



Fahmida Nabi



Tariq Anam Khan and Nima Rahman



Azmeri Haque Badhan



Ashfaque Nipun



PHOTOS: STAR Armeen Musa

## ‘Devastating, moving’: Artistes emotional at The Daily Star’s anniversary programme

**“We had hoped that after the July uprising we would be able to build a new Bangladesh, but in our worst nightmares we never imagined that such an attack could take place on organisations like Prothom Alo and The Daily Star – Ashfaque Nipun**

SHARMIN JOYA

The Daily Star celebrated its 35th anniversary at The Daily Star centre yesterday. Stars from all media attended the event, which showcased an exhibition recreating the horrific moments of December 18, when, alongside Daily Star, Prothom Alo and Chhayanaut, they were attacked simultaneously.

The artistes joined the event and saw the exhibition, and most of them were traumatised and were at a loss for words.

Eminent theatre personality and actor Rahmat Ali said, “Any such destructive or heinous acts are undoubtedly harmful. They damage social life, political life, and also hinder the development of intellectual and moral excellence. Any form of mob violence or extreme activity—especially what has taken place at The Daily Star—has sent shockwaves through the entire Bangalee nation and beyond.”

Veteran actress Wahida Mollick Jolly added, after visiting the exhibition, it reminded me of December 18—it still hurts. “What happened was



Sarika Sabah

completely unjustifiable. However, I would like to say this: those who are committed to good work cannot be suppressed. I felt that then, and I say it again today—The Daily Star is one of them. No matter what happens, it will continue to stand tall.” She added, “Congratulations to The Daily Star on its 35th anniversary. May it continue to stand tall for generations to come. As long as Bangladesh exists, we hope that The Daily Star will continue to endure.”

Azmeri Haque Badhan, who has always been vocal against any wrongdoing, said, “First of all,



Rahmat Ali and Wahida Mollick Jolly

congratulations to The Daily Star for successfully carrying forward such a long journey; they truly deserve recognition for this achievement. On the day itself, we witnessed everything across social media; the scale of the rampage was unbearable. It was a horrific attack, and there was extensive damage. However, what affected me most was that around 30 journalists were trapped inside. Given the circumstances, it felt at one point as though their deaths were almost inevitable.

In that moment, I realised just how disturbingly brutal people have

become over time. While people may destroy property out of frustration, anger, or resentment—emotions they may have been unable to manage—it does not justify such actions.”

**Mohanagar** director Ashfaque Nipun was traumatised after visiting the exhibition and he with utter disappointment said, “We had hoped that after the July uprising we would be able to build a new Bangladesh, but in our worst nightmares we never imagined that such an attack could take place on organisations like Prothom Alo and The Daily Star.

Following the incident at The Daily Star, the headline of their first edition was “Unbowed”, and I would say that they should indeed remain unbowed, continuing their work in the same steadfast manner and always standing up for the people. As such a major publication, their responsibility is even greater. I feel they have nothing left to lose and nothing to fear; they should always remain unbowed.”

Jaya Ahsan believes that The Daily Star has always been by my side since the beginning of my career. “The Daily Star is unique in its own way; it is very significant, and it will always remain

at the top of the list of newspapers we can trust.

The Daily Star has risen, like a phoenix rising once again. It shows that, despite everything it has gone through, it has risen from the ashes and is now even stronger.”

The event was attended by many celebrities and those present included Afzal Hossain, Fahmida Nabi, Jaya Ahsan, Wahida Mollick Jolly, Rahmat Ali, Mamunur Rashid, Tariq Anam Khan, Nima Rahman, Sadya Afireen Mallick, Azmeri Haque Badhan, Zakia Bari Mamo, Shajal Noor, Runa Khan, Minar Rahman, Chayanika Chowdhury, Ashfaque Nipun, Tanim Noor, Shihab Shaheen, Gias Uddin Selim, Asif Iqbal, Vicky Zahed, Sarika Sabah, Anika Kabir Shakh, Aisha Khan, Sarika Subrin, Jahid Nirob, Arefin Zilani, Oyshee Fatima Tuz Zahra, Konal, Shankha Dasgupta, Shohel Mondol, Sadia Ayman, Abid Bin Parvez Pranto, Jannatul Ferdous Oishee, Rizvi Rizu, Saad Salmi Naovi, Masum Reza, Sumaiya Shimu, Tonima Hamid, Sabila Nur, Raba Khan, Arifat Mohsin Nidhi, Zinat Sanu Swagata, Armeen Musa, Animesh Aich, Khayam Sanu Sandhi, and Sabrin Azad.



