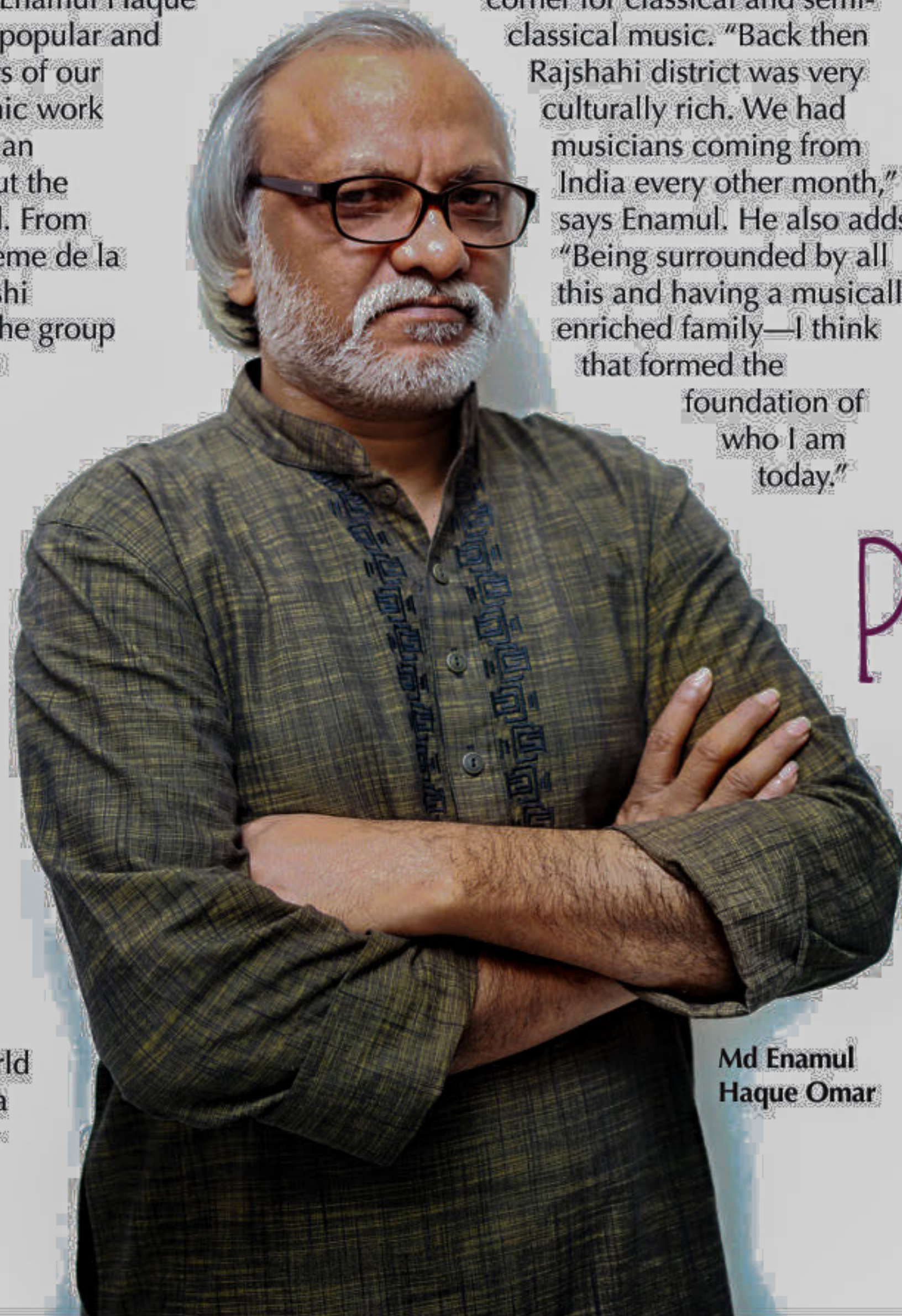


“Quitting my bank job and taking music as a full time profession was the toughest decision I have ever made, but it was the best decision,” says Md Enamul Haque Omar, one of most popular and praised tabla players of our country. His rhythmic work has charmed many an audience throughout the country and abroad. From playing with the crème de la crème of Bangladeshi musicians such as the group Pancha Bhashkar to collaborating with Anusheh Anadil, Arnob and Buno, Enamul Haque has proved himself to be a musical asset. He is also one of the few musicians of our country who plays the mridangam (a classical percussion instrument) in Bangladesh.

