

LIVING WITH A CAMERA

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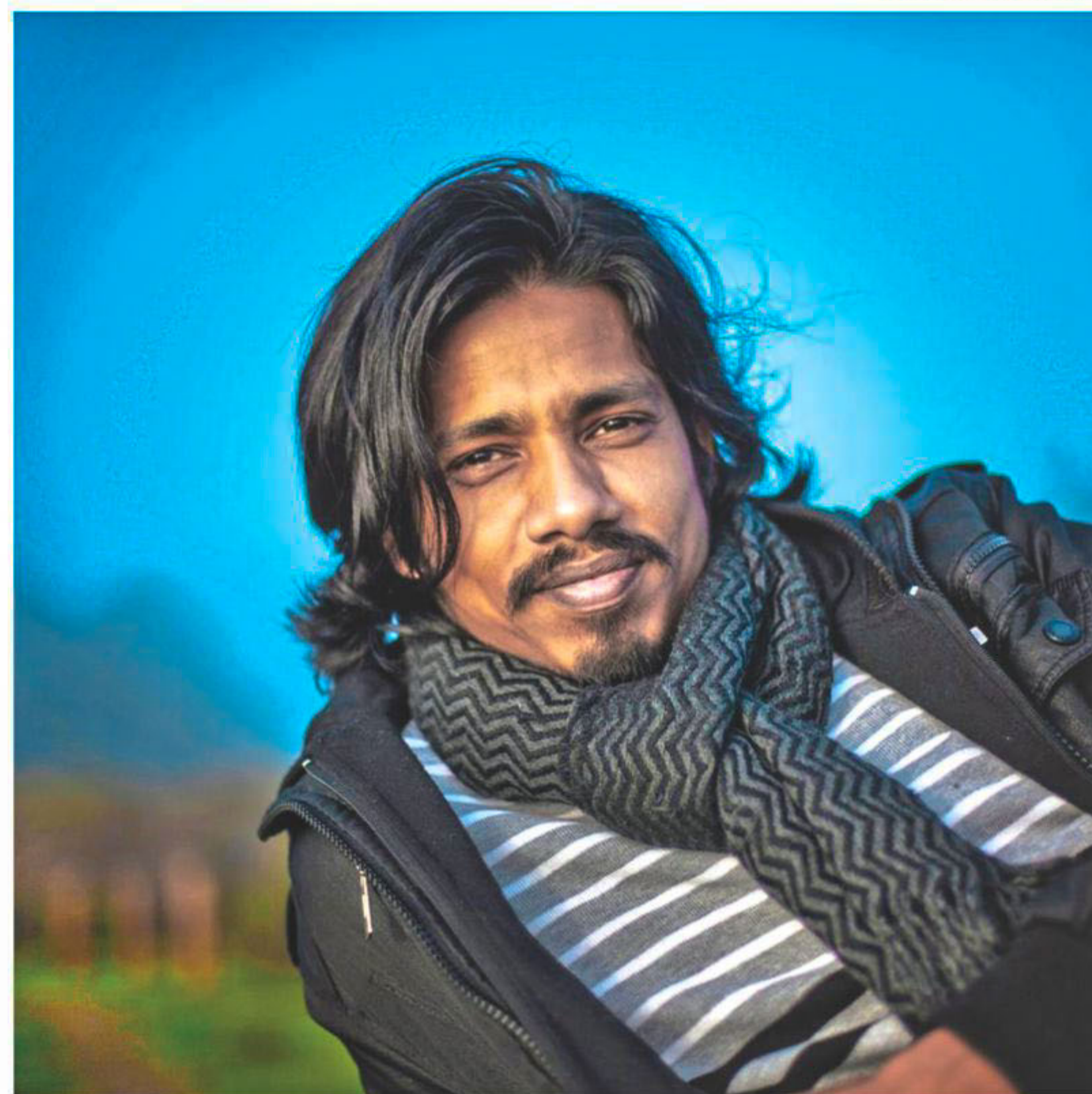
Khaled Hasan's story is an inspiration for people who want to turn their passion into a full time profession.

For him, being a professional documentary photographer was not only about getting the right gear or learning how to use it, so that he can sell his art. He would rather spend a good amount of time with his subjects, setting aside his camera, sometimes even for months, observing and listening to them to know them better.

