

Photographer Atish Saha is someone whose love for the arts led him to where he stands today. Today he is recognised at home and abroad for his fantastic work with photography and evident dedication to the art form.

"I completed my Higher Secondary Certificate at Notre Dame College in 2009, with a science background," says Atish. "I didn't enjoy studying at all, so I didn't know which universities to apply for. Instead, I started reading, writing, and following lots of artists all around the world. I would read about all their art movements, and the beauty of an artist's life fascinated me. I really wanted to be a painter!" he continues.

During a season of ChobiMela, he not only found his love and passion for photography but also came across the prestigious institute- Pathshala South Asian Media Institute. "So I applied to Pathshala for a one month basic course," he says.

Atish's teacher named Tanzim Wahab, who became vice principle of Pathshala, was one of his earliest inspirations to take photography seriously. "His inspiration led me to apply for the 3 years Advanced Diploma in Pathshala," shares Atish.

He recently got an award, along with his friend and journalist Jason Motlagh, from the 76th Overseas Press Club of America for their collaborative work on a publication

of Virginia quarterly review. "I had given a talk with Jason in the Washington DC Pulitzer Center on crisis reporting, and also presented my work on the Rana Plaza tragedy," he says. He was a part of another talk with a panel in The Joseph S. Murphy Institute. The speakers included a former New York Times labour journalist, the executive director of the International Labour Rights forum- Judy Gearhart, the director of Global Strategies for Workers United - SEIU- Jeff Hermanson, and a co-director of NYU Stern's Center for Business & Human Rights.

"This April, I had an exhibition at "Out of the Blue", an Edinburgh gallery, collaborating with Mexican artist Carla Novi where my photography and her film were shown. The show was about Rana Plaza. Carla had come to Bangladesh to work on her film, and she used my photographs. We were talking about exhibiting it together somewhere, and it ended up happening in Scotland," shares Atish.

"It's tough to photograph religious violence and political violence. Once I stop focusing on these issues, I look forward to travelling with a studio and taking

THE POWER OF THE LENS

NAZIBA BASHER

photos of people around Bangladesh," he says, even though he still wants to go back to school for a few more years and study studio art, writing, and performance art.

According to Atish, Bangladesh has always had many good photographers, but before Shahidul Alam's work, the world used to know little about them as there was no bridge in between. "Bangladeshi photographers are everywhere, they can be found all around the world. There is simply no big festival, no award ceremony, where you won't see a Bangladeshi photographer's work. Students are trying different kinds of photography and Bangladesh is becoming stronger everyday in the world of photography." To aspiring photographers, Atish requests them to never stop taking photos. ■



Atish Saha

PHOTO: COURTESY

STAR PEOPLE



Waiz Rahim
PHOTO: COURTESY

WHEN THE CROWD GETS INVOLVED

APURBA JAHANGIR

received triple the funds than what we needed. That is when it hit me that this can also work in my country." Soon Waiz started to develop the website of Projekt.co and finally launched the website in 2014. Anyone with an idea can seek help through Projekt.co.

