

Amitabh to turn superhero

Animated series Astra Force announced

Amitabh Bachchan will turn superhero in Graphic India and Disney Channel India's 52-episode animated series "Astra Force". A funny and fast-paced, action-adventure series filled with laughs and thrills, it tells the story of a mythical hero from a distant world, who was stranded on Earth millions of years ago after an epic space battle.

Said Siddharth Roy Kapur, Managing Director, Disney India, "We believe in showcasing great stories with compelling characters that are loved by our audiences. It is imperative to get the local texture right for any story to resonate and emotionally connect with the viewers." Sharad Devarajan Co-Founder and CEO, Graphic India, added, "Creating this new animated superhero with Mr Amitabh Bachchan is a perfect tribute to a person who is a real-life hero to all of us."



About his new role, Big B and superheroes in general, Big B said, "Animated superheroes have not been seen to any large extent in India, primarily because we have an abundance of them in all our mythological tales; tales we have all grown up with. The idea behind Astra is to construct a fresh superhero and see where it goes. With so many stories to narrate, India has a hidden wealth waiting to be conceptualised. The idea is novel and pioneering in a sense, and we hope to put it across for viewers by 2017 early months. My growing up years were devoid of TV and so, of course, Superman comics were a rage, as were the stories through comics of Roy Rogers, Lone Ranger and Peter Pan."

Source: TOI

MONSOON MUSINGS

"Make-up does not define beauty" ... Sporshia



NAHIN TAHER

Orchita Sporshia has come a long way in show business with her dimpled smile, great acting and infectious energetic persona. One of the most in-demand young stars of the small screen, she believes beauty is much more than skin-deep and offers some beauty tips to beat the monsoon humidity.

"For me beauty is a natural look, and cannot be defined by make-up. Although it's the monsoon--the harsh rays of the sun require a BB cream for protection. People who have oily skin should try and avoid moisturisers."

"Unfortunately my own skin is very oily so I use a toner at night to keep it clean. One of the main ways to keep your skin looking good during the monsoon is to prevent oiliness. So I always keep a face wash or toner handy in my bag to remove the dirt off my face."

"Sunburn can considerably damage one's skin. People who work in front of the camera, lights and sun should go to the beauty salon once a month to keep their skin smooth. It's more of a preventive step to keep it free from completely getting burned. After getting out of such beauty parlour sessions, I feel like I have come out of a washing machine (laughs)."

"Even though I am not a make-up freak, I have to apply it because of my profession. It is very important that one carries one's own make-up which should ideally be branded. No one should apply random make-up because our facial skin is very sensitive and low-quality make-up can cause rashes very easily at this time of the year."