Hasan never wanted to indulge in the mad rat race that aims at better living conditions and financial security. Growing up, he started learning how to play the tabla and guitar, but soon realised that he

document and preserve for life. My work is dedicated to bringing forth the unsung tales of people; portraying the truth that often goes unnoticed."

You need to have tenacity and talent in abundance in order to stand out from the crowd, and Hasan has exactly that. As a documentary photographer and filmmaker, Hasan has been awarded the best environmental photo journalist in 2009 for his documentary project 'Living Stone' by CIWEM. He has bagged numerous international awards, including the 2008 All Roads Photography Contest of National Geographic Society; the 2009 Grand Prix "Europe and Asia – Dialogue of Cultures";



Khaled Hasan

PHOTO: COURTESY

STAR PEOPLE

ENVEAVOUR

"Words have incredible power. They can make people's hearts soar, or they can make people's hearts sore."- Dr. Mardy Grothe

My heart beat hard against my chest with every step I took towards the pedestal. Expectant eyes stared back at me, waiting for me to deliver something amazing. My throat was dry and my palms were sweaty. For a split second I wondered if I should just bolt. But I gathered myself, took a deep breath, and started.

I was delivering a speech for the public speaking session of BYLC's Building Bridges through Leadership Training programme. Over the past week, we learned how to give an effective speech to inspire and mobilise a group towards a cause or an idea. Words are powerful. In the case of Bangladesh, one man's words were enough to inspire a nation of people to fight to liberate a country! Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's powerful speech on 7th March, 1971 still sends a shiver down the spines of every Bangladeshi and reminds everyone about the dream of independence and the struggle for freedom.

My speech was about Bangladeshi identity and how the influence of Indian channels is distracting younger generations from discovering and cherishing Bangladeshi culture. I gave an example of my cousin who watches hours of Hindi dubbed Cartoon Network and has turned out to speak better Hindi than Bangla! I tried to utilise the tips we were taught, to add flavour to my speech. I projected my voice so that the students in the back could hear me, I made eye contact with everyone in the room so that everyone would feel connected, and I made sure my

SPEAKING IN PUBLIC THE DOUBLE EDGED SWORD

RAFAEAL HOSSAIN



PHOTO: COURTESY

body language demonstrated confidence. It is imperative that a leader learns the right public speaking skills in order to be taken seriously. I say learn, because the perception that leaders are naturally gifted speakers, is a myth. One has to work hard in order to master the art of public speaking. Practicing in front of a mirror or doing breathing exercises might feel odd, but they are extremely helpful in curbing anxiety and feeling confident in front of an audience.

I am particularly inspired by Jose Mourinho, the most successful manager of Chelsea football club, whose perseverance for excellence lifted his team from being underdogs to champions. His words, "I won't say we have to win. I won't put that pressure. But we can't lose." really struck me and I'm reminded of them in moments where I feel like I am struggling or failing. Someday, I wish to be a teacher, for which being a dynamic and charismatic speaker is vital. Being an engineering student, I wish to inspire the love of science into younger generations. With this thirst to serve my society and nation, I want to actively work for the development of my community and I want to engage those like me to reach achieve purpose in their lives. This keeps me motivated to ace public speaking because I believe that the significance of communication skills is invaluable. So I am motivated to study the technicalities for mastering public speaking, practice my delivery, and evaluate my progress. The right words at the right moment, expressed with passion can do wonders to catalyze positive change.

The writer is a graduate of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center's eleventh Bridges through Leadership Training program, and is currently studying Electric and Electronic Engineering at North South University.



PHOTO: KHALED HASAN

For him, being a professional documentary photographer was not only about getting the right gear or learning how to use it, so that he can sell his art. He would rather spend a good amount of time with his subjects, setting aside his camera, sometimes even for months, observing and listening to them to know them better.

the Sunday Times Magazine, American Photo, National Geographic Society, Better Photography, Saudi Aramco World Magazine, The Guardian, The Telegraph, The Independent and The New Internationalist.