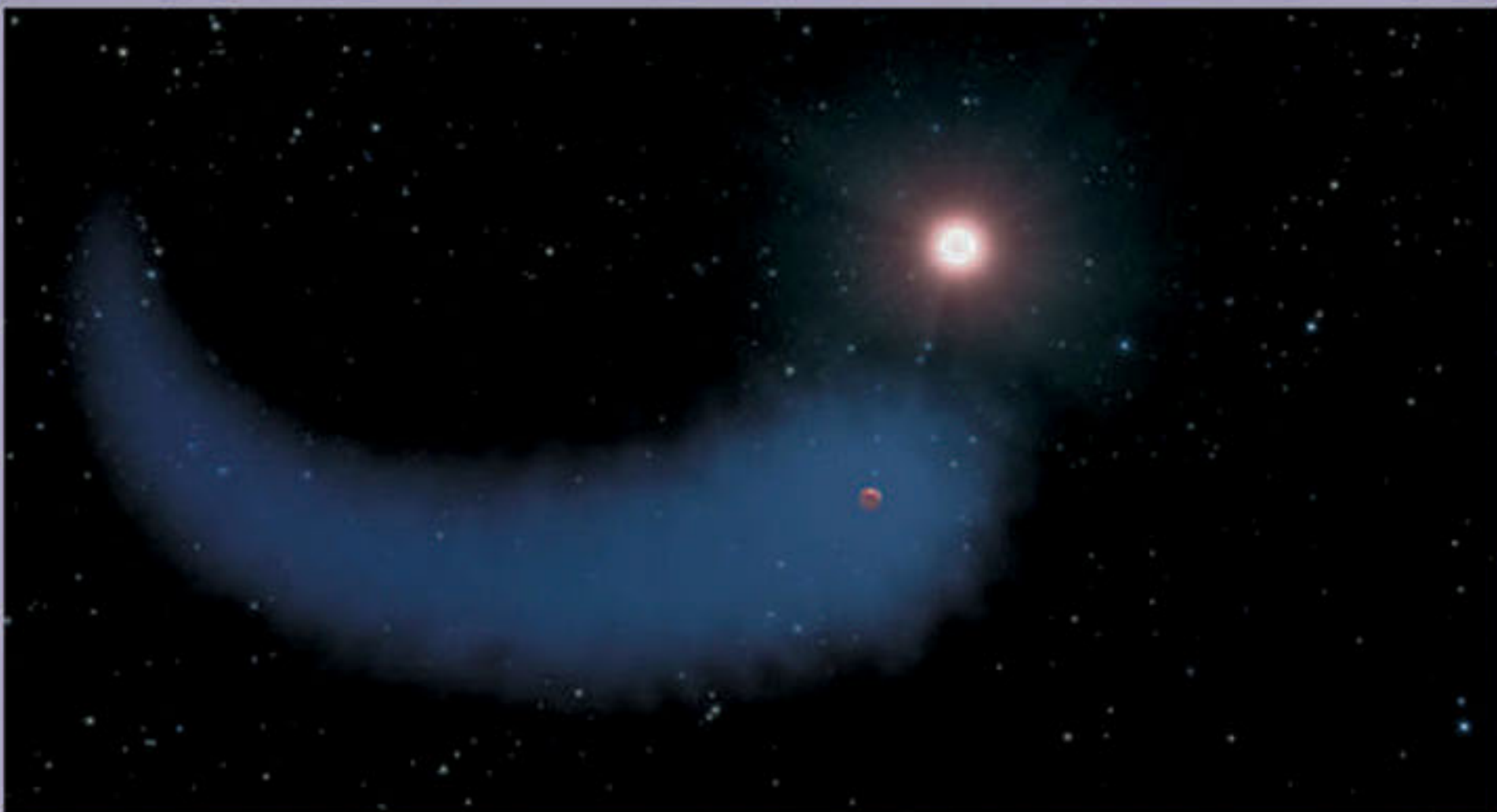
"The initial plan was to help entrepreneurs and small scale businesses to help raise their funds, but I saw that our country is full of brilliant ideas," says Waiz. "Now we want to cater to every idea we think can bring a change." Popular projects such as Obhoyaronno's street dog welfare program are being funded through the help of Projekt.co. "One of the first projects we launched through Projekt.co was a funding for rebuilding Nepal," says Waiz. "The project was that of

Wasfia Nazneen's, who is a famous mountaineer. It was so successful that we are still running it on our website so that more people can join in."

One of the major hurdles Waiz had to face was gaining people's trust in the website. "Everything on the website is transparent so that people can see and know about whatever they are funding," says Waiz. His initial plan is to apply the social business model to make Projekt.co self sustaining.

As we are rapidly moving towards digitalization, Waiz thinks crowdfunding will be one of the biggest companions for future entrepreneurs. "We are heading towards a world in which technology is essential. So why not make the best use of it," asks Waiz.

QUIRKY SCIENCE



BEHEMOTH BLEEDS

Astronomers using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope have discovered an immense cloud of hydrogen dubbed "The Behemoth" bleeding off a planet orbiting a nearby star. The enormous, comet-like feature is about 50 times the size of the parent star. The hydrogen is evaporating from a warm, Neptune-sized planet, because of the extreme radiation from the star.

