



WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition  
Life and works of Tajuddin Ahmed  
Venue: Gallery 21, Dhanmondi  
Date: July 19-September 8  
Time: 12pm-8pm



Musical Soiree  
Marking death anniversary of  
Rabindranath  
Organiser: Chhayanaut  
Venue: Chhayanaut  
Date: August 8; Time: 6:30pm



Musical & Recital Evening  
Organiser: Bandhan art & culture  
society  
Artists: Shabnam Mushtari,  
Aminur Rahman  
Venue: BRAC Centre, Date: August  
8; Time: 6:30pm



Musical Programme  
Organisers: Amra Shurjomukhi  
Artists: Swadipan and  
Rukhsana Mumtaz  
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal  
Auditorium, National Museum



Theatre  
Play: Tringsha Shatabdi  
Troupe: Swapnadal  
Venue: Experimental Theatre  
Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: August 6; Time: 7:30pm



# NEWS bytes

## TBBT stars sign new contracts



Three stars of US hit sitcom "The Big Bang Theory" have signed lucrative new contracts, putting to an end a brief delay in filming of new episodes. Jim Parsons, who plays lead character Sheldon, Johnny Galecki (Leonard) and Kaley Cuoco (Penny) all agreed to new three-year deals with Warner Bros TV. Actors Simon Helberg and Kunal Nayyar are still involved in negotiations but are expected to settle shortly. It was reported the stars were each seeking \$1m per episode. Such a settlement would make the show's cast members the highest paid actors on US television. Parsons, Galecki and Cuoco had been negotiating with the studio together, according to the Hollywood Reporter. The comedy - which centres on a group of high-functioning science 'geeks' - is the most-watched TV show in the US, with an average audience of 23.1 million in 2013-14. Earlier this year, the show was extended for a further three series, meaning it will now air until at least 2017.

Source: BBC

## IT'S TRUE!



Ustad Vilayat Khan, one of the most renowned sitar players of all time, recorded his first 78-RPM disc at the age of 8, and gave his last concert in 2004 at the age of 75. His first appearance in a concert was at the All Bengal Music Conference in 1944 at the age of 16, made headlines as "Electrifying Sitar" in Bombay next day. When he died from lung cancer in 2004, Vilayat Khan had been recording for over 65 years, broadcasting on All-India Radio since almost as far back and been seen as a master for 60. He was probably the first Indian musician to play in England after independence (1951).

