



Aurba and Firoza Ahmed



Aruna Biswas and Jyotsna Biswas



Bidya Sinha Mim and Sobi Saha



Shajal Noor and Kaniz Fatema

Ed Sheeran tops UK charts after copyright victory



Pop star Ed Sheeran topped the UK music charts with his latest album, the critically acclaimed *Subtract*, on Friday, a week after winning a US copyright trial over one of his biggest hits.

Subtract, the British singer-songwriter's sixth studio album, went straight to number 1, extending Sheeran's "flawless run of chart-topping albums", the Official Charts Company said.

The record is the fastest-selling album of 2023 for now, shifting 76,000 chart units in its opening week, with nearly three-quarters made up of physical copies, it said, adding, *Subtract* was also the best-selling vinyl album of the week.

James ready to rock the US at Baishakhi Fair in Miami

In recent times, rock icon James has been on a roll, releasing new music and performing frequently with his band, Nagarbaul. Now, the artiste is all set to embark on a musical journey in the US, with his band, for an upcoming concert.

The 19th Baishakhi Fair in North Miami Beach will feature James as the headline act for their concert on June 3 and 4. Joining him on stage will be Bindu Kona, Sayera Reza, and India's Priyangbada Banerjee.



My mother, my hero, my support system

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Mothers play a great role in our lives. Lucky are those who have the support of their mothers through thick and thin. The decision of working in showbiz, especially in a conservative country like ours, is not very easily accepted by families.

At critical times, mothers become one of the avid supporters of their children. What does their mother mean to them? We talked to a few celebrities to find out, on the occasion of Mothers' Day today.

My mother embodies the word 'selflessness': Chanchal Chowdhury

My father was a teacher, and he used to give private tuitions to the students. Meanwhile my mother would take care of everything else in the family. We were multiple siblings growing up together. My mother would give all her time for us - she has always been a selfless person, and all she wanted for us is that we become good human beings. 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.

The older I grow, the more I can relate to her: Jaya Ahsan

I look like my mother. The more I am aging, the more I feel like her, not just by appearance but emotionally as well. She carried me in her womb at a very young age. The fact that she was a young mother is probably the reason I feel closer to her,

like she is my best friend. I believe that my mother has a strong sixth sense. Whenever I am abroad and speak to her over the phone, she can correctly guess if I have taken my meal, or whether I am feeling unwell or upset. She can read my nerves. I still hesitate to express my love towards her through words. This Mother's Day, I wish all mothers in the world well on this occasion. To my *maa* - I love you to the moon and back.



Jaya Ahsan and Rehana Masud

She is concerned about my career: Bidya Sinha Mim

My parents play a great role in my life. Since today is Mother's Day, I would say that my mother means the world to me. Without her endless love, support and sacrifice, I wouldn't be talking about her today like this. She is very concerned about my career, and she has been always there in shootings with me, be it in cold or extreme heat. I would like to ask everyone to pray for my mother.

My mother means everything to me: Apurba If I have to talk about my mother, I would say

that she means everything to me. This occasion comes once every year, but to me every day is for her. She always protects me from anything and everything, like a shelter.

A mother's unconditional love cannot be compared with anything in the world. I would say to every child, please take care of your mother, like they did when you were a child. I wish good health and a long life for. Also, wishing a Happy Mother's Day to all loving mothers out there.

My mother is extremely brave and progressive: Aruna Biswas

I salute all the mothers on this special occasion. If I have to share something about my mother, I have to mention that she is extremely brave and progressive. She is a bookworm who loves to read on any topic. Reading is her passion. She is one of the few ladies who, after the Independence of Bangladesh, dared to step out of the house and work for the improvement of our cultural sector.

Her consistent honesty in everything she does is one of the greatest qualities she has. She is my greatest inspiration to remain positive in life.

My mother stays up until I return from shooting: Shajal

Still now, my mother stays awake for me until I return from shooting, even if I am far away. She is the world's best mother, and I can't imagine trying to put into words what she has done for me. When I was sick and in the hospital for 15 days, she was there with me the whole time, and I become emotional when I think about it. Love for all mothers out there.



