ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'Tumi Robe Nirobe': A Mother's Day tribute by Chayanika Chowdhury

Tumi Robe Nirobe, the timeless Rabindra Sangeet classic, has been reimagined through a special music video directed by Chayanika Chowdhury. The narrative follows the emotional story of a mother's quiet sorrow and the unexpected return of her long-lost daughter.

Featuring model and actress Sadia Islam Mou in her first narrative-based music video, the performance captures the pain, patience, and deep love of motherhood. Nidrita Sarker plays the role of the daughter, while Shirin Chowdhury lends her voice to the timeless song.

"This project is very close to my heart—it's my tribute to all mothers who silently carry the weight of separation and love," shared Chayanika Chowdhury.

Produced by Singistic, with cinematography by Suman Hossain, the video reflects themes of silence and longing. The music video is scheduled for release on May 11, marking International Mother's Day.

Theatre Factory honours Jibanananda Das' life story on stage

Theatre Factory brings legendary poet Jibanananda Das' life to stage with ***Komola Rong er Bodh***, written and directed by Alok Basu. Premiering this Friday, May 9, at 6.30pm at Bangladesh Mahila Samity, the play is part of the ***Jibanananda Natya Utsab***.

It will run in two phases, with the first four shows taking place from Friday to Sunday. The narrative begins with Jibanananda's 1954 tram accident and unfolds through his reflections in a hospital bed.

Souls marks 50 years with tribute concert in Chattogram

PHOTO: COURTESY

Legendary Bangladeshi band Souls celebrated its golden jubilee with a concert titled 'Mastercard Presents Souls Unplugged: 50 Years of Timeless Music' last Friday, May 2, at Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View. The event brought together founding members and performers from across decades, offering a night rich in nostalgia, music, and tributes.

The evening began with a documentary narrated by Partha Barua, who reflected on Souls' journey while the screen displayed images of iconic past members—Sazed Ul Alam, Naquib Khan, Tapan Chowdhury, Lulu, Pilu Khan, Shahedul Alam, Subrata Barua Ronny, Ahmed Nawaz, and the late Ayub Bachchu.

Partha Barua then opened with ***Bondho Hoye Geche***, later performing songs dedicated to his hometown Chattogram, including ***Aiyona Aiyona***. He also shared personal anecdotes, including lyricist Noor's dissatisfaction with ***Dekha Hobe Bondhu***, despite it remaining a fan-favourite.

A touching moment came with Partha's rendition of ***Mon Shudhu Mon Chuyeche***, originally sung by Naquib Khan, whose image appeared on screen. Naquib later joined him on stage, reminiscing about Souls' early struggles and success with original compositions like ***Nodi Eshey Poth***.

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The night concluded with all present and former members performing ***Ei Mukhorito Jiboner*** together. An emotional Lulu expressed hope for the band's centennial, while Mastercard's Country Manager, Syed Mohammad Kamal, stated, "This celebration of timeless melodies, the magic of live performance, and the deep connection between artists and fans perfectly captures our mission: to bring people together through unforgettable experiences."

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

Photography Workshop: 'Hatey Gorom Singara'

Hatey Gorom Singara will host a two-day cyanotype printing workshop on May 8 and 9, led by Fariha Jannat Mim and Arjun Kor, followed by an exhibition of participants' works. An evening of music and poetry featuring Arjun Kor, Chetana Rahman Bhasha, Aniruddha Anu, Tapesh Chakraborty, and M F Hossain will follow.

Date: Thursday-Friday | May 8-9, 2025
Time: 6:30pm onwards
Venue: Studio 6/6, Mohammadpur

Mosharraf Karim unveils fierce look in 'Insaaf'

Mosharraf Karim appears in a never-seen-before look in the upcoming Eid release ***Insaaf***, leaving fans intrigued by his fierce transformation.

The film's second poster, released on Sunday, May 4 by director Sanjoy Somadder, features the popular actor in a bold new avatar—hinting at a darker, more intense character.

Accompanying the poster was a striking caption: "This doctor doesn't treat illness—he punishes sin. Blood is his language, and justice his oath!"

Scheduled for release this Eid-ul-Azha, ***Insaaf*** also stars Sariful Razz and Tasnia Farin.

Earlier, on April 25, the film's first-look poster was revealed, showing Sariful Razz wielding a bloodied axe with a sly smile and blood smeared across his face.

NEWS

Chinmoy shown arrested in Saiful murder case

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(voluntary) basis. The SC chamber judge may hear the state's petition today. Chinmoy remains in jail in connection with the sedition case.

