

# BEHIND THE SCENES

STAR PEOPLE

ELITA KARIM

PHOTO: SAMIR SAKER

Even though the media scene in Bangladesh gets bigger by the day, it is not necessarily producing or presenting quality talent – as much as one would hope for. A job that is taken for granted by producers of many TV channels today, is that of a TV host or an anchor. An anchor is required to be well versed, knowledgeable along with being presentable for a daily TV show. However, in reality, many newcomers in this field are not given the proper orientation, let alone encouraged to do some homework before an event is to be anchored. A recent name in the field of anchoring, Ibtesam Mirza, has pleasantly surprised everyone with her spontaneity, easy going attitude and of course her intelligent wit. Better known as Sijil Mirza, she is

currently hosting 'Khude Gaan Raaj', a children's singing contest on Channel i.

A multitasking young woman, Sijil is a top scorer from Dhaka University, having completed both BBA and MBA in MIS. "My teachers at DU always wanted me to join the university as a lecturer," she says. "I will probably do that a little later!" After an internship at HSBC, Sijil is currently an Executive Officer (EO) at United Commercial Bank Ltd.

In Vigarunissa, she was a celebrated debater, dancer and even played kho-kho! "I was very active as a child," she says. "Along with my studies, I would participate in anything and everything." After her higher secondary exams, she auditioned in Channel i to become a newscaster back in 2006.

"Apparently they were looking for someone like me for a new non-fiction," she says. "And picked me to be an anchor instead." Sijil started off with 'Arshi Nagar' a talk show on Channel i. "At the same time, I was

also hosting a fashion and lifestyle related talk show, live on ATN Bangla – 'Ainar Shamne.' However, I believe the real turning point in my anchoring career was the "Grameenphone From the Gallery", a live talk show on Cricket during the first T-20 World Cup in Bangladesh in 2011."

A full time mom, managing a full time job and also an anchoring stint, Sijil is definitely a fantastic example for young professionals required to ace in the art of multitasking. "I would say efficient time management is the key," she says. "But I would never have been able to achieve anything if my family and colleagues had not supported me."

Along with 'Booster Energy Biscuit Channel – i KhudeGaanRaaj, season – 5' – Sijil's current job, she has earned respect for hosting the 'Veet Channel – i Top Model (all three seasons)' and 'Fizzup Channel – i SheraKontho Season 5'.

Eventually, Sijil plans on becoming a Programme Producer.



Ibtesam Mirza

Bangladeshi born athlete, Taff Rahman grew up in London, England. At the age of 12, Taff was one of the 10 boys to be selected by Arsenal Football Club, to attend the first ever full-time football and education programme in England for youth players from 12-16 years of age. Within the programme, he completed his IGCSE's, while training everyday to develop his game.

"I completed a Sports Science and Coach degree at Roehampton University with the Professional Footballers Association. I chose this subject because I have a deep interest for science. Also my passion is coaching, so participating in a programme that combined the two was a perfect match," says Taff.

Taff played in the Arsenal youth and reserve team level, where he was

## DRIBBLING TO THE TOP

NAZIBA BASHER

surrounded by World Cup winners like Thierry Henry, Robert Pires, Patrick Vieira, Dennis Bergkamp, and others. "I later went on to play at various professional and semi-professional clubs. Injury derailed my career, and I decided to retire and pursue coaching," he says. At the age of 26, Taff also managed a semi-professional level senior men's team.

According to Taff, Bangladeshi football is slowly developing, but still has a long way to go in order to

compete with the top nations in Asia. "It would be great to see more grassroots programmes, improvement in the governance of the game nationally and a well established national league. We are a very passionate nation and love the game, so I really hope we can improve in the coming years," says Taff.

In the future, he plans to coach at the top level, and the premiership is his main priority. "In recent times I have been offered opportunities to coach at professional level in the UK and abroad with clubs and national teams, which I am looking into with close detail to see what fits my future and ambitions best. The coming year will be interesting as I am looking to make key decisions on this," he says.