Chanchal Chowdhury and Nomita Chowdhury

"My father was a teacher, and he used to give private tuitions to the students. Meanwhile my mother would take care of everything else in the family."

COUNTRYWIDE

LACK OF SLUICE GATE

400 acres land remain uncultivated

MINTU DESHWARA

Around 400 acres of farmland in Moulvibazar's two upazilas remain uncultivated every year for lack of a sluice gate in the Lachgang river in Kawadighi Haor area.

Many farmers in different areas of Sadar and Rajnagar upazilas cannot bring their cropland under cultivation for not having proper irrigation facilities due to lack of a sluice gate.

Meanwhile, the Water Development Board (WDB) has started the feasibility study to set up a sluice gate at Lachgang in order to increase the water holding capacity of the river during the dry season.

Rajan Ahmad, general secretary of Moulvibazar Haor Rakkha Sangram Committee, Sadar upazila unit, said a branch of the Manu river called Lachgang river flows through Boliyabag of Sadar upazila and falls into Kawadighi Haor.

Although, farmers in around 20 villages, including Barakapan, Rasulpur, Raipur, Burikona, Biraimabad, Khaisaura, Karamullahpur, Baneshree, Parashimil, Kandigaon have been cultivating thousands of acres of land,

nearly 400 acres on the upstream of the haor remain uncultivated for long due to shortage of irrigation water during the dry season, he added.

Muhib Khan, Faruq Mia and some others of Rasulpur village said farmers of the area are deprived of getting at least 25,000 maunds of paddy every year.

In order to bring the uncultivated land under irrigation facilities, Moulvibazar Haor Rakkha Sangram Committee, other social welfare organizations and affected farmers have been demanding installation of a sluice gate at Boaliarkara in Rajnagar upazila for long.

Meanwhile, a three-member delegation led by Javed Iqbal, executive engineer at Moulvibazar WDB, conducted a ground visit to Boaliarkara area recently and verified the feasibility of setting up a sluice gate there.

Contacted, Javed Iqbal said a sluice gate or a rubber dam can be set-up on the upstream of Lachgang river to overcome the irrigation problem.

According to Moulvibazar WDB, it will cost at least Tk 6 to Tk 7 crore to install a sluice gate there.

Youth sued for attempting to rape 3-yr-old

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

An eighteen-year-old youth was accused in a case filed for the attempted rape of a three-year-old girl in Panchagarh's Debiganj upazila.

The girl is undergoing treatment at the Panchagarh Sadar Hospital.

The accused is Sharif Islam, 18, son of Kasem Ali of Sonahar union.

The girl's father filed the case with Debiganj Police Station on Friday afternoon.

According to the case statement, Sharif took the girl to their house on Tuesday to show her cartoon shows on his cell phone and attempted to rape her there.

Tomorrow's

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question papers, exams under, exams under other boards will continue as per schedule."

The general education board exams slated for today were physics, history, and finance, while technical board students were set to sit for physics exam and madrasa students for English first paper.

On May 15, general education board students of were supposed to be tested on home economics, agriculture studies, Arabic, Sanskrit and other subjects. There are no exams scheduled on the day for madrasa or technical board students.

Meanwhile, the education ministry yesterday announced that all schools, colleges and universities under the jurisdictions of the Chattogram, Barishal, Cumilla and Jashore education boards will remain closed today.

US, Japan, Australia to invest more

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Japan is also working with Bangladesh to improve the investment climate and draw foreign investors to the country, which is at the epicentre of the Bay of Bengal.

Under its Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), Japan also plans on providing official security assistance to Bangladesh and the other Indian Ocean countries to strengthen security in the region.

"The region must be secure and stable as we boost our economic activities," Kei added.

The future of the world will be determined in large part by what happens in the Indian Ocean region, which is home to 2.7 billion people, said Wendy Sherman, US deputy secretary.

Its vast coastline includes some of the world's most important shipping lanes - from the Strait of Hormuz to the Malacca Strait.