Born and raised in Bogra, Enamul's voyage into the world of music started at a very early age. “My childhood was surrounded with institutions such as Khelaghor, Shishu



Md Enamul Haque Omar

Academy etc,” says Enamul. “I was very involved with them all, and from the start tabla was my ‘weapon of choice’.” From the very beginning, Enamul grew a soft corner for classical and semi-classical music. “Back then Rajshahi district was very culturally rich. We had musicians coming from India every other month,” says Enamul. He also adds, “Being surrounded by all this and having a musically enriched family—I think that formed the foundation of who I am today.”

PASSION FOR THE BEAT

APURBA JAHANGIR
PHOTO: RAFI HAQUE ANTOR

you realise how vast music can be.” His mentors in music include Khaja Golam Mohinuddin, Sree Shibeen Kundu, Sree Shopon Kundu, Pandit Shankar Gosh, Samar Shaha, Sree Ananda Gopal and others. He was trained by the famous NV Balkrishna to play the mridangam.

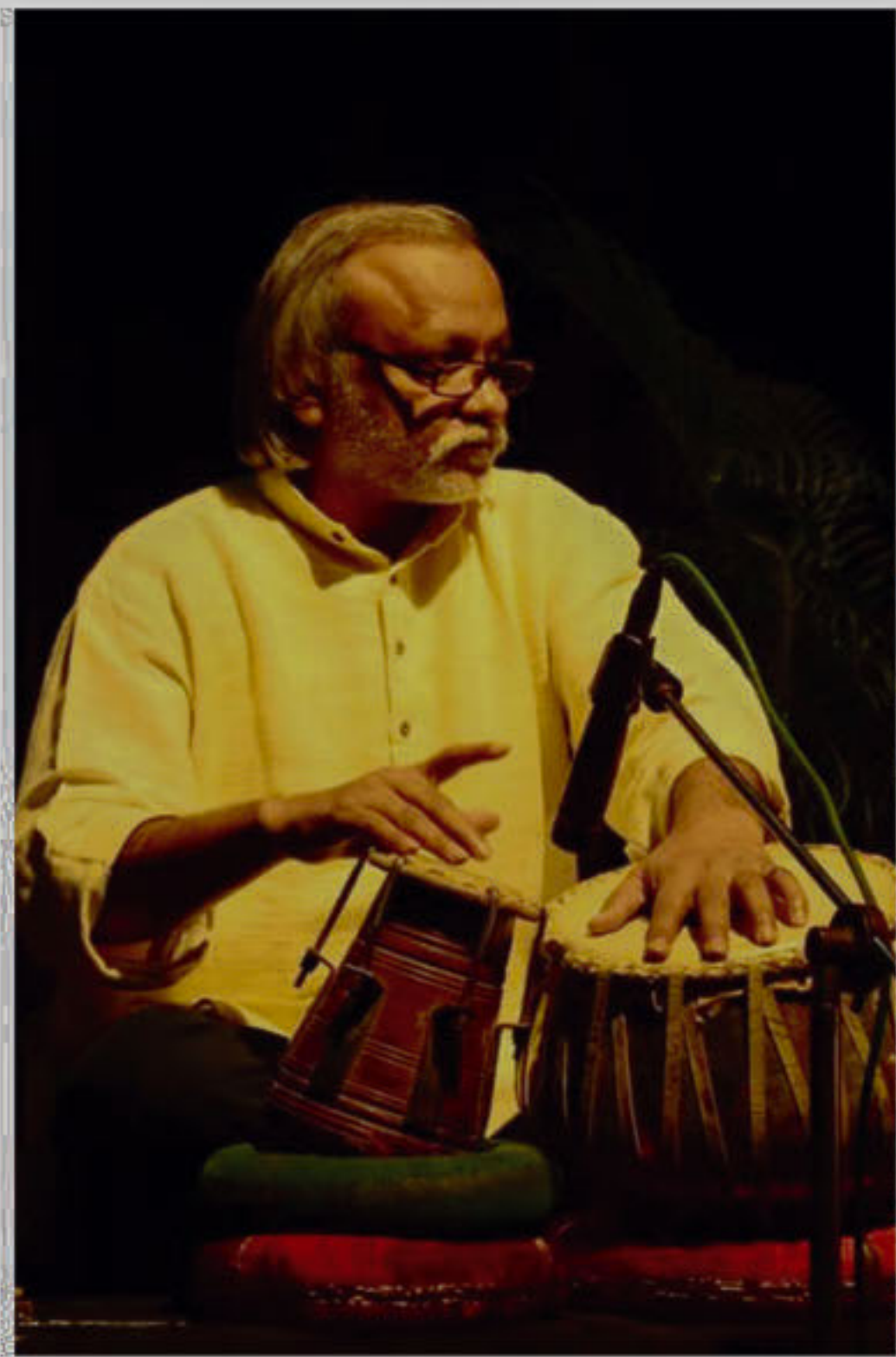


PHOTO: COURTESY

In 2014, He played in the Bengal Classical Music Fest as a part of Bangladeshi Precision Quartet. His mridangam mesmerised the audience as he played uthan, peshkar, kayda, rela, loggi, sawal-jawab, combined relakayda, various laykri, rhythmic chakradartukra and several long domdar and bedomdar tehai on teentaal. “Without doubt, it was the best show I ever did,” says Emanul. “Playing classical music in front of such big audience is every artists dream; I thank Bengal Foundation for taking this initiative and giving classical music a comeback in our country.”