## Patro O Patri on Channel i



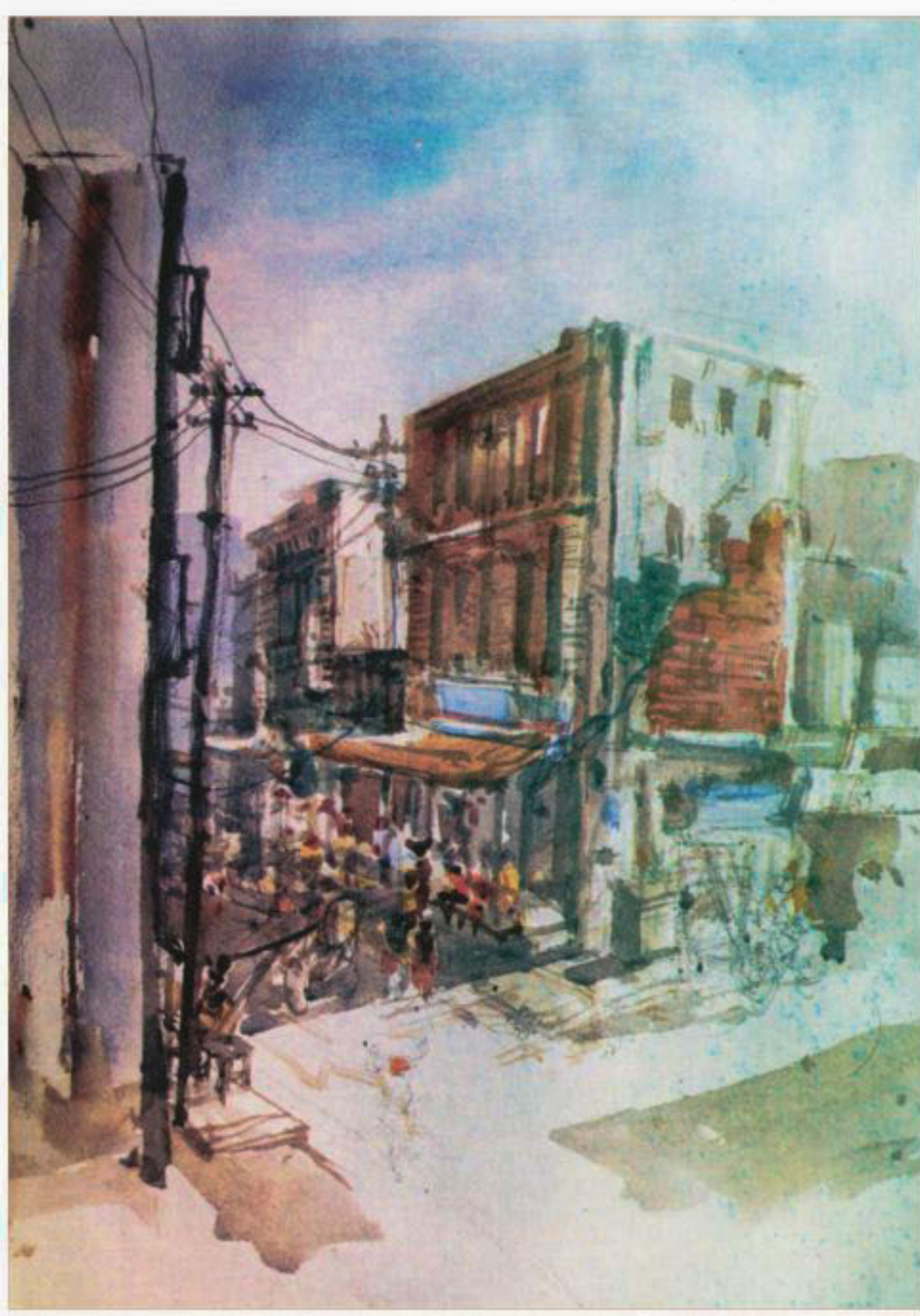
A CORRESPONDENT

Channel i will air special single-episode TV play "Patro O Patri" at 7:50pm today to mark the death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Nahid Ahmed Piyal has directed the play. The story circles Sownat Kumar, bachelor businessman who is looking for a bride. He sees bride one after another, but does not like them. Once he sees a girl and decides to marry her, which leads him to face a series of incidents. Arman Parvez Murad, Nadia, Khairul Alam Sabui, Saberi Alam, Harunur Rashid and others are in the cast.

# Puran Dhaka —Through the eyes of artists

FAYZA HAQ

It is breathtaking how the artists of today recall the beauty, tranquillity and magnificence of Old Dhaka that dates back thousands of years to the Turks, Mughals and the Persians. At an exhibition last year at Shilpangan marking its 25th anniversary, renowned artists used their palettes to recreate scenes from their well-loved old city. Rafiqun Nabi portrayed the place that he lived in as a child and where he went to school. He brought in a horse driven carriage in the gas light with its two drivers. With the carriage going over the cobbled street, you could almost hear the clip-clop of the horse hooves. On the pavement were crows, which Nabi is famous for. The arches and balconies of an older period were seen in the dark. This was named "Memory of an old town" and was in mixed media. Tahera Khanum's watercolour "Near New market 1955", was an idyll in sap green, bottle green and jade. The tree clumps surrounded a wicker work house with its thatched roof. The surrounding greenery added to the tranquillity. This was certainly an image of peace — a far cry from the rush and pandemonium of New Market in the 21st century. "River of Stories" by Biren Shome, pen and ink, was a joy of parallel lines. In the forefront above the pale grey-green wash is the detail of a church with belfries, windows, and arch like that of a tiny fort, which many important buildings, a hundred years back or so tended to be. There were suggestions of buildings at the side. Boats of all shapes and sizes, barges with double-deckers and multi-storied housed were to be seen across the river. Qayyum Chowdhury's pen and in "Buriganga" was yet another pen and



