

STAR PEOPLE

Artist Masuma Khan's childlike innocence and power of spreading optimism while teaching art makes her a favourite to her students. The feeling is mutual, as whenever Masuma mentions her students, her face lights up with a smile.

FINDING SOLACE IN ART

FAYEKA ZABEEN SIDDIQUA
PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

After working as a conductor of children art workshops at Alliance Francaise and Goethe -Institute for around 20 years, Masuma now conducts art workshops in Banani and Dhanmondi twice a week for students aged 6 to 24 years. Masuma completed her graduation from the Department of Drawing and Painting of the Faculty

of Fine Arts, Dhaka University in 1973. In her long, celebrated career, she has bagged numerous awards, including the Jaycees Prize and the Anannya Award, and her paintings have graced several galleries of the country.

"However, the bond that I have developed with my students over the years is my greatest achievement," she believes.

Masuma Khan's venture into the world of paintings began at an early age. When she was three years old, Little Masuma would be found painting, excited to show her artwork to everyone.

"I fell in love with art as a child, having grown up in a cultural environment of writers, artists and architects," she says.

The daughter of M R Khan (former Examination Controller of Dhaka University) and famous writer Razia Mahbub, she was lucky to grow up in an atmosphere where artists like Jainul Abedin and Abdur Razzak would visit to have a chat over tea and motivate her to chase her dreams.

"My mother acted as my greatest support, strength and inspiration," she says, fondly reminiscing about her mother who passed away recently.

"Since my mother's departure from the world, I often feel very

down," she continues. "I am stuck with this wheelchair since I had an accident ten years ago which left my knee permanently damaged. But no matter how harshly life has treated me, I never gave up on my passion of being engrossed in the world of art with my students."

Her mother once gifted her a book on the French impressionist artist, Paul Cezanne, which motivated her greatly, inspiring her to adopt that style. Nature has always been a core subject of Masuma's paintings. The artist's optimism, despite the struggles of her life, is always reflected in her art.

When you are sad, try to help others who are in distress; try to think of their problems as your own and help them solve it - this is the advice Masuma's mother would give her and she took it as her life's mantra. And that's why she makes sure that her students feel safe to talk about everything with her; be it about art or about any problem that they may be experiencing.

"Because of my physical shortcomings, my journey was never an easy one, but there were always friends like journalists Sitara Parvin and Ahaduzzaman, my fellow artists and my family to get me going and inspire me to do what I am good at," she concludes with a smile.



Masuma Khan

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team", said Phil Jackson, an American retired Basketball coach and former player. Applying this quote into action, the brilliant team of 'Ice9 Interactive' has proved talent, possibilities and devotion to interactive marketing solutions. Starting off in year 2012, Ice9 Interactive gradually became one of the most influential companies in digital marketing in the country.

of IMPACT BBDO and executed by Afeef Zubaer Zaman and Fahim Ahmed of Ice9 Interactive. Of the six members of the team for 'Reflect', the rest are Ahmad Niaz Murshed, Musavvir Ahmed and Raiyan Momen.

Shafiq Alam, who worked on idea

THE "REFLECT" TEAM

NILIMA JAHAN PHOTO: COURTESY



generation and overall creative direction, living in United Arab Emirates for the last ten years, was awarded the 'Cannes Lion' award thrice for his creative design ideas. He shared his ideas of generative designs with Ice9 interactive and made a plan to implement them. The main technical strength behind the project, Fahim Ahmed, works in the field of Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality of Ice9 Interactive. Afeef Zubaer Zaman, who's ultimate goal is to work in the field of 3D



animation and entertainment, also took the responsibilities of the technical aspects. The rest of the team helped with innovative ideas for designing the project.

The team worked hard from November 2014 to January 2015 for their generative design project. The generative design system took a snippet from a track of DJ Sarhi, the user's location and a picture of DJ Sarhi as input. Using these elements, the system created visual beats which represented momentary musical glimpses. These system generated visuals were then used for the communication campaign of the album launch of DJ Sarhi.

