

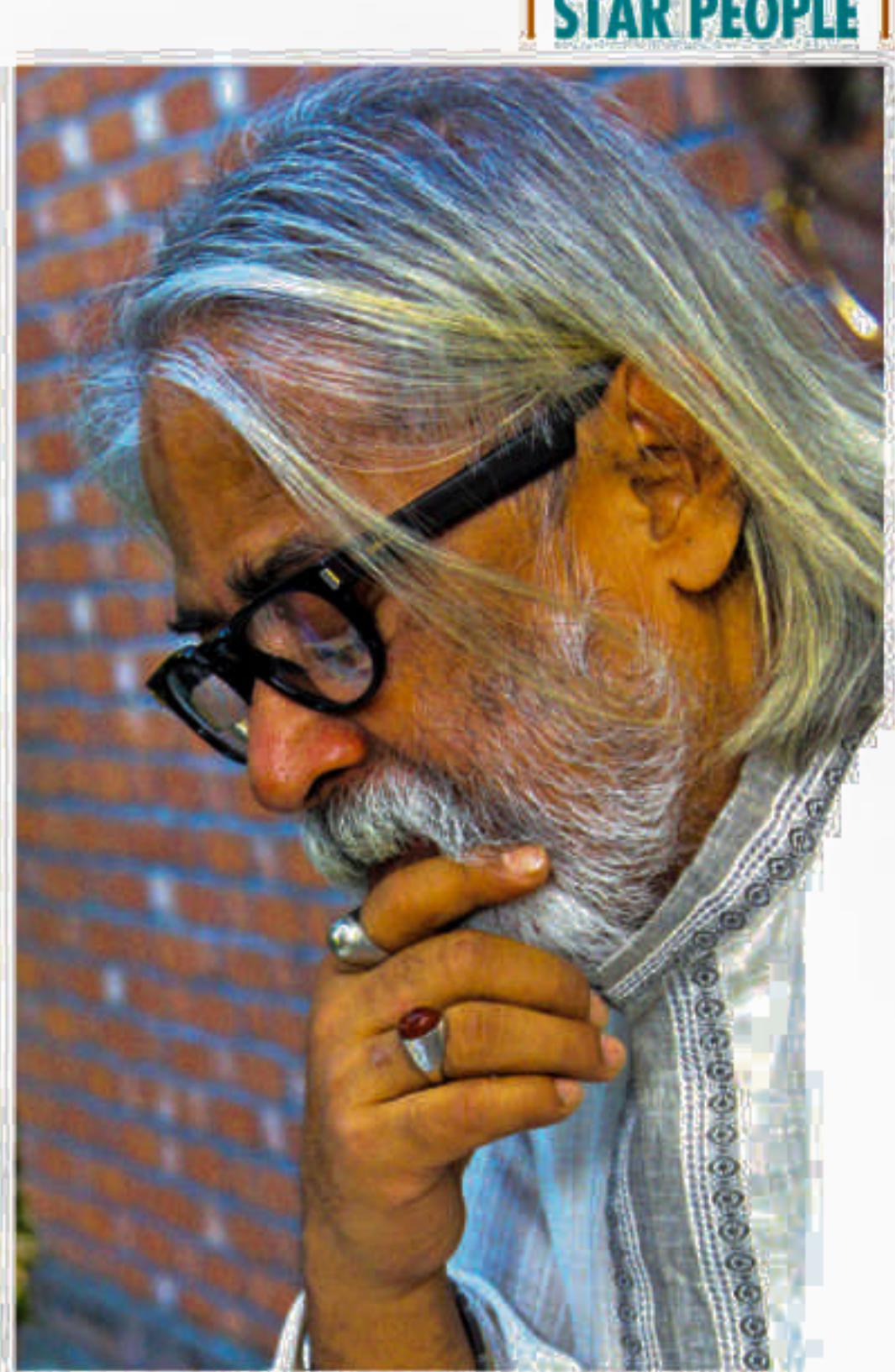
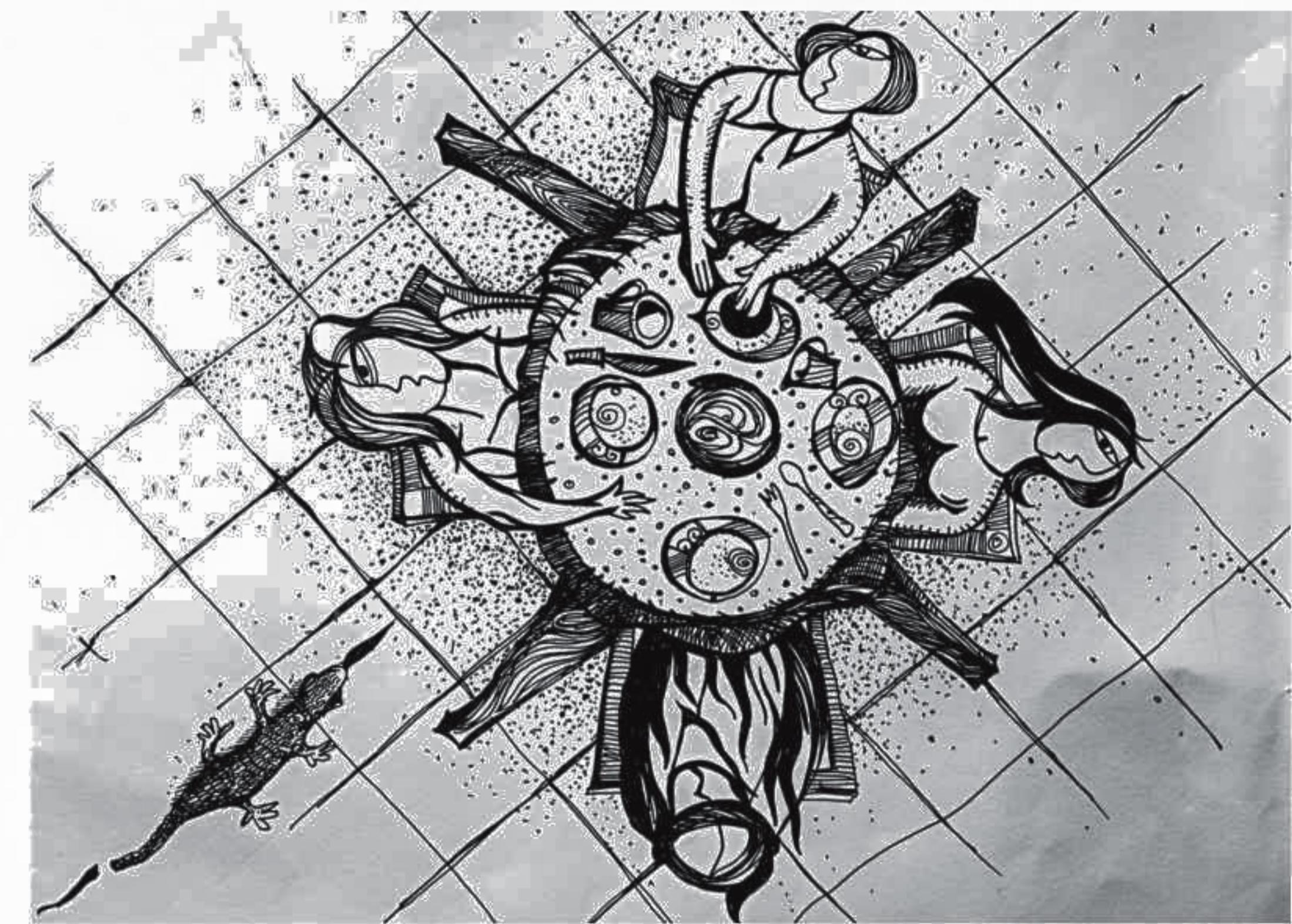
Khrokata or a sketchbook is more of a personal thought processing space than just a piece of notebook. It is a plane onto which the artist reflects his everyday life. But this very sketch book turns into a historical material when it belongs to a person whose contribution is immeasurable in the art realm. Ahmed Nawaz, an internationally acclaimed artist, one of the founders of legendary Pop Rock band Souls, comes up with his sketch book exhibition titled "Kolom o Kalite Ahmed Nawaz Khera Khata".