STAR PEOPLE

QUIRKY SCIENCE

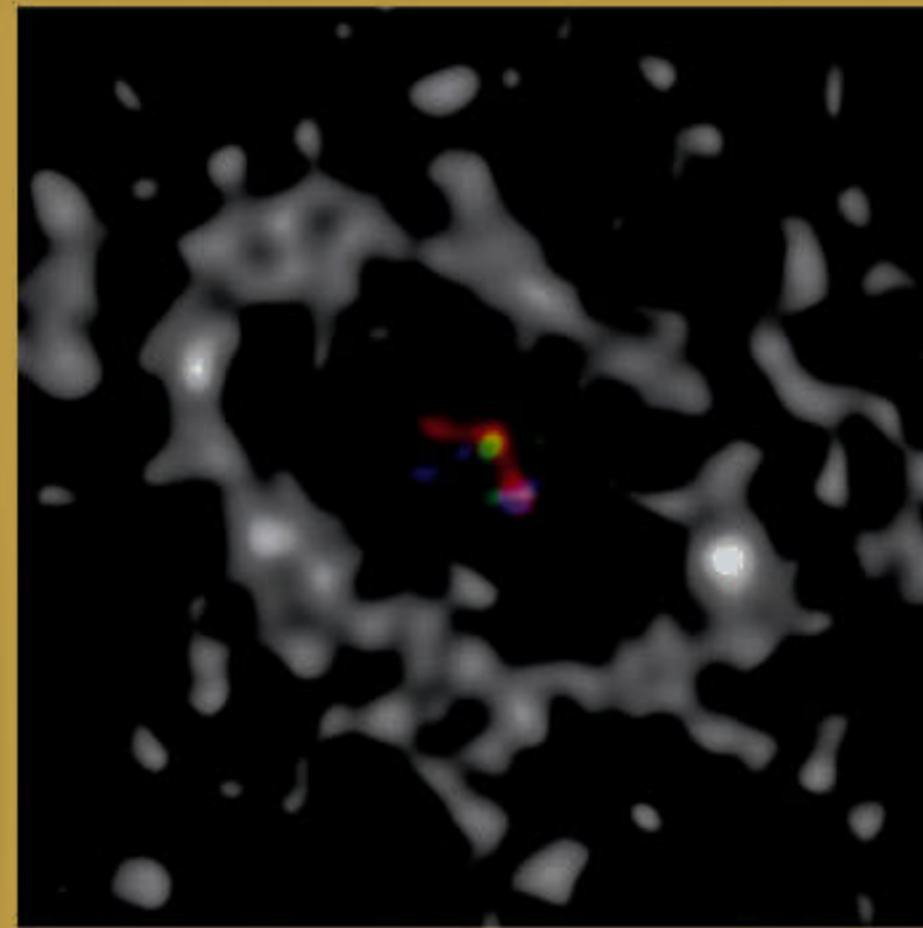
PLANET IN MAKING

There are 450 light-years between Earth and LkCa15, a young star with a transition disk around it, a cosmic whirling dervish, a birthplace for planets.

Despite the disk's considerable distance from Earth and its gaseous, dusty atmosphere, University of Arizona researchers captured the first photo of a planet in the making, a planet residing in a gap in LkCa15's disk.

Of the roughly 2,000 known exoplanets – planets that orbit a star other than our sun – only about 10 have been imaged, and that was long after they had formed, not when they were in the making.

“This is the first time that we've imaged a planet that we can say is still forming,” says Steph Sallum, a UA graduate student, who with Kate Follette, a former UA graduate student now doing postdoctoral work at Stanford University, led the research. The researchers' results were



published in the Nov. 19 issue of Nature.

Only months ago, Sallum and Follette were working independently, each on her own Ph.D. project. But serendipitously they had set their sights on the same star. Both were observing LkCa15, which is surrounded by a special kind of protoplanetary disk that contains an inner clearing, or gap.

Protoplanetary disks form around young stars using the debris left over from the star's formation. It is suspected that planets then form inside the disk, sweeping up dust and debris as the material falls onto the planets instead of staying in the disk or falling onto the star. A gap is then cleared in which planets can reside.

OUR CLOSEST WORM COUSIN

A team from the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST) and its collaborators has sequenced the genomes of two species of small water creatures called acorn worms and showed that we share more genes with them than we do with many other animals, establishing them as our distant cousins.

