



Efat Razowane Reya

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A rising star in the field of art today, in the country, is the young Efat Razowane Reya. "Thank you! But if you don't mind, I'd rather be a rising star in the New Media genre in Bangladesh," smiles Reya. A young student with big, dreamy eyes, Reya depicts confidence, determination and one cannot miss the flicker of rebellion.

In May 2015, a rarity occurred in the field of arts, when Reya was awarded with the Gaziul Haque Award, at the 21st National Awards in Bangladesh, for a unique

EXCELLING IN NEW MEDIA

ELITA KARIM

installation work that she did – *dondo praapto jonota*. The installation portrayed innocent people and the regular working class becoming victims of political battles that have been occurring in the country for the last couple of years. "It was indeed a huge surprise because the installation was a New Media piece," explains Reya. "Unfortunately, the traditionalists, puritans and the established artists in Bangladesh have not accepted the New Media genre as yet. In fact, at the University of Arts, Fine Arts



PHOTO: COURTESY

department, where I study, there is no department dedicated to New Media only. Which is why I am majoring in Print Making. However, my passion lies in new Media." Yet another interesting work that she has done in the field of New Media is a protest against the closing down of Chobir Haat, a space for artists to express freely without fear. "I understand that the Government has different plans with the space," she says. "But closing it down has been a huge loss for artists, especially the ones studying in Dhaka University."



PHOTO: COURTESY

The next step in the field for any young artist is to go into residency, informs Reya. "A residency is a period of time when the young artist spends time with an established artist, learning practically," she says. "Very soon, I will be starting my residency as well." One of a four-artist group selected for a 3-month residency course, Reya will be traveling to Japan to do her course in November.

A rebel in nature, Reya plans to continue to depict the society, social achievements and flaws through her work. "That simply makes sense to me, that is all!" smiles Reya.

STAR PEOPLE

THE MULTIFACETED LAWYER

APURBA JAHANGIR
PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Managing the profession of a lawyer surely takes a lot of work. However, it takes a special drive to handle three! Rumeen Farhana, being a lawyer, an editor and a politician, has proved to the nation that there is no stopping our country's young blood in achieving dreams. In the past couple of years, her regular presence in talk shows has put her in the limelight as a young thinker of our country.

From a very early age, Farhana had made up her mind to become a politician. "Growing up in a political family, I was able to see this side very up close and personal," she says. Her father was a renowned politician Oli Ahad, who was also a part of the language movement. "Through most of my childhood I had seen my father going in and out of jail. I think I was one of the very few to have visited the Dhaka Central Jail at the age of five," says Farhana. After completing her SSC and HSC from Holy Cross School and Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, Farhana completed her Bachelors in Law from the University of London.



Rumeen Farhana

"I went through the worst time of my life while studying law. When I went to London for my BAR exam, my father got really sick, which was really hard for me as I was really close to him," says Rumeen. After 11 years in the world of Law, Rumeen Farhana now serves as a barrister at the High Court.

"The first few years have been quite hectic as a lawyer. I remember starting out with a 500tk salary," says Rumeen Farhana. Often she had to sacrifice her needs because of the low pay. Her years of hard work, however, is paying off as Farhana is opening her own chamber soon.

Though fighting cases and debating on talk shows showcases her as a very serious person, Rumeen Farhana has a softer side of which only a handful are aware of. She is very fond of Gazals and also has a degree in dancing. "I was a student of BAFA for four years and I also learned Kathak from the maestro Shibli Mohammad himself," she says. She is also the editor of the newspaper which her father had started – 'Ittehad'.

Other than serving as a full time lawyer and editor, her love towards the country serves as a motivation for her political career. "You cannot lead a nation unless you are in the driving seat. I think politics is one of the most effective ways through which you can create changes," says Rumeen. She also adds, "To get the youth involved, we need to have politicians who can inspire them – similar to how people were inspired during the language movement."

