

# DOLA sets the bar

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SHARMIN JOYA

“My father always told me to keep two lifelines in life. With music, being my first lifeline, I moved forward with completing the bar and became a barrister,” says Aditi Rahman Dola.

The talked about singer, praised for her performance in the recent advertisement jingle *Boishakhe Banglami-Hok Ullash*, recently dropped by The Daily Star office for an exclusive photoshoot. While sipping a cup of black coffee, fitness enthusiast Dola spoke about her career in music and law, revealed her fitness secrets, and provided exciting updates on her musical journey.

**Nearly two decades into your musical journey, what excites you the most about making music?** Semi-classical has been my forte, as I was trained at an early age by Ustad Kajal Deb, who is also my father's best friend. However, I have a soft spot for playback singing and absolutely love it when I get the opportunity for it. Although I have done several playback songs for films, singing an 'item' number feels more challenging to me. Since I have a husky voice, it's also fun to experiment with romantic songs.

**You have a unique voice that doesn't complement the 'traditional female playback style'. What are your thoughts on it?** I agree with that observation, but it highlights a dated mentality within the industry. Instead of showcasing unique voices, the industry tends to favour typical ones. Knowing I can sing the way I do, I must own my uniqueness and be proud of this 'X factor'.

I must credit my brother, Adit Rahman, for encouraging me. The voice he made me use for *Jochhona* made me nervous; it was a risky experiment. I thought people wouldn't accept such a heavy voice, but he made me realise that if my voice is good and unique, people will like it. It will take time, but it will change.

**The track 'Dola' took you to another level in terms of self-discovery and popularity. Could you talk about the making of the song?**

It was a dream come true! I never imagined I would discover myself like this. I used to prefer staying behind the camera, but Adit *da* (Adit Rahman), Kaushik *da* (Kaushik Hossain Taposh), and Munny *bhabi* (Farzana Munny) made me believe I was capable of more than just singing. After watching the music video, I felt we could bring something to Bangladesh on an international level. For me, it was a rebirth as a performer.

**Rebirth? Could you elaborate on that?**

There is a long story behind this. I am a big-time foodie. I could eat a whole cake and love sweets. My brother Adit and I used to bet on food, but he couldn't eat nearly as much as I could! I used to be chubby. However, I gained a lot of weight when I went to the UK in 2012 for my higher education (Bar exam). In just one year, I gained 10 kilos.

When I returned and performed at the Meril

Prothom Alo Awards, I couldn't believe it was me on television. My brother and friends used to tease me about my weight, which I took positively. I realised my love for food was overshadowing my love for myself. I started going to the gym and eating balanced meals, and over about two years, I lost 25 kgs. “Dola” was my first appearance after my transformation, which is why I consider it a rebirth.

**It is an inspiring story; how do you maintain your fitness now?**

Despite a hectic schedule, I manage to spend two hours, four days a week, at the gym. My trainer is very strict and extremely inspiring. He told me there were no proper shoots showcasing women's abs, so I made four-pack abs and did a photoshoot. It inspired many!

**How do you balance your two professions?**

I am a full-time practitioner at the High Court and maintain my chamber as well. However, I love my identity as a singer. My father is a senior advocate, and he wanted to see me as a barrister. Since my brother became a full-time musician, I felt I had to fulfil our father's dream. However, I am fortunate to have full support and guidance from both of them in both professions.

**What is your vision for music in the coming years?**

I want people to realise that artistes deserve respect.

Sadly, most musicians in Bangladesh get frustrated due to a lack of appreciation. Full-time musicians struggle financially. Recently, I attended an event where a renowned singer was performing while people were dining. That scenario hurt me a lot; I found it disrespectful.

**Tell us about your upcoming projects.**

I have an exciting announcement for the fans of Aditarians. We will be returning this year with something great. Also, I have several playback songs for films awaiting release, including tracks from the films *Mukti* and *Kobi*.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix  
Bridgerton Season 3



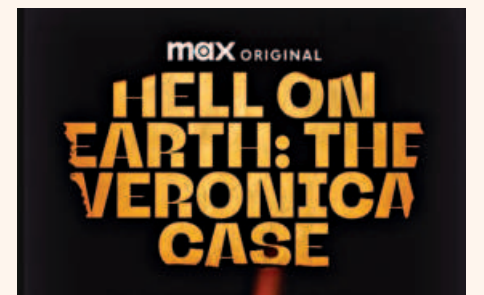
Prime Video  
Outer Range



Disney Plus  
Doctor Who



HBO Max :  
Hell on Earth:  
The Verónica Case



Bongo:  
Shark Tank Bangladesh



### STYLE STATEMENT

## Chris Hemsworth

Chris Hemsworth recently turned heads with his suave look at the photo call for his film *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga* at the 77th Cannes Film Festival.

The actor looked dashing in a salmon-pink suit, consisting of a matching vest and pants. He paired the ensemble with a white shirt and brown Chelsea boots for an overall luxurious look.

The *Thor*-famed actor's chiseled face and broad jawline looked sharp as he posed for the cameras.

*Furiosa: A Mad Max* is now showing across Star Cineplex halls nationwide.

### 1-MINUTE REVIEW

## A dystopian masterpiece in 'FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA'

*Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*, directed by George Miller, is a captivating prequel that explores the origins of Imperator Furiosa from 2015's *Mad Max: Fury Road*. Recently released worldwide including in Bangladeshi halls, this fifth instalment of the franchise stars Anya Taylor-Joy, Chris Hemsworth, and Alyla Browne.

The film opens with 10-year-old Furiosa (Browne) being kidnapped, leading her mother Fraser (Hemsworth) on a desperate rescue mission. Hemsworth shines as Dementus, a twisted warlord who becomes a pseudo-father to Furiosa.



Taylor-Joy's portrayal of the adult Furiosa is both poignant and powerful, showcasing her transformation from captive to fierce warrior. Simon Duggan's remarkable cinematography, coupled with immersive production design, brings to life a vibrant dystopian setting, while the compelling sound design and score heighten the thrill.

*Furiosa* is more than an action spectacle; it's a profound exploration of survival and resilience. Miller's direction ensures this prequel is a stellar addition to the *Mad Max* saga, offering exhilarating action and deep character insight.

### OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



**Shyalpodoirgho Chalachitra Prodorshani**  
May 29 | 3pm-9pm  
Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka



**Summer of '24**  
May 26 | 3pm-10pm  
TSC Auditorium, Dhaka University



**Film Screening- In Praise of Shadows**  
May 27 | 4pm  
DrikPath Bhaban, Dhaka

### WHAT'S PLAYING

## ESPRESSO

The chart-topping and now omnipresent song, *Espresso*, by singer and actress Sabrina Carpenter has not only surpassed several Taylor Swift songs across various charts but also managed to glide its way in almost every other social media platform. Sabrina has initiated a fresh chapter for herself as an artiste, and *Espresso* is now being hailed as a spirited summer anthem celebrating women. This track showcases the artiste's distinct humour prominently via its lyrics.

In an interview with Apple Music, Sabrina disclosed that she penned the song during her time in France. She expressed, “What intrigued me was the abundance of personality woven throughout the entire track. Those are the ones that truly shine during live performances with an audience.”

In another feature with Vogue, the musician elaborated, “The essence of the song revolves around viewing femininity as a source of empowerment and fully embracing the confidence of owning your strength.”

