised notion when it comes to a genius. It's true that Nash lost 30 years in his life, but it's also true in between 1948 (when he came to Princeton for a PhD) and around 1960 when he started hearing voices in his head, Nash had introduced his equilibrium for Game Theory and also solved Reimann's problem in differential geome-

try now known as the Nash Embedded Theorem. Nash also made original contributions in differential equations and topology. By the beginning of the 1960s, Nash had established himself as one of the finest mathematicians of his time.

Behind every great man is an even greater woman. This is where John Nash remains John Nash thanks to his loving wife, Alicia Nash. Nash's colleagues at Princeton always had the time and space for him, but to get out of schizophrenia was unheard of. It needed the unconditional love and patience of Alicia to help John make a comeback from schizophrenia. What a comeback it was with a Nobel Prize in economics in 1994 and an Abel Prize for his contributions in mathematics in 2015.

Thanks to Alicia, Nash opened a world of game theory for me and my students. Like Alicia, I wouldn't have been able to experience the 'beautiful math' were it not for my students. Nash made me appreciate that intuition is the most powerful mathematical tool. Like Romeo and Juliet, John and Alicia's marriage was made in the heavens. Like Romeo and Juliet, they left the world together, two 'beautiful souls', hand in hand, in thick and in thin.

Asrar Chowdhury teaches economic theory and game theory in the classroom. Outside he listens to music and BBC Radio; follows Test Cricket; and plays the flute. He can be reached at: asrar.chowdhury@facebook.com



Tanvir Ahmed

TAKING FAMILY BUSINESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

LEVEL UP
WITH G SUMDANY DON

Tanvir Ahmed, director of Envoy and Sheltech Group, has proved himself as a successful businessman by expanding current family ventures and establishing new ones. He has always wanted to do more for the country by contributing to its infrastructure and is involved in various social welfare and sustainability programmes. He did his schooling from Scholastica, and then completed his bachelor's and master's in the UK before moving back to Bangladesh.

"Since the inception of Envoy Group 30 years ago, I have been brought up in an entrepreneurial environment. I have watched it grow and diversify to what it is now and I always wanted to be a part of it," said Tanvir Ahmed.

Tanvir is an inspiration for young entrepreneurs in Bangladesh, as he is an example of talent, professionalism, dedication and handwork. While others sleep, he works. His down-to-earth attitude is arguably his most attractive fea-



ture and he exudes a positive vibe even when you're just chatting with him.

Although it sounds like a cliché, but Tanvir strongly believes that there's no

shortcut to success. According to him, one must have a thirst for knowledge and learn to adapt to changing situations. He loves taking on challenges. This was

evident when he set up RMG unit in a remote location and a chain of hotels.

He feels that work experience at an early age is very important. "Working at a young age helps develop a sense of responsibility and this experience provides benefits in the long run," he said.

His take on family business: Even though there's the burden of being constantly compared to predecessors, the rewards are sweet since one has the ability to take it to the next level.

"For me, I look at where the previous generation has left off, and what can be done to make it bigger," He said.

G. Sumdany Don is a professional trainer, and wants to inspire the youth of Bangladesh. He has a fascination for radio, TV and media in general and secretly wants to become really famous one day. He can be reached at don@donsumdany.com or www.facebook.com/donsumdany.