

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Artist: Jamal Ahmed
 Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, AJ Heights, Cha 72/1/D, Progoti Shorani, Uttar Badda
 Date: Jan 9-31
 Time: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)

Chobi Mela VIII
 Organiser: Pathshala and Drik
 Venue: Different locations in Dhaka
 Date: Jan 23-Feb 5
 Time: 10-8pm

Solo Photography Exhibition
 Title: The Colours of Life
 Artist: Ihtisham Kabir
 Venue: home n décor, Cha-90 bti Premier Plaza, Pragatai Sharani
 Date: January 31; Time: 6:00pm

1st National Dance-Drama Festival
 Organiser: BDA
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: Jan 27-31
 Time: 6:00pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Light, Dark Space
 Artist: Md. Tokon
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
 Date: Jan 31-Feb 21
 Time: 12-8pm

NEWS bytes

Jim Parsons returns to Broadway



Jim Parsons will play God in the comedy "An Act of God", as the Emmy winner returns to Broadway after appearing in the 2012 revival of "Harvey". "An Act of God" is based on the book "The Last Testament: A Memoir by God", penned by David Javerbaum. The production promises to provide God's answers to the mysteries of the Bible and of existence. Two more actors, who'll play angels, remain to be cast, and the design team has yet to be set. Produced by Jeffrey Finn and executive-produced by 101 Prods., "Act of God" begins previews May 5 ahead of a May 28 opening at Studio 54.

IT'S TRUE!



In 1998, Ukrainian-born US actress and voice artist Mila Kunis was cast as Jackie Burkhart in the Fox sitcom "That '70s Show". All who auditioned were required to be at least 18 years old; Kunis, who was 14 at the time, told the casting directors she would be 18 but did not say when. Though they eventually figured it out, the producers still thought Kunis was the best fit for the role. "That '70s Show" ran for eight seasons, and she won two consecutive Young Star Awards as Best Young Actress in a Comedy TV Series in 1999 and 2000 for her performances.

SONGS of SOUL

Int'l Sufi Music Fest concludes



(Clockwise) Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, Karen Ruimy and Gaurob perform at the festival.

ZAHANGIR ALOM
 The first International Sufi Music Festival 2015 concluded on January 29 at capital's Bijoy Sarani. Organised by Blues Communications, the three-day event featured an array of Sufi and traditional folk music by 12 troupes of seven countries of the world. On the concluding day, Danish troupe Serenas set off the event, offering diverse devotional genres of music. They not only performed European interpretation of Sufi music but also presented a sub-continental melody "Damadam Mast Kalandar", originally popularised by the legendary Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. A Spanish troupe Zik'R came next on stage to take the audi-

ence to the world of bliss with their performance of Flamenco, a genre of Spanish folk music. With a spiritual outlook, illustrious performer Karen Ruimy with other members of Zik'R delineated the philosophy of life through singing and dancing, playing guitar and hand-claps. Ruimy, an avid reader and admirer of the Sufi masters and teachers such as Rumi, was on musical high, as her brisk footwork in a riveting tap dance mesmerised the attendees. Labik Kamal Gaurob was the penultimate performer of the night. Starting with a prayer-like song of Fakir Lalon Shai, Gaurob moved on to performing a soul-searching song "Khanchar Bhetor Ochin Pakhi" of the bard. Prior to presenting the number

"Bhebecho Kamar Byata", he talked on the essence of the song. Gaurob also invited his better half Nabonita Chowdhury on stage. She also performed a Sufiyana song "Kon Naam-e Dakiley Tarey" of Lalon and a Hason Raja number "Roop Dekhilam Rey Nayone". Later, Gaurob soulfully performed a Kala Shai song "Amar Doyal Poroshmoni Go" that was on melody and rhythm. Flautist Jalal styled his unique recital while accompanying the singer duo. Ustad Rahat Fateh Ali Khan was the highlight of the festival. The artiste, with his large troupe captivated the Dhaka music lovers performing a popular Qawwali "Allahu Allahu", several Sufi songs and popular Bollywood film tracks. A saxo-

phonist of the troupe set off their part playing an essence of Raga Hansadhvani. Rahat Fateh Ali Khan performed 8-guna, 16-guna and a difficult 7-guna speedy sargam taan amid his presentations. Amongst the film tracks he performed, the elated audience produced rounds of applause while the master rendered "Surili Ankhion Waley", "Koyi Bole", "O Rey Piya", "Sajda", "Main Jahan Rahun" and more. The lead guitarist once immaculately played the melody of Raga Yaman and the saxophonist too beautified the recital set on the same raga. Later, Rahat Fateh Ali Khan rendered "Jia Dhadak Dhadak", and closed with Nusrat Fateh Ali Kha records "Tumhe Dil Lagi" and "Dum Mast Qalandar Ali Ali".



