

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mimodrama
Play: Jadur Pradip
Troupe: Swapnadal
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: February 4
Time: 7pm



Streetwise Art Exhibition
Venue: Bay's Galleria, 57, Gulshan Avenue
Date: December 2008-February 2009
Time: 11am-6pm



Waheedul Haque Memorial Programme
Organiser: Chhayana
Venue: Bakulata, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
Date: February 5-6
Time: 5pm onwards



Street Theatre Festival 2009
Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises
Date: February 1-7
Time: 4 pm onwards



Using fame to promote social causes

In conversation with Asif Akbar



SYEDA SHAMIN MORTADA

Versatility is his strongest point; he renders radically different songs at equal ease. In an era when the younger generation is headed towards rock and hip hop, he has managed to play an important part in revitalising 'ad-hunik' Bangla songs and become one of the most celebrated singers of our time. Yes, we're talking about the multi-talented Asif Akbar.

Asif has made numerous concert tours and bagged various prestigious awards and recognitions that include the National Award in 2006 for the best male playback singer and the Meril Prothom Alo Award for five consecutive times (from 2002 to 2006).

Asif was pretty mischievous as a child and as he grew up he aspired to become a cricketer. But fate had something else in store for him. "We had to take breaks while playing cricket during the rainy season, so we sang using milk cans as our 'tabla.' This led us to create a band called 'The Fickle Boys' and we gave our first performance in 1996." Born, brought up and educated in Comilla, Asif decided that it was time to move to the city of dreams, Dhaka, in 1997.

Asif says, "The famous music director, Shawkat Ali Emon gave me the first break and I started doing playback for films from '98 onwards. My first album was released in 2001. From then on I started to venture in all fields of music -- audio recording, stage performances, playback singing, you name it, I did it!"

A strong supporter of charity, Asif believes in honesty, integrity, punctuality, hard work and having fun. A dedicated social activist, he is at the moment working with the Prothom Alo Aid Fund for acid victims and is also a special correspondent of the daily Manab Zamin.

"I attend workshops and meet acid victims, our objective is to help them and train them to become self-reliant," says Asif. Music, charity, social work, and journalism keep Asif occupied. Smiling he continues, "I receive a call every 20 seconds and have to deal with various people. Sometimes it gets tough but I always try to keep my cool and be helpful." This much sought after 'ad-hunik' singer is committed to the music industry and has managed to keep his audiences enthralled with his songs.

The writer is a freelance contributor

Oscar nominee spotlight: Anne Hathaway

At 26, she's the youngest of this year's Best Actress nominees.

She's a luminous beauty, preternaturally gifted, and often described as the closest this generation can come to Audrey Hepburn.

Anne Hathaway is up for Best Actress for her work in "Rachel Getting Married." Here's a look at her landmark acting roles:

"The Princess Diaries," a Disney movie directed by Garry Marshall, her first film immediately tossed Anne into the spotlight.

She got to act opposite Julie Andrews, and critics were pleasantly surprised by the way the young girl stood pluckily up to the still-irresistible "Sound Of Music" veteran.

Actresses debuting with Disney features often face the pressure of rushing into adult roles just to prove they aren't kids anymore, and while Hathaway certainly fell prey to that with the disappointing "Havoc," she completely made up for it with her small yet impressive turn in Ang Lee's masterpiece.

In "Brokeback Mountain" Hathaway played Lureen, a ravishing cowgirl with her eyes firmly on the prize, and while it was great to watch her romance Jake Gyllenhaal, her character turns gradually chilling.

David Frankel's film "The Devil Wears Prada" cast her opposite her idol, with Streep playing a fire-breathing, impossibly cruel fashion magazine editor, and Hathaway playing her naive, poorly dressed underling.

Streep had the script's finest lines and Anne merely had to play the straight part, yet the young actress managed to convincingly hold her own and win the audience over to her side.

There was much negative buzz on the American actress being chosen to play an iconic English writer, but director Julian Jarrold stuck to his guns and Hathaway walked away with much critical applause and obvious respect as an emerging young talent.

The film, "Becoming Jane," firmly distancing itself from being a true-to-life biopic, is an exploration of Austen's early family life, and one of her most impressionable relationships.

Leading man James McAvoy does well, but it is clear that the flawed film works only because of its striking leading lady.

Hathaway's latest film, "Rachel Getting Married," opened the 65th Venice International Film Festival, and has been getting major plaudits since. Directed by Jonathan Demme, the family drama revolves around Hathaway's character returning home from rehab the day

before her sister gets married.

