



Kendrick Lamar dominated Grammy awards with five trophies.



PHOTO: AFP Beyoncé receives the Best Country Album award from Taylor Swift.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## GRAMMY 2025

### Beyoncé makes history, Carpenter beats Taylor

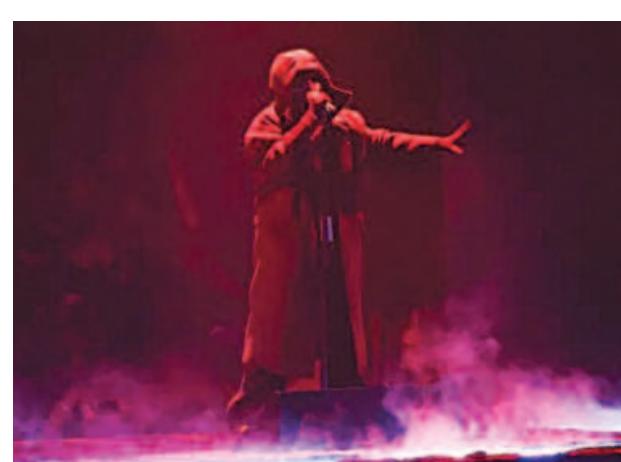
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 2024 Grammy Awards delivered a night filled with unexpected turns, groundbreaking wins, and surprises. Beyoncé once again proved her dominance, making history as the first Black woman to win Best Country Album for *Cowboy Carter*. She also claimed the evening's most prestigious honour, Album of the Year, becoming the first Black woman in over two decades to secure the award.

For a moment, the global icon stood still, her face reflecting pure shock. As the audience erupted in applause, Beyoncé glanced around, seemingly trying to confirm what she had just heard. Her stunned reaction, captured on camera, quickly became one of the night's most memorable moments.

"Oh my God," she exclaimed, visibly overwhelmed, as Taylor Swift—who



The Weeknd performs at Grammys after boycotting it for four years.

PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER POLK



Shakira wins Best Latin Pop Album award.

PHOTO: AP

previously won the award in 2010 for *Fearless*—presented her with the trophy for her genre-blending country album, released in March 2024. Dressed in a shimmering gold paisley gown, Beyoncé spoke with deep emotion, expressing her immense gratitude for being able to continue pursuing her passion after so many years.

Kendrick Lamar emerged as the night's biggest winner, taking home five Grammys, including Record of the Year and Song of the Year for *Not Like Us*, his fiery diss track aimed at Drake that had already ignited conversations

across the music world. While some artists basked in glory, others faced disappointment. Taylor Swift, a Grammy favourite, left the ceremony without a single win. Meanwhile, The Weeknd—who had previously vowed to boycott the awards—marked a turning point in his stance, officially ending his protest against the Recording Academy. He delivered a powerful performance of *Cry for Me* alongside Playboy Carti, signaling a fresh chapter in his relationship with the Grammys.

However, perhaps the biggest shock of the night came when Sabrina Carpenter took over Taylor Swift to win Best Pop Vocal Album for *Short n' Sweet*, a decision that sent social media into a frenzy. The singer also won Best pop solo performance for *Espresso*. Swift, ever the gracious competitor, applauded Carpenter's victory, showing no signs of tension—at least in the public eye.

Many musicians used the Grammy platform to shine a spotlight on social issues. After winning Best Latin Pop Album for *Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran*, Shakira, who made a triumphant return to the Grammy stage after 15 years, dedicated her speech to

immigrants, passionately declaring, "You're loved and worth it, and I'll fight with you."

Meanwhile, Best Pop Duo Performance winners Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars took their moment to advocate for trans rights.

Former US President Jimmy Carter made history at 100 years old as the oldest Grammy winner ever, while The Beatles secured their first nominations since 1997, further cementing their lasting influence on music.

The ceremony also paid homage to the late Quincy Jones with a moving tribute. Will Smith, making his first major awards show appearance since his infamous Oscars 'slap' incident, introduced the segment, calling Jones "one of the most groundbreaking and influential figures of our time." The tribute featured stellar performances by Janelle Monáe, Herbie Hancock, Cynthia Erivo, and Stevie Wonder. Wonder closed the segment with an emotional rendition of *We Are the World*, accompanied by a choir wearing special LA sweaters in remembrance of schools lost to the fires.