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

CPJA organises International Photography Exhibition in India

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

The excellent photos snapped by the photojournalists of Chittagong enthralled photography enthusiasts in Tripura of India, during a three-day International Photography Exhibition at the Art Gallery of Agartala City Centre last week.

A total of 18 photojournalist members of Chittagong Photo Journalists' Association (CPJA) went to Agartala, the capital of Tripura (India), on invitation from Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Dhaka to hold the exhibition.

The three-day exhibition titled "My Soul My Soul" featured the lifestyle, culture, heritage, economical activities, architectural and natural beauty of Chittagong and Greater Chittagong.

A total of 44 photos of 22 photojournalists working in Chittagong city were selected for the exhibition.

People of Agartala, especially who were born and brought up in Bangladesh, thronged the city centre, said sources, adding that they appreciated the photojournalists for their works.

"The Bangladeshis became emotional to see the photos that portray the landscape, culture, heritage and architectural beauty of their motherland," said Anurup Kanti Das, exhibition secretary of CPJA.

Rashed Mahmud, general secretary of CPJA, told The Daily Star that they went to India to brand Chittagong, adding that they are planning to organise an exhibition in Nepal.

Manik Sarkar, Chief Minister of Tripura, inaugurated the exhibition. Vanu Lal Saha, minister for Information and



PHOTO: STAR

Culture of Tripura, who was present as the chief guest in the inaugural ceremony, said exchange of culture and thoughts between Bangladesh and India will help the people of two different countries to understand each other better.

Mayor of Agartala City Corporation Dr Profullajit Sinha said the people of Agartala would be enriched from the exhibition, while President of Chittagong Union of Journalists Ejaj Yusufi recall the contribution of the people of Agartala in the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

JURASSIC WORLD reveals its terrifying new Dinosaur

Apparently the events of the first three "Jurassic Park" movies weren't enough warnings, because the folks manning Isla Island in "Jurassic World" have created an even more fearsome, genetically enhanced dinosaur. Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard's characters had only earlier spoken of it with the utmost fear in the trailer, but now the official site has unveiled the first look at the beast.

According to details gleaned from JurassicWorld.com, this teaser photo is of the new dinosaur known as the Indominus Rex. As if this wasn't terrifying enough, his teeth are constantly regrowing themselves, as a shark's would. As noted by the site, the Indominus' full form may look like the famous T-Rex, but it has distinct facial attributes that set it apart. Standing at 40 feet, this beast can move at 30mph while confined to its cage, and everyone has seen the chaos it can wreak when given the entire island to roam. As seen in the trailer, it easily shredded the park's mechanical tourist vehicles, climbed the walls of his cage with little effort, and his maneuverability forced Pratt's character to enlist the help of his raptors to chase it down.

As Jurassic World director Colin Trevorrow revealed a while back, the Indominus Rex was created because of a corporate mandate for something new, bigger and with way more teeth to help the struggling "Jurassic World" stay open for business.

The film drops into theatres on June 12 this year.

Source: **Cinema Blend**

TV WATCH

"Hridoye Mati O Manush" today



A CORRESPONDENT
 On tonight's episode of the popular Channel i programme on agriculture, "Hridoye Mati O Manush", expatriate farmer Rahim's story will be told. The Cox's Bazar resident went abroad to change his luck, but returned to the tug of his soil. Planned, directed and hosted by Shykh Seraj, the episode goes on-air at 9:50pm tonight.

"Singh Is Bling" perfect mix of comedy, action, romance" ... AKSHAY



Bollywood's action titan Akshay Kumar is excited to begin shooting for "Singh Is Bling", and says it will be a wholesome entertainer. The "Khiladi" of Bollywood, whose espionage action thriller "Baby" released Jan 23, will soon begin shooting for the new film, in time for it to hit theatres on Gandhinagar on October 2.

romance. Can't wait 2 begin shoot. Oct 2 here we come," the actor tweeted Thursday. Prabhudheva directorial "Singh Is Bling" also stars Kareena Kapoor and Kriti Sanon. Meanwhile, Akshay will next be seen in the action drama "Main Gabbar" alongside Shruti Haasan. He will also be seen in the Bollywood remake of "Warrior", which will be released as "Brothers" in India.



Film stars Riaz, Shabnur, Mousumi, Neerob and Emon, among others, pose for a 'selfie' as they arrive at Bangladesh Film Development Corporation to vote at the Bangladesh Film Artistes' Association elections.

"Anondogram" on SA TV



A CORRESPONDENT
 SA TV's comedy drama serial "Anondogram" goes on air tonight (and tomorrow) at 8:40pm. Written by Zakir Hossain Ujjal and directed by Shamim Zaman, it casts Fazlur Rahman Babu, Mosharraf Karim, AKM Hasan and others. The story of the serial surrounds three friends of Anandagram village, Suman, Rajan and Mohan. All three of them are differently-abled, and are often ridiculed by villagers. One day, they decide to not be sad about it, and make fun of villagers in their own way.