



MAN WITH THE BOW

APURBA JAHANGIR
PHOTOS: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

In the city of Colorado, a certain type of bow tie worn by the locals was spotted, it especially caught the eyes of university students. The design is vibrant and what makes them stand out is that they are made of Katan. These bow ties are called Tiger Bows and are becoming quite popular among the trendsetting society of Colorado. This trend started just a couple of months ago at the hands of emerging social entrepreneur Wahid Hossain, popularly known as the 'bow tie guy'. What was first just a business proposal for the Resolution Project at the Harvard Model United Nations is now rapidly evolving into a fashion statement.

While studying at East West University, Wahid was brought down by the mundane life of a business student. "I was very depressed. From my life at school to university, I saw no difference in the studying method," says Wahid, "to make life a little interesting I started applying for conferences, both here and abroad." While attending these conferences Wahid had an epiphany-- Bangladesh should be its own brand rather than being the next Malaysia or Dubai, "and realising this, changed my whole perspective towards our business models".

To make something on his own, Wahid started planning for Oikkaton in 2014, a business accelerator to help rural entrepreneurs of Bangladesh with strategies and focused consultancy. "It was my last semester at university and I was also on my way to attend the Harvard Model United Nations," says Wahid. To submit the Resolution Project, Wahid made the business plan for Oikkaton and its first project-- the Tiger Bow.



STAR PEOPLE



Wahid Hosain

After the Resolution project, Wahid was still not convinced to turn this idea into a reality. "After Harvard, I was invited to Watson University, Colorado, to participate in their venture accelerator programme," says Wahid. The Tiger Bow slowly started to come to a shape during Wahid's time in Colorado. "Everyone thought it was an interesting idea and I thought why not go for it." Bow ties were already in trend, and making it with our own Katan fabrics with the help of our own artisans were a catch in Colorado.

"Oikkaton was already working with a local artisan named Sabina Chowdhury. At that time she was making handmade bed sheets. To accommodate the bow tie was a challenge for the both of us. After enormous amounts of 'youtubeing', and skype calls we finally got hold of it. Meanwhile, Wahid was selected to give a speech at the Ted at Colorado University. His plan was to present the Tiger Bow there. "I told Sabina to send me ten bow ties and at the event was the first time Tiger Bow was presented in front of an audience."

Right now Tiger bow is delivering its products in Colorado which will soon be all over the United States. "Bow ties are still not common in our country, but it's quite a trend in the US. Each bow tie costs 50 dollars and the earned money is divided among the artisan and the company to make it sustainable," says Wahid. Wahid's aim is to give international recognition to our artisans through Oikkaton. "Handmade crafts are quite neglected these days. My goal is to make the world see how valuable it is, though we have a long way to go and Tiger Bow is just a small step towards that." ■

QUIRKY SCIENCE



SECRET TO PAINLESS LIFE

People born with a rare genetic mutation are unable to feel pain, but previous attempts to recreate this effect with drugs have had surprisingly little success. Using mice modified to carry the same mutation, UCL researchers funded by the MRC and Wellcome Trust have now discovered the recipe for painlessness. 'Channels' that allow messages to pass along nerve cell membranes are vital for electrical signalling in the nervous system. In 2006, it was shown that sodium channel Nav1.7 is particularly important for signalling in pain pathways and people born with non-functioning Nav1.7 do not feel pain. Drugs that block Nav1.7 have since been developed but they had disappointingly weak effects.

The new study, published in Nature Communications, reveals that mice and people who lack Nav1.7 also produce higher than normal levels of natural

opioid peptides.

To examine if opioids were important for painlessness, the researchers gave naloxone, an opioid blocker, to mice lacking Nav1.7 and found that they became able to feel pain. They then gave naloxone to a 39-year-old woman with the rare mutation and she felt pain for the first time in her life.

"After a decade of rather disappointing drug trials, we now have confirmation that Nav1.7 really is a key element in human pain," says senior author Professor John Wood (UCL Medicine). "The secret ingredient turned out to be good old-fashioned opioid peptides, and we have now filed a patent for combining low dose opioids with Nav1.7 blockers. This should replicate the painlessness experienced by people with rare mutations, and we have already successfully tested this approach in unmodified mice."

HOW TO STAY YOUNG!

Living longer usually means a longer dotage, but wouldn't it be enticing to extend young adulthood instead? It's such an appealing prospect that scientists who are announcing success with roundworms are keen to be clear they are a long way from achieving it in humans.

"We don't want people to get the impression they can take the drug we used in our study to extend their own teens or early twenties," says lead author Michael Petrascheck from The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI), California.

"We may have done this in worms, but there are millions of years of evolution between worms and humans."

"We think it is exciting to see that extending lifespan by extending young adulthood can be done at all," he says.

In the study to be published in the journal eLife, the TSRI-led team administered an antidepressant called mianserin to *Caenorhabditis elegans*, a type of roundworm used frequently in research. In 2007, they discovered that the drug increases the lifespan of roundworms by 30-40 percent. Their new goal was to investigate how



The team treated thousands of worms with either water or mianserin and looked at the activity of genes as the worms aged. First, they measured the activity of genes in young adults as a reference point against which to monitor the aging process.

Reproductive maturity begins in day-old roundworms and they live for 2-3 weeks on average.

As the worms aged, the team observed dramatic changes in gene expression. However, the changes occurred in a way that came as a complete surprise. Groups of genes that together play a role in the same function were found to change expression in opposing directions.

Source: Sciencedaily.com

FIVE THINGS

FIVE THINGS TO DO ON FAMILY DAY

NAZIBA BASHER

International Day of Families just passed by on the 15th of May, and since many of us (guilty as charged) didn't know about this special occasion, we may want to do something to celebrate now. You can thank us for shedding knowledge about this auspicious day later, first take a look at 5 fun things you can do with your family to celebrate Family Day!



PHOTO: INTERNET

- 1 **Cook together:** Cooking is a therapeutic form of art, which can be both relaxing and exciting. You can plan out your favourite meals together, assign one dish to each person and cook for the whole family at the same time. Sure, the kitchen may get a little messy- but it's the kind of mess that's worth it.
- 2 **Play a game:** I remember my family loving games of 'antakshari' every once in a while. Being a family of four also came in handy when we would want to play a good game of call-bridge or carrom. And every once in a while, my whole sitting room would turn into a make-shift badminton court and the doubles would be on!
- 3 **Walk down memory lane:** Remember those old, fat photo albums that are collecting dust in the corner of some bookshelf, in some corner of your house? Why don't you take those out and go for a walk down memory lane? There really is nothing better than remember the best days of your lives, with the best people in your lives.
- 4 **Watch a good movie:** There are many wonderful family movies out there for every age group to enjoy. Whether it's Bedknobs and Broomsticks, Taare Zameen Par or Gupigayen Baghabayen, Family Day is the perfect time to curl up under the covers together and watch your favourite blockbusters!
- 5 **Date Night:** Yes. You can, in fact, take your family out on a date. And no, it does not have to be 'romantic'. Take your family out to a nice, quite restaurant, have a good filling meal together over some gossip and adda, give them an experience that they will enjoy and show them how much they really mean to you.

So what are you waiting for? Go and spend the best of times with those who really matter- your family.