Team ‘Utshob’ wins Best film Award

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Meril-Prothom Alo Awards full winners list

**Meril-Prothom Alo Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Alamgir

**Special Honour**  
James

**FILMS**

**Popular Choice**

Best Actor - Afran Nisho - *Daagi*  
Best Actress - Tama Mirza - *Daagi*  
Best Film - *Utshob*

**MUSIC**

**Popular Choice**

Best Male Playback Singer - Imran Mahmudul - *Konna* (from *Jinn 3*)  
Best Female Playback Singer - Xeler Rahman - *Lichur Bagane* (from *Taandob*)

**TELEVISION**

**Popular Choice**

Best Actress - Keya Payel - *Eta Amaderi Golpo*



Alamgir honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award

Best Actor - Farhan Ahmed Jovan - *Tomader Golpo*

**Critics’ Choice**

Best Director - Mohammad Mostofa Kamal Raz - *Tomader Golpo*  
Best Screenwriter - Siddique Ahmed - *Tomader Golpo*

Best Actress - Tanjim Saiara Totini - *Bhalo Theko*

Best Actor - FS Nayeem - *Khub Kacheri Keu*

**WEB SERIES**

**Critics’ Choice**

Best Actor - Nasir Uddin Khan - *Myselji Allen Swapan 2*

Best Actress - Jaya Ahsan - *Jimmi*

Best Director - Syed Ahmed Shawki - *Gulmohor*

Best Web Series - *Gulmohor*

**FILM**

**Critics’ Choice**

Best Actor - Mahafuz Munna and Shanto Sutradhar - *Uraal*

Best Actress - Mehazabien Chowdhury - *Saba*

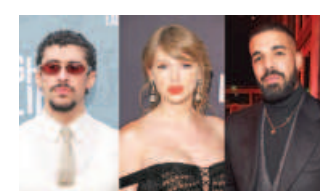
Best Director - Piplu R Khan - *Jaya Aar Sharmin*

Best Feature Film - *Saba*  
Best Newcomer - Shammi Islam Nila

## Spotify unveils most-streamed artistes, songs and albums

Spotify has released its first-ever list of most-streamed artistes, songs and albums to mark its 20th anniversary. The platform published top 20 rankings across music, podcasts and audiobooks.

Among artistes, Taylor Swift ranked first, followed by Bad Bunny and Drake. In songs, *Blinding Lights* by The Weeknd topped the list.



In albums, *Un Verano Sin Ti* ranked first. Beyond music, *The Joe Rogan Experience* was named the most-streamed podcast of all time. In audiobooks, *A Court of Thorns and Roses* topped the list.

The announcement offers a broad snapshot of listening trends over the platform’s two-decade history, highlighting the global reach and influence of streaming culture.

## ‘Bhalobasho Mor Gaan’ honours Nazrul’s legacy

An evening dedicated to the timeless compositions of Kazi Nazrul Islam was held at the Chhayanaut Cultural Centre yesterday, as Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha organised a musical gathering titled *Bhalobasho Mor Gaan*.

The programme took place on April 25 at the Ramesh Chandra Dutta Smriti Milan Kendra of Chhayanaut. The title of the event was drawn from a line in Nazrul’s own lyrics, reflecting the enduring emotional depth and appeal of his music.

The evening began with a welcome address by the organisation’s general secretary, Khairul Anam Shakil, who highlighted the importance of preserving and promoting Nazrul Sangeet among newer generations of listeners and performers.

The opening performance featured a classical presentation based on Raag Nand by Afroja Rupa, setting a contemplative tone for the programme. In total, 12 performances were staged throughout the evening, bringing together both established and emerging artistes.

Nazrul Sangeet performances

were presented by Mandira Aich, Afia Tasnim, Jebunnesa Sarker Nijhum, Joyeta Orpa, Soma Das, Kumar Shyam, Sanjoy Halder, Garggi Ghosh, Chandra Saha Smriti and Shohidul Islam Sojib. Each artiste offered their interpretation of Nazrul’s compositions, highlighting the diversity in style and expression within the genre.

The programme also included a classical performance based on Raag Kedar by Rifat Ahmed Emon, adding a different musical dimension to the event and complementing the Nazrul Sangeet presentations.

The event concluded with remarks from the organisation’s vice-president, Karim Hasan Khan, who reflected on the significance of such gatherings in sustaining interest in Nazrul’s musical legacy.

Bringing together a range of performers and audiences, the evening underscored the continued relevance of Nazrul Sangeet in Bangladesh’s cultural landscape, where the poet’s works remain a source of artistic inspiration and emotional resonance.



PHOTO: ABRAR FAIYAZ NILOY