"There are times when I come home at 2 am from talk shows," says Rumeen Farhana. "The only reason I am able to do this is I know I have a sturdy support system backing me up – which happens to be my family."

QUIRKY SCIENCE



A researcher from the University of Southampton has produced a scientific study of the climate scenario featured in the disaster movie 'The Day After Tomorrow'.

In the 2004 film, climate warming caused an abrupt collapse of the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC), leading to catastrophic events such as tornados destroying Los Angeles, New York being flooded and the northern hemisphere freezing.

Although the scientific credibility of the film drew criticism from climate scientists, the scenario of an abrupt collapse of the AMOC, as a consequence of anthropogenic greenhouse warming, was never assessed with a state-of-the-art climate model.

Using the German climate model ECHAM at the Max-Planck Institute in Hamburg, Professor Sybren Drijfhout from Ocean and Earth Science at the University of Southampton found that, for a period of 20 years, the earth will

COULD THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW HAPPEN

cool instead of warm if global warming and a collapse of the AMOC occur simultaneously. Thereafter, global warming continues as if the AMOC never collapsed, but with a globally averaged temperature offset of about 0.8°C.

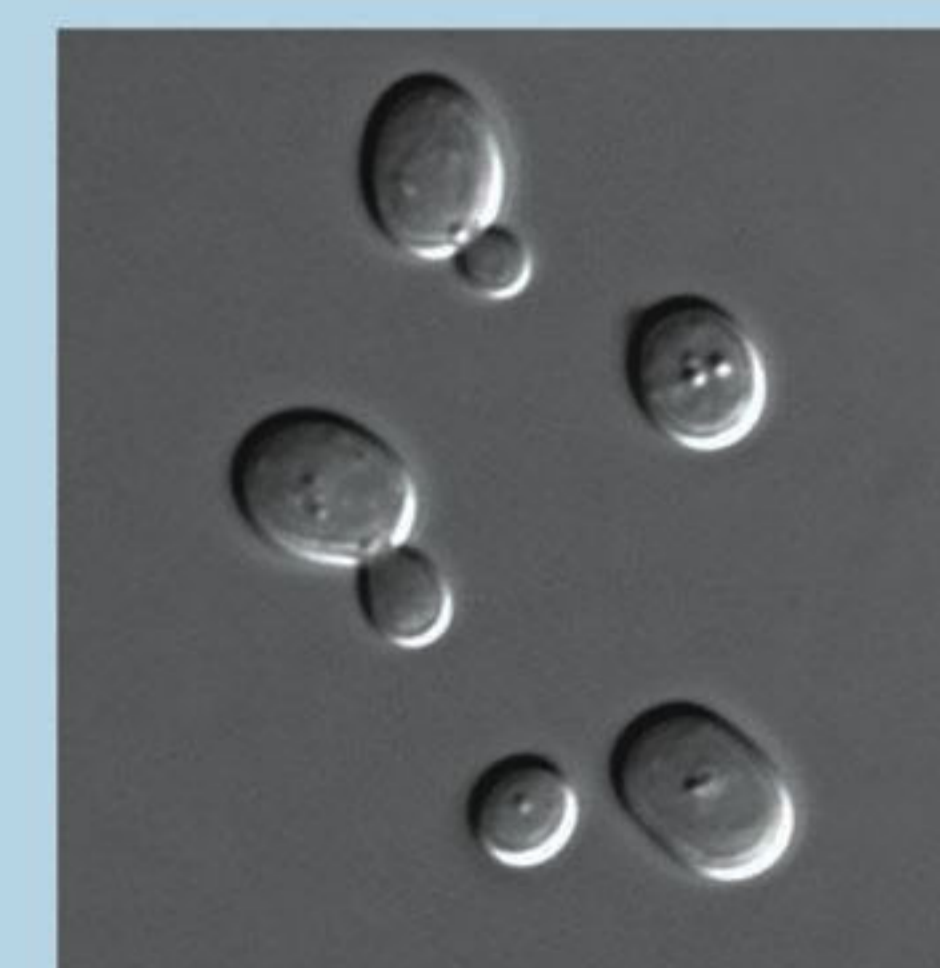
Professor Drijfhout said: "The planet earth recovers from the AMOC collapse in about 40 years when global warming continues at present-day rates, but near the eastern boundary of the North Atlantic (including the British Isles) it takes more than a century before temperature is back to normal."