In spite of being students from different backgrounds, this team successfully proved themselves to be technical experts among their clients. "We had a great interest in storytelling and also in technology. Besides, we had a good interaction with many people who are from the technical background," says

Afeef Zubaer Zaman. Recently, the team is working for the identity creation of the Bengal Classical Music Festival. The identity of Bengal Classical Music Festival was developed using dynamic identity generation concept. "We took this as an inspiration to design the identity of Bengal Classical Music Festival. Each unique identity was generated through a computer system," says Ahmad Niaz Murshed, Business Development Executive at Ice9 Interactive.

Ice9 Interactive is the first company in Bangladesh to have been awarded these prestigious awards. They are also creating different projects for national and international corporate clients' like-Uniliver, Pepsi, Airtel, Nestle, Grameenphone, Robi and many more. The most important fact is that they strongly believe in teamwork and yearn to move a long way in the future.

QUIRKY SCIENCE



PLASTIC LITTER IN THE ARCTIC

In a new study, researchers from the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) show for the first time that marine litter can even be found at the sea surface of Arctic waters. Though it remains unclear how the litter made it so far north, it is likely to pose new problems for local marine life, the authors report on the online portal of the scientific journal Polar Biology. Plastic has already been reported from stomachs of resident seabirds and Greenland sharks.

Plastic waste finds its way into the ocean, and from there to the farthest reaches of the planet – even as far as the Arctic. This was confirmed in one of the first litter surveys conducted north of the Arctic Circle, carried out by an international research team from the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) and Belgium's Laboratory for

Polar Ecology. The researchers presented their results in an article released on the online portal of the journal Polar Biology.

In order to gauge the level of pollution, the researchers took advantage of an expedition that brought the research icebreaker Polarstern to the Fram Strait, the area between East Greenland and Svalbard. In July 2012, AWI biologist Dr Melanie Bergmann and her team searched for litter floating on the sea surface from the ship's bridge and by helicopter, maintaining a "litter watch" for a combined distance of 5,600 kilometres. "We found a total of 31 pieces of litter," reports Bergmann.

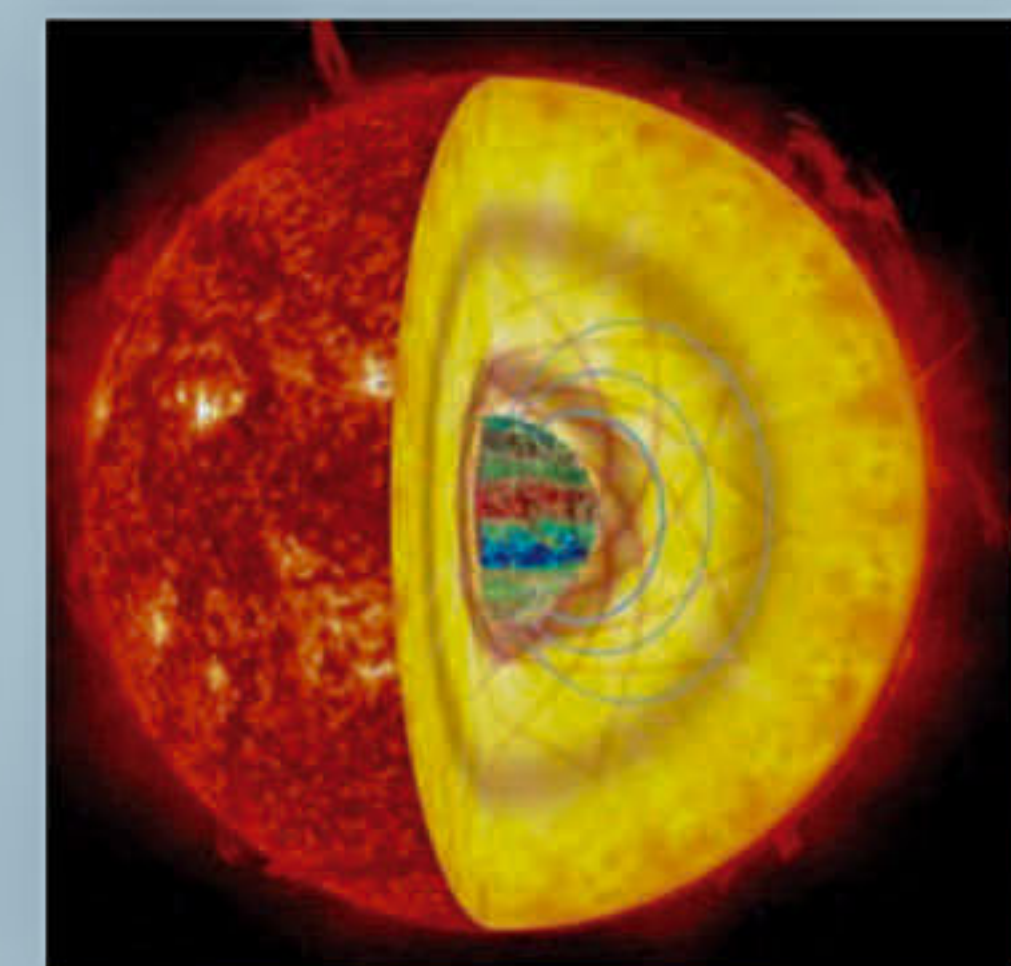
Astronomers have for the first time probed the magnetic fields in the mysterious inner regions of stars, finding they are strongly magnetised.

