

WHAT'S ON


Selim Al Deen Memorial Programme

Marking Natayacharya's 6th Death Anniversary

Venue: Shilpakala Academy

Date: Jan 14-16

Time: 3pm



Zainul Quamrul Exhibition

Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattacharya Gallery, National Museum

Date: Dec 22-Jan 18

Time: 10am-8pm



13th Dhaka International Film Festival

Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, EMK Center, National Museum and Public Library



Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Bahram

Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi

Date: Jan 10-22

Time: 3pm-8pm



Solo Exhibition

Title: Gravity-Free World

Artist: A. Rahman

Venue: Bengal Gallery

Date: Jan 18-31

Time: 12pm-8pm



# NEWSbytes

## Michael Douglas confirmed for Ant-Man



Michael Douglas has confirmed he will have a role in the upcoming Marvel superhero film, "Ant-Man". He will play Henry "Hank" Pym, the creator of the technology used to shrink a human to the size of an insect. "Anchorman: star Paul Rudd, 44, has already announced that he will be playing the part of Scott Lang, Ant-Man's alter-ego. "I've been dying to do a Marvel picture for so long," said Douglas. Hank Pym first appeared in the 27th issue of Marvel Comics series "Tales to Astonish" in January 1962. "Ant-Man" is due to be released in cinemas in July next year and will be directed by Edgar Wright. The plot for the film, however, has yet to be revealed.

Source: BBC

## IT'S TRUE!



Set in post-invasion Iraq, the film "The Hurt Locker", starring Jeremy Renner, Brian Geraghty and Anthony Mackie, with cameos by Guy Pearce, David Morse and Ralph Fiennes, won director Kathryn Bigelow the Directors Guild of America award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Motion Pictures, becoming the first woman to win the award, and the award for Best Director and won Best Picture at the 63rd British Academy Film Awards. She also became the first woman to receive an Academy Award for Best Director for the film, overtaking her ex-husband, a great director himself by all definitions, James Cameron (nominated for "Avatar").



# Durjoy Rahman Joy Art collector with an edge

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Durjoy Rahman Joy is an avid art collector. His largest collection includes the artworks of contemporary Bangladeshi master painters, Indian great masters, Western contemporary artists and a number of promising Bangladeshi painters. His collection now exceeds 800 works of art. He has visited many art fairs, festivals and biennales around the world. The collector said, "Art should not be considered as an investment but purely a hobby. I always feel that the effort involved in collecting and the pleasure of owning major works by important artists is very satisfying. Though the Bangladesh art market is underpriced, seeing art as a future investment takes away all the fun of acquiring a work."

Joy started collecting paintings in the early 1990s. Ever since, he keeps some criteria in mind -- quality, historical and philosophical aspect of the artwork and its aesthetic value. Joy said, "As a collector, I try to impart a message through my collection. I tend to explain it in this way: an artist is creating a sign, and the collector at a certain point is taking these signs and putting them together to give another message; the collector is creating something novel and refreshing, while expressing himself too. I ask the work of art to speak on my behalf. The immense joy is that I don't need to go to the museum every time, I can be here, look around and feel lucky to live in my personal museum."

Bangladeshi painter Rafiqun Nabi is one of his favourite artists. Joy is probably the largest painting collector of this veteran artist. Aminul Islam is another of his admired painters. Joy said, "Although artist Aminul Islam inspired me, artist Rafiqun Nabi inspired me the most since I have spent many hours with these two senior artists and tried to understand their lives, devotion and struggle that helped to build my collection. Nabi is an artist who adheres to experimental realism. Blending romanticism and impressionism, he does figurative work. On the other hand, Islam's powerful drawings reveal his mastery over lines and superb composi-

tion skills. Islam made an immense contribution by introducing modern paintings in Bangladesh."

Among contemporary Bangladeshi painters, Joy has a great fascination for Murtaja Baseer's works. He said, "Elegance, simplicity, serenity are the prime traits of Baseer's paintings. I also like his application of colour and the separation of colours in his paintings. Though I have large collection of Rafiqun Nabi and Murtaja Baseer, I feel it is not the number but quality that should determine the collector's strength. The definition of the



collector does not mean that person has to possess a large collection or buy in volume." Joy has a rich collection of veteran painter Samarjit Roy Chowdhury. He said, "I collected some of his paintings from different sources. My wife learned drawing from him and got the opportunity to collect some of his extraordinary works."

