

STAR PEOPLE



Nafeez Al Amin

While a touch of the strings and strokes on the black and white reeds speak thousands of words – of generations, people, nature, love and helps one to travel all over the world, the beating of the drums, however, brings you back to life. The drums or the rhythm in any composition maintains the balance and keeps you grounded, as one would say. Most importantly, however, the beats touch your heart, makes you dance and in many cases, inspire lost souls, sometimes, to come back home safely.

It was just a mere dream for Nafeez Al Amin, a professional drummer and musician, also the founder of Beshi Joss Drums, to create his own brands of drums, cajons, snares and other pieces of

# A WORK IN PROGRESS

# BESHI JOSS DRUMS

ELITA KARIM

PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO



a drum set and elements required in a percussion set up. Also an assistant professor at the school of business in Daffodil University in Dhaka, Nafeez had to shift to the Ashulia campus to teach – at Daffodil's own campus. "That's when I thought of shifting the small drum making factory that I had started on my rooftop of my family home in Baridhara DOHS to bigger spaces in Ashulia," says Nafeez. Called the Beshi Joss Drums, creating this brand of deshi drums started just a little more than a year ago at a small room on the roof top of Nafeez's home.

A few months ago, Nafeez began to build drums and cajons for fellow musicians and also himself just for fun. "I was not happy with what I bought here and the ones that I would bring from abroad were just too expensive. So I thought to myself, why not just start building sets here on my rooftop?" Nafeez studied (and is still studying!) woodwork and how to make snares – and that too, all from online sources. "I would check out youtube videos and dig out drawings and papers from different expert sources online. I had always been very passionate about music, especially rhythm."

Currently playing drums for the band Arbovirus, Nafeez has been playing with several musicians and bands for more than 15 years. His skills range between

the genres of metal to jazz, including Bangla modern compositions as well.

The three-room factory of Beshi Joss Drums, which Nafeez and his assistant Mizan call their 'workshop' is filled with wood of all kinds, collected and bought from Ashulia, Mirpur and other locations. "Oak is the best, especially for the snare," asserts Nafeez, pointing to the newly made snare, just waiting to be ringed and bordered with steel pieces, not to mention the final coat of paint.

Once the wood is cut accordingly and shaped up according to which part of the drums Nafeez is building, workers shift to the next room where the pieces are smoothed using another machine and then finally painted in the third and final room.

"I bought these machines from Tejgaon and other parts of Dhaka," says Nafeez. "From wherever I could, I grabbed on to machines and tools to build my drums."

The name Beshi Joss Drums, says it all. "My drums are all 'beshi joss'!" exclaims Nafeez. Referring to 'excellent' or 'out of this world', the word 'joss' is a colloquial Dhaka term, which has been used in the brand.

Today, Nafeez has sold many drum sets and cajons not only in Bangladesh but also in India, USA, Australia and other countries. "My facebook page is very active and surprisingly many from all over the world send me questions regarding my drum making," adds Nafeez. "Some drummers even send me suggestions which I appreciate very much."

Visiting the Beshi Joss Drums factory in Ashulia was definitely a 'beshi joss' experience! Not only did we get to witness creativity in its best form, but also the fresh air, lakes and papaya trees around. "This is probably the best office ever, don't you think?" asks a smiling Nafeez. ■

QUIRKY SCIENCE



## KEEPING IT COOL

Stanford engineers have developed a low-cost, plastic-based textile that, if woven into clothing, could cool your body far more efficiently than is possible with the natural or synthetic fabrics in clothes we wear today.

Describing their work in Science, the researchers suggest that this new family of fabrics could become the basis for garments that keep people cool in hot climates without air conditioning.

"If you can cool the person rather than the building where they work or live, that will save energy," said Yi Cui, an associate professor of materials science and engineering and of photon science at Stanford.

This new material works by allowing the body to discharge heat in two ways

that would make the wearer feel nearly 4 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than if they wore cotton clothing.

The material cools by letting perspiration evaporate through the material, something ordinary fabrics already do. But the Stanford material provides a second, revolutionary cooling mechanism: allowing heat that the body emits as infrared radiation to pass through the plastic textile.

All objects, including our bodies, throw off heat in the form of infrared radiation, an invisible and benign wavelength of light. Blankets warm us by trapping infrared heat emissions close to the body. This thermal radiation escaping from our bodies is what makes us visible in the dark through night-vision goggles.

## CERES' GEOLOGICAL ACTIVITY

A lonely 3-mile-high (5-kilometer-high) mountain on Ceres is likely volcanic in origin, and the dwarf planet may have a weak, temporary atmosphere. These are just two of many new insights about Ceres from NASA's Dawn mission published this week in six papers in the journal Science.