"Hathaway," writes David Edelstein in New York magazine, "is stunningly vivid. She has a habit of telegraphing her characters' emotions, but this time her mannerisms are in sync with the role. It makes sense for the character to draw attention to herself by pulling faces.

And, really, what a face to pull. The dark eyes, the heavy mouth, the teeth like bowling pins: Everything but the tidy ski-slope nose is way



oversize, as if her head never grew into her features. The bratty Kym is impossible to ignore, even when she's only smoking and glowering."

Anne Hathaway has publicly stated that she can't possibly win the Oscar this year because she's in the same nominee list as 15-time nominee Meryl Streep, but she could just be wrong.

Source: rediff.com

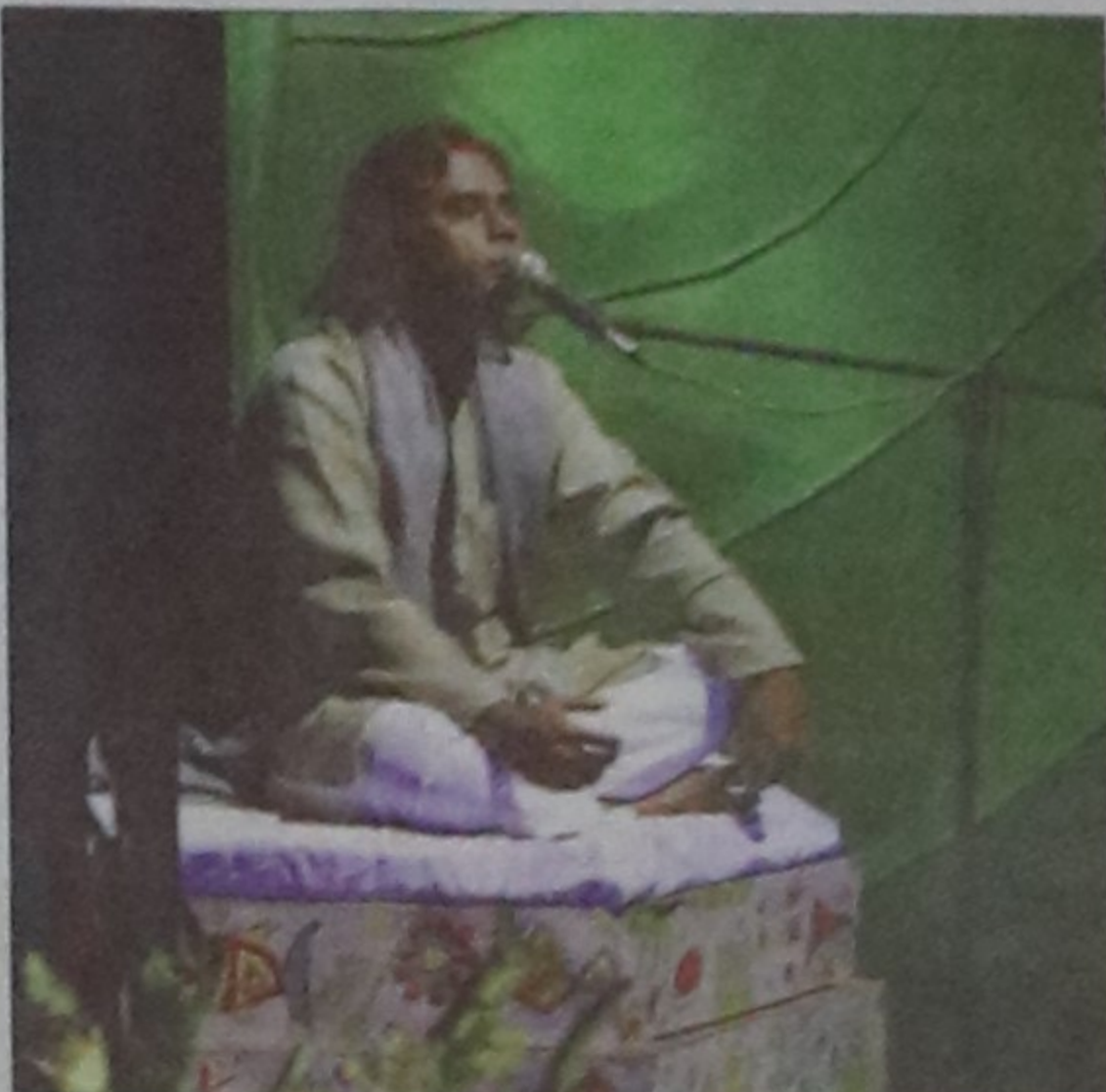


PHOTO COURTESY: SAKAT MOJUMDER

'Kanthasheelan,' an organisation of reciters, held a solo recital featuring artiste Zahirul Haque Khan at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library on January 31. The artiste has been a member of Kanthasheelan for the last 22 years. A multi-faceted talent, Zahir is involved in recitation, acting, direction and producing plays. The programme was titled "Shilpo Debey Amakey Asray."

