



Meher Afroz Shaon



Tasnia Farin



Rumana Rashid Ishita



Kushum Shikder

# Easy on the eyes, soothing to the ears

Actors who delve into their inner musicians

Their swooning voices captivate audiences, creating a deep connection that transcends the screen.

PHOTOS: STAR & COLLECTED



Imtiaz Barshon

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

They say actors are born with a myriad of talents, and beyond their prowess in acting, music holds a special place in their hearts. Their swooning voices captivate audiences, creating a deep connection that transcends the screen. Here are a few actors whose voices have left a lasting impression on our souls.

**Meher Afroz Shaon**

Meher Afroz Shaon's soulful rendition of Humayun Ahmed's song *Jodi Mon Kade* left no eye dry. This heartfelt song, deeply personal to her, expresses her loneliness. Her sorrowful voice in *Amar Vanga Ghore* from the film *Srabon Megher Din* continues to resonate, adding depth to her performances. Fans also adore her duets with Chanchal Chowdhury on *IPDC Amader Gaan*, where their effortless chemistry shines in popular covers like *Shorboto Mongolo Radhe*, *Nisha Lagilo Re*, and *Dhaka Shohor Aisha Amar*.

**Tasnia Farin**

Tasnia Farin has always had a passion for music, frequently sharing covers of songs like Stephen Sanchez's *Until 1 Found*



Nusraat Faria

*You* and Radiohead's *Creep* on her official Facebook handle. Her talent gained widespread recognition after a duet with Tahsan on Kabir Bakul's *Ronge Ronge Rongin Hobo* on *Ityadi*, which garnered over 38 million views on YouTube. The song's success propelled her singing career, leading her to perform at an international event.

**Nusraat Faria**

Nusraat Faria's love for music is evident in her original songs and captivating music videos. Known for her upbeat, rhythmic tracks, her hits include *Ami Chai Thakte*, *Habibi*, *Pataka*, and *Bujhina Toh Tai*. Faria's music videos are always visually stunning, with top-notch choreography and cinematography, as she brings glamour and

energy to each performance.

**Imtiaz Barshon**

Versatile actor Imtiaz Barshon is also a rather passionate musician. He is a member of the band Halley'r Dhumketu and even composed the song *Prothom* for his film *Unoponchash Batash*. Despite his busy acting schedule, Barshon continues to explore music, recently singing the duet *Mithe Bolini* with Tasnim Anika. He plans to dedicate more time to his musical career moving forward.

**Kushum Shikder**

Kushum Shikder is one of those bold artistes who never shies away from challenges. She juggles her modelling career, acting, and musical endeavours with grace. Who can forget her sensational music video *Nesha*, where her captivating voice beautifully complements the visuals? Many have enjoyed her singing in her solo album *Tumi Aaj Koto Dure* as well as in several mixed albums and singles. She is planning to release a musical film featuring her latest song *Morichika Maya*, which she hopes to release soon.

**Rumana Rashid Ishita**

The simple and sweet actress Rumana Rashid Ishita, beloved by the '90s