(Clockwise) Artworks by Sheikh Afzal, Tahera Khanum and Qayyum Chowdhury.

ink sketch on a beige backdrop. There was the song of joy with boats, their paddles, clumps of trees a boat with a house at the back. Crows fly peacefully and clumps of bushes and hedges line this reposeful area, with nothing but blue and green to see. With acrylic on paper, Mohammed Iqbal presented "Cityscape". Here lay the beauty of narrow streets lined by multi-storied houses. The houses appeared brick red, beige with turquoise blue for the shutters and the shrubbery growing wild on the walls.

The electric poses were brought in with delicacy. There were people seen loitering in saris, lungis and pants. There was a man bending over, arranging goods for sale. A man was seen seated and waiting. Hamiduzzaman Khan's "Rose Garden at Gopibagh", in mixed media, was a dream-like creation, recalling the beauty of the Victorian past. There were arches, columns and windows, conjuring up the rhythmic glamour of the Colonial past. The frescoes on the cement work were amazing.



A watercolour creation of Sheikh Afzal's "Memoir" was unforgettable. This expert in portraiture brought in rickshaws, pedestrians and sellers on foot, along with burnt umber poles of electricity with the buildings. The houses were shown as having shops in the ground floor, along with vendors and homes in the first and second. There was a mass of emptiness found in the sky and the paved ground in front lends interest.

(To be continued)

## Marina Ahmad to perform at IGCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) is organising an evening of classical music by Marina Ahmad Alam at 6:30pm on August 9 at its Gulshan premises. Marina Ahmed, an expert in North Indian classical music, is also a proficient performer of thumris, ghazals, bhajans as well as Sufi musical tradition. She has performed in over a dozen countries across four continents. In 2009, she shared stage with Grammy-award winning artist Youssou N'Dur. In Bangladesh, Marina Ahmad trained under the tutelage of Ustad Phul Mohammed Khan, Barin Majumdar, Ila Majumdar and others. Her pursuit of classical music took her to Gandharva Maha Vidyalaya in New Delhi. Later she trained under the tutelage of Sangeet Martand Padma Bhimbushan Pandit Jasraj, a luminary in the field of North Indian Classical Music. Asian Paints, IRCON and Marico Bangladesh have partnered with the IGCC in arranging the programme.



## Homage to the Bard Musical "Shudurer Piyashi" in the offing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As homage to Tagore on his 73rd death anniversary, an Indo-Bangladesh collaborative production will be held at Satyajit Ray Auditorium, RTC, ICCR (Kolkata, India) on August 8 at 6:30pm. Rabindranath Tagore Centre, ICCR Kolkata and Delvistaa Foundation, Dhaka will present a musical titled "Shudurer Piyashi". Promising Bangladeshi Tagore singer Shwapnil Shojib has designed the concept for the production. Samiul Islam Poluck (Bangladesh) and Iman Chakraborty (Kolkata) will recite and read out Tagore creations both in Bengali and in English while Mustapha Khalid Palash and Shwapnil Shojib (Bangladesh) with Iman Chakraborty (Kolkata) will render Tagore songs at the event. Talented Bangladeshi dancers -- Srimonti Pooja Sengupta and Asha Hossain together with Kolkata-based soloists and troupes Kalamandalam Goutam Ghosal and Natyalok; Bappa Chatterjee and his Ethnic Dance Academy and Raktim Goswami will present dances at the event.