INCREASING LIFESPAN

Following an exhaustive, ten-year effort, scientists at the Buck Institute for Research on Aging and the University of Washington have identified 238 genes that, when removed, increase the replicative lifespan of *S. cerevisiae* yeast cells. This is the first time 189 of these genes have been linked to aging. These results provide new genomic targets that could eventually be used to improve human health. The research was published online on October 8th in the journal Cell Metabolism.

"This study looks at aging in the context of the whole genome and gives us a more complete picture of what aging is," said Brian Kennedy, PhD, lead author and the Buck Institute's president and CEO. "It also sets up a framework to define the entire network that influences aging in this organism."

The Kennedy lab collaborated closely with Matt Kaeberlein, PhD, a professor in the Department of



Pathology at the University of Washington, and his team. The two groups began the painstaking process of examining 4,698 yeast strains, each with a single gene deletion. To determine which strains yielded increased lifespan, the researchers counted yeast cells, logging how many daughter cells a mother produced before it stopped dividing.

Source: Sciencedaily.com

FIVE THINGS

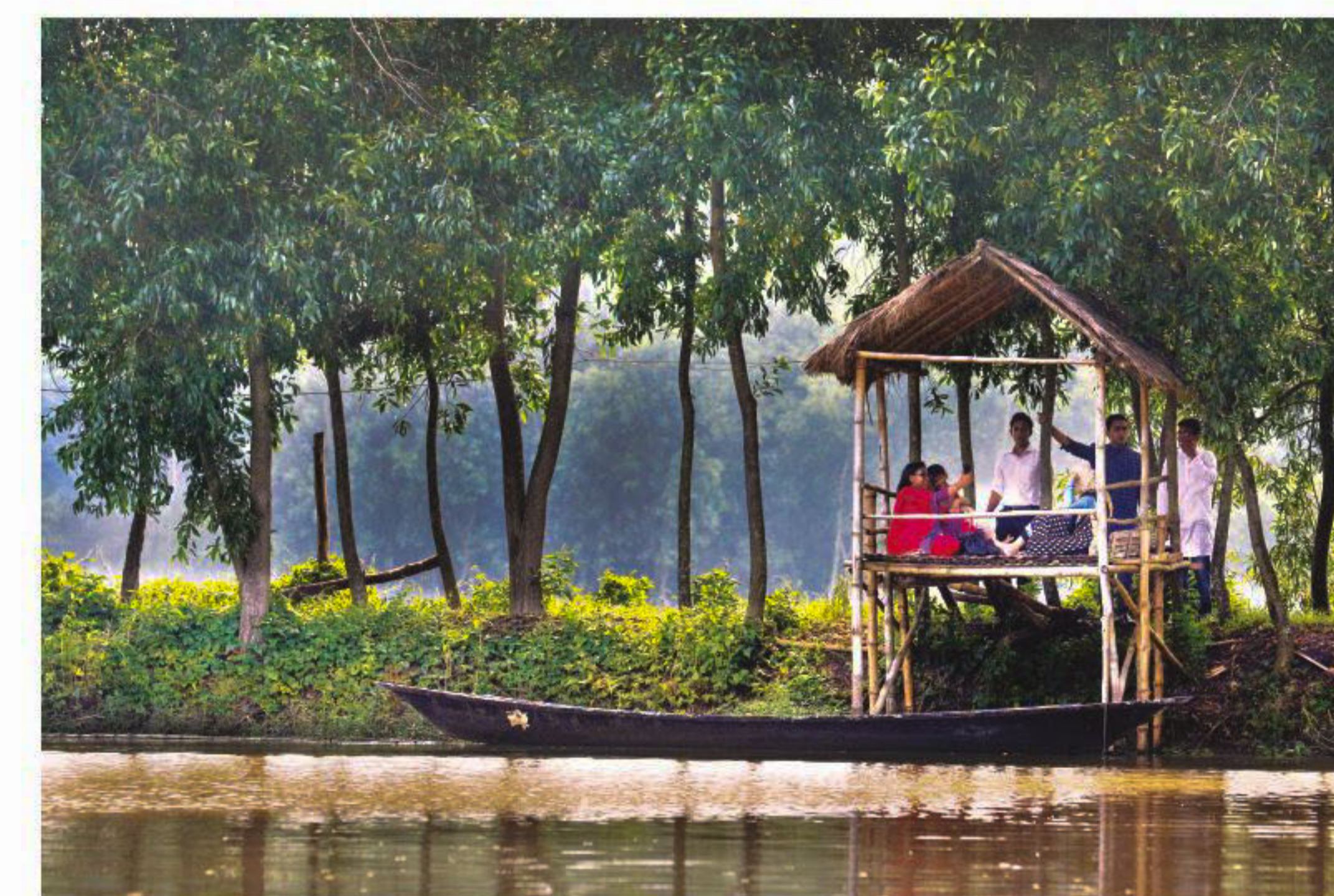
5 WAYS OF MAKING YOUR VILLAGE-HOME MORE EXCITING