The study found that 8,600 families of genes are shared across deuterostomes, a large animal grouping that includes a variety of organisms, ranging from acorn worms to star fishes, from frogs to dogs, to humans. This means that approximately 70% of our genes trace their ancestry back to the original deuterostome. By comparing the genomes of acorn worms to other animals, OIST scientists inferred the presence of these genes in the common ancestor of all deuterostomes, an extinct animal that lived half a billion years ago. This research shows that the pharyngeal gene cluster is unique to the deuterostomes and it could be linked to the development of the pharynx, the region that links the mouth and nose to the esophagus in humans.



These findings were published in Nature, summarizing an international collaboration between OIST researchers and teams from the US, UK, Japan, Taiwan and Canada.

Around 550 million years ago, a great variety of animals burst onto the world in an event known as the Cambrian explosion. This evolutionary radiation revealed several new animal body plans, and changed life on Earth forever, as complex animals with specialised guts and behavioural features emerged. Thanks to the genome sequencing of multiple contemporary animals of the deuterostome group, we can go back in time to unveil aspects of the long-lost ancestor of this diverse group of animals.

Source: Sciencedaily.com

A TRAILBLAZER'S JOURNEY

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN
PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

and Play, a start-up incubator; when they suddenly got an opportunity to pitch their idea at Plug and Play Start-up Camp. After several modifications, their idea was selected by Plug and Play as one of the top 21 start-ups. Then, with this recognition, Ishtiaq applied to the accelerators for financial support. Convinced with Ishtiaq's passion and innovation, one of the world renowned accelerators, Matter, agreed to fund and provide technical support to materialise Ishtiaq's dream.

From that moment on, Ishtiaq did not have to look back anymore. He says, “For Bangladeshi entrepreneurs my advice is that you have to be passionate and dedicated to execute your idea.”

“It sounds clichéd but it's actually a fact that an entrepreneur will make mistakes and s/he must learn from those mistakes. If you have that passion and courage, no obstacle will be able to foil your start-up,” adds Ishtiaq.