Coldplay's Chris Martin led the In Memoriam segment, honouring the lives of late icons such as Liam Payne, Kris Kristofferson, Cissy Houston, Marianne Faithfull, Bob Newhart, Wayne Osmond, and Sergio Mendes.

Actors' Equity raises concerns over mob impositions on actresses



Actors' Equity Bangladesh has expressed deep concerns over increasing restrictions imposed on female artistes and performers.

The issue gained attention after prominent actors including Mehazabien Chowdhury, Pori Moni, and Apu Biswas encountered disruptions while attending events such as restaurant and showroom inaugurations in recent weeks.

During its third annual general meeting, held last Friday at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, the guild issued the statement with unanimous approval from its members.

The guild claimed that similar obstructions have also affected actors during shooting schedules and overseas travel. "If any actor is involved in criminal activities, they should be prosecuted under the country's existing laws with proper evidence. However, unnecessary harassment must cease, as it will only hinder the free and fearless practice of art and culture," the statement said.

They have called upon the government and relevant authorities to address this matter urgently.

## Abul Hayat's silver-screen return showcases harsh reality of old-age homes

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Ekushey Padak-winning actor, playwright, and director Abul Hayat is making a return to the silver screen after two years. The film, titled *Daymukti*, directed by Badiul Alam Khokon, is set to be released on February 7.

*Daymukti* tells the story of an old-age home. The veteran artiste spoke to The Daily Star regarding the project. "At this stage of life, roles like these appeal

to veteran artistes like us," shared the actor.

In the film, viewers will see me speaking out against old age homes. I want people to stay happily together in harmony, with families, because unity is a blessing. However, many elderly parents are sent to old age homes in their final years, which is not right."

Meanwhile, Abul Hayat has recently appeared in a new

advertisement and will soon begin shooting for a new drama.

He shared, "I have been selective with my work for quite some time, and I continue to be so. At this age, travelling long distances for shoots is not feasible, as my body would not support it. That is why I prefer locations nearby."

Alongside acting, Abul Hayat has been a renowned author for many years. His latest book, *Robi Poth*, was published this year and is available at the Amar Ekushey Book Fair. "It took me a long time to complete this book. It will make me happy if readers enjoy it. They can get their copies from the book fair."

## 'Squid Game' star Lee Joo-Sil passes away at 81

Lee Joo Sil, who portrayed Park Mal-soon, the mother of undercover detective Hwang Joon ho (played by Wi Ha-joon) and stepmother of Hwang In-ho (played by Lee Byung-hun) in the second season of Netflix's dystopian drama *Squid Game*, passed away at her family home in Uijeongbu, South Korea, on February 2. She was 81 years old and had been battling stomach cancer since November 2024.

Previously, Lee was diagnosed with stage-three breast cancer in her fifties, with doctors giving her less than a year to live. However, she was declared cancer-free 13 years later.

In *Squid Game*, Lee's character was beloved for her warm and



caring nature, often carrying the burden of guilt over the strained relationships within her family.

Lee Joo Sil's filmography includes notable roles in the 2016 horror film *Train to Busan* and the 2020 K-drama *The Uncanny Counter*.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?



## CHHADER CHHOBI Morshum 2

After the successful conclusion of *Chhader Chobi: Morshum* – Season 1, its next chapter Season 2, is set to kick off with another immersive cinematic experience.

This season begins with *Perfumed Nightmare* by Kidlat Tahimik, a landmark film in Filipino early independent cinema, which emerged as a counterpoint to conventional mainstream filmmaking and colonial dominance. With its unique narrative techniques and unconventional storytelling, this film raises critical social and political questions. The Filipino independent cinema movement of the 1970s and 1980s, as recognised by global critics, continues to shape discourse on identity, colonialism, and cultural heritage.

DATE: TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 4

TIME: 6:30 PM

VENUE: RATHARHOOD INITIATIVES LIMITED ROOFTOP  
101, INDIRA ROAD, FLOOR 8/A (LEFT GATE), SHER E BANGLA NAGAR, DHAKA-1215