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

RAMADAN CHRONICLES

"Jilapi, halim my favourite items" ... Nirob

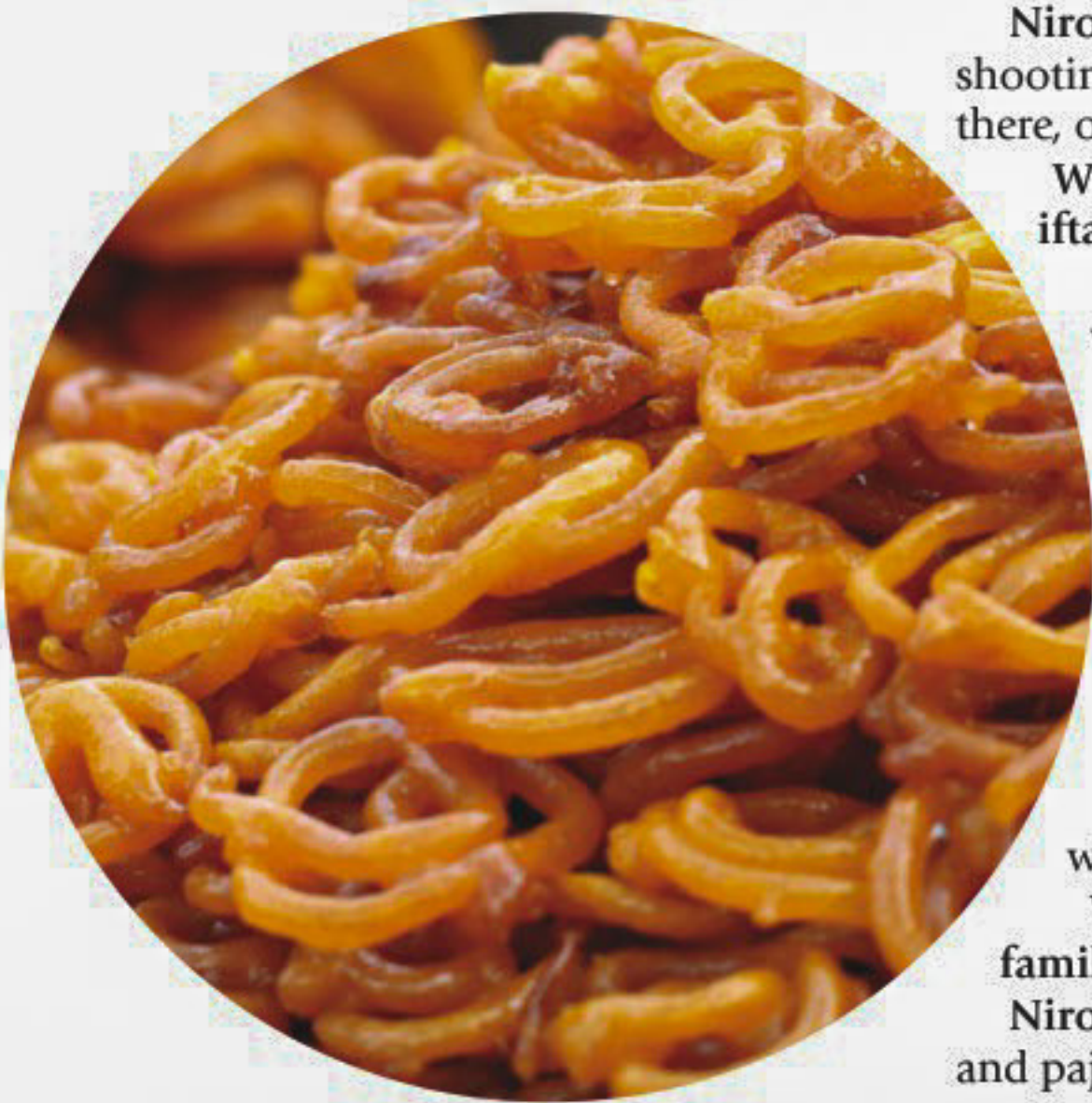
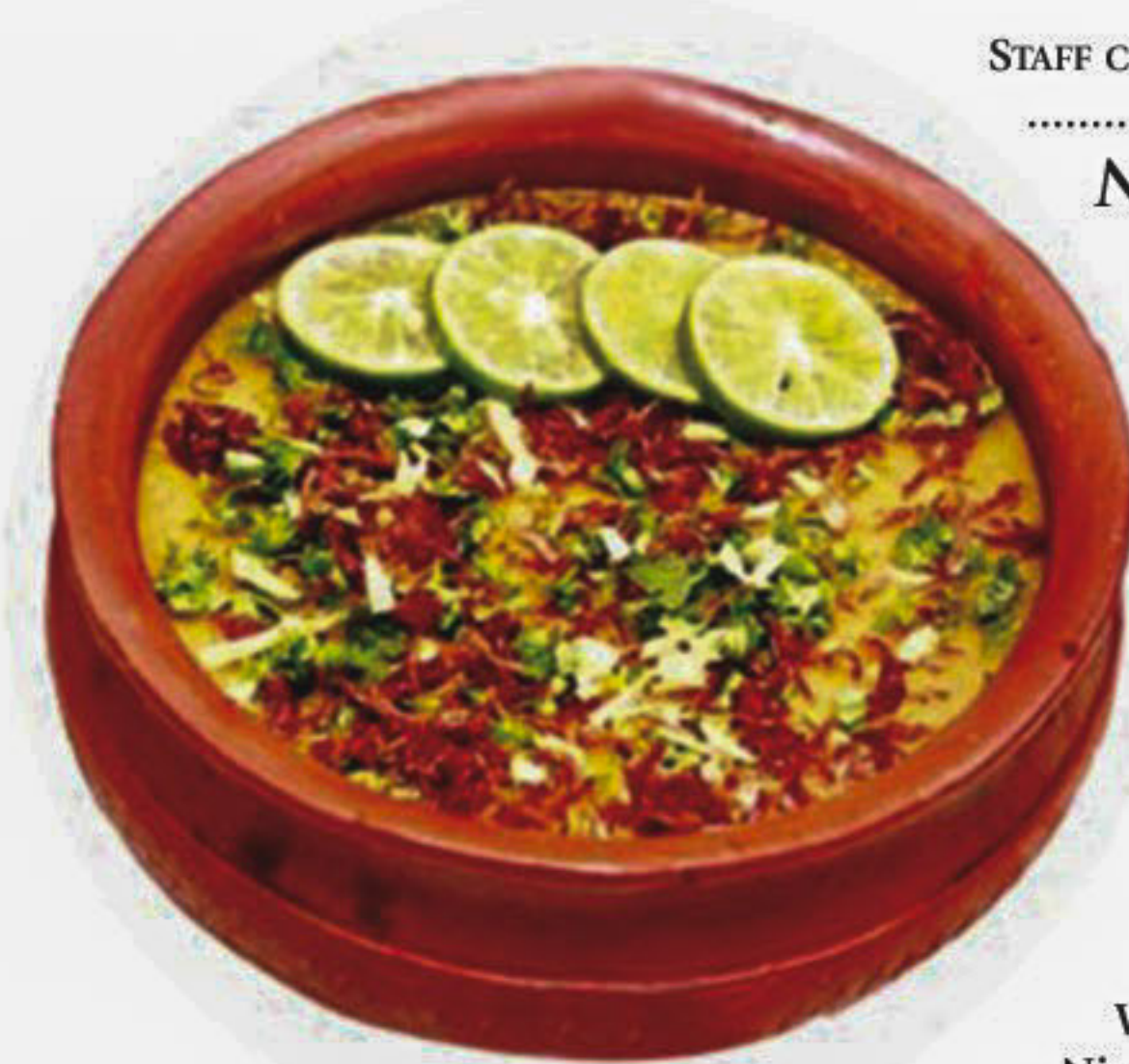