Saiful was killed on November 26 during a clash between police, lawyers, and Chinmoy's followers near the Chattogram Court Building, after the court sent Chinmoy, who was arrested a day earlier near Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, to jail, rejecting his bail plea in the sedition case filed on October 31.

According to police, Chinmoy's supporters blocked the prison van carrying him, prompting police to charge with batons, which triggered the clash. During the violence, Advocate Alif was beaten and hacked to death.

The sedition case was filed by Firoz Khan, former general secretary of Chattogram's Mohora ward BNP, accusing Chinmoy and 18 others.

In connection with the killing, police filed three separate cases for attacking police, vandalism, and obstructing law enforcement, naming 79 individuals and accusing about 1,400 unidentified others.

Alif's father later filed a murder case against 31 individuals, while his brother, Khan-e-Alam, filed another case with Kotwali Police Station, naming 115 accused, including 70 lawyers, over vandalism. Another person, Mohammad Ullah Chowdhury, filed a case accusing 69 individuals of attacking him during the clashes.

So far, police have arrested 40 individuals in connection with the cases. Of them, 11 people -- mostly cleaners -- were held for their alleged involvement in Alif's murder, based on CCTV footage analysis.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted Chinmoy's bail petition to the HC. On February 4, the HC bench issued a rule asking the state to explain within two weeks why Chinmoy should not be granted bail.

EU for fair polls, has no say on its timing

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He stressed that the elections need to be free, fair and credible.

"We want to be part of that success story. Because it [the election] will be, if you like, a very significant milestone in your political transition."

Miller said the EU is in the process of contacting the entities that will work with the Election Commission to create awareness among citizens on the importance of democratic elections.

The EU is also working to make sure that disinformation cannot undermine the free and fair conduct of the polls.

"This is what we have in the pipeline at the moment," he said.

Miller said the judicial process for trying those involved in the July uprising and prior human rights abuses must be transparent, fair, and respectful of legal rights.

Referring to a UN report that found security forces of the former government killed around 1,400 people and arbitrarily detained over 11,700 during the 2024 student-led protests, he said judicial authorities must now hold the accused accountable based on clear evidence and timely trials.

"We want each and every perpetrator to be held accountable, but the trial process has to be fair and transparent," he said.

"If an individual is accused of a serious crime, there should be evidence. If there is evidence, then those individuals should be brought to trial. If there is a trial, it should not be delayed and should not be on the basis of imprecise charges," Miller said.

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) is currently trying cases related to crimes against humanity during the July uprising and the previous 15-year Awami League regime. Over 300 complaints have been filed so far.

Referring to some EU member states' transition history from authoritarianism to democracy, Miller said the bloc is ready to share its knowledge and provide financial and political support for Bangladesh's reform efforts.

"We are waiting for political parties and the interim government to agree on a prioritised list of reforms," he said.

Miller also expressed the EU's desire to deepen cooperation with Bangladesh in areas including fundamental rights, security, climate change, trade, and investment.

On gender equality, he urged all political stakeholders to engage with the Women's Affairs Reform Commission's recommendations.

"We would like to see them translated into action, and we will contribute to the effort to promote greater equality," he said, noting that gender equality is a universal value.

He reaffirmed EU support for a political solution to the Rohingya crisis and its continued humanitarian assistance in both Bangladesh and Rakhine.

DCAB President AKM Moinuddin and General Secretary Arifuzzaman Mamun also spoke at the event.

Waiver that stole justice

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at Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology (Buet) when he was killed.

"My brother was not involved with any form of religious or political movement or party," explained Vasha.

"Rehan was a devout Muslim, and he was at Shapla Chattar to protest some of the things being said about Islam by bloggers, which he felt affronted by."

"He felt it was his responsibility, as a man of faith and principle, to raise his voice and be heard."

Sometime later in the evening, Rehan's mother called him and asked him to come home. "He said he was inside a mosque and cut the call. That was the last time we spoke to him," said Vasha.

Around 10:00pm, a friend of Rehan's called and informed them that Rehan had been shot but could not say where he was.

"Mother put Tk 20,000 in her bag and went out to find my brother. She frantically went from one hospital to the next, searching for him until 2:00am," said Vasha.

"Around 2:30am, my mother was certain that Rehan had died because some of his friends said they saw Rehan get shot in his head at Shapla Chattar. They said Rehan stopped moving afterwards."

Taking her along, Vasha's mother went out again at 5:00am to look for Rehan -- but this time, they were looking for his body.

"We went to Shapla Chattar. The roads were washed clean by then as if nothing had happened. All that was left were shoes."

They finally found his body at Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue. He was one of the three bodies lying there, stiff and frozen in time.

