

If music be the food of love, play on. And if it be jazz, let it play the whole night!

When Jakob Dinesen arrived in Dhaka last month, he wasn't sure of what to expect from the Bangladeshi crowd. He was gearing up for the 3-day Jazz and Blues festival, which happened last month in Dhaka, and was obviously wondering about how the crowd would respond to his tunes and creations. "I was awestruck by the audience!" he, however, says. "I was doing what I always did with my saxophone. The audience, obviously, felt the music and that's when we just took off! The experience was an amazing one."

Jakob Dinesen is a Danish jazz musician who has traveled half the world with his saxophone, mesmerising all with his jazz numbers. According to his website jacobdinesen.com he has received just about every award a Danish musician can get – Grammys and soloist awards.

Mikael Hemniti Winther, however, was confident and knew all about the music scene of Dhaka beforehand. The current Danish ambassador to Bangladesh, Winther has had the opportunity to explore the Dhaka music scene, right after he arrived in September 2016. At the Jazz and Blues festival, both Winther and Dinesen jammed together on stage and fused jazz with rock, enthralling the crowd.

Even when he was serving in other countries, Winther, who is also a seasoned musician, guitarist to be more specific, always made it a point to connect with local musicians and jam together. "I started playing the classical piano when I was 9 years old and began playing the guitar when I was 18," he says. "I had formed a rock band in Hanoi, Vietnam where I was posted as Deputy Head of Mission at the Danish Embassy, together with the UK Deputy Head of Mission, another expatriate and two professional Vietnamese musicians." The band was called The Deputies. In 2008 he also formed a band in Baghdad, where he was

appointed as Ambassador. "We called ourselves The Baghdaddies and would play with other diplomats and expatriates."

Jakob Dinesen, one of the most prominent and active musicians in Danish jazz, has also appeared on countless albums as featured guest or sideman. Even though he has learnt from the traditionalists, Dinesen has created his own identity by balancing between the conventional along with the contemporary. His music reflects his open mind; hungry for new genres and different styles. "Jazz is simple, you just have to feel it," says Dinesen. "Even in Dhaka, the audience would applaud the parts of the music which would touch them. In jazz, one does not have to respond to a certain bass solo or a particular beat, as some believe. You just have to let the music enter you, and that's what the audience did that night!"



INTERVIEW

# ON JAZZ AND BLUES

ELITA KARIM  
PHOTO: COURTESY

In Bangladesh, we thrive on music, which is evident from the different cultural exponents being explored through the year. The genres of blues and jazz might still be new to many, but there are musicians who have already begun to blend the foreign genre with the local melodies. Hopefully, we will be looking forward to a whole lot of Bengali jazz in the near future. ■



EVENT

## HOW 'TALASH' HAS BROUGHT BANGLADESH AND SOUTH KOREA A STEP CLOSER

RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN

When a research professor at the Kim-Dae-Jung Presidential Library and Museum of Yonsei University in South-Korea, Professor Seung-Hee Jeon, came across Shaheen Akhtar's fiction on the Liberation War, Talash, she realised how similar the two countries were from their historical perspectives. What touched Professor Jeon even more was the way in which the plight of women during Bangladesh's Liberation War narrated in the book is coincidentally so similar to the history of Korean 'comfort women' under Japan's regime. Even though we live in a time where the physical distance between Bangladesh and Korea is as short as five hours by air, however, majority of the nationalities of these two counties are still unaware of how in-sync they are, in both social and cognitive ways.

Thus, to bring these two nations closer and familiarise their past, Professor Jeon has decided to translate Talash into Korean language through the book's English



translation, The Search by Ella Dutta. The translation will be available by the end of 2017.

On February 15, 2017, the Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University and the Department of English and Modern Languages, Central Women's University jointly hosted a discussion with Professor and translator Seung-Hee Jeon at the GDLN Conference

Centre, BRAC University. During the session, Professor Jeon met Shaheen Akhtar and they both shared their views on their works. Additionally, there were two other presenters; Bashabi Barua from Central Women's University and Anika Saba from BRAC University. They both talked about their research interest on the narratives of melancholy, trauma, and reconciliation.

QUIRKY SCIENCE



## PRINTABLE SOLAR CELLS JUST GOT A LITTLE CLOSER

A U of T Engineering innovation could make printing solar cells as easy and inexpensive as printing a newspaper. Dr. Hairan Tan and his team have cleared a critical manufacturing hurdle in the development of a relatively new class of solar devices called perovskite solar cells. This alternative solar technology could lead to low-cost, printable solar panels capable of turning nearly any surface into a power generator.

"Economies of scale have greatly reduced the cost of silicon manufacturing," said Professor Ted Sargent, an expert in emerging solar technologies and the

Canada Research Chair in Nanotechnology. "Perovskite solar cells can enable us to use techniques already established in the printing industry to produce solar cells at very low cost. Potentially, perovskites and silicon cells can be married to improve efficiency further, but only with advances in low-temperature processes."