## THE PAINTER OF NOSTALGIA

ANANTA YUSUF

He is an artist of discursive language and a painter of social dogma, politics, and love. Through his paintings, he has attempted to illuminate the dreams of the individuals he met, on his canvas. In other words every abstract stroke he makes contains "Nostalgia, stories of 1971, Bangabandhu, melancholia and absurdity, alienation of the people and the society," expresses Nawaz.

Inspired by a shoemaker, Nawaz started his journey as a painter at a very early



Ahmed Nawaz

age. But in the early seventies the nature of his brush strokes and ideas changed dramatically when he got admitted in Chittagong Charukola Institute. At that time the first line up of Souls got its shape - Sazed Ul Alam and Lulu on guitars, Newaz on percussion, Roni on drums, and Tajul on vocals.

Before joining the art institute he arranged his first exhibition on the walls of Chittagong City Corporation. Inspired by the fury and the demands of the students and the political movement of 1969, he incorporates the national

attitude towards a free country in his art works. Eventually it draws national attention for its content and form.

His recent work deals with time and space, desperate objects, figures, ideas and so on. Personal stories and history shape his work and he criticises the hegemonic role of history that forces us to create a dominant meaning. He loves to play with the distorted forms of subject and connects them with the mundane world.

Nawaz adds, "Now, there are two ways to appreciate this work, one is by looking at the images that differ tremendously

from each other separately and the other is by trying to relate these figures to form one whole meaning. Though the former is easy, the latter is unquestionably tough. But those who are looking for some challenge this piece will not disappoint them".

Once upon a time we used to think that by painting someone's image, a painter stole his or her soul. And in the post modern world, painters like Nawaz do not steal a soul but paint it in different forms instead of a dominant subjective reality.

Having your own digital media agency no easy feat, especially the kind of agency that aims to help other organisations use unconventional, creative and data-driven marketing strategies to take their businesses up a notch.

At 26, Ovick Alam is a young entrepreneur who uses his creativity to do just that. Back in February 2014, Alam co-funded WebAble, a digital creative agency along with Shadab Mahbub, Anis Chowdhury and Amit Richard to simplify digital interactions for its clients. Within a short span of time, WebAble has provided professional solutions to a wide range of clientele including Kaspersky, Aarong, Dell, Bay Developments, Rahimfrooz, Bangladesh Brand Forum, British American Tobacco, Bitdefender, Akhoni.com and other reputed organisations.

In WebAble, under Alam's leadership a group of dedicated and skilled professionals are responsible for providing a 360° solution to any problem regarding digital marketing. These include designing strategy & analytics, creating an inbound marketing set-up, design and development, social media marketing, digital advertising, making interactive campaigns and much more.

"Here we mainly do two things - create assets like websites, games, apps, social media contents, video, and info graphics for different brands on the

## TAKING ON THE DIGITAL WORLD

FAYEKA ZABEEN SIDDIQUA

"What I still struggle with is the lack of talented people curious about digital marketing and willing to bring about a positive change in the digital world."

WebAble does not support focusing only on a well-paid job with a regular salary, other utilities and a pension while career hunting. Alam believes the typical mind-set of students, searching for a secure and highly paid job needs to be changed.

"Our education system has corrupted the mind-set of young people," he believes. "I don't disregard the need for a handsome salary, but that's not why you go to your work every day. In WebAble we have a strong culture among ourselves that aims to build a lasting company for generations to come. We encourage challenges and mistakes while we have zero tolerance for mediocrity. All our colleagues value the culture of owning a problem and then solving it. That has basically led to the success that we made in such a short period."