TAHRIMA AHMED TRISHNA

The wait for this year's The Daily Star Spelling Bee champion is getting tenser, with just over a month to go. Who will be this year's champion? Who will take the trophy home, get the chance to meet the President of Bangladesh and visit Washington DC, the land where Spelling Bee originated? Tonight, another quarterfinal episode of Spelling Bee Season 3 will air on Channel i. With five quarterfinal episodes already aired, 10 semifinalists have emerged from the 96 participants. The enthusiasm, competitiveness and suspense are running at a high, not just among the participants, but at their schools as well. Amid all the competitiveness, where the fate of the competition can depend on one letter, BSRM, associate partner of The Daily Star Spelling Bee, is

## SPELLING BEE

# Competition ramps up as quarterfinals almost over



boosting the morale of the participants by giving them the chance to win books for libraries around the country. So far, participants have won books for 21 schools around the country. The books will officially be

handed over to the schools during the Spelling Bee Grand Finale. The Daily Star Spelling Bee, powered by Horlicks, airs on Channel i every Wednesday and Thursday at 7:50pm.

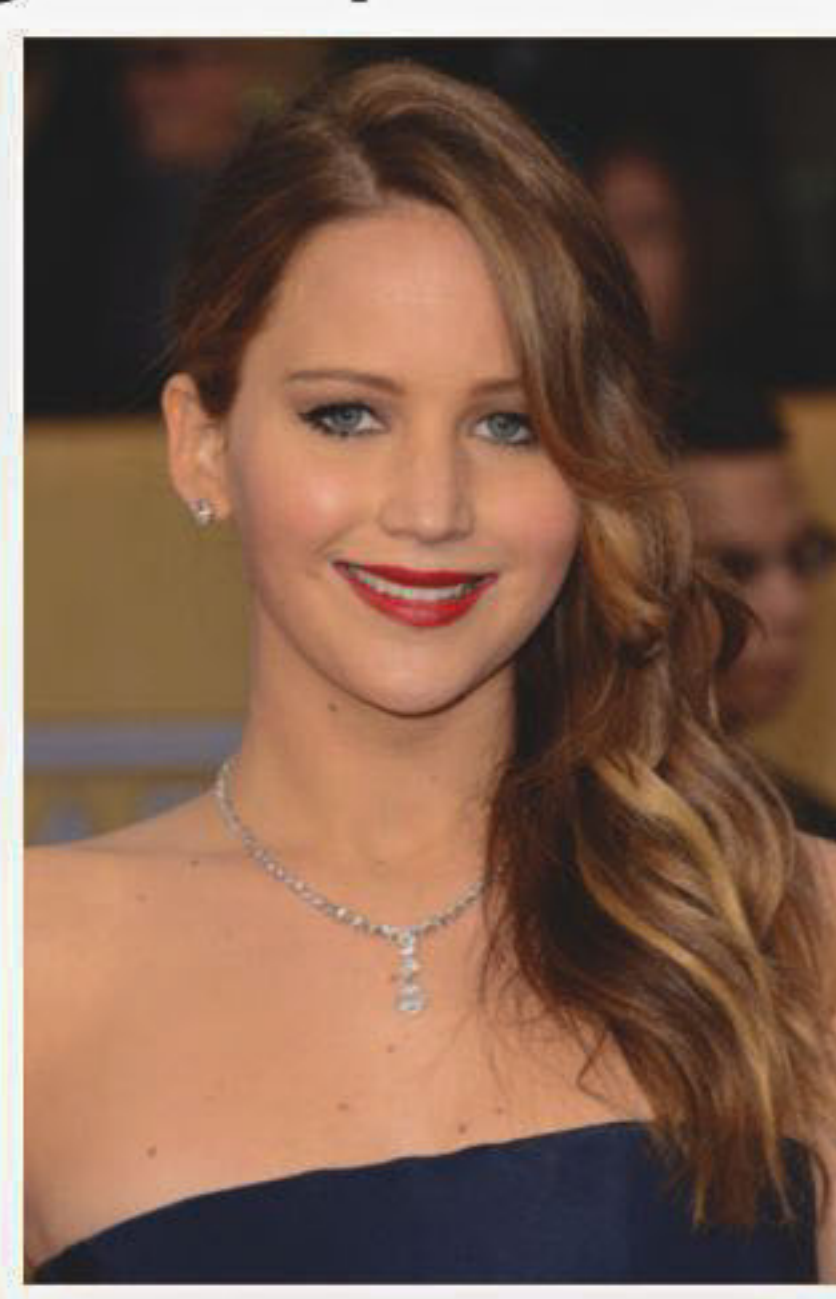
## Sandra Bullock tops Forbes highest-paid women list

