



Sadia Islam Mou



Aupee Karim



Bidya Sinha Mim



Zakia Bari Mamo

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Mita Haque

showered with best wishes on her birthday

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Mita Haque is a name who has been captivating audiences worldwide with her rendition of Tagore songs. Yesterday marked the singer's birthday. Her daughter, Farhin Khan Joyita informed *The Daily Star* that like every year, her loved ones visited her since early morning and continued through the day.

Born into a musical family, the noted artiste received her training from maestros such as the late Wahidul Huq, Sanjida Khatun and Ustad Mohammad Hossain Khan. She has been a regular performer in the Bangladesh TV



and radio since 1977. At present, she is the Highest Grade (Bishesh) artist of the National Radio (Betar) and National TV. Haque is the Founder Director and Teacher of the Music Training and Performance Group, Shurotirtha and is the Head of the Department of Rabindra Sangeet at Chhayanaut in Dhaka. She is also the Former General Secretary and incumbent Vice-President of the Rabindra Sangeet Shommelon Parishad. In 2017, she and writer Hayat Mamud received the Rabindra Puraskar from Bangla Academy.

Joyita also informed that Haque's health has improved, and she is back home. Her admirers showered her with their love and wishes over social media as well. *The Daily Star* family wishes her a healthy and prosperous year ahead.

From runways to reels

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Before enthralling viewers as compelling characters on screen, many successful actors find their way into showbiz through beauty pageants. As simple as it may sound, many beautiful faces have fallen through the cracks over the years, and the true survivors remaining in the industry today have done so through talent, determination, and hard work.

The first televised beauty pageant in the country was set off by renowned journalist Shahadat Chowdhury in 1998. Titled *Ananda Bichitra Photo Shundori*, the pageant gave rise to many famous stars.

light over Poppy, who has since won the National Film Award thrice.

Amongst other successful ladies who started off with beauty pageants, Sadia Islam Mou remains an admired model and actor.

After running successfully for several years, *Ananda Bichitra Photo Shundori* gave way to *Anandadhara Photogenic*, a show that brought recognition to Aupee Karim. Her rise up the ladder was swift, and soon she became a beloved actor on television and films.

Farah Ruma is also one such individual that found fame as a model and TV actor. After enjoying a successful career for years, the artiste has stayed out of the public eye for some time to focus on family. The same goes for Mila Hossain and award winning actor Tinni. Mila Hossain left her acting career to start a new life with her husband in the USA, while Tinni has chosen to stay out of the limelight for the time being.

In recent years, the beauty pageant changed its branding to *Lux Channel i Superstar*. Each season of the incredibly popular programme is highly anticipated, and has paved paths for many fresh faces. The first contestant to win



Mehazabein

the show is Shanarei Devi Shanu, who is a busy TV actor these days. "For those that have no connections in the industry, beauty pageants become a great first step to bring you closer to your goals," she says.

Zakia Bari Mamo, also a winner of the show, has gone on to play roles in films

such as *Daruchini Deep* and numerous tele-fictions. The actor's biggest accomplishment today is a National Film Award, marking a new milestone in a serendipitous journey.

Before showcasing her acting prowess in *Amar Ache Jol* and other cinematic hits, Bidya Sinha Mim's beginnings as a star stemmed from winning the pageant show. The National Film Award winning actor reveals that she was able to come this far by participating in *Lux Channel i Superstar*.

Mehazabein Chowdhury, who is also a winner of the pageant, is enjoying phenomenal stardom. Over the years, she has successfully made a mark, not only as a beautiful face but also as a talented actor. Winner of the Meril Prothom Alo award, Mehazabein has now added tele-fictions and tele-films to her list, which revolve more around social issues. "Beauty pageants open doors to a multitude of opportunities for aspiring artistes. Especially *Lux Channel i Superstar* is a wonderful platform," she says.

Mim Mantasha is the latest name to be added to the long legacy of pageant winning beauties. She has also turned to acting.

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan roots for women empowerment