Ishtiaq Rahman

In the high-tech world of Silicon Valley, ruled by the tech giants like Google, Apple and Facebook, a Bangladeshi youth has emerged as one of the most talented tech entrepreneurs. With his company called Eureka King, Ishtiaq Rahman, now works with some of the world's most renowned corporations and provides them with software products which are vital for their survival in this era of digital marketing.

Ishtiaq, with two of his co-founders named Arjun and Dmitry, established the start-up company in 2014. Within a few months, they got some of the largest and most popular publishers and media houses as their clients such as AP, McClatchy, KQED, PBS Mediashift etc. thanks to their innovative ideas and products. “We develop a behaviour-tracking engine which is a SAS platform (software as a service) that analyzes actions of the online customers of our clients and deliver customized response to the customers by promoting suitable products, encouraging signups and a variety of prompts appropriate for the individual customer” says Ishtiaq.

“Our product ensures that every user of an online platform will get customised features for himself and such user friendly features will boost the online marketing, and transactions for our clients”, adds Ishtiaq. However, Ishtiaq's story could have been very different. Ishtiaq passed higher secondary examination in 2005 from Mirzapur

Cadet College. Than after obtaining a scholarship from University of Toronto, he completed his Bachelor of Science with a major in Economics as he wanted to be a banker.

“While working for one of the most renowned banks in Canada, I realised that this is not meant to be my job. As a banker I had to deal with people who are financially deprived and distressed because it was the time of the global financial crunch. This situation hurt me and I decided to quit the job”, says Ishtiaq.

Then Ishtiaq switched his career to what he is passionate about- technology. Ishtiaq came up with an idea to form a tech start-up which would develop software products. “My initial plan was to develop software which would help smartphone users to choose appropriate apps.”

With this idea, Ishtiaq and one of his co-founders Arjun moved to Silicon Valley at California, USA, to pursue the venture capitalists and accelerators for financial and technical support.

“However, we failed miserably. We could not even arrange a meeting with them as we had no recommendation,” he says.

With a heavy heart, Ishtiaq and Arjun were simply touring the office of Plug

FIVE THINGS

FIVE WAYS TO BEAT THE CHILLS

NAZIBA BASHER

Winter is just a couple of days away. Even though there are sudden bursts of the sun every now and again, we can feel the chilly breeze crawling her way into our skin and bones just after dusk. Sometimes, you need to prepare your body and mind for the harsh chills of winter. Here's how you can do it:



PHOTO: INTERNET

1 Stay Active: Even when it's freezing, force your body to be on the move. Most of us tend curl and hole ourselves up in the winter, which means lots of lazying around. But to stay fit and healthy, you should try twice as hard to stay active as you do during the summer. Luckily, you have a lot of choices – from running to biking, and here in Bangladesh, what better than a game of badminton?

2 Beat the Winter Blues: Winter isn't even remotely a happy season, whether you suffer from seasonal affective disorder (SAD- that IS a thing!) or not. Try just a little bit harder to focus on the positive things in life instead of that grey mist surrounding you. Talk yourself into a good mood when you wake up and make sure you get maximum amount of sunlight when out during the day.

3 Keep Safe: Dry eyes, dry skin and static shock are common consequences of winter. Your skin and eyes will probably be a lot drier during this season, so make sure you take some extra care – cover up your face and eyes, use a good moisturizer, and get a good humidifier if your house is feeling a little dry. It should also help with those nasty static shocks!

4 Say No To Phlegm: Cold weather may not directly cause colds and fevers, but cold season is definitely in full swing. You don't have to stay home and curl into a ball under the blankets to avoid getting sick, you just need to take extra care: get a good amount of sleep, wash your hands often, drink plenty of fluids, and like we say before, stay active!

5 Stay Warm: Lastly, remember: heating yourself is way more efficient than heating the whole house (especially if you live alone). To prepare your body for winter, make sure to seal off any unused room, and consider a space heater. Also, it's amazing what a good pair of socks or fuzzy slippers can do. In winter, warm feet = warm heart!

So here are the know-how's of making it through the dreaded season. Be sure to make the most of those chills and frosts.