A phenomenon this large has never been seen around any planet. Given this planet's small size, it may offer clues to how hot super-Earths - massive, rocky, hot versions of Earth - are born around other stars through the evaporation of their outer layers of hydrogen.

"This cloud is very spectacular, though the evaporation rate does not threaten the planet right now," explains the study's leader, David Ehrenreich of the Observatory of the University of Geneva in Switzerland. "But we know that in the past, the star, which is a faint red dwarf, was more active. This means that the planet evaporated faster during its first billion years of existence. Overall, we estimate that it may have lost up to 10 percent of its atmosphere."

The planet, named GJ 436b, is considered to be a "warm Neptune," because of its size and is much closer to its star than Neptune is to our sun. Although it is in no danger of having its atmosphere completely evaporated and being stripped down to a rocky core, this planet could explain the existence of so-called hot super-Earths that are very close to their stars.

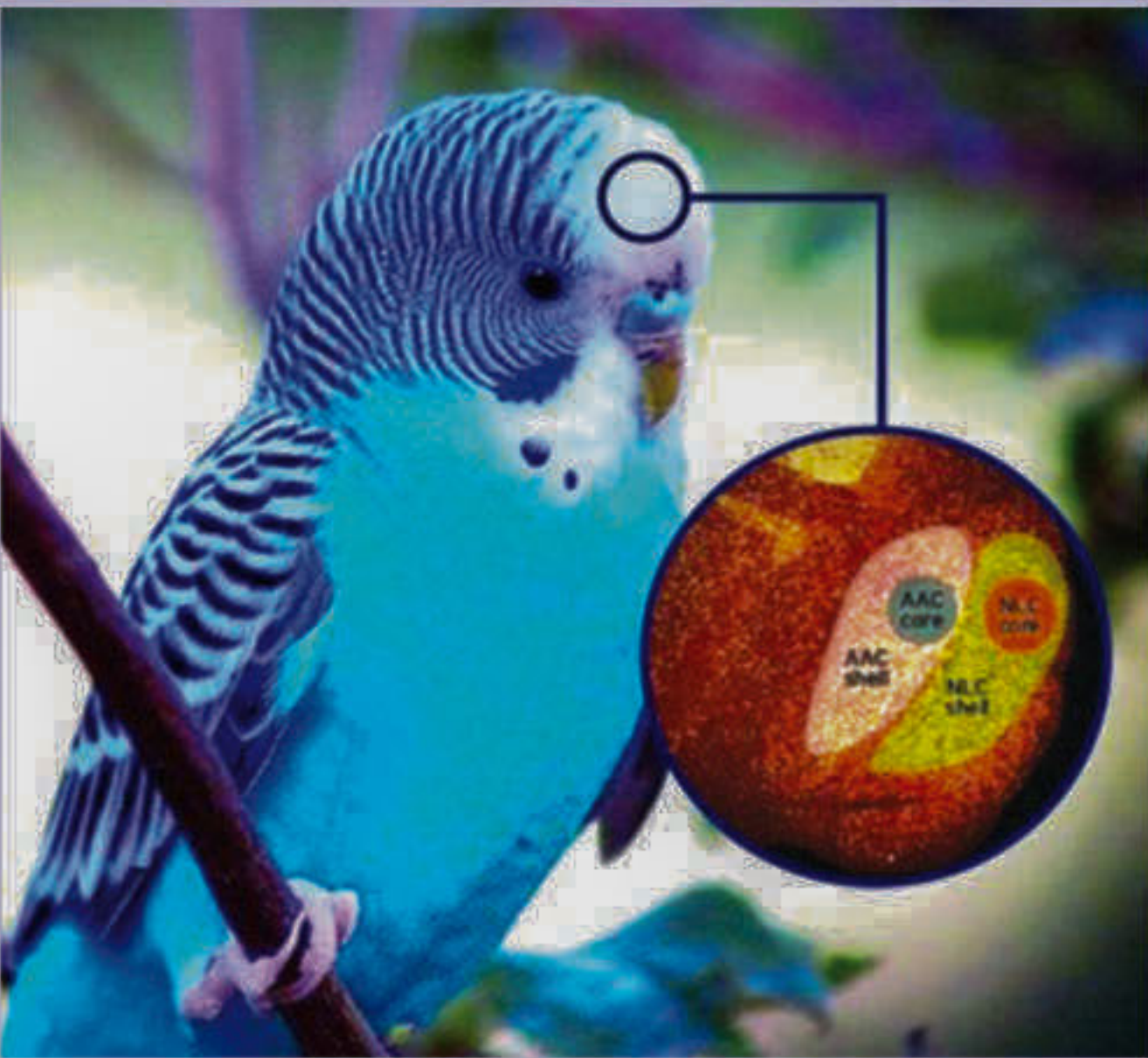
WHY PARROTS IMITATE

An international team of scientists led by Duke University researchers has uncovered key structural differences in the brains of parrots that may explain their unparalleled ability to imitate sounds and human speech.

Reported June 24 in *Plos One*, these brain structures had gone unrecognized in studies published over the last 34 years. The results may also lend insight into the neural mechanisms of human speech.

"These findings open up a huge avenue of research in parrots, in trying to understand how parrots are processing the information necessary to copy novel sounds and the mechanisms that underlie imitation of human speech sounds," said Mukta Chakraborty, a post-doctoral researcher in the lab of Erich Jarvis, an associate professor of neurobiology at Duke and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator.

Parrots are one of the few animals considered 'vocal learners,' meaning they can imitate sounds. Researchers have been trying to figure out why some bird species are better imitators than others. However, no other potential explanations have yet surfaced other than the differences in the sizes of particular brain regions.



Source: www.sciencedaily.com

SPIRITUAL LEADERSE

HUMAN ABOVE ALL ELSE

SHAHAN HASNAEN



IMAGE: COURTESY

"Everyone wonders, "What is Lalon's Caste?" Lalon says, "I've never 'seen' the face of Caste with these eyes of mine!"