Sandra Bullock has topped the annual Forbes list of the highest paid female actors in the world, thanks largely to the box office success of Oscar-winning space drama "Gravity". Bullock's \$51m haul over the past 12 months puts her way ahead of the chasing pack, which is led by Jennifers -- Lawrence and Aniston. Bullock last topped the list in 2010, with an estimated \$56m, off the back of hit films "The Blind Side" and "The Proposal". Lawrence takes second place with \$34m this year, thanks to the Hunger Games movies and a high-profile supporting role in superhero sequel "X-Men: Days of Future Past". Her three Oscar nominations to date and a win last year for indie romance "Silver Linings Playbook" have made her one of the most powerful actors in Hollywood at a remarkably young age of 23. Aniston, 45, takes third place with \$31m thanks to the success of comedies such as "We're the Millers" and "Horrible Bosses". Gwyneth Paltrow lands in fourth place this year with \$19m, thanks largely to the \$1bn box office success of superhero movie Iron Man 3, in which she played Pepper Potts. Last year's top female actor, Angelina Jolie, is fifth this year with \$18m. Forbes included her upfront fee for



Sandra Bullock

Disney fantasy Maleficent in their 2013 calculations. The next four places on the list are held by Cameron Diaz (\$18m) and a trio of women who have made their earnings playing supporting roles in superhero movies: Scarlett Johansson from "The Avengers" (\$17m), Amy Adams from "Man of Steel" (\$13m)



Jennifer Lawrence

and Natalie Portman from "Thor: The Dark World". Kristen Stewart, the list's top earner only two years ago thanks to earnings from the "Twilight" films, slipped down to 10th spot this time around with \$12m. Bullock's impressive earnings mean she would have made it to third place, behind only Robert Downey Jr and



Jennifer Aniston

Dwayne Johnson, on a combined list of male and female actors. However, Forbes estimates that members of its female top 10 earned just \$226m, compared to the \$419m haul taken by the top 10 men, between June 2013 and June 2014.

Source: Guardian

## Playwright Sujoy Basak stands tall

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Dedicated theatre activist Sujoy Kumar Basak, who began his career as a playwright in 1993, has scripted around 70 stage plays. He has also written several tele-movies, screened at different venues in Mymensingh. Sujoy earned reputation with his plays on burning social issues. His comedies on social evils also earned acclaim. Starting off on an early career in theatre, Sujoy joined Bidrohi Natya Goshthi in Mymensingh town as an activist in 1992 and worked with senior artistes of the group for several years. Later, Sujoy founded Jagoroni Natya Goshthi in 1994 and promoted many young talents in the theatre arena. Now Sujoy works under the banner of SB Media.



Some of the plays scripted and directed by Sujoy include "Shoitaner Bachha", "Chorer Goshthi", "Sheal-Shokuner Drishti", "Noroker Shesh Shima", "Rashik Chand", "Manik Jor", "Pichhi" and "Shatabdir Natak". Sujoy's tele-films that have been screened are "Annya Rakam Tan", "Taar Podo-dhwoni", "Sobar Apon", "Poran Bandhu", "Matlabbaz" and "AparMohima". "Romizer Dinkal", a documentary on the use and abuse of power, written by Sujoy was also telecast by BTB in 2012. Another tele-movie "Amar Ami Naire" was aired by Bijoy TV, a private TV channel during its Eid programmes last year. Sujoy said that he has acted and scripted some 20 plays and won the best performer award for his role in "Grefar" by Jahangir Akanda, director of production house JRD Vision. "The enthusiasm of well-known theatre groups and cultural organisations will encourage new activists in this field," says a hopeful Sujoy. SM Ali Azhar, secretary of Bidrohi Natya Goshthi said, "Sujoy Basak is one of the most prominent theatre activists in Mymensingh region. He is a role model both for young talents and the senior artistes."