Poet Mohidur Rahman passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Veteran poet and author, Advocate Mohidur Rahman, passed away at his home in Bandutia village, Manikganj, last Saturday. He was 75. He was ailing from diabetes and other age-related diseases.

He left behind his wife, three sons and three daughters. Mohidur Rahman was buried at his family graveyard after 'namaaz-e-janaaza.'

Local people from all walks of life expressed deep shock at the death of the veteran author and poet and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Mohidur Rahman wrote several books including poetry, verses, 'puthi' styled literature and drama.

Two books of verses and a novel written by Mohidur Rahman were published in 2002 and 2003. He received accolades for his writings.



All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

On Air

ATN BANGLA
08:15 Aiker Shanbadpotro
08:30 Drama Serial: Eka
09:15 Talk Show: Vision 2020
10:30 Hello Bangladesh
11:05 Omor Ekushey Boi Mela
12:15 Motamat
01:25 Cholochitir Golpo
02:30 Drama Serial: Ghar Jamai
03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokkhu Nai
03:45 Children's Programme: Chhotoder Prithibi
04:20 Agricultural Programme: Aanaar Shamney
05:10 Business Week
05:40 Rajniti O Shushashoney Nari
06:45 Projonmo Katha
08:00 Drama Serial: Shophnomogol
08:40 Style Icon 2009
11:30 Jay Katha Keu Boloni
12:00 Greenphone Lead News

CHANNEL I
08:05 Tagore Song
09:30 Shangbadpotrey Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Grameenphone Trilomatra
11:05 Education Programme
11:30 Amar Chhobi
12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Sa Re Ga Ma
02:30 Hridoyer Gaan
03:05 Banijyo O Orthoniti
04:05 Study @ UK
04:30 Boi Mela Proldin
05:30 Special Programme
06:20 Protbaad Protirodh Swadhinita
07:50 BBC Bangladesh Shangaap
09:35 Drama Serial: Central Mental Hospital
10:00 Drama Serial: Monorama Aroyo Niketon
11:30 First Minister
12:00 Grameenphone Trilomatra
ETV
08:30 Ekush-er Shokal
09:35 Drama Serial: Ghatok Ebong Amra

10:02 Total Music
10:30 Ekushey Business
02:30 Drama Serial: Tuntuni Bhila
03:10 Spondon
04:05 Drama Serial: Ghatok Ebong Arma
04:30 Desh Jurey Oporadh Porikroma
05:30 Sports Plus
07:45 Cookery Show: Tomi Mian Recipe
08:30 Drama Serial: Tuntuni Bhila
09:30 Drama Serial: Ghatok Ebong Amra
10:50 Financial Bulletin
11:40 Amader Boimela
ntv
08:30 Aiker Shokaal

08:20 Drama Serial: Eit Kaather Khacha
09:00 Music Express
09:45 Drama Serial: Palolik Mon
11:30 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy
BANGLAVISION
08:00 Shubho Shokaal
09:00 Bhalo Thakun
10:35 Bangladesh Swapno Dekhey Cinebit
12:30 X Crime
01:30 Amaar Ami
02:30 Bikeler Boimela
03:20 Drama Serial: Shomudro Jaal
04:10 Proldiner Boimela
05:20 Gharey Bairey
05:45 Drama Serial: Swapnochura
06:50 Shamol Bangla

08:30 Rojoni Gondha
09:30 Chitro Bichitro
10:00 Prime Time
11:05 Shobbar Agey Desh
Rtv
09:30 Cinema Ar Gaan
10:03 Drama Serial: Priyo Dorshini
11:03 Taroka Alap
11:30 Drama Serial: Meyeti Ekhon Kothaye Jabey
01:30 Stock Exchange
03:00 Bangla Feature
05:30 Ei Amaar Bangladesh
06:30 Protidin
07:00 Selected Programme
07:30 Road To Democracy
09:00 Drama Serial: Meyeti Ekhon Kothaye Jabey

