

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition


Title: Quest for Reality

Artist: Rafiqun Nabi

Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi

Date: Dec 7-19

Time: 12pm-8pm



Annual Art Exhibition

Organisers: Shilpakala Academy and Dhaka Art College

Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy

Date: Dec 9-21

Time: 11am-7pm



Dance Recital

Title: Nupur Beje Jaye

Organiser: Shadhona

Venue: Dance and Music Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy

Date: Dec 9

Time: 6:30pm




Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed

Venue: Institute of Asian Creatives, Gulshan-2

Date: Dec 6-15

Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Nurun Naher Supti

Venue: Galerie Zoom, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi

Date: Dec 5-19



NEWS bytes

New X-Men film to release in 2016

A new X-Men film has been announced for 2016. Titled "Apocalypse", will be the eighth film in the superhero series, which includes two Wolverine spin-off movies.

Bryan Singer, who directed the first two films in the franchise, hinted about the project on Twitter before it was confirmed by Fox that it would be released on 27 May 2016. The new movie will focus on Apocalypse, an ancient Egyptian villain who appears in the Marvel comics.

It is set to be released in



the same week as "Alice in Wonderland 2" and two weeks before "The Amazing Spider-Man 3".

There are no indications of the plot for the film.

The next X-Men movie, "Days of Future Past", will be released on 23 May 2014. The film stars Sir Ian McKellen, Sir Patrick Stewart, Hugh Jackman and James McAvoy. Jennifer Lawrence will also appear in the movie.

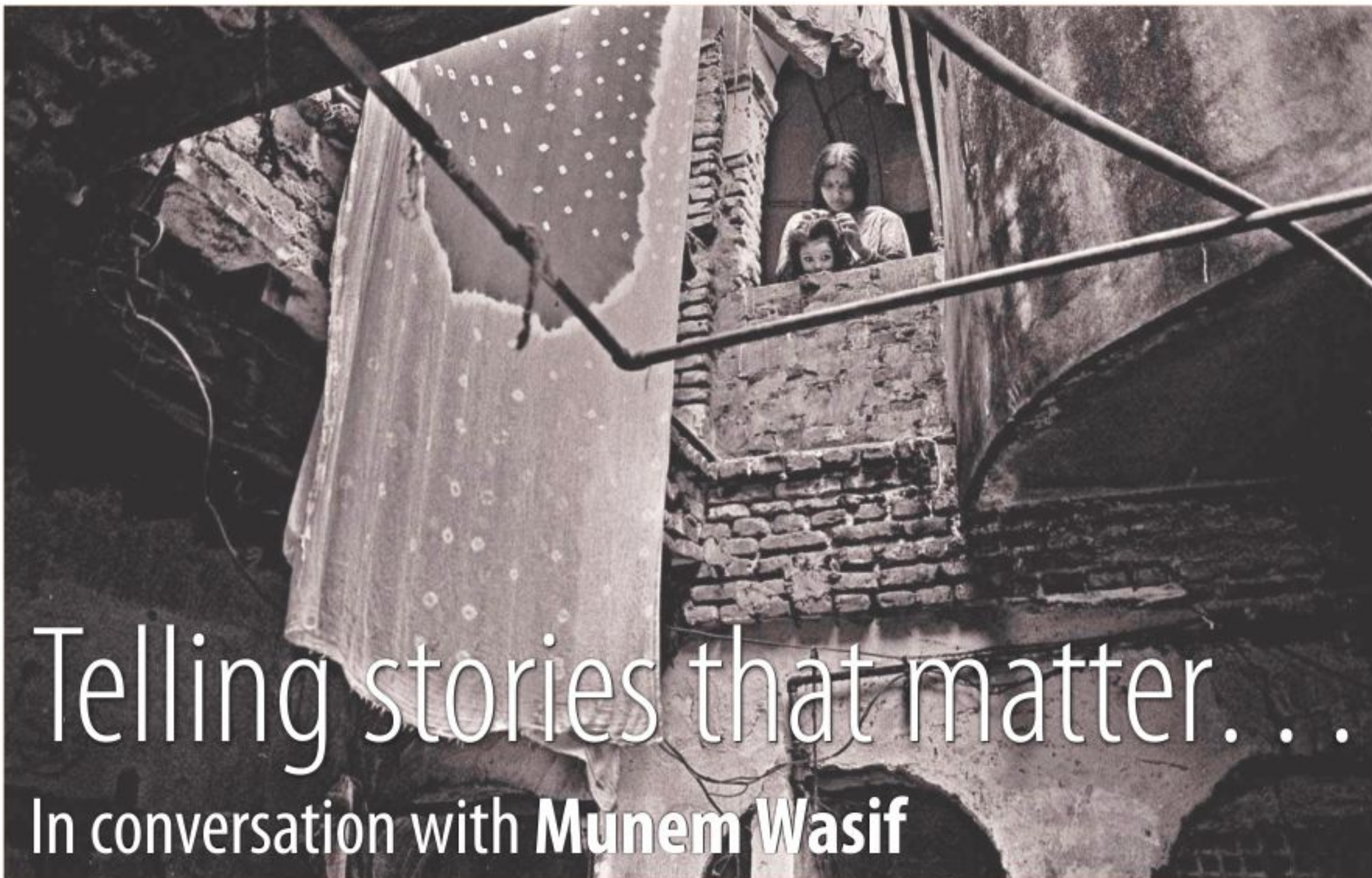
The X-Men franchise has grossed more than \$2 billion worldwide.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!