Taff believes there is a lot of talent in Bangladesh and young players need to practice individually and collectively, develop their technical game, and play in the national league. "While there is a lack of football education in Bangladesh from what have seen from my visits, I would say players need to access learning resources through watching games, media platforms such as YouTube and of course working with coaches where possible."

Taff will be visiting Bangladesh in December 2015 to deliver a coach education programme and develop various projects to help player development in the country. "I aim to support the development of football in Bangladesh and dream is to push the national team to the top level in Asia and beyond."



Taff Rahman PHOTO: COURTESY

## QUIRKY SCIENCE

An international team of researchers has discovered traces of methane in Martian meteorites, a possible clue in the search for life on the Red Planet.

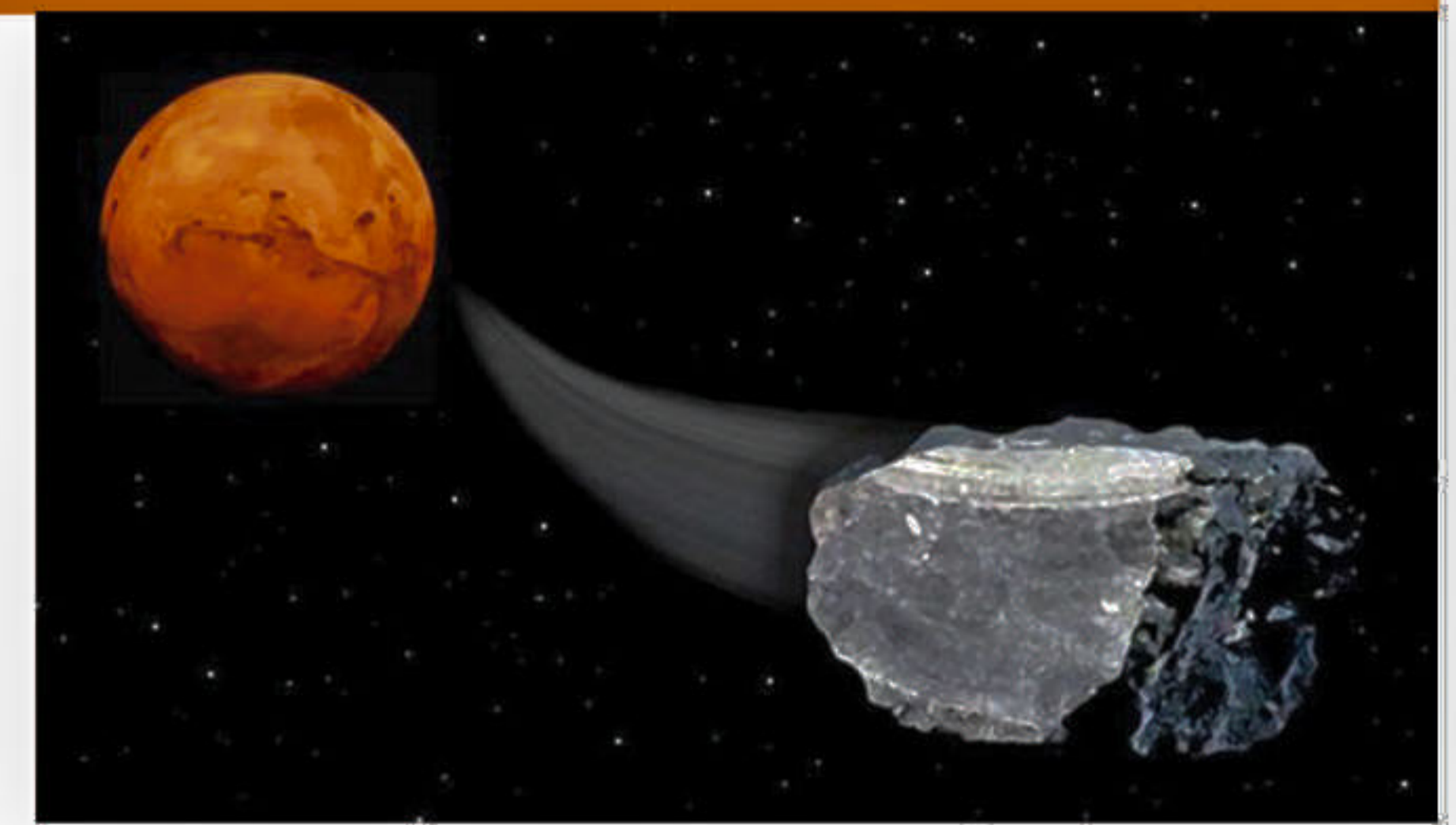
The researchers examined samples from six meteorites of volcanic rock that originated on Mars. The meteorites contain gases in the same proportion and with the same isotopic composition as the Martian atmosphere. All six samples also contained methane, which was measured by crushing the rocks and running the emerging gas through a mass spectrometer. The team also examined two non-Martian meteorites, which contained lesser amounts of methane.