Joy has a number of artworks of Quamrul Hassan in different mediums of several periods. He has also a fascination for Shahabuddin's paintings and owns a number of oil paintings of the painter from 1972 to

2010. He collected most of them from the painter in Paris.

About Joy's collection, veteran artist Rafiqun Nabi said, "He is a delightful and passionate collector. His collection has been enriched with many internationally acclaimed artists' works. Joy's collection has an extraordinary trait in that he collects the series of works of his preferred artists. He visits several recognised auction houses and purchases painting from them. He enjoys visiting art galleries and museums in the countries he travels to, in order to get familiar with the art and the art movement of those countries. I have observed he always takes meticulous care of his paintings."

Joy is very optimistic about Bangladeshi art. He said, "I see a very promising future for Bangladesh since many young professionals and business people are significantly contributing in collecting and promoting the art scene. Then the old custodians are no way staying behind in the race. So combining all this I see a great boom in the art scene and the art market in the country."

Several Indian artists like Akbar Padamsee, Ram Kumar, Jamini Roy, Nandalal Bose, Subramanyam, Jogen Chowdhury, Paritosh Sen, Sunil Das, Bijen Chowdhury, MF Hussain, Sanat Kar and a number of European artists Pablo Picasso, Francis Bacon, David Hockney, Henry Moore, Andy Warhol and Lucian Freud have also enriched his collections. Most of his paintings are on display at his permanent "Winners Gallery" at Baridhara in the capital. The gallery won the Nokia Best Award for Architecture in 2009.

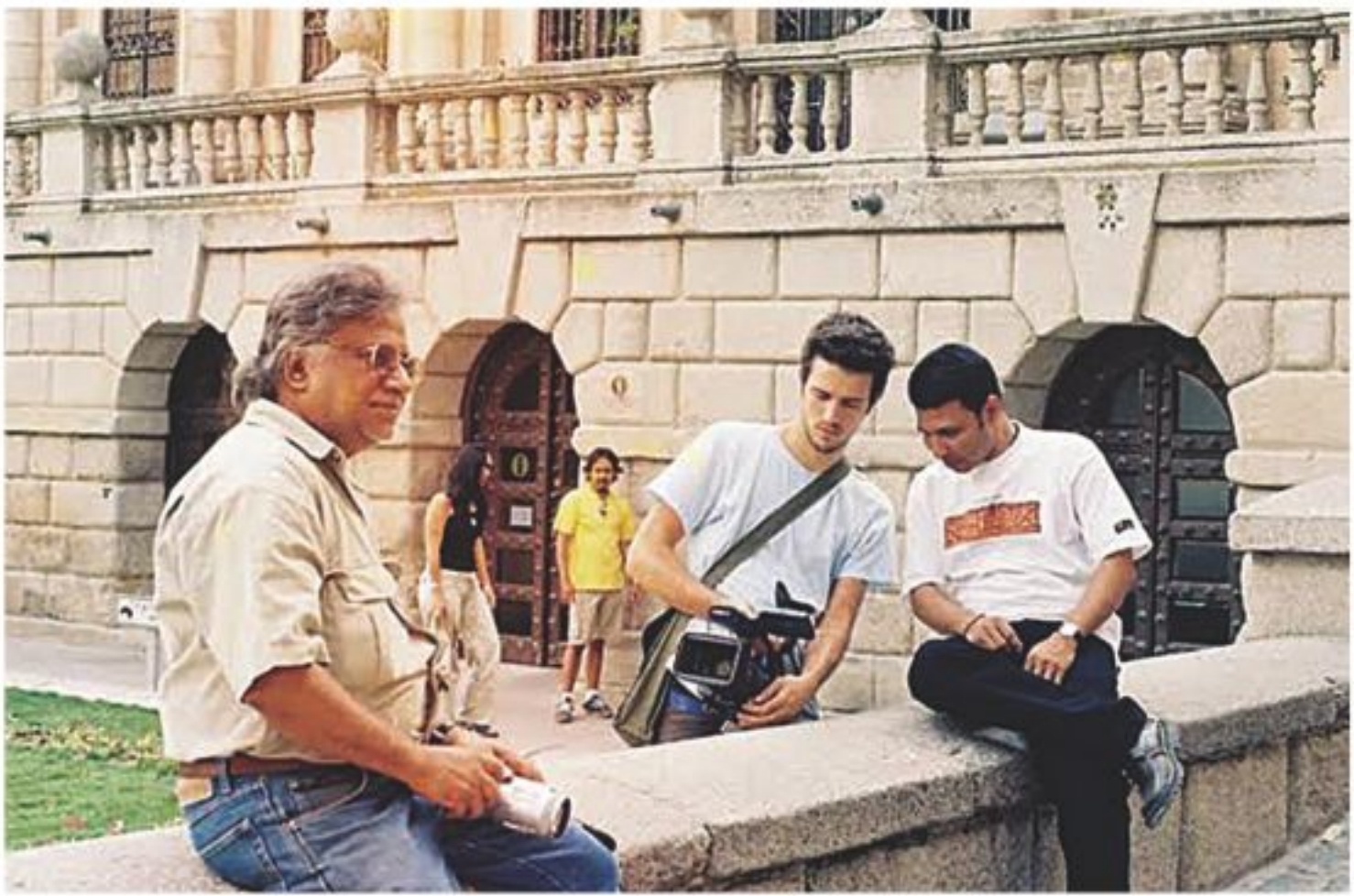
About Joy's valuable collection, eminent art critic and architect Shamsul Wares said, "Joy is not a simple collector. He has a great zeal for collecting rare works which are not familiar to art aficionados. He has tried to blend culture and time with his collection. His collection is not a matter of business. Most of his works have historical and anthological value. He spends generously on procurement of great works of art, not for functional gain but to satisfy the internal need of his soul."

