

TIMELESS TAGORE

A celebration of Rabindranath's artistic legacy

This year's theme, Timeless Tagore, celebrated the literary genius of Rabindranath Tagore through the profound beauty of South Asia's traditional dance forms, a true testament to the enduring power of art to transcend generations.

Maya Bengal in Motion was born from a bold vision to provide a transformative platform for local artists to showcase their talents, fuel their growth, and connect with audiences beyond borders. It is a celebration not only of dance but the limitless potential within Bangladesh's creative community.

This year, the event delved deep into the soul of Tagore's works, breathing new life into his timeless melodies and universal messages through the language of dance. The evening, meticulously curated by Anisul Islam Hero, Director of Srishti Cultural Centre, opened with a stirring performance by Anisul Islam Hero and Mehbooba Mahnoor Chandni, setting the tone for a night of pure artistic

In celebration of International Dance Day, MW Bangladesh magazine and Maya, the natural wellness brand of Square Toiletries Ltd, came together to present the second edition of Maya Bengal in Motion on 25 April at the Aloki Convention Centre, Dhaka.



brilliance.

The stage came alive with performances by some of Bangladesh's most celebrated artists including Sadia Islam Mou, Sabrina Shafi Nisa, Benazir Salam's troupe, Samina Husain Prema, Anika Kabir Shokh, Tamanna Rahman and their ensembles, each weaving the magic of Tagore's philosophy with the passion of modern expression.

The evening also featured heartfelt reflections from visionary leaders Anjan Chowdhury, Managing Director of Square Toiletries Limited, and Rumana Chowdhury, Editor and Publisher of MW Bangladesh. Their words resonated deeply, highlighting the transformative power of art to inspire, unite, and empower future generations.

Throughout the evening, the audiences were not merely spectators, they were part of a shared journey, uplifted by the spirit of Tagore and the limitless possibilities that his legacy continues to inspire.

Maya Bengal in Motion: Timeless Tagore was a powerful reminder that while times change true genius remains eternal and with the right platform, creativity knows no bounds.

By Maisha Tarannum Iqbal
Photo: Shahrear Kabir Heemel

BENGAL *in* Motion Rumana Chowdhury's ode to HERITAGE AND ART



In a time when we often find ourselves lost in the fast pace of life, where convenience tends to overshadow culture, Rumana Chowdhury strives to preserve and celebrate art and tradition by bringing it into our everyday lives. A designer with a timeless vision, Chowdhury is renowned for her fashion label, WARAH, where she focuses on Khaadi, Muslin, and Jamdani, creating enduring masterpieces that highlight local fabrics and honour our rich heritage.

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They say a creative mind's thirst for creation never ends, and this is especially true for Rumana Chowdhury. Not only has she been a dominant force in the fashion world for years, but she also plans to go beyond mere fabric and form.

MW Bangladesh, where Chowdhury leads as both publisher and editor, is yet another platform where her vision shines.

"I aimed to develop something that was not limited to fashion. Something that enabled me to connect with heritage in a more nuanced, vibrant manner," Chowdhury shared, explaining her vision.



that honoured our rich culture and heritage.

Now in its second year, Bengal in Motion, presented by MAYA, returns as a flagship event of MW Bangladesh, with the theme "Timeless Tagore": a night dedicated to celebrating the lifelong legacy of Rabindranath Tagore. With performances spanning diverse dance forms to captivating dance dramas, the event envisions a magical evening steeped in culture and heritage.

Chowdhury expresses, "Tagore was never just a poet or a musician — he represented a universe. His creations resonate across time, connecting with every



The magazine serves as a platform through which she delivers content of global standards, all while staying deeply rooted in cultural identity.

"Bengal in Motion" began as a signature platform of the magazine, an event that fosters beautiful collaborations while promoting Bangladeshi artists. It not only provides a space for them to showcase their talents but also offers glimpses of our rich culture to both national and international audiences.

Last year's Bengal in Motion was a mesmerising tribute to the timeless power of dance, featuring iconic forms like Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Manipuri, and more. In collaboration with MAYA, the natural wellness brand by Square Toiletries, the evening unfolded as an immersive journey through rhythm, memory, and tradition.

The outcome was captivating. Viewers were not only watching a show, they were experiencing the magic of memory through movement. It was a night



aspect of our being: our uncertainties, our aspirations, and our deep desire for acceptance."

Every detail — from décor to ambience — bears Chowdhury's artistic touch: simple yet heartfelt, traditional yet modern. The event's visual narrative reflects her design philosophy, crafting a festive atmosphere where creativity thrives and Tagore is celebrated in every corner.

Rumana Chowdhury concluded by expressing her heartfelt gratitude to MAYA, the natural wellness brand by Square Toiletries, acknowledging that such a remarkable event would not have been possible without their generous support.

As Bengal in Motion was inaugurated for its second edition on 25 April 2025, it was evident that Rumana Chowdhury was creating a movement where the past and the future do not clash but coexist harmoniously.

By Maisha Tarannum Iqbal