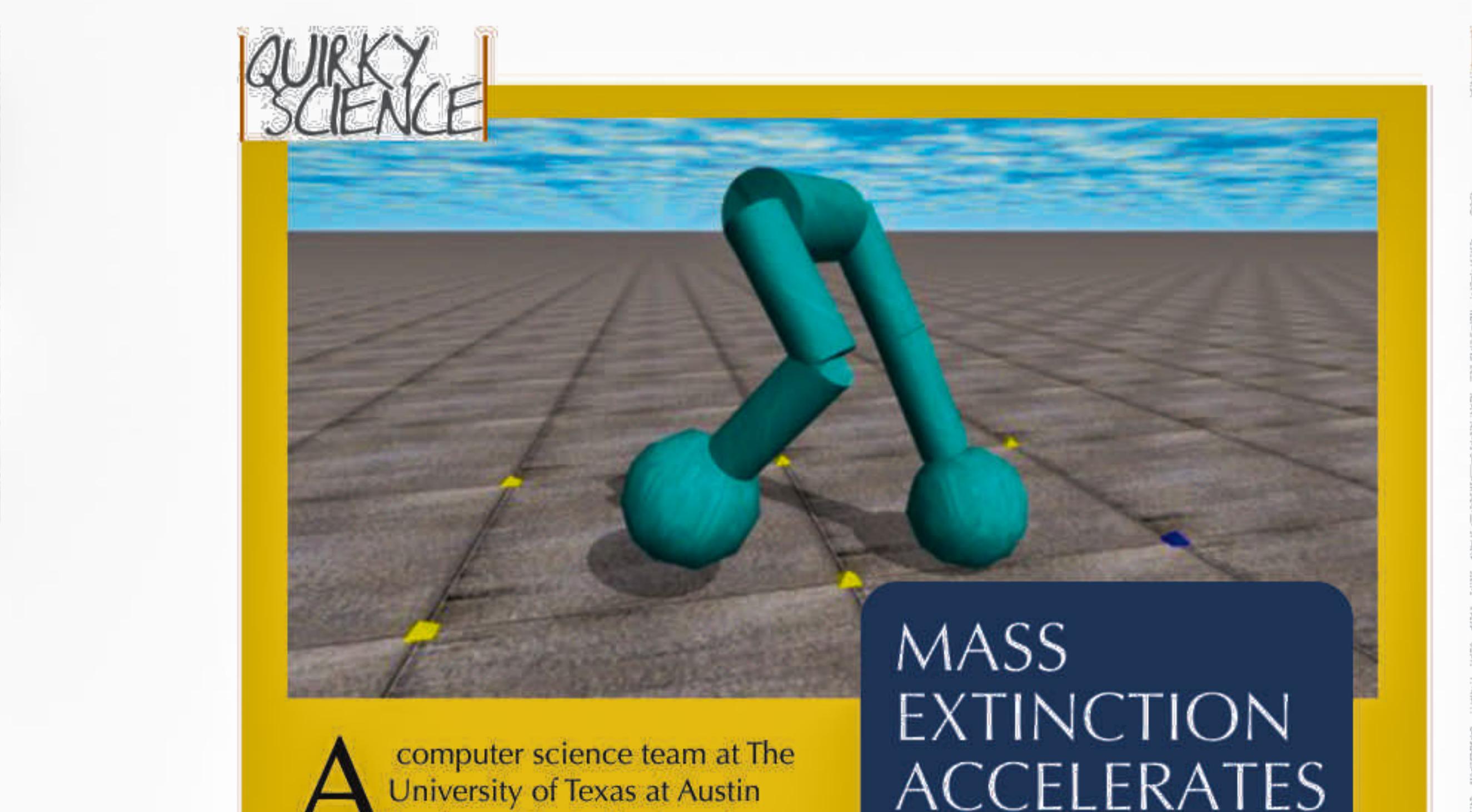
He admits it was a tough decision but that he has no regrets. "Initially I faced the basic business problem like financial constraint, but I never deemed money as the major problem", he remembers.