These words from Fakir Lalon Shah's (c. 1774- 17 October 1890) famous song "Lalon Ki jaat?" reflect the bewilderment that a man claiming association with no particular faith or caste evoked in the minds of the people of his time. The genius of Lalon's poems and the depth of his philosophy originated from his recognition of the absurdity of relying on mere labels to dictate our understanding of the world and fellow humans.

Lalon sings "Some wear a garland and some the tasbi, that's what marks the faiths apart- But what marks them apart when one is born or at the time of death?" Here Lalon conveys a simplicity of thought based on common sense yet a deep wisdom based on a reverence for truth, truth uncomplicated and unburdened by the labels we create, truth as it is and not as we mould it.

It is a fact that more wars have been fought and more blood shed in the name of religion than for any other cause. Religion, being a system of moral law, social unity and spiritual evolution, oftentimes appears to violate the very ideals it promotes. If diversity of thought was so opposed by the creator then why would he create so many different races,

languages, cultures and unique fingerprints? Clearly God didn't create so many unique cultures to send one group to paradise and all else to the inferno. Lalon was born amidst the mindless division and animosity between the Hindus and Muslims. Once, having contracted a life threatening virus, Lalon was left in his condition on the banks of the river Ganges by his companions. When a Muslim woman Motijan discovered the suffering youth she and her husband Malam Shah took him in and nursed him back to rehabilitation. Upon returning to his village Lalon was shocked and heartbroken when his community cast him away; the majority of its members being Hindus, they now considered him an outcast for associating with a Muslim family. Thus he began a preordained mission to teach mankind brotherhood and acceptance through his simple yet profound poetry and music.

Over the course of his life Lalon not only composed over 300 songs leaving us with deeply enriched folk music tradition but also gave refuge to the rejected, abused or ridiculed members of society at his Akhra in Kushtia, which later became his shrine. Truly a shrine, Lalon's Akhra represents the idyllic vision of a community of men and women who belonging to different faiths, castes and classes, abandon labels and live together as fellow "humans", our only true label.