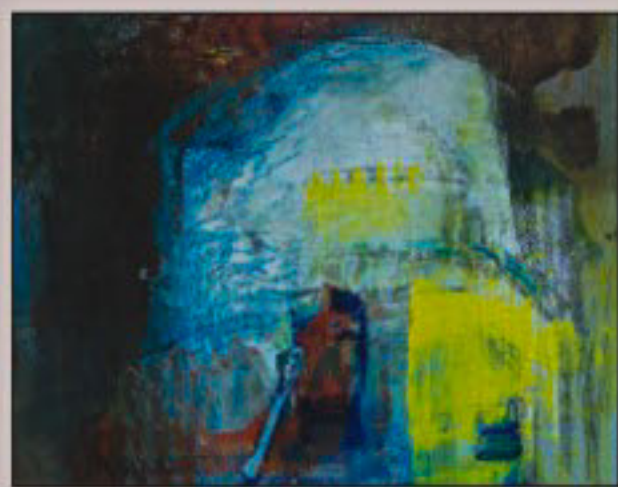


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Art Exhibition

Painter: Zahura Sultana Hossain
 Title: Contemplation
 Venue: Bay's Galleria, Radius Centre, Gulshan-2
 Date: December 11-January 27
 Time: 10am-8pm



Theatre

Play: Punarjanmo
 Troupe: Prachyanat
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: January 24
 Time: 6:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Staring Women
 Artist: Nazia Andaleeb Preema
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
 Date: January 15-26
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Exhibition

Title: Rang
 Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattashali Gallery, National Museum, Shahbagh
 Date: January 15-25
 Time: 9:30am-4:30pm & 4:30-8:30pm (Fridays)



Talent and glamour unified

Mehazabien Chowdhury crowned Lux-Channel i Superstar '09

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The glitzy grand finale of 'Lux Channel i Superstar 2009' was held at the Bangabandhu International Convention Centre on January 22. Jointly put together by Unilever Bangladesh's brand Lux and Channel i, the highlight of the event was the announcement of the 'Superstar' of 2009. The programme also featured performances by the finalists as well as popular singers and models.

This year the 'Lux Channel-i Superstar' title went to Mehazabien Chowdhury. She was crowned by last year's winner Ishrat Jahan Chaity. Mehazabien was awarded a movie contract, a brand new car and an international scholarship for acting. Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director of Impress Telefilm Ltd, presented the contract to Mehazabien. Rakesh Mohan, chairman and managing director, Unilever Bangladesh Ltd handed over the car keys to her. Naushad Chowdhury, brands and development director, Unilever Bangladesh Ltd and Aly Zaker, chairman, Asiatic Marketing Communications Ltd were also present at the event.

Mounita Khan Ishana was announced the first runner up. She received a cheque for Tk 5 lakh while the second runner up Sadika Parvin Swarna received a cheque for Tk 3 lakh.

Apart from these, three special awards -- 'Pond's Miss Beautiful Skin', 'Sunsilk Miss Beautiful Hair' and 'Close-Up Miss Beautiful Smile' -- were conferred on the occasion to Ishana, Tahsin and Orsha respectively



Mehazabien Chowdhury (centre), winner of the 'Lux Channel i Superstar 2009' contest, after being crowned.

by Kaniz Almas, Kona Reza and Hosne Ara Dewan. All three recipients received a cheque for Tk 1 lakh each with crests and bouquets.

Highlight of the event: Each of the five finalists paired with five popular singers for live performances. Shafin Ahmed with Mehezabien, Sumon [of Aurthohin] with Ishana, Bappa Majumdar with Swarna, Topu with Orsha and Ayub Bachchu with Tahsin performed five songs -- "Prothom Prem-er Moto", "Tumi Aashley Abar", "Megh Balika", "Meye, Tumi Ekono Amaye" and "Oi Mukh-er Koto Hashi". Next the contestants took part in the catwalk round.

Another major attraction was a dance performance by former Lux-Channel i Superstars -- Shanu (2005), Mim (2007) and Chaity (2008) -- with music by Fuad Al Muqtadir. Tansen choreographed the number.

One of the key parts of the event was the Q&A session, where the finalists had to face the judges -- litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq, Asaduzzaman Noor MP [deputy managing director, Asiatic Marketing Communications Ltd]; director [news] of Channel i, Skykh Seraj; former Lux star and noted actress Subarna Mustafa; designer Mahin Khan and actress Afsana Mimi.

Based on the previous three episodes, the winners were selected through a combination of SMS votes and scores given by the judges. At the beginning of the event, the three main judges of the competition -- Syed Shamsul Haq, Subarna Mustafa and Afsana Mimi -- spoke on the qualities that a 'superstar' should have. Munmun was the MC of the show.

TV Watch

Seasoned singer Syed Abdul Hadi on "Amar Ami"



Syed Abdul Hadi on tonight's show.

A CORRESPONDENT

He is considered one of the pioneers of Bangladeshi adhunik music. Starting from the 1960s his journey in Bangla music has been an illustrious one. Among his memorable songs are "Achhen Amar Moktar Achhen Amar Barrister", "Emon-o Tho Prem Hoy", "Janmo Thekey Jolchhi", "Ekbar Jodi Keu Bhalobashto" and more. Syed Abdul Hadi's popularity

crosses generations and musical tastes.

This seasoned singer is the guest on tonight's episode of celebrity talk show "Amar Ami".

Through his conversation with the host of the show, Nowshin, Hadi will share facets of his professional and private life with the TV audience.

The show will be aired on Banglavisión tonight at 9:05 pm. "Amar Ami" is produced by Ananto Zahid.

