



Faisal Azim PHOTO: SHAKILA SULTANA

THROUGH THE LENS

APURBA JAHANGIR

There goes a saying - "A picture is worth a thousand words." By believing in this statement Faisal Azim has successfully told the world his stories through his lens. What started out as a hobby made him one of the most renowned upcoming photographers in our country. His way of storytelling has been praised around the world and won him awards such as 'Atkins City Shape Award', '75th Japan Asahi', '7th Emirates Photography Competition' and many more. The picture Faisal took on a foggy Chittagong morning of three gravel workers behind a glass resembled a painted picture describing the essence of labour life. It recently

won him second place in the 'National Geographic Traveller Photo contest 2015'. Born and brought up in Chittagong, Azim started brushing up his creative skills through his paintings. "I was very much into drawing when I was a child. People would always find me with a pencil and paper," says Azim. It was after he was influenced by his uncle Shoeb Faruque that Azim took up photography as a hobby. "I remember taking a couple of my mother's portraits which triggered my passion. When the pictures came out I felt that this was the perfect way to express myself and soon the pencil dropped and I took on the camera."

Though he worked in a corporate office after he graduated from Chittagong University, he was always thinking about photography. "After working for a year, I didn't have any time to pick up a camera. I missed it so badly that I quit my job and took photography as a full time profession," says Azim. Since then he has been teaching photography at the Photo Art Institute for the last three years and works for a photo agency named Photo Bank Gallery.

Azim has grown a soft spot for documentary photography and thinks this is the best way anyone can tell a story. As many people are now taking up photography as a profession, he says to them, "Don't think about the gears, getting chances or anything else. Just go out on the field and start clicking." Right now Faisal Azim has a lot of projects in his hands and is really excited about one of them "I will be leaving for America soon to shoot wild life photography in the Yellow Stone Park with a Nat Geo Photographer. This is a lifetime opportunity and it actually proves that dreams do come true," says Azim.

STAR PEOPLE

When studying in Central Government High School, Rakibul Hasan Palash, realised that he only did well in subjects he enjoyed. "That is what my whole life was like. If I didn't enjoy math, I would fail horribly. If I enjoyed English, I would pass with flying colours. I even learned Russian within a week because I wanted to," says Palash. Now, after many hurdles and obstacles overcome, Palash stands as one of the most talented self-taught cartoonist, currently working as an Art Director in Grey Advertising.

"After school, I discovered that I have a mild form of dyslexia, for which I cannot track time and timelines, which affected my schooling. Despite that, I enrolled myself in BRAC University to study Law after graduating out of Dhanmondi Ideal College." But Palash caught himself doodling and drawing ever so often. Every time he saw pieces of art work, he wanted his own to match their perfection and precision. During his time in university, Palash's mother passed away. "Shortly after that, while pursuing my degree, I realised that after going through a huge financial crisis while my mother was suffering from cancer, I am now spending a lot of money on this degree. So I asked myself whether this degree was worth all the money I was spending. The reply came to me in the negative," Palash says.

During class one day, his professor asked the students which field of law they want to get into. Palash replied, "I just want to be a cartoonist," and his response was met with laughter and ridicule, even from himself. But in his heart, he realised what he said was true. He stopped pursuing LLB further and decided to take up cartooning. "My

biggest source of influence was social media! I learned everything I know from YouTube and practice," he says. He soon contacted some well known cartoonists from Unmad, Bangladesh's first and longest running monthly satire magazine and was asked to submit a portfolio. "During that time, I drew a portrait of a freedom fighter. And when I saw what I produced, I couldn't believe it." Palash's senior friend and freedom fighter himself, Golam Faruk, saw it and confirmed Palash's passion by affirming that this was what he was meant to do.

After submitting his portfolio to Unmad and meeting with the editor himself, Ahsan Habib, Palash started his work. His first publication in the magazine was a cover art drawn by him-

good decision on my part. It is like no other work place. If I take crazy ideas to my boss, he turns them into even crazier ideas!" says Palash. Through Grey, Palash took a workshop on Character Designing, and chose it as his field as a cartoonist. He has had his work published in many children's books, including *Habuler Jolodushshu Jahaj* by Mahbub Azad, and is currently working on a book to be published for children called *Lee*, by Aninda Rahman. Palash has also won 2 bronze medals in Srijan Samman, the only award ceremony to applaud the excellence in Bengali advertising, and his campaign for United Commercial Bank, titled Long

Hands, was the first campaign from Bangladesh to ever become a finalist in the Pattaya Adfest.

"The best part about my job as a cartoonist is getting to know my characters. When I draw a character and sketch out his life, he becomes a living being to me. I know him personally then," says Palash.

Through out his life, whenever someone asked about his degree, he did not pay heed. "If people want to call me 'inter-pass' (someone who passed intermediate schooling), they can. I don't mind. I do what I love and I am great at it. I have nothing to be ashamed of. I don't need a degree to prove my worth to anyone," he says.