"I will forever remember that moment. Before she fainted, my mother called out his name at the top of her voice, as if it could wake him up from the dead," recalled Vasha.

Rehan was shot between the nose and chin, and the bullet exited through his head.

Following the autopsy, the police allegedly refused to hand over the body until Vasha's family assured them that they would not file any cases.

"My mother had to submit a signed waiver to the Shahbagh Police Station promising that we would not seek any legal action. And then throughout the day, we were pressurised to bury the body quickly," said Vasha.

Since then, for the past 12 years, Vasha said there have been attempts to erase who Rehan was and how he died.

"We could not even hold a janaza at Buet, even though he was a student there. The students there did not let us hold a janaza there, even though he was their batchmate and friend."

Now, after all this time, Vasha seeks answers – and justice. It wasn't until August 2024 that they found the courage to file a case under the International Crimes Tribunal.

"We have stayed quiet for so long, not daring to open our mouths. But silence doesn't help ease the pain; that's why it is even more terrible to endure."

Khaleda Zia

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from staying on the streets with motorcycles and joining the motorcade of Khaleda with any vehicle, according to a DMP circular issued by its Commissioner Sheikh Md Sazzat Ali.

After four months of treatment in London, the former prime minister departed Heathrow Airport for Dhaka yesterday.

"The special air ambulance provided by Qatar's Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, carrying BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her entourage, took off around 9:35pm Bangladesh time," said Sayrul Kabir Khan, BNP media cell member.

Earlier, the party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman himself drove from his residence in Kingston, London, with his mother Khaleda seated next to him, and arrived at the airport at 7:40pm Bangladesh time.

Also in the car were Tarique's wife Zubaida Rahman, his daughter Zaima Rahman, and his late brother Arafat Rahman Koko's wife Syeda Sharmila Rahman.

At the VIP gate of Terminal 4 of the airport, Tarique bid farewell to his mother, accompanied by Zubaida, Sharmila, and physician AZM Zahid Hossain, said party sources.

A video posted by Tarique on his Facebook page shows him happily seeing his mother off and the entourage at the airport, saying "Allah Hafez".

At the airport before her departure, Khaleda told Tarique, "How long will you stay here?"

Tarique replied, "Once you board the plane ... I will leave."

Khaleda also urged the party members there to take care of Tarique.

Party sources said the air ambulance was scheduled to make a stopover at Hamad International Airport in Doha at 4:25am Bangladesh time. After a one-hour stopover in Doha, the flight was expected to resume its journey towards Dhaka.

Meanwhile, party sources said preparations have been fully made to receive her, with thousands of leaders and activists expected to greet her.

The BNP is making elaborate arrangements to ensure a smooth, hassle-free journey from the airport to her Gulshan residence while seeking to avoid public inconvenience.

According to the DMP directive, motorcycles are strictly prohibited on the streets from Gulshan and Banani to the airport, and motorcyclists will not be allowed to enter or pass the crowd.

Hajj travellers, international passengers, and SSC candidates have been advised to leave their homes early, recommending that people avoid the streets from Gulshan, Banani and Uttara from this morning until noon and instead use alternative routes.

The BNP has held several meetings with senior leaders and affiliated organisations to coordinate the reception and ensure that party instructions are strictly followed.

Addressing party supporters, Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told reporters yesterday, "Please don't gather on the roads. Those wishing to welcome madam should stand on the sidewalks. We have instructed party members to greet her with national and party flags in hands."

"There is an SSC examination tomorrow [today]. I request leaders of BNP and its affiliated organisations not to block roads or disrupt traffic. Ensure students can reach their exam centres without delay."

"We are working to ensure that students don't face any hassle due to the reception programme," Fakhrul said, also calling on the police to keep the roads clear.

Party insiders said supporters will not be allowed to the airport or Khaleda's residence, Firoza, in Gulshan. Instead, leaders and activists of BNP and its affiliated bodies will line up along 11 designated points from the airport to Firoza to welcome Khaleda.

Located at House 1, Road 80 in Gulshan, the residence has been thoroughly cleaned and decorated, said Sayrul Kabir.

On January 8, Khaleda flew to London in a special air ambulance sent by the Emir of Qatar.

Upon arrival, she was admitted to the London Clinic, a private hospital, where she remained for 17 days. Since 25 January, she had been receiving treatment at the residence of Tarique.

The BNP chief was imprisoned in 2018 under the then Sheikh Hasina-led government following a conviction in a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

In March 2020, amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the government temporarily released her on an executive order, suspending her sentence on condition that she remain at her Gulshan residence and not leave the country.

After the fall of the Awami League government, Khaleda was fully freed by an order from President Mohammed Shahabuddin on August 6 last year.