The discovery hints at the possibility that methane could be used as a food source by

rudimentary forms of life beneath the Martian surface. On Earth, microbes do this in a range of environments.

"Other researchers will be keen to replicate these findings using alternative measurement tools and techniques," said co-author Sean McMahon, a Yale University postdoctoral associate in the Department of Geology and Geophysics. "Our findings will likely be used by astrobiologists in models and experiments aimed at understanding whether life could survive below the surface of Mars today."

## METHANE IN MARS



## GPS HITS CURVE BALLS

Our brains track moving objects by applying one of the algorithms your phone's GPS uses, according to researchers at the University of Rochester. This same algorithm also explains why we are fooled by several motion-related optical illusions, including the sudden "break" of baseball's well known "curveball illusion."

The new open-access study published in PNAS shows that our brains apply an algorithm, known as a Kalman filter, when tracking an object's position. This algorithm helps the brain process less than perfect visual signals, such as when objects move to the periphery of our visual field where acuity is low.

However, the same algorithm that helps our brain track motion can be tricked by the pattern motion of an object, such as the seams on a spinning baseball, which causes our brain to "see" the ball suddenly drop from its path when, in reality, it curves steadily.

Though we often rely on Global Positioning System (GPS) to get us to our destination, the accuracy of GPS is limited. When the signal is "noisy" or unreliable, your phone's GPS uses algorithms, including the Kalman filter, to estimate the location of your car based on its past position and speed.

"Like GPS, our visual ability, although quite impressive, has many limitations," said the study's co-author, Dujie Tadin, associate professor of brain and cognitive sciences at the University of Rochester.

SOURCE: SCIENCEDAILY.COM

## BEHAVIOR RELATED TO BIO MARKS



Preschoolers with oppositional defiant behavior are more likely to have shorter telomeres, a hallmark of cellular aging, which in adults is associated with increased risk for chronic diseases and conditions like diabetes, obesity and cancer.

This phenomenon was uncovered by UCSF researchers, who also identified maternal clinical depression as an independent predictor for shortened telomeres in young children, according to a study published in the journal Translational Psychiatry.

Likened to the plastic tips of shoelaces, telomeres cap the ends of chromosomes and act as buffers against the loss of protein-coding DNA during cell division. While telomere shortening happens naturally with aging, mounting research indicates the process is accelerated by psychological and biological stress.

"These are the first steps in a new field aiming to understand early determinants of children's telomeres. There are not any studies yet that examine telomere length changes from birth to adulthood, so the long-term implications are unknown," said lead author Janet Wojcicki, PhD, assistant professor in the UCSF Department of Pediatrics. "In adults, however, shorter telomeres predict earlier onset of many diseases, and shorter telomere length likely tracks from childhood throughout life."