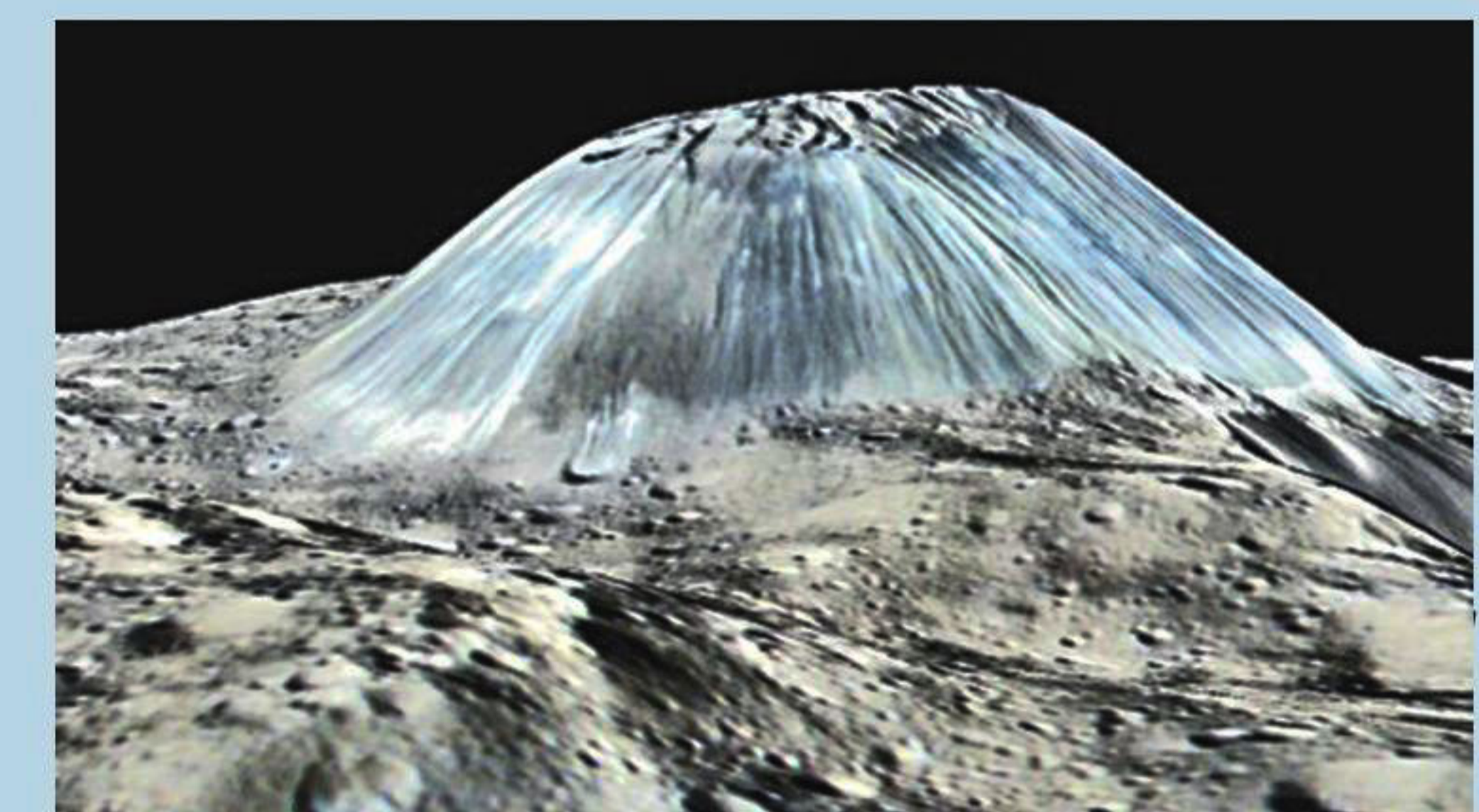
"Dawn has revealed that Ceres is a diverse world that clearly had geological activity in its recent past," said Chris Russell, principal investigator of the Dawn mission, based at the University of California, Los Angeles.

A Temporary Atmosphere  
A surprising finding emerged in the paper led by Russell: Dawn may have detected a weak, temporary atmosphere. Dawn's gamma ray and

neutron (GRaND) detector observed evidence that Ceres had accelerated electrons from the solar wind to very high energies over a period of about six days. In theory, the interaction between the solar wind's energetic particles and atmospheric molecules could explain the GRaND observations.

A temporary atmosphere would be consistent with the water vapor the Herschel Space Observatory detected at Ceres in 2012-2013. The electrons that GRaND detected could have been produced by the solar wind hitting the water molecules that Herschel observed, but scientists are also looking into alternative explanations.

"We're very excited to follow up on this and the other discoveries about this fascinating world," Russell said.



SOURCE: SCIENCEDAILY.COM

STRANGE PROFESSION

## SHOW ME THE MONEY!

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

There are some vendors in Dhaka whose articles of trade are some of the most peculiar in the world. They earn their living by selling takas in exchange of takas. It sounds fishy, doesn't it? But if you go to Gulistan and Motijheel you will see these vendors sitting on the sidewalks with their basket full of freshly printed bundles of takas that is Bangladeshi bank notes of different amounts. "Sometimes, a torn, damaged 500 taka note can be passed onto you and, in this time of crisis, we can provide you the solution. Show me your money and with a nominal fee I can give you flawless, new currency of the same amount," says Md Shumon a money seller at Gulistan. "Even people can change large bank notes like of 1000 taka into smaller notes such as 50 taka or 100 taka from us easily instead of going to the banks and standing in the queue," he adds. In fact, everyday in the early morning, Shuman and other money sellers stand in a long queue in the central Bank for their customers to collect freshly printed Bank notes in exchange of the damaged, mutilated ones. Some of these vendors are also experts in detecting counterfeit bank notes and coins. It is alleged that sometimes they misuse their skill to run counterfeit bank notes to their customers. "For a few black sheep among us, law enforcers sometimes evict all of our stalls and seize our hard earned capital. It is really very unfortunate," says Shumon. Businesses of these money sellers remain quite dull all the year round; however, thanks to the up coming Eid-ul-Adha celebrations, they are running well.