Using a technique called asteroseismology, the scientists were able to calculate the magnetic field strengths in the fusion-powered hearts of dozens of red giants, stars that are evolved versions of our sun.

"In the same way medical ultrasound uses sound waves to image the interior of the human body, asteroseismology uses sound waves generated by turbulence on the surface of stars to probe their inner properties," says Caltech postdoctoral researcher Jim Fuller, who co-lead a new study detailing the research.

The findings, published in the October 23 issue of Science, will help astronomers better understand the life and death of stars. Magnetic fields likely determine the interior rotation rates of stars; such rates have dramatic effects on how the stars evolve.

Until now, astronomers have been able to study the magnetic fields of stars only on their surfaces, and have had to use supercomputer models to simulate the fields near the cores,



MAGNETS IN STARS

where the nuclear-fusion process takes place. "We still don't know what the center of our own sun looks like," Fuller says.

Red giants have a different physical makeup from so-called main-sequence stars such as our sun – one that makes them ideal for asteroseismology (a field that was born at Caltech in 1962, when the late physicist and astronomer Robert Leighton discovered the solar oscillations using the solar telescopes at Mount Wilson).

Source: Sciencedaily.com

FIVE THINGS

5 BENEFITS OF BEING AN EARLY RISER

M H HAIDER

We all have heard Benjamin Franklin's famous saying, that "early to bed, and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." Why is that so? There is a wide array of reasons. Here are just a few them - 5 benefits early risers enjoy that night owls don't.

