



All the winners with the chief guest, Asaduzzaman Noor & CEO of SCB, Abrar A. Anwar

# CELEBRATING LIFE 2016

## A TRIBUTE TO TRUE TALENTS

*By far, Celebrating Life is the only competition in Bangladesh dedicated to bringing out the unsung talents from across the nation in terms of films, photography and lyrics. It is also one of the most monumental competitions for artists; not only in terms of size, but also in terms of the prize. A simple yet pragmatic practice, the initiative has proven to be a success over the years. Nurturing the youth and helping them restrain from radicalism, this year's theme "Youth in Change", promised to do that and much more. With all the previous success of Celebrating Life, this year's gala night was yet another milestone set in the field of cultural contests.*



Abu Nayeem & his troupe

The grand gala was held on the 22nd of November, 2016 at the International Convention City, Bashundhara. Even before the execution of the event, the enthusiastic crowd was abuzz and it definitely added to the aura of the arena. The occasion brought along citizens from different walks of life, who all shared a common cultural interest. The event was dedicated to Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain, the youth who set an iconic example by sacrificing his life to save his friends' during the Gulshan terrorist attack. He "celebrated life" in his own heroic manner and is now a symbol in Bangladesh and beyond.

With the mesmerizing choir by Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, Ferdous Ara

and Sadya Afreen Mallick, accompanied by the dance performances of Samina Hossain Prema, Abu Nayeem and Rachel Priyanka, the audience was truly enthralled. To add to the hype, prominent personalities, thespian Ferdausi Majumdar, renowned composer Alam Khan and veteran cinematographer Reza Latif were honoured with lifetime achievement awards during the gala. When they were on stage, it was soon graced by the presence of many legendary figures from the entertainment industry like Runa Laila, Babita, Ferdousi Rahman, Aly Zaker and Sara Zaker along with the chief guest, Minister of Cultural Affairs, Asaduzzaman Noor, CEO of Standard Chartered Bangladesh, Abrar A. Anwar and the

Editor of The Daily Star, Mahfuz Anam. The iconic Bobita did not miss the opportunity to say a few words on behalf of the legendary Ferdausi Majumdar. She mentioned that on her visit to Kolkata with Satyajit Ray, he praised Ferdausi Majumdar mentioning his willingness to work with such a versatile actress. Even Aly Zaker stated that the chemistry he shared with Ferdausi Majumdar during the plays Tempest and Macbeth were remarkable and Sara Zaker said that she always looked up to Ferdausi Majumdar and appreciated her calibre. Runa Laila also stole the mic to say a few words on behalf of Alam Khan and in the process, perhaps stole the hearts of the audience



Samina Hossain Prema & her troupe



Rachel Priyanka & her troupe