



Chanchal with his mother



Mithila with her mother



Siam with his mother

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL

'My mother, my first INSPIRATION'

"My passion for work, my dedication, and my ability to stay committed until I successfully complete something — I learned all of that from my mother," she shared. "She is my inspiration. She is everything to me. Her contributions to my life are beyond words. A mother can only be compared to another mother."

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

As Mother's Day returns once again, people everywhere take a moment to celebrate and cherish mothers who played great roles in all aspects of their lives.

While children love their mothers every single day, this occasion often becomes a special opportunity to express that affection more openly and wholeheartedly.

Many choose to reflect on memories, sacrifices, and lessons shared with their mothers — and celebrities are no exception. Speaking to The Daily Star, several stars opened up about the immense influence their mothers have had on both their personal and professional journeys.

My mother is my greatest inspiration: Rafiath Rashid Mithila

Actor and singer Rafiath Rashid Mithila spoke with deep admiration about her mother, describing her as an exceptionally hardworking and dedicated person.

"My mother is a teacher, and there is so much one can learn from her," Mithila said. "She has done so much for me and for our entire family. On this special day, I want to express my deepest love and respect for her."

She added that although she loves her mother every day, Mother's Day makes that love feel even more profound.

"My passion for work, my dedication, and my ability to stay committed until I successfully complete something — I learned all of that from my mother," she shared. "She is my inspiration. She is everything to me. Her contributions to my life are beyond words. A mother can only be compared to another mother."

My mother taught me strength and independence: Tanzika Amin

Actress Tanzika Amin described her mother as one of the most important people in her life, crediting her for shaping both her career and personal values.

"My mother means so much to me," she

said. "From my career to my personal life, her contribution has been immense. She managed everything while working a full-time job. She would go to the office in the morning and then return home to take care of the family."

Watching her mother balance responsibilities with resilience taught Tanzika valuable life lessons. "She always wanted me to become independent and self-reliant. She believed women should achieve things on their own and never depend entirely on others."

Calling her mother "the best person" she has ever known, Tanzika also revealed how



Tanzika with her mother

supportive her mother was when she entered the entertainment industry.

"I have come this far because of my mother's love, prayers, and support," she said. "There were difficult times in my life when I could have broken down completely, but my mother gave me courage. She stood beside me and reminded me that I was not alone. She never reacted with anger — only with love and strength. Everything I learned about resilience came from her."

Seeing happiness in my mother's eyes is priceless: Siam Ahmed

Popular actor Siam Ahmed reflected on how

his mother always prioritised education and dreamed of seeing him build a strong academic career.

"My mother always wanted me to excel in my studies," Siam said. "She studied at the University of Dhaka and completed master's degrees in three subjects. At one point, she wanted me to become a chartered accountant."

Inspired by his parents, both of whom studied at the University of Dhaka, Siam pursued higher education seriously and later studied law abroad.

However, acting was never part of his mother's original plan for him.

"She wanted me to finish my education and establish a conventional career," he explained. "Even though she did not initially want me to join showbiz, my journey eventually began there and continues to this day."

The actor fondly recalled the moment he received his first National Film Award.

"That day, I saw pure joy and pride in my mother's eyes," he said. "Perhaps she finally felt that her son had achieved something meaningful. Now, when she sees the love I receive from people, it makes her happy. And as a son, being able to see happiness in my mother's eyes is truly priceless."

She has always been a selfless person: Chanchal Chowdhury

Chanchal Chowdhury is thankful to his mother for not just giving birth to him, but being the ultimate support of everything in the family, as his father was a teacher and he would be busy with his job.

As they were multiple siblings growing up together, he shared how his mother kept them all together with love, affection and the attention required. "My mother would give all her time for us, and she has always been a selfless person, and all she wanted for us is that we become good human beings. She is the greatest inspiration to me and she embodies the word 'selflessness'. I cannot thank her enough for not only giving us life, but taking the best care of us at all times."

Abdullah Mohammad Saad's 'ANNIE' cast revealed

After winning hearts with *Rehana Maryam Noor*, Abdullah Mohammad Saad is back in the spotlight with his latest mini-series, *ANNIE*. The series will have its world premiere at the SerienCamp Festival in Germany.

Produced by Ehsanul Haque Babu, the series stars Nazifa Tushi in the lead role, along with Yash Rohan, Sarika Sabrin, Farhana Mithu, among others, in key roles.

The story follows Annie, a 27-year-old nurse struggling to survive while caring for her siblings. The series explores themes of violence, inequality, and mistrust in relationships between men and women.

ANNIE will premiere at the SerienCamp Festival, Germany's first festival dedicated entirely to television series. Every year, around 20 selected series from different genres and countries are screened on the big screen at the festival, and *ANNIE* will be among this year's featured titles.