"Doriya Parer Doulati": Abdullah Al Mamun's last film to hit the big screen

A CORRESPONDENT

Late actor-director-scriptwriter and filmmaker Abdullah Al Mamun's last film "Doriya Parer Doulati" is all set for release. The premiere of the film will be held on January 24 at the Star Cineplex. The film will be released across the country on January 29.

The film features the relentless struggles of a community of labourers living in Hatia, who toil to build a barrage to save

the island from tidal waves.

Dirt-poor Doulati (Poppy) is beautiful and charming. She loves Boli (Manna) and wants to be with him. But her dream of a blissful romance is shattered when goons kill Boli. Hell hath no fury like an enraged woman and Doulati prepares to avenge her lover's death.

Abdullah Al Mamun, Ferdousi Majumdar and Shahidul Alam Sachchu play the other central roles in the film. It is noteworthy that "Doriya Parer Doulati" is

actor Manna's last film as well.

The film is an adaptation of a novel by the late freedom fighter, Kamal Uddin Ahmed, better known as Bangla Kamal to the people of Hatia. Abdullah Al Mamun had written the screenplay. Ali Akbar Rupu and Arman Khan are the music directors of the film.

The film was mostly shot on the island of Hatia as the story is based on the locale. The other spots were Dhonbari in Tangail, Hotapara and also at FDC.



The film features the relentless struggles of a community of labourers living in Hatia Island.



Abdullah Al Mamun in a scene from the film.

AR Rahman stages another win

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Internationally-acclaimed music composer AR Rahman is in line for an Oscar for the second year running.

After storming the world with two Oscars last year for the best song "Jai Ho" and best soundtrack in Danny Boyle-directed "Slumdog Millionaire", Rahman has been shortlisted in the category of best original song for a number in his first Hollywood film "Couples Retreat", according to the official website of the Academy awards.

If he does win when the Oscar winners are announced next month, it will be a very special one for Rahman because his six-year-old son Alim R Ameen has made his debut as a singer in the Tamil song "Na Na" penned by the "Mozart of Madras", artistes Blaaze and Vivian Chaix.

The song will be competing against 61 other songs. Rahman, his son, Blaaze, Chaix, Clinton and Dominic



AR Rahman

have lent their voices to "Na Na".

Directed by Peter Billingsley, the story of "Couples Retreat", featuring Vince Vaughn, Kristin Davis and

others, revolves around four couples trying to reconnect with each other through a vacation in a tropical island.

Meanwhile, Rahman sang "Jai Ho" at a "peace concert"

in Sydney last Sunday which was organised to promote Australia as a safe tourist destination in the wake of a series of attacks on Indians in that country.

Hope for Haiti Now: A Global Benefit for Earthquake Relief

Stars unite to help Haiti in international, multi-network telethon

AP, New York

Grim-faced celebrities and musicians with mournful tunes set the tone for the all-star, international "Hope for Haiti Now: A Global Benefit for Earthquake Relief" telethon, which featured two hours of desperate pleas for an even more-desperate nation. But it ended on a hopeful note, with a buoyant call for Haiti's revival by native son, Wyclef Jean.

"Enough of this moping man, let's rebuild Haiti, let's show 'em how we do it where we come from!" Jean shouted after singing the slow song "Rivers of Babylon," with a Haitian flag around his neck.

It was a stark contrast from the opening of the telecast: no words, simply photos of Haiti's tragic citizens as a backdrop, as Alicia Keys called for the help of angels in sombre tune.

"Can you send me an angel to guide me?" Keys sang in the evening's first performance, from her song "Prelude to a Kiss." There was no audience or applause, allowing the moment to sink in for the millions expected to watch worldwide.

"The Haitian people need our help," said George Clooney, who helped organise the two-hour telecast. "They need to know that they are not alone. They need to know that we still care."

Then, after an impassioned plea from Halle Berry, Bruce Springsteen dedicated a song for Haiti -- "We Shall Overcome."

Since Haiti suffered the devastating earthquake on January 12 that killed more than 200,000 people, the entertainment



Bono, left, and Rihanna perform at the "Hope for Haiti Now: A Global Benefit for Earthquake Relief".

world has responded with an outpouring of charity, from million dollar donations to songs designed to raise money for relief.

On Friday, those efforts became collective as the biggest celebrities from music, film, sports and even politics joined together for the telethon. Stars like Mel Gibson and Reese Witherspoon manned telephone lines while CNN's Anderson Cooper gave reports from Haiti. Heartbreaking video showed Haitians buried in rubble and badly injured, with tears and overwhelming sorrow etched on their faces.

Most of the musical performances were downbeat, emotional songs. Kid Rock, Keith Urban and Sheryl Crow sang "Lean On Me." Beyoncé, with Coldplay's Chris Martin backing her on piano, revised her hit "Halo" with new lyrics: "Haiti we can see your halo, we pray you won't fade away."

Jay-Z, Rihanna and U2's Bono and The

Edge debuted a new song, "Stranded (Haiti Mon Amour)."

The telethon was featured on all the major networks and channels such as MTV, BET, Bravo, PBS, Fuse, CNN, and more than a dozen others. It was also streamed live on sites like YouTube and MySpace.

The Clinton Bush Haiti Fund and United Nations World Food Programme have joined the list of relief organisations that will benefit from "Hope for Haiti Now," which also includes Oxfam America, Partners in Health, the Red Cross, UNICEF, and Yele Haiti Foundation. Proceeds from "Hope for Haiti Now" will be split evenly among each organisation's individual funds for Haiti earthquake relief.

"Hope for Haiti Now" is the most widely distributed telethon in history, both internationally and across media platforms.