11:10 The Water Boy
01:20 7 seconds
03:10 The Hand That Rocks The Cradle
05:30 Hollywood's 10 Best
06:00 Holes
09:00 Alex And Emma
11:00 Cold Creek Manor
HBO
08:30 The Hitcher
10:30 The Making Of Blood Diamond
10:45 The Ant Bully
12:30 The Truth About Charlie
02:30 Trespass
04:00 Save The Last Dance 2: Stepping Up
05:45 Failure To Launch
07:35 Decoys 2: Alien Seduction
09:30 Superman

09:30 Megastructures
10:30 Creative Vision
11:30 Planet Carnivore
12:30 The Living Edens
01:30 Lions Behaving Badly
03:00 Dangerous Encounters
03:30 A Different Sport
04:00 South India
04:30 Lets Get Inventin
05:00 Big Bang
05:30 Paris
06:30 Air Crash Investigation
07:30 Crocodiles Under the Skin
10:30 Triumph Of Life
09:30 Mission Navy
10:30 Against All Odds
11:30 Journey to the Edge of the Universe
12:30 World's Deadliest Animals



Palolik Mon
On ntv at 9:45 pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Humayun Faridee, Mita Chowdhury

Radio 59.2 FM
09:30 Mubhorito Jiboney
12:30 Darun Dupurey
03:00 Duranto Bikelley
05:00 Shendha Tara
07:30 Saager Mitya
11:00 Jay Gopur Shesh Net
Radio Forth 53.0 FM
07:30am Hello Dhaka
10:00am Morning Express
12:00pm My Time
01:00pm No Tension
04:00pm Dhaka Calling
09:00pm Night Rider
01:00am Back to Back music
Radio Today 89.6 FM
07:15am Good Morning Dhaka
11:00am Masti Unlimited
01:00pm Today's Adda
04:00pm U-Am
08:00pm Tobe Tai Hok
11:00pm Raal Vor Gan

ATONEMENT
On HBO at 12:15 am
Genre: Drama

STAR WORLD

08:30 Bonecrusher Queens
09:30 Megastructures
11:30 Planet Carnivore
12:30 The Living Edens
01:30 Lions Behaving Badly
02:30 Dangerous Encounters
03:30 A Different Sport
04:00 South India
04:30 Lets Get Inventin
05:00 Big Bang
05:30 Paris
06:30 Air Crash Investigation
07:30 Crocodiles Under the Skin
08:30 Triumph Of Life
09:30 Mission Navy
10:30 Against All Odds
11:30 Journey to the Edge of the Universe

FOX HISTORY & ENTERTAINMENT CHANNEL

09:00 The Greats
10:15 Creative Vision
10:30 Jumbo Movie
12:00 Creative Vision
12:30 Maxwell
02:30 Mahabharata
03:30 Ancient Egyptians
04:30 Ancient Egyptians
05:30 Made in Bollywood
06:30 The Greats
07:30 Mini Cooper
08:30 Modern Marvels
09:30 The Greats
10:00 he Greats
10:30 Around The World In 80 Treasures
11:30 Bhanwar

08:55 Drama Serial: Aim In Life
09:30 Joto Modhur Bhulguli
10:05 Gallery
10:30 Nokia Take Four Quiz Show
11:30 Tiffiner Phakey
12:10 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy
01:05 Japan Video Topic
02:30 Drama Serial: Chena Chena Lagay
03:15 Super Hero Super Heroine
04:10 Quiz Show: Isphani Janar Achhey Bolaar Achhey
05:25 Ithasher Ei Din-ey
05:35 Apnaar Jigyasha
06:15 Shubho Shondha

08:15 Drama Serial: Mama Bhagney
09:05 Amader Rannaghar
09:45 Drama Serial: Swapnochura
11:15 Onno Noyon
DIGANTO TELEVISION
08:30 Shindhu Hillol
12:30 Chitro Bichitro
03:05 Roots
03:50 Science Dot Com
04:30 Diganto Sports
05:30 Oporajita
06:30 Chena Ochina
07:00 News Hours
08:05 Paathshala

10:00 Drama Serial: Pridorshini
CHANNEL 1
10:30 Bangla Feature Film
02:00 Boi Niye
03:30 Drama
05:15 Gaanwala
07:00 Premey Premey Gaaney Gaaney
08:15 Drama Serial: Mayur Bahon
09:30 Young Craze
11:00 Stop n Rock
ZEE STUDIO
07:30 Hollywood's 10 Best
08:30 Modigliani

12:15 Atonement
STAR MOVIES
09:20 Firehouse Dog
11:15 Beloved
02:05 Conan The Destroyer
03:50 Bermuda Triangle
05:20 Skinwalkers
07:00 Michael Clayton
09:00 Backdraft
11:15 Love & Other Disasters
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL
08:30 Bonecrusher Queens