To the youth who want to pursue cartooning or anything out of the ordinary, Palash says, "If you want it very badly, make yourself believe that you are the only one who wants it so badly and no one's passion can compare to yours. Have this belief in your system, and no one can stop you!" ■



Rakibul Hasan Palash

WITH ART IN THE HEART

NAZIBA BASHER PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

- thus started his journey as a full-fledged cartoonist. Soon after that, he joined *Rosh Alo*, a supplement to the *Prothom Alo*, and worked on illustrations for the paper and various books. After *Rosh Alo*, he was contacted by a cartoonist working in Grey Advertising, who told him about an open position. "Joining Grey was a very

QUIRKY SCIENCE



SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT

Among our greatest achievements as humans, some might say, is our cumulative technological culture - the tool-using acumen that is passed from one generation to the next. As the implements we use on a daily basis are modified and refined over time, they seem to evolve right along with us.

A similar observation might be made regarding the New Caledonian crow, an extremely smart corvid and the only non-human species hypothesized to possess its own cumulative technological culture. How the birds transmit knowledge to each other is the focus of a study by Corina Logan, a junior research fellow at UC Santa Barbara's Sage Center for the Study of the Mind when she conducted her research. Currently, she is a Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow in the Department of Zoology at the University of Cambridge.

"We don't know whether the crows have cumulative technological culture, and one of the reasons is that we don't know how they learn," said Logan. "There's a hypothesis that says in order for cumulative technological culture to occur you need to copy the actions of another individual. And we don't know whether the crows are paying attention to the actions of others when they learn from someone else."

LIFE EXPECTANCY CLIMBS

Global life expectancy has risen by more than six years since 1990 as healthy life expectancy grows; ischemic heart disease, lower respiratory infections, and stroke cause the most health loss around the world.

People around the world are living longer, even in some of the poorest countries, but a complex mix of fatal and nonfatal ailments causes a tremendous amount of health loss, according to a new analysis of all major diseases and injuries in 188 countries.

Thanks to marked declines in death and illness caused by HIV/AIDS and malaria in the past decade and significant advances made in addressing communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional disorders, health has improved significantly around the world. Global life expectancy at birth for both sexes rose by 6.2 years (from 65.3 in 1990 to 71.5 in 2013), while healthy life expectancy, or HALE, at birth rose by 5.4 years (from 56.9 in 1990 to 62.3 in 2013).

Healthy life expectancy takes into account not just mortality but also the



impact of nonfatal conditions and summarises years lived with disability and years lost due to premature mortality. The increase in healthy life expectancy has not been as dramatic as the growth of life expectancy, and as a result, people are living more years with illness and disability.

"Global, regional, and national disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) for 306 diseases and injuries and healthy life expectancy (HALE) for 188 countries, 1990-2013: quantifying the epidemiological transition" examines fatal and nonfatal health loss across countries. Published in *The Lancet* on August 27, the study was conducted by an international consortium of researchers working on the Global Burden of Disease study and led by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington.