Drama serial "Rozadar" on Ekushey TV

A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Rozadar" will go on air daily at 6.30 pm on Ekushey Television during the month of Ramadan. Written by Iqbal Khandker and directed by Dipu Hazra, the serial focuses on a family's common practices during Ramadan.

Like previous years, this year the serial casts Dr. Enamul Haq in the lead role. The cast also includes Nithor Mahbub, Pritu Raj, Parvez Akter, Shikha and Irin among others.



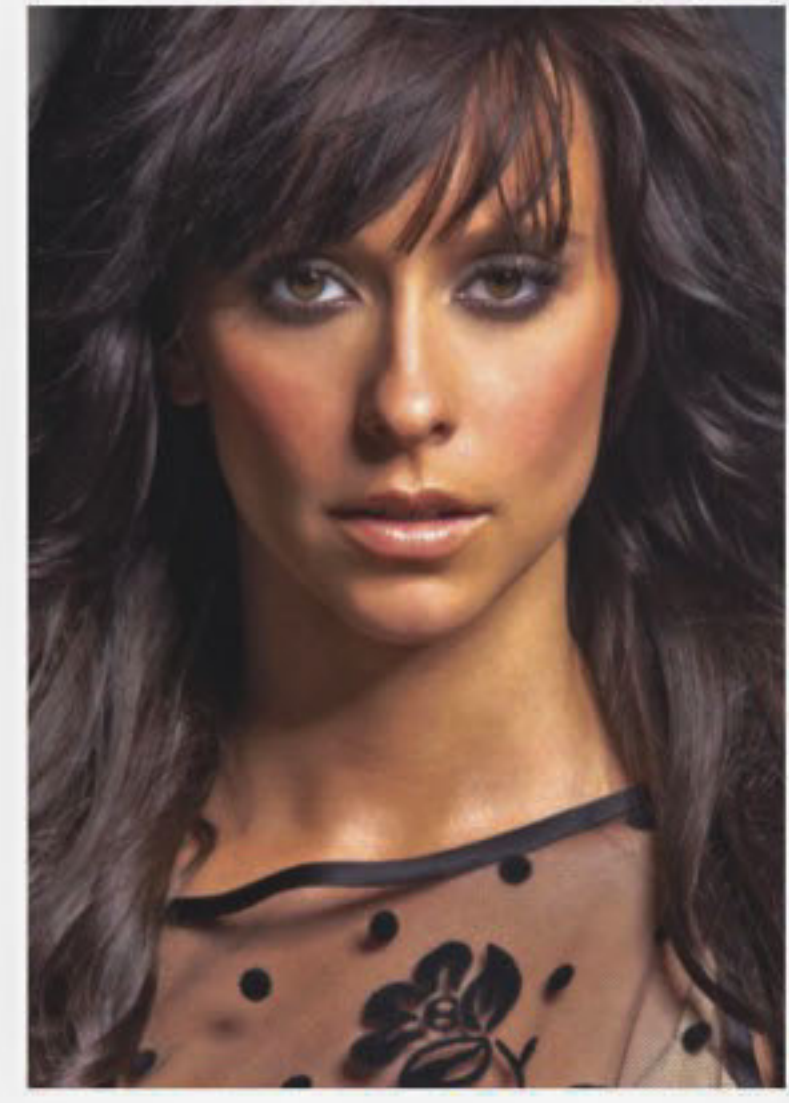
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nirob is one of the busiest and popular faces on celluloid of the time. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the model-turned-actor spoke about Ramadan, his favourite iftar, Eid shopping and more.