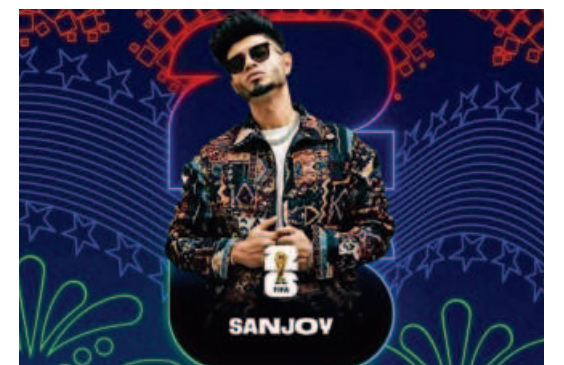


Sanjoy to perform at FIFA World Cup opening ceremony

Bangladeshi-American DJ Sanjoy is set to perform at the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup 2026, jointly hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico. He will appear at SoFi Stadium on June 12 ahead of the United States' match against Paraguay.

Sanjoy has already gained recognition across South Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and North America through his music. He is among a lineup of international artistes performing across the three host nations. The US ceremony will feature Katy Perry and Lisa, while performers across venues include J Balvin, Anitta, Danny Ocean, Elyanna, and Vegeedream.

FIFA will stage separate opening ceremonies in each host country ahead of kickoff.



'RABINDRA UTSAB 1433'

Chhayanaut marks Tagore's birth anniversary with evocative renditions

NAVEEN ISLAM TOREE

The first evening of Chhayanaut's two-day *Rabindra Utsab 1433* unfolded on May 8 at the Chhayanaut Milonayoton, as artistes and audiences gathered to celebrate the 165th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore through music, recitation and performance.

For Bengalis, Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary remains more than a cultural observance. From classrooms and family gatherings to national ceremonies and cultural festivals, Tagore's presence remains deeply woven into Bengali life, making occasions such as Rabindra Utsab



feel both personal and communal at once.

The programme began at 6:30 pm with an opening address by Dr Sarwar Ali, president of the festival, who formally inaugurated the celebration. Reflecting on Tagore's enduring influence on Bengali culture and humanity, he said, "Rabindranath spent his whole life trying to establish peace and harmony through his songs and stories. Chhayanaut is merely continuing what he had started."

The auditorium lit up in soft blue lighting, framed by plants surrounding a towering portrait of Tagore at centre stage. The evening opened with a group dance performance of *Bhubanjora Ashonkhami* by Chhayanaut artistes, setting a tranquil tone for the programme. Throughout the

event, performers presented a carefully curated selection of Rabindra Sangeet, blending solo and ensemble performances that explored themes of devotion, love, humanity and nature.

Familiar compositions such as *Tumi Robe Nirobe*, *Borisho Dhora-majhe Shantiro Bari*, *Aji Bijon Ghore*, and *Amar Hiyar Majhe* drew visible emotional responses from the audience, many of whom quietly sang along from their seats. The opening session drew a packed audience, with attendees gathering well before the programme began. The applause that followed each performance remained warm, matching the celebratory mood of the evening.

Artists including Jayanto

Chattopadhyay, Mohuya Manjari Sunanda, Azizur Rahman Tuhi, Satyam Debnath, Senjuti Barua, Ria Chakraborty, Ifat Ara Dewan and Priyanka Bhattacharjee took part in the programme, alongside several group performances by Chhayanaut members.

Instrumental accompaniment throughout the evening remained understated, allowing the lyrics and melodies to take centre stage. As the night progressed, the auditorium grew increasingly warm and welcoming, with Tagore's birth anniversary being honoured through heartfelt performances that left listeners absorbed in the familiarity and timelessness of his words and melodies.

The second evening of *Rabindra*

Utsab 1433 continued the celebration with another extensive lineup of Rabindra Sangeet performances by both senior and emerging artistes. Familiar compositions such as *Mor Sondhyay Tumi Shundor Beshe Eshecho*, *Amra Nuton Jouboneri Doot*, *Tomarei Koriachi Jiboner Dhrubotara*, and *Amar Mon Mane Na* resonated through the auditorium, drawing warm responses from the audience throughout the evening. Artistes including Omeed Dev, Protick Endaw, Mezbahul Azam Monzu, Suma Roy, Irin Pervin Onna, Warda Rihab, Sutapa Saha and Mahashweta Chowdhury took part in the programme alongside several ensemble performances by Chhayanaut members.

For decades, Chhayanaut has remained one of the country's most prominent institutions dedicated to preserving Rabindra Sangeet and Bengali cultural traditions. Events such as *Rabindra Utsab* continue to draw audiences across generations, particularly those who grew up attending Chhayanaut seasonal celebrations and Baishakh programmes.

The festival concluded yesterday (May 9) with a collective rendition of the national anthem by Chhayanaut artistes, bringing the two-day celebration to a close. The audience responded with prolonged applause, ending an evening — and a festival — rooted in remembrance, music and shared cultural belonging.



PHOTOS: ABRAR FAIYAZ NILOY