M H HAIDER
PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

The ancestral home provides a lot of fun and fascination for children. When you are an adult – say in your mid-twenties – that fervour is often lost. Perhaps it's because the cousins you've had so much fun with have now spread into different countries or simply can't make time to go to the village. Or perhaps, it's just the sheer responsibility of adult life that bogs down your passion.

Then again, perhaps, you should try new things! The enthrallment of a child is unmatched, and there are many activities that you loved doing as a kid but have grown out of now. That doesn't mean the village has become boring; it just reflects that you need some other fun activities to do.

Here're five of them – things you've probably not tried that could make your village-home more exciting:



- Become a stargazer:** With so much light and air pollution, Dhaka is a poor place for star gazing. But look up at the night sky when you are in a village, and you will be amused at how crowded it is! Become an amateur astronomer. Start with binoculars. With a greater field-of-view and easier maintenance when compared to telescopes, a powerful pair of binoculars can keep you busy for hours. You can buy telescopes and binoculars from New Market and Bangabandhu National Stadium Market. There are also helpful apps you can download for free that will come handy when you are stargazing.
- Get a toy speedboat:** You are not a child anymore, but that's not an excuse when it comes to some super-cool toys, like remote-controlled speedboats. Rather impressive in terms of size and design, buying a toy speedboat may cause an outflow from your wallet of few or several thousands. But it's a good deal given the fun you will have.
- Get a boat, for real!** Boat-riding is not only fun; it is good exercise too. And, it's not difficult to learn. The simple 'kousha' or 'dingi' should be ample to serve your need. Borrow one from your neighbours or relatives at the village. You may even consider buying one. Prices of these boats vary, but to give you a rough idea, you can get one for around Tk12,000. Embark with a fishing rod, a book or the toy speedboat.
- Grow an orchard** Start with a single plant. Gardening is an extremely satisfying hobby. Turn your home's courtyard, backyard or front yard into an orchard. Choose a fruit which you love to eat and which grows well in your village. Watch your plants grow. This activity requires a lot of commitment, and, sooner or later, you will require someone to take care of the garden when you're not around.
- Go for long walks** Have you ever really explored your village? Other than your house and a couple of others and perhaps the canal, the rest of it is probably rather unknown to you. Take a hike. Go wherever your eyes take you. Lose yourself in nature. Relish in its beauty. The rustic experience is an invigorating one.

All of these ideas, more or less, require adult supervision and hence you weren't able to do them freely when you were a child. So, what's stopping you now?