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

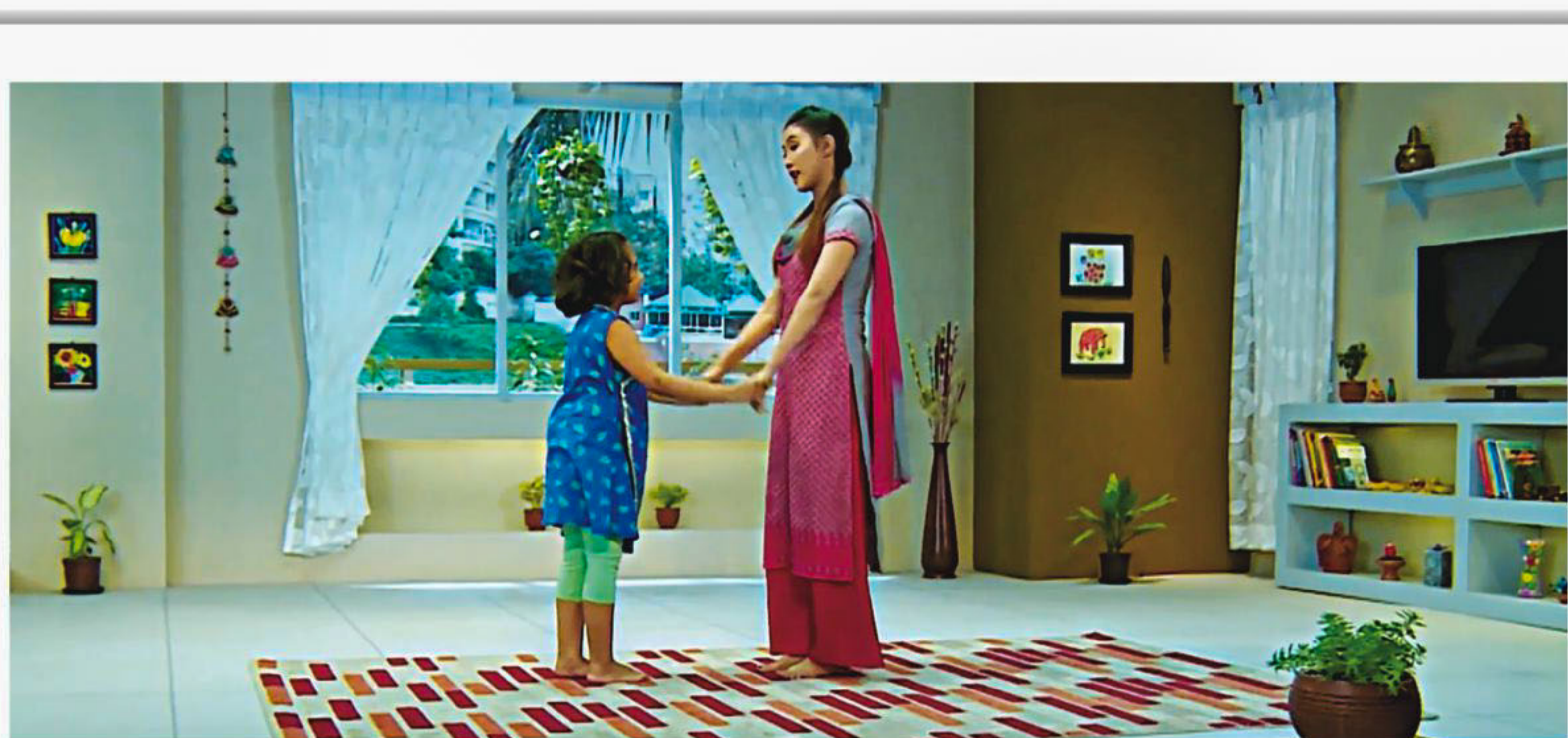
Aishwarya Rai Bachchan was present at the inauguration of the 31st Women Entrepreneur's Exhibition in Mumbai.

Speaking about the importance of economic empowerment of women in the country, Aishwarya said, "Economic empowerment of women is a national agenda, and by supporting this exhibition, I have the honour in supporting the economic empowerment of our women."

"For more than 30 years, the Women Entrepreneurs' Exhibition hosted by IMC Ladies' Wing has positioned itself as a prime destination for fresh, new talented entrepreneurs who need a platform to launch them."

The popular actor felt privileged to represent the women of our times, the burgeoning entrepreneurs, and future powerful and promising stalwarts.

Meanwhile, fans are eagerly waiting to see her film *Gulab Jamun*, which will also star Abhishek Bachchan. *Gulab Jamun* will mark the real-life couple's first project this decade.



'Duronto Shomoy' is aired five days a week, from Sunday to Thursday at 7am, 11:30 am and 5:30 pm.

Fun learning with 'Duronto Shomoy'

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Good news for parents who often face difficulties to inspire children to eat vegetables, exercise and study! Duronto TV's *Duronto Shomoy* is now here to make parents' lives easier.

Duronto Shomoy is aired five days a week, from Sunday to Thursday at 7am, 11:30 am and 5:30 pm. Tonni, Prema, Akash, Shoma, Hridita, Afra, Parisha, Ramisa and Anfas are the young participants working on the show. The first season is currently on air and the cast and crew have already started filming for the second season.

In the first season, Tonni, Prema, Akash,

Shoma played the role of 'khalamonis' (aunts) and 'chachus' (uncles) of the kids Afra, Parisha, Ramisa and Anfas. Together, they learn something new every day with stories, songs, dances, and laughter.

The show has different segments. In one segment, kids are taught unique ways to exercise -- where they try to imitate a camel, while simultaneously learning yoga poses. Sometimes, they sing and recite poetry during this exercise segment.

In another segment, kids learn how to draw and paper crafts. Shadow puppets narrate exciting tales in a storytelling session, through which children learn facts and histories of different

places, animals and many other subjects.

In the second season, kids will participate in role-playing. Different professions such as traffic police, farmers, dancers, will be assigned to the kids to learn about, with an aim to teach them the worth of all jobs. It will also help them be respectful towards each other.

Produced by Partho Protim Halder and Jamal Hossain Abir, *Duronto Shomoy* has received positive feedback so far. It shows that the process of learning is a beautiful journey. Children should be encouraged to watch *Duronto Shomoy* so that they have a positive attitude towards learning and a thirst for knowledge.

Ozzy drops his first single

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Azraf R Ahmed, better known by his stage-name Ozzy, has released his first single through GP Music. The track is called *Lose Control*, the song is a very fluent debut for the promising rapper. Ozzy's father, renowned musician Shafin Ahmed, has voiced his full support for his son's musical prowess. "Ozzy is into Hip-Hop, and I know that he is writing very well. Do listen to his single, and give him feedback as well," said Shafin on a video he shared on his Facebook profile.