Excerpts:

- When did you first start fasting?**
Nirob: From an early age. I developed the habit from my family.
- Where do you usually break the fast?**
Nirob: It depends on my work. If I'm in shooting spot during iftar time, I break it there, otherwise, it is usually at home.
- What are your favourite items on the iftar table?**
Nirob: My mother spends nearly the whole day preparing different delicacies for me. I can't think anything except jilapi and halim, though.
- Have you begun your Eid shopping yet?**
Nirob: No, but I will probably start looking soon.
- Will this Ramadan and Eid be different from previous years?**
Nirob: Yes, because I will observe it with my newly-wed wife this time.
- Who does the Eid shopping for the family?**
Nirob: Mostly me. I love wearing panjabi and pajama on Eid day.

IT'S TRUE!



Jennifer Love Hewitt, known widely as an actress-producer and TV director, had her debut music album "Love Songs" (1992) launched at the age of 12, funded by Japanese music and video game company Meldac. The album was released exclusively in Japan, where Hewitt became a pop star. She signed a deal with Atlantic record, but after her two albums with the label failed to make the charts, she did not return to the music industry for three years. She has recorded soundtracks for her movies and TV shows and released a fourth album, but has been inactive in music since 2004.

French version of a Tagore song

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flowers sway softly, rivers flow gently and cuckoos coo sweetly -- all these rhythmic imageries of nature makes their way to a Tagore song "Phul-e Phul-e Dhol-e Dhol-e". The popular Bangla song that the Nobel Laureate wrote, inspired by a Scottish tune in the 19th century, deserves a Western version.

Recently, Subir Das along with his musical troupe came up with the idea of making a French version of the song at Fête de la Musique, a worldwide music festival observed every year at Alliance Française on June 21. The troupe did a performance of the song at the music festival observed at the capital's Dhanmondi Branch of Alliance Française. This is the first time anyone has made the French version of any song written and tuned by Rabindranath Tagore.

At the initiative of Subir, a student of Alliance Française, his French language teacher Monsieur Khaja Ahmed translated the song into French so that it could be rendered by Subir and his classmates. They rendered the song before a houseful audi-

ence at Alliance Française gallery on June 13. Though every year the Fête de la Musique is observed on June 21, Dhaka observed it in advance due to the approaching Ramadan.

As French is a very lyrical language, the song sounded mellifluous, drawing a big round of applause from the audience. Interestingly, the song was immediately shared by internationally-famed mime maestro Partha Pratim Majumder from his Facebook page. Intrigued by the version, Partha Pratim's son Nicolas Majumder further worked on it. He added a piano track and other necessary arrangements to make the piece more complete.

Talking to this correspondent, Subir said, "It is quite thrilling for us to do what nobody else had done for more than a century. To the best of our knowledge, no French version had been made for any Rabindra Sangeet before this. What impresses me most about a Tagore song is its universality. If a Western child is stunned by the sight of flowers leaning against each other in a gentle breeze, the song is for him. I hope to sing the French version of more Tagore songs in future too."



Subir (3-R) leads the chorus at AFD.

Why did Emma Stone turn down "Ghostbusters"?

"Who ya gonna call?" Not Emma Stone, apparently. The actress, who played Gwen Stacy in Sony's two "Amazing Spider-Man" films, told the Wall Street Journal that she turned down a role in the studio's forthcoming all-female "Ghostbusters" reboot because she had misgivings about committing to another tentpole.

"The script was really funny," Stone said. "It just didn't feel like the right time for me. A franchise is a big commitment -- it's a whole thing. I think maybe I need a minute before I dive back into that water."

She pointed out that she might be interested in joining the cast of a blockbuster at some point if it meant playing a character that's outside of her wheelhouse, like a villain.

"That would be amazing," said Stone, who earned an Oscar nomination for 2014's Birdman. "I would love that."

Director Paul Feig's "Ghostbusters" reboot stars Kristen Wiig and Melissa McCarthy, and is set for release on July 22, 2016.



Source: THR

"Lux Style File" on Banglavisision

A CORRESPONDENT

"Lux Style File", a programme featuring Eid fashion trends, will air every day at 7pm on Banglavisision.

The show focuses on different sides of latest fashion and guide the audiences about what is in and what is out. Moreover, it will showcase outfits from different designers, fashion houses and update the audiences about markets. The show will also feature celebrities and their styles.

Produced by Reza Islam, the show has been jointly hosted by Sabila Nur and Tanaz Riya.