## A catchy film which draws crowds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The film on Monirul Islam by the independent filmmaker AKM Zakaria, was so captivating, that the premier was repeated. Others busy with their tasks, such as doing workshop at Shilpakala Academy, or unable to see even the second "show", arranged for DVDs to watch at home. Going by the sea of viewers, who crammed even the second showing, the artist was certainly popular both at home and abroad. Murad Bhai (Manzar-e Haseen) said that in the film, Monir was shown as when Zainul Abedin, once seeing his water-colour of banana trees, said that from nearby it looks like some abstraction, but when you go afar you comprehend the reality. The basic information is there, said Murad.

How did you like the film? Structurally, it has good sequences and passages, said Murad. It is a direct documentary. The film was shot at Chandpur, Monir's birthplace, and in Spain -- in three places--in Madrid, where he stays, a city where his exhibition was on. It shows his life in Spain, said Murad, in the sense it is depicted



A shooting still of the documentary.

how he went to Spain, his endeavours, his life there as a rising artist: He said that his domestic life was depicted, and also his relationship with other people. Murad said that Monir was very honest with his relationships. He was a very sociable man. He is always eager to mix with people, and exchange them in ideas and views. He likes to cook and chat with others. In a sense, he hates to be alone, said Murad. This brings in the temperament of the protagonist.

As the film is limited in time and this is a documentary, the

film-maker is not able to fantasize as in "Agony and Ecstasy" or something on Pablo Picasso or even Vincent Van Gogh. The film-maker was limited with reality. The film depicts Monir as staying in Spain for quite a long time, said Murad. He is a citizen of Spain and has his own footing in that country. How the two cultures mix in his idea as a painter and in his thinking, said the renowned film-maker.

Talking to the protagonist of the film, Monir, he said that for him it was very exciting Zakaria, according to Monir is a very good

journalist. He went to Monir's house twice and the various places where he worked. Monir combined with Zakaria to depict his work and home-life, he said. He rolled in film for 90 hours and made the film for a little over thirty minutes, said Monir, which was not easy. The film-maker has combined my artistic life with my psychology and philosophy. Monir is in Spain for 43 years. What he learns in Spain, he comes back to his own country, to spread the knowledge. When he went there was no internet, he reminds us. Two young camera men from Spain took the second part of the film. It is a coloured film, and Zakaria shot some films on the house of Goya, where I have a workshop every year, said the artist nonpareil.