Drip painting is a form of abstract art in which paint is dripped or poured onto the canvas. This style of action painting was experimented with in the first half of the twentieth century by such artists as Francis Picabia, André Masson and Max Ernst. The latter used the novel means of painting Lissajous figures by swinging a punctured bucket of paint over a horizontal canvas. Drip painting was however to find particular expression in the work of the mid-twentieth-century artists Janet Sobel and Jackson Pollock. Pollock found drip painting to his liking; later using the technique almost exclusively, he would make use of such unconventional tools as sticks, hardened brushes and even basting syringes to create large and energetic abstract works. Pollock used house paint to create his signature drips that was less viscous than traditional tubes of oil paint; Pollock thus created his large compositions horizontally to prevent his paint from running.



Telling stories that matter... In conversation with Munem Wasif

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Munem Wasif is one of the top documentary photographers of Bangladesh, who has gained a volume of international acclaim for his social, humanistic storytelling. In a recent conversation with *The Daily Star*, the photographer spoke about his works, photography style and more.

Tell us about your latest publication, "Belonging".

Wasif: It's basically about the old part of Dhaka, something I've been doing for 12 years, since I was a student at Pathshala. My childhood was spent in a small town, Comilla, and so when I moved here, I found more resemblance of Old Dhaka to my hometown than other parts. It's a much more relaxing part of the city, although it may look chaotic from the outside. Plus, it's changing; old buildings are being torn down, so I thought it would be a good place to document. Also, I lived for a long time here, so there's that connection.

What's the story behind the publishing of the book?

Wasif: It was published from France, by Clementine De La Ferrière, and had an exhibition in Paris, and then in Cambodia. I work with a French agency called Agence Vu, and my previous two books were also published from France. It's difficult to publish books from Bangladesh for two reasons; first, it's extremely expensive, and secondly, the

distribution is crucial, and it's not easy to do that through a Bangladeshi publisher. I think it's tragic that the people of the place you focused the book on cannot buy it, because these books tend to be very pricey. I want to solve that issue differently; when I have an exhibition of "Belonging" here, I want to host it somewhere in Old Dhaka. But my primary focus had to be to reach out to a global audience.

Another series of yours has been featured on Time magazine's online photo-blog "Lightbox" recently. Could you shed some light on that?

Wasif: That is another thing I've been working on for some time. After 9/11, I had a lot of trouble getting a visa to Europe and all because of my name and appearance. Also, I didn't like the photos that my friends who worked in Iraq and Afghanistan brought back; I thought it was a very 'Western perspective' representation of Islam. To counter that proposition, I wanted to tell a story of Islam in Bangladesh -- In God "We" Trust -- portraying that Islamic perception and interpretations are different, even between members of a family. It was not to show what was good or bad, but rather the contrasting layers of it that is present just in Bangladesh; so if you extrapolate that to Muslims worldwide, you can imagine how vast and varied it is.

Your photos predominantly play with tonalities of greyscale, and not colour. Why is that?

Wasif: The photographers I were inspired by when I started photography all worked in that medium. And 15 years back, photography was not digitised; the whole processing and developing process was interesting. With black and white, you could process it differently, print it on a different kind of film, and it had a different, timeless appeal. When you look at a good black and white photo, it is sometimes difficult to tell the age of it. Since my beginning, I trained myself as a black and white photographer. Like, if I look at my surroundings, I can tell what shade of grey it will produce in process. Also, since I do humanistic and social stories, I think colour is somewhat seductive and distracts the audience from the story itself. But if I had started photography now, I would have worked in colour.

What's your take on Bangladesh's current photography scenario?

Wasif: I think Bangladeshi photographers have worked with leading global agencies for a long time, and all the top photographers have exhibited work all over the world. We have a great platform in Drik, and because of internet, the world of photography has opened up. A young photographer can today realistically believe that his work can win international competitions, something that may not be the case in other art forms for Bangladesh. So I think it's great, and better days are ahead.

