

# AHMED HASAN SUNNY

## Singer, songwriter, rebel

Ahmed Hasan Sunny, a rising star in the music industry, has seen a rapid ascent to fame. Yet he holds steadfast to his artistic principles and personal identity, unruffled by the allure of fame or commercial success. He drops by **The Daily Star**'s studio for a brief chat.

ZARIN TASNIM

What is in store for the audience this year?

My latest song, *Adomer Afeem*, featured in Mohammad Touqir Islam's web series *Sinpaat*. The track, penned by Omor Masum and composed by Nabarun Bose, holds a special place for me as it explores a rap-style structure using the local dialect of Rajshahi, a unique venture in my career.

Additionally, I've got a lineup of three or four more songs set to debut in various web-series and film, including Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's *Last Defenders of Monogamy* and Robiul Alam Robi's *Forget me Not*. There are more projects in the pipeline, but details will surface once release dates are confirmed. I'm also diving into the world of web-series creation, but it's in the early stages, so I'll share more when everything's set in stone.

How do you perceive the relationship between fame and personal identity, especially in the context of your artistic journey?

I have a relationship with art. This relationship is my interpretation towards life. It has nothing to do with fame or commercial aspect. It's about how I deal with art. This is the outcome of my art work. Of course, it feels good when people can relate to it. I am not targeting the masses. Commercial success can sometimes threaten an artiste's authenticity, but for me, while it matters financially, it doesn't affect my pursuit of art. If people didn't listen or like my songs, would I have stopped singing? Of course not. So, that's about it.

What principles guide your creative decisions?

I believe there has to be some sort of truth in it. You have to feel connected. Otherwise, how will I connect with someone else? I am the one who is trying to find the balance. So, you are connecting with me and the work I'm doing.

How do you envision using your platform

to inspire and provoke thought in your audience, beyond the realm of entertainment?

Reflecting on the individuals who've positively impacted my life, I'm driven to emulate their kindness by becoming one of those guiding figures. In my artistic pursuits, I see the political influence that

artistes wield and recognise the ongoing issues like the plight of Palestine that have long concerned me.

This sentiment isn't new; I've held the Palestinian flag for 11 years, and recent events have further solidified my perspective on the need to address such conflicts through concerts or initiatives like *To Gaza, From Dhaka*. While facing resistance from sponsors wanting to avoid sensitive topics like genocide in favour of promoting peace, I believe in confronting these issues directly. Despite the challenges, the goal remains to inspire goodness in others, to remind that life gains meaning through the positive actions we undertake for others.

Could you offer insights into the artistic direction you intend to explore in your future projects?

I want to make films, and do music. I want to do both.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

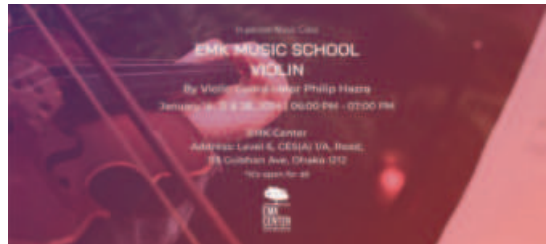
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### OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



**Girls are Funny- Comedy Open Mic**  
January 16 15pm  
Naveed's Comedy Club



**EMK Music School: Violin**  
January 14, 21 and 28 16pm- 7pm  
EMK Center, Gulshan Avenue



**Morter Orosnik**  
January 17 17:30pm  
Studio Theatre hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

### 1-MINUTE REVIEW

## Unfurling of journey in the wake of fading memories

Imagine having to live the rest of your life knowing that you'll most definitely have to relinquish your memories to fate's cruelty. Shailaja (played immaculately by Shafali Shah), the protagonist of the film *Three of Us*, therefore has to then not only accept this piercingly agonising fact of being diagnosed with dementia but proceed with having to uplift her willpower as she keeps on living.

Yet, her choice to return to her hometown after years in her husband's shadow seems like a belated move, which she claims for herself after years of servitude to her family. She also decides so after discovering her diagnosis.



Albeit produced in an au naturel setting, the film boasts a gamut of emotions further supplemented by actors Jaideep Ahlawat and Swanand Kirkire as the other two of the three.

### WHAT'S PLAYING

## I Am The Walrus



When John Lennon found out that schools offered classes dedicated to discerning the meanings behind The Beatles' lyrics, he decided to pen *I Am The Walrus*—a song intentionally crafted to resist interpretation. To infuse his composition with a sense of absurdity, Lennon drew inspiration from psychedelic experiences. He revealed in a 1980 *Playboy* interview that the first two lines of the song were jotted down while on two separate acid trips.

Despite the deliberate inclusion of seemingly nonsensical phrases like "yellow matter custard" and "crabapple fishwife," Lennon's attempt to create a song devoid of meaning proved challenging. Today, a quick Google search reveals an impressive array of fan interpretations and conspiracy theories dedicated to the bizarre lyrics of the song *I Am The Walrus*.

### TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix  
Killer Soup



Amazon Prime  
Napoleon



Hulu  
Self Reliance



Disney plus  
The Incredible Pol Farm



Apple TV+  
Killers of the Flower Moon



### STYLE STATEMENT

## ZEENAT AMAN

Zeena Aman, an iconic figure of her era, captivates effortlessly in a soft pink saree elegantly complemented by a pearl bead necklace, mirroring the delicate intricacies of the saree's border. Her ensemble exudes grace and sophistication, enhanced by the subtle touch of a pink pair of sunglasses, adding a dash of playful chic to her elegance. With each poised step, Zeena Aman epitomises an aura of grace, blending vintage charm with contemporary style, solidifying her status as a timeless fashion icon.