His posture, food habits, liking, all are reflected in the film, said the well-known art critique Moinuddin Khalid. The combination of the culture of Spain and Bangladesh has made a lyrical creation, the combination of Monir's water colour and his prints are without fail, superb. They are worth the preservation that the film provides, he ended.

## Pabna citizens pray for Suchitra



AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

People of Pabna prayed for ailing actress Suchitra Sen, screen legend in Bangla films, for her speedy recovery. The legendary Indian actress is still in critical condition at the Belle Vue Clinic of Kolkata since December 23, though conscious, and is surviving on constant oxygen support through endotracheal tube.

Cultural activists of Pabna held a candlelit vigil at the Pabna town hall premise on Tuesday night praying for Suchitra Sen. "Suchitra Sen Smriti Shangrakhhan Parishad (SSSP)", Pabna organised the programme. Apart from cultural activists, people from all walks of society observed the programme.

"The house of Suchitra Sen in Gopalpur village of Pabna is being occupied by Imam Gazzali School, a pro-Jamaat institution, since 1985. We have staged demonstrations to free the house for a decade but it is yet to free." Md.Saidul Haque Chunnun, also the administrator of Pabna Zila Parishad said, demanding to remove occupation for keeping heritage. The matter is currently being decided on court, he informed.

Suchitra Sen, born Rama Dasgupta in Pabna, started academic career at the Mahakali Pathshala of the town, and was later admitted in Pabna Girls School (now Pabna Govt. Girl's High School). She studied here till class 9. Suchitra's father Karunamoy Dasgupta left the country (Bangladesh) with his whole family just before few months ago of partition in 1947.



## Going that extra mile Jaya in "Zero Degree"

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Celebrated actress Jaya Ahsan goes that extra mile for a challenging role and there is no room for compromise on this front. Now audiences will get to see her in an edge-of-the-seat film called "Zero Degree".

Jaya was recently seen shooting the film at Bangladesh Railway Hospital in Kamalapur. She said it took a hefty two hours for a shot at the location.

Playing the part of a mentally disturbed woman, Jaya met a number of people at the hospital, to acquaint herself with the character. Needless to say, it took her a while to perfect the appearance of a deranged woman.

"Action!" said director Animesh Aich as he prepared for the shot; as the ever-expressive Jaya played her part without a dialogue. It was a tough shot as she had to recline on a bed for two hours. The film sees her with some real life characters, who are at the edge of sanity.

In the course of shooting, Jaya was seen with an adorable cat on her bed. She had to do the scene several times until the director was satisfied.

After the wrap up, Jaya said she had held a cat for the first time. "I gave my utmost to playing the role of the character, Sonia. I hope the audience will empathise with the character," she said.

Regarding the storyline of "Zero Degree", Jaya said that she plays the part of a woman whose parents are murdered in front of her very eyes. To add to her agony, she is raped by her dance teacher and subsequently loses her sanity.

Director Animesh Aich, meanwhile gave plaudits to Jaya for essaying such a tough role. As he said, "Jaya was determined to do a good job and proved it in the course of the shoot."

## Shakira features Rihanna in new single

Shakira has collaborated with Rihanna in a new single, "Can't Remember To Forget You", which debuted on Monday. The up-tempo single has Latin and Island flourishes that slightly recall Bruno Mars' "Locked Out Of Heaven", and thematically, pays homage to Shakira's 2007 duet with Beyoncé "Beautiful Liar".

The song will be featured on Shakira's upcoming album, the follow-up to 2010's "Sale el Sol". The Colombian-born pop star also announced Monday that the album will drop on March 25.

Shakira explained the duet after debuting the track on Ryan Seacrest's radio show. "You know, we're both from the Caribbean so I always thought we had that common ground, but this song is pretty reggae," noting it has a rock sound that she feels Rihanna also embodied. "I honestly thought it would never happen... She heard the record and she loved it and she said she was onboard and I was the happiest girl alive," she said. "To shoot the video with her has been a blast."

Source: MTV