PHOTO COURTESY: MUNEM WASIF

Begum Rokeya Day today

MEHEDY HASAN, Rangpur

Begum Rokeya Day will be observed countrywide today to pay tribute to Begum Rokeya Sakhawat, a social reformer and pioneer of women's education. The momentous day marks the 133rd birth and 81st death anniversary of Begum Rokeya.

Rangpur district administration, Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) and several socio-cultural and women's organisations have chalked up programmes to observe Rokeya Day 2013.

The Rangpur district administration has organised a three-day programme to



observe Rokeya Day 2013 at her birthplace in Pairaband village.

The day will begin with the placing of wreaths at Begum Rokeya Smriti Stambha (memorial).

Begum Rokeya, who was a fierce champion of gender equality, was born at Pairaband village under Mithapukur upazila in Rangpur district on December

9, 1880 and died on the same day in 1932 in Kolkata.

The birth and death anniversaries of Begum Rokeya are being officially observed as Rokeya Day since 1994 at Pairaband village.

MANDELA'S life on screen

He led a life filled with drama, struggle and political triumph, so it comes as little surprise that Nelson Mandela - who passed away this week at the age of 95 - was one of the most portrayed global figures of the past 50 years.

Actors including Danny Glover, Sidney Poitier and Morgan Freeman have all played the former president of South Africa on screen.

The most recent actor to take on the role is British star Idris Elba, who plays the lead in a film adaptation of Mandela's autobiography "Long Walk to Freedom".

News of the leader's death was announced at the end of the film's royal gala screening in London on Thursday.

The mission for all those actors, aside from capturing Mandela's famous voice and mannerisms, has been to find the man beneath the popular image.

Peter Machen, the director of the Durban Film Festival, agrees it is a hard role to pull off, and goes beyond mere physical likeness.



Mandela with Morgan Freeman.

"He was one of the icons of the 20th Century and you can only go so far with make-up and prosthetics. People are always going to see what is not there, rather than what is there with this particular performance."

Arguably the most famous of the big screen portrayals of Mandela was Morgan Freeman's Oscar-nominated performance in Clint Eastwood's "Invictus". The film told the story of Mandela's attempts to unite the South African nation behind their national rugby union team, the Springboks, as the country prepared to host the 1995 World Cup. Rugby was seen by black South Africans as a "white Afrikaner sport" and at games they would support whichever team was playing South Africa. Before production, Mandela himself had apparently given his blessing to the casting of Freeman.

"I met him early on and told him that if it did come to pass, that this movie would be made, that I would need total access to him - to be able to look into his eyes and

home, I would have a glass of wine and just cry. The sacrifices he made were profoundly sad to me."

Both Sidney Poitier and Michael Caine were in the running for a Golden Globe for their 1997 film "Mandela and de Klerk".

Ten years earlier, Danny Glover took on the title role in a TV movie simply titled "Mandela" and was nominated for an Emmy the following year. That was still two years before Mandela's release from prison.

Even before that, actor George Harris played Mandela in an episode of the BBC series "Prisoners of Conscience" in 1981. But the earliest known performance came from the little-known actor Simon Sabela; in 1966, he played Mandela in the German TV dramatisation of his 1963 Rivonia trial. Ultimately, Machen believes none of the films have so far captured Mandela. "They work dramatically and they work in terms of narrative," he says. "But they don't work in the ultimate sense of being completely convincing."

Source: BBC

TV WATCH

Special series on War Crimes on Desh TV

A CORRESPONDENT

War crimes and crimes against humanity are one of the most heinous chapters of the history of mankind that have come back time and again all over the world map.

Since the formation of the Nuremberg trial to bring the culprits of such crimes of World War II to book, there have been many trials held against war crimi-

nals. Featuring the process, arguments, verdicts of exemplary punishments and execution of the verdicts, a special 12-episode series titled "Deshe Deshe Juddhaporadh" has been airing every evening at 6:30pm on Desh TV.

With Rabiul Karim at the helm of planning, Sumona Siddiqui, Amzad Sujon and Shaiful Shaheen have produced the programme.



To welcome migratory 'guest' birds at Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka, solo music artistes along with several promising bands performed in a concert. A total of 16 bands and solo artistes, including Kafil Ahmed, Akil Ashraf, Abhijit Das, Anom, Sayem Joy, Sohojia, Monosoroni, Leela, Samogeet, Chitkar, Soul Rebel, Biskut, Onnoswar, Saptosindhu, Trimingil and Surjo Sarothi gave their performances in the campus. "Pakhider Jonno Gaan" (Song for the Birds) was organised by little magazine "Hahakar" in association with dhrupodi.com.

PHOTO: STAR