Today, virtually all commercial solar cells are made from thin slices of crystalline silicon which must be processed to a very high purity. It's an energy-intensive process, requiring temperatures higher than 1,000 degrees Celsius and large amounts of hazardous solvents.

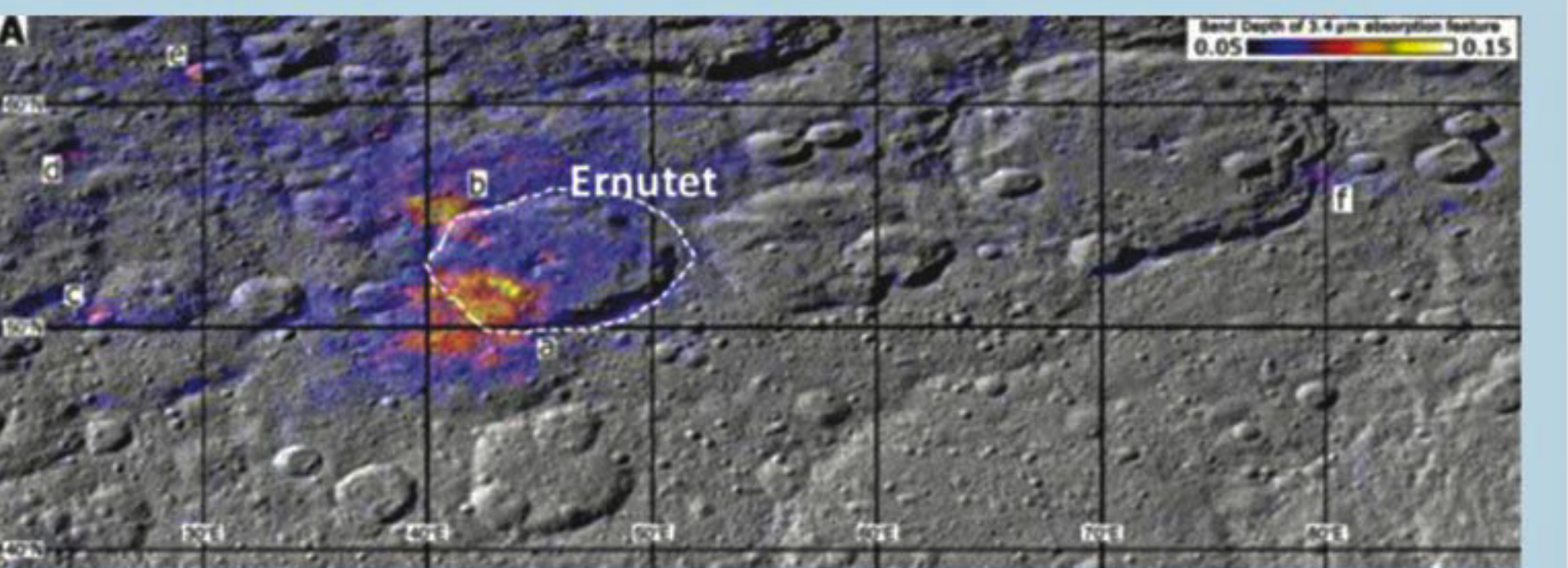
## ILLUMINATING ORIGIN OF ORGANICS

NASA's Dawn spacecraft recently detected organic-rich areas on Ceres. Scientists evaluated the geology of the regions to conclude that the organics are most likely native to the dwarf planet. Data from the spacecraft suggest that the interior of Ceres is the source of these organic materials, as opposed to arriving via impacting asteroids or comets, according to a paper published in the Feb. 17, 2017, issue of Science.

"This discovery of a locally high concentration of organics is intriguing, with broad implications for the astrobiology community," said Dr. Simone Marchi, a senior research scientist at Southwest Research Institute and one of the authors of the paper. "Ceres has evidence of ammonia-bearing hydrated minerals, water ice, carbonates, salts, and now organic materials. With this new finding Dawn has shown that Ceres

contains key ingredients for life."

Ceres is believed to have originated about 4.5 billion years ago at the dawn of our solar system. Studying its organics can help explain the origin, evolution, and distribution of organic species across the solar system. Data from Dawn's visible and infrared mapping spectrometer show an unusually high concentration of organic matter close to the 50-km diameter Ernutet crater in the northern hemisphere of Ceres. The distribution and characteristics of the organics seem to preclude association with any single crater. The largest concentration appears to drape discontinuously across the southwest floor and rim of Ernutet and onto an older, highly degraded crater. Other organic-rich areas are scattered to the northwest. While other scientists looked at the distribution and spectra of the materials, Marchi focused on the geological settings.



Source: Sciencedaily.com