Since WebAble's inception, Alam believes that



PHOTO: COURTESY

Ovick Alam



## MASS EXTINCTION ACCELERATES EVOLUTION

A computer science team at The University of Texas at Austin has found that robots evolve more quickly and efficiently after a virtual mass extinction modeled after real-life disasters such as the one that killed off the dinosaurs. Beyond its implications for artificial intelligence, the research supports the idea that mass extinctions actually speed up evolution by unleashing new creativity in adaptations.

Computer scientists Risto Miikkulainen and Joel Lehman co-authored the study published today in the journal PLOS One, which describes how simulations of mass extinctions promote novel features and abilities in surviving lineages.

"Focused destruction can lead to surprising outcomes," said

Miikkulainen, a professor of computer science at UT Austin. "Sometimes you have to develop something that seems objectively worse in order to develop the tools you need to get better."

In biology, mass extinctions are known for being highly destructive, erasing a lot of genetic material from the tree of life. But some evolutionary biologists hypothesise that extinction events actually accelerate evolution by promoting those lineages that are the most evolvable, meaning ones that can quickly create useful new features and abilities.



## OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

Marine organisms living in acidified waters exhibit a tendency to nurture their offspring to a greater extent than those in more regular conditions.

Researchers at Plymouth University have found that polychaete worms located around volcanic vents in the Mediterranean grow and develop their eggs within the protection of the family unit – in contrast to closely-related species that release them into the water column to fend for themselves.

The scientists say the findings could provide an important insight into how organisms might adjust to increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the sea – and the ramifications that might have for future biodiversity.

source: sciencedaily.com

## CAMPUS

The concept of social business was first defined back in 2008 by Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus. The major point of this business was to address a social issue through business. Since then entrepreneurs around the world have been implanting this idea to make a positive change. Countries such as Germany, Italy, and Japan are implementing social business at such a large scale that their cities, for example Wiesbaden, Luxemburg and Fukuoka, are being called social business cities. For social business enthusiasts, Bangladesh is considered the pioneer as it was the first country where social business was first established. That is why Chinese youth organisation YouThink with the help of Social Business Youth Alliance (SBYA) organised 'Chinese Youth Social Business Competition' in Bangladesh.

would have never kicked off. Their regular effort made all these possible," says Soku, an applicant from China. The first round established the top seven, who went to the finals.



## A GUIDE TO SOCIAL BUSINESS

APURBA JAHANGIR



The competition was held from August 11 to 15. Hundreds of high school applicants around the world applied for the competition and among them, 14 were selected and came to Bangladesh. The aim was to draw up a social business plan which addresses China's social problems. The first day of the competition kicked off with a meeting with the father of social business, Dr Muhammad Yunus. "The way he talked about social business really inspired us. Though I am still young but I am sure that at some point of my life I will start a social enterprise," says Amy, one of the applicants.

The next mission was to coach the applicants on business development and investors pitch. They were trained by our country's finest social business experts such as Mr Ferdous Mottakin, CEO, Offroad Bangladesh; Mr Wahid Hossain, CEO, Oikkotan and Mr Shazeeb M. Khairul Islam, CEO, SBYA. This is where the blue prints of their social business plan were made.

The first round of the competition was held on August 13 where the applicants presented the first draft of their business plan. This round was judged by Tafsir M. Awan, Director of Panther Social. These applicants were constantly mentored by SBYA members. "Without them our plans

On August 15, it was judgment day for the applicants as it was the final round. The judging panel for the final round included Lamia Moshed, Executive Director at Yunus Center, M. F. M. Amir Khashru, General Manager at Yunus Centre, Alex Wang, President at Youthink Center and Shazeeb M. Khairul Islam, Founder and CEO, SBYA Global. After the dramatic presentations, the business plan by Ami which was an organic farming solution of China finally won the competition. The winner on his speech said, "It was a life time experience which we will never forget. Though we are all children now, but every one of us is now going to go back and make a change in our society and that we can promise."