As much as 80 per cent of the world's maritime oil shipments traverse Indian Ocean waters that also have the planet's most vital fisheries, she said.

At the same time, the region faces serious challenges including climate crisis and some of those face existential

threats.

Also, piracy, armed robbery, trafficking, and illegal and unregulated fishing threaten blue economies, Sherman said.

"That's why we have announced plans to provide \$165 million for programmes across the Indian Ocean region that address climate change adaptation and mitigation, including the transition to a clean energy future."

The US is also seeking to provide \$6 million for regional maritime security initiatives, partnering with Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

The funding will bolster interdiction and law enforcement capacity in the Indian Ocean's South Asian sub-region, Sherman added.

The US invests more than \$33 million in 15 countries each year to promote sustainable fisheries and conserve marine biodiversity, according to Afreen Akter, the US deputy assistant secretary.

It is also working to identify development assistance, including to Bangladesh, focused on growing sustainable blue economies, Sherman said.

"We are already working across the Indian

Ocean region to support transitions to clean energy. For instance, our US Development Finance Corporation invested \$500 million in First Solar to boost solar power production in India."

The US is also providing a \$500 million grant to build hydropower lines and roads in Nepal, while it is implementing a \$17 million programme over five years to expand Bangladesh's access to affordable clean energy.

The US is working with the Maldives, Sri Lanka and partners across the Indian Ocean to make long-term investments, she said, while calling for effective regional collaboration for reducing the cost of trade and improving energy efficiency.

Australia is bolstering diplomatic engagement with the Indian Ocean countries as it seeks to establish a rules-based, free and open Indo-Pacific, which is extremely important for geostrategic and economic factors, said Tim Watts, Australia's Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs.

He advocated for wider and more effective regional architecture for a peaceful and predictable region.

Australia will be supporting through the Indian Ocean Rim Association for achieving the shared goals of peace and prosperity, he added.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs

Shahriar Alam, the state minister for foreign affairs; Masud Bin Momen, foreign secretary; Charles E Fonseka, the interior minister of Seychelles; Tandi Dorji, foreign minister of Bhutan; Narayan Prakash Saud, foreign minister of Nepal; Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoo Albusaidi, foreign minister of Oman; Do Hung Viet, the deputy foreign minister of Vietnam; Saeed Mubarak Al Hajeri, the assistant minister for Economic and Trade Affairs of the UAE; Seyed Rasoul Mousavi, Iran's advisor for minister of foreign affairs; and MJ Akbar, governing council member of India Foundation also spoke, among others.

India Foundation and the foreign ministries of Bangladesh and India organised the event that was attended by more than 150 representatives, including the Mauritian president, ministers, academics and officials from 25 countries.

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Vast tracts of farmland in Moulvibazar Sadar and Rajnagar upazilas remain uncultivated for lack of a sluice gate in the Lachgang river. The photo was taken from Boaliarkara area in Rajnagar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Rohingyas holding their breath

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mosques and the other facilities inside the 34 Rohingya camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf as cyclone shelters for the about 12 lakhs people living there.

Rohingyas said there are no permanent structures in the camps.

Most of the planned shelters at the Balukhali

camp are made of steel frames, with the roofs are of tarpaulin and bamboo or corrugated iron sheets.

Around 2,000 learning centres, women-friendly spaces, multipurpose centres, and mosques will be used as cyclone shelters, if needed, said RRRRC Mohammed Mizanur Rahman.

He said Rohingya volunteers will be ready to take fellow refugees to those centres in the event of any emergencies.

"There are hills between the refugee camps and the sea. So, we don't expect tidal surges in the camp area. Strong gusty wind might be a major problem for the Rohingyas as it can destroy

the makeshift houses. That's why we have prepared those centres as shelters.

"If rain continues for two to three days after the landfall of the cyclone, there will be a risk of landslides inside the camps. In that case, around 15,000 Rohingyas will be evacuated from the risky areas in camps 6, 7, 9 and 10," Mizanur added.