Not only that, in 2015, among five leading speakers of International Perspective Conference (IPC), Khaled Hasan was one of the invitees and lead speakers, as he participated at the conference in Principia College located in St. Louis, USA. He is the youngest inspirational speaker who has attended the event, recognised not only as an internationally known photographer but also as a "Socially Responsible Global citizen" for his contribution.

At present, Hasan is working on his new project titled "Living Odd" to document the past and present situation of Bangladeshi non-residents and immigrants who have been living in the US for long. "My project attempts to capture the truth that lies in the sufferings and survival of our immigrants," he says. ■

Canada, Uzbekistan and the USA.

Hasan has a collection of projects including Leave Me Alone (on acid survivors), Tears of Memories: Death of Dreams (on living in old homes) and Sign of a Shame (on the war heroines), just to name a few. The everyday struggle of these people is at the center of all of his photography.

His works have been published in major international magazines and newspapers in the world including the New York Times,

never fell in love with music the way he did with photography. Gradually, he found himself behind the camera and decided to focus on photography. His mother and sister encouraged him and gave him the courage to carry on.

Hasan uses his photography as a tool to expose society's evils and to reveal the unseen. "I believe a story never ends," he says, "But with time it continues to develop." It fades or becomes part of the history which a photographer is able to

International Photography Contest organised by the Museum of Photography, Russia; 2009 Mark Grosset Documentary Prize, France; and UNESCO's Humanity Photo Documentary Award, China. The same year, he had received the "Story Documentary Jury" award from Netherlands. He was also awarded the "CDP Emerging Documentalist Award" from Australia. His photographs have traveled to many galleries in countries like Britain, Mexico, France, Syria, Russia, China,

QUIRKY SCIENCE

A HOT JUPITER

Crisp, clear images of a "hot Jupiter" system captured by a University of Notre Dame physicist were vital in determining that a newly found planet inhabits a three-star system, a phenomenon documented only a few times before.

Justin R. Crepp, Freimann Assistant Professor of Physics, was part of the team that discovered KELT-4Ab, a so-called "hot Jupiter" because it is a gas giant that orbits extremely close to one of the stars in its solar system. The discovery was published in The Astronomical Journal.

While the KELT, or Kilodegree Extremely Little Telescope, detected the likely presence of the planet now called KELT-4Ab about 685 light years from Earth, Crepp was able to capture crisp, clear images of the system, discovering that the planet was in fact a member of a triple star system – one of only a few found to date.

The KELT monitors bright stars in large sections of the sky, searching for planets that orbit extremely closely. When the star KELT-A dimmed every few days, scientists believed they were witnessing an orbiting planet. Crepp was then asked to use the Keck Telescope to investigate and capture photos, and he wound up finding two additional stars in the process.



THE MISSING PIECE OF THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

Researchers have for the first time shown that ribose, a sugar that is one of the building blocks of genetic material in living organisms, may have formed in cometary ices. To obtain this result, scientists at the Institut de Chimie de Nice (CNRS/Université Nice Sophia Antipolis) carried out a highly detailed analysis of an artificial comet created by their colleagues at the Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale (CNRS/Université Paris-Sud). Along with other teams[1], including one at the SOLEIL synchrotron, they propose the first realistic scenario for the formation of this key compound, which had never been detected in meteorites or cometary ices until now. Their findings, which shed new light on the emergence of life on Earth, are published in the journal Science dated 8 April 2016.

The genetic material of all living organisms on Earth, as well as of viruses, is made up of nucleic acids, DNA and RNA[2]. RNA, which is considered more primitive, is thought to have been one of the first molecules characteristic of life to appear on Earth. Scientists have long wondered about the origin of these biological compounds. Some of them believe that the Earth was seeded by comets or asteroids that contained the basic building blocks needed to



form such molecules. And indeed several amino acids (the components of proteins) and nitrogenous bases (one of the components of nucleic acids) have already been found in meteorites, as well as in artificial comets produced in the laboratory. However, ribose, the other key component of RNA, had never yet been detected in extraterrestrial material or created in the laboratory under 'astrophysical' conditions. Now, by simulating the evolution of the interstellar ice making up comets, French research teams have successfully obtained ribose, a key step in understanding the origin of RNA – and therefore of life.

Source: Sciencedaily.com