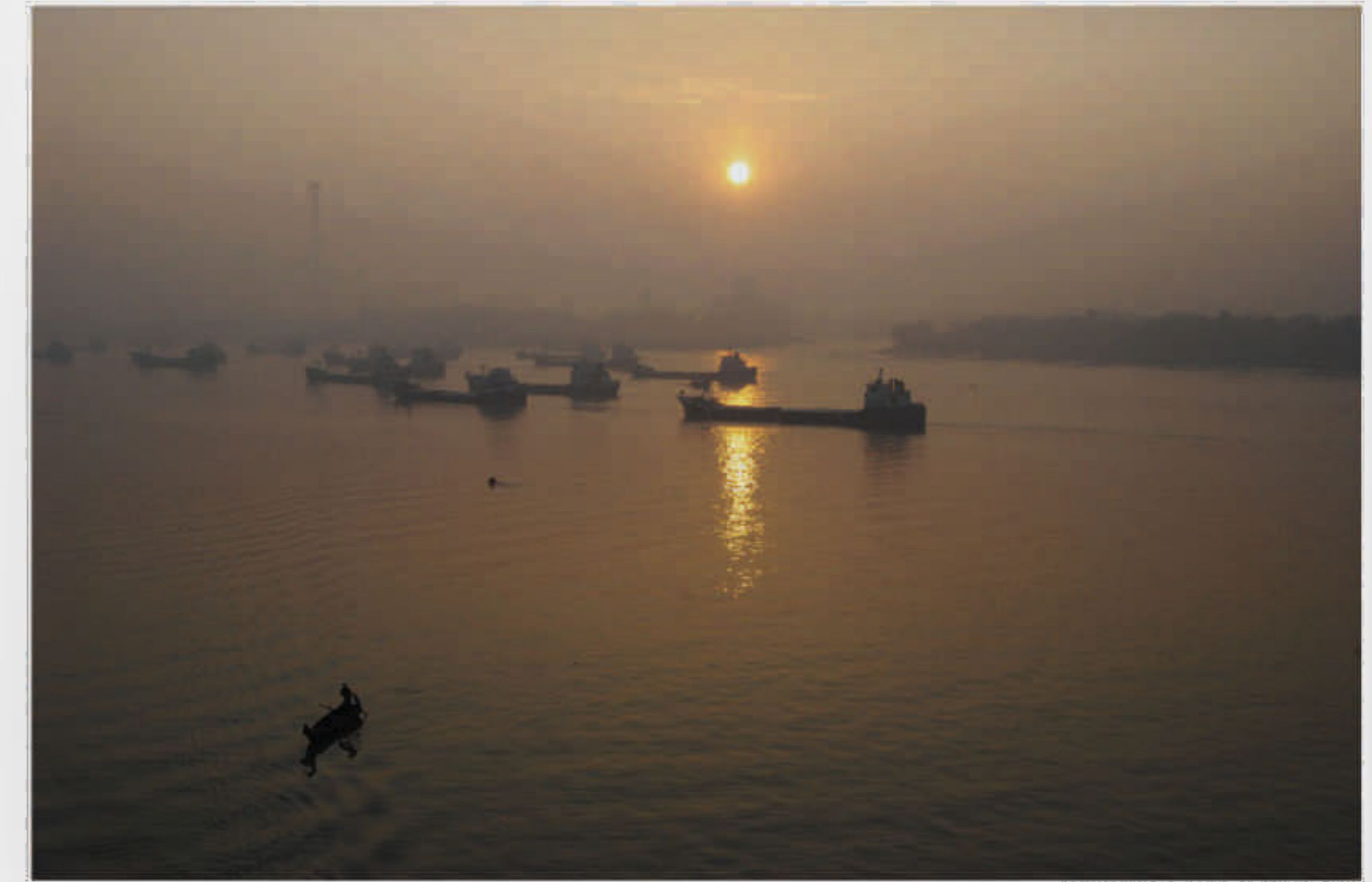


PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

- You can pray and meditate**
The Muezzin says during Fajr adhan that 'prayer is better than sleep'. When you wake up early, you have time to pray. No matter which religion or belief system you belong to – waking up early can provide you the time to read up on religious scriptures or anything that gives you peace. You can also improve on your spirituality and mental health through meditation. What better way is there to start your day than by remembering and thanking God and connecting with your spiritual self?
- You can enjoy an hour of 'me-time'**
Before the kids wake up, or before the traffic and the noise kicks in, or before the long working hours begin, you can enjoy a world that is rarely seen or heard of - a quieter, saner one. The first couple of hours of the day are more agreeable and easier. In this hectic world where you have sold your time to others, waking up early can give you an hour of the much-needed 'me-time'.
- You can eat breakfast like a king**
Most of us wake up groggy with sleep deprivation and then hastily get ready and rush to work. Breakfast is the least of our priorities. However, it is said to be a very important meal, one where you should eat generously. Skipping breakfast has many negative consequences, such as overeating later in the day. If you wake up early, you can find that time to make breakfast and sit and eat properly.
- You can finally get time for exercise**
Of course, you can hit the gym in any time of the day. But do you? After office, in the evening, you are tired. And you have to run errands or catch up with friends or attend social events like weddings. Well, there is a perfectly good time for exercise, you if could just wake up an hour earlier!
- You are more likely to be more proactive**
Harvard biologist Christoph Randler has discovered through a research work that there is an interrelation between being proactive and being a morning person. In his study, a higher proportion of morning people had agreed with statements like 'I feel in charge of making things happen'.

So, Benjamin Franklin was not joking when he advised about being an early riser and not a night owl.

But, just to be fair, there are indeed many 'healthy, wealthy and wise' people who disagree with him! As Mark Twain once wrote, "Put no trust in the benefits to accrue from early rising, as set forth by the infatuated Franklin - but stake the last cent of your substance on the judgment of old George Washington, the Father of his Country, who said 'he couldn't see it.'"

Who will you support? Some of the most important benefits of being an early riser have been pointed out. Now you decide!