Source: www.sciencedaily.com

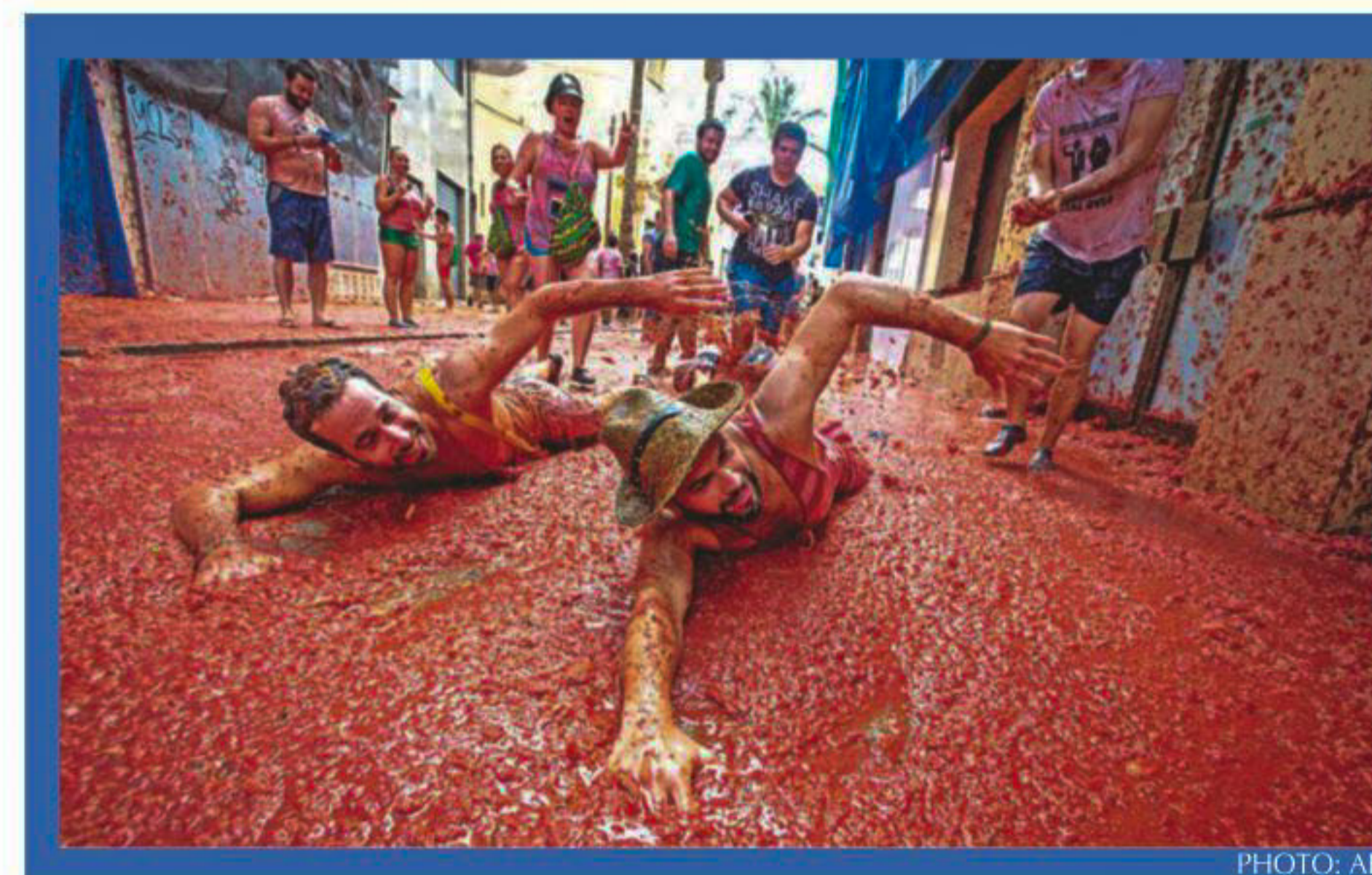


PHOTO: AFP

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NUMBERS

The number of people who pelted each other with tonnes and tonnes of squashed tomatoes in the 70th annual "Tomatina", world's biggest food fight held in the village of Bunol, near Valencia in Eastern Spain. An hour-long tomato fight left all the festival attendees drenched in red juice and pulp. Like every year the cleaning services cleared the sea of red sauce right after the one-hour party.

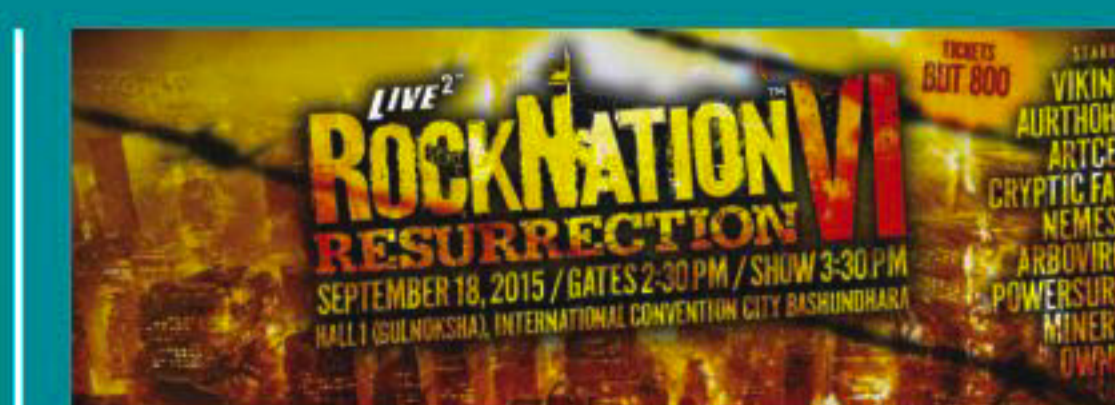
ABOUT TOWN



IUT 7TH NATIONAL ICT FEST
Date: September 4-5, 2015
Time: 9 am - 7 pm
Venue: Islamic University of Technology
www.facebook.com/IUTCS



MUSIC MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP BY LIVESQUARE
Date: September 4- 5
Time: 10 am - 6 pm
Venue: Lighthouse Bangladesh
www.facebook.com/TheOfficialLiveSquare



ROCK NATION THE RESURRECTION BY LIVESQUARE
Date: September 18, Gates open at 3 PM
Venue: Bashundhara Convention City
Ticket Price: 860 tk
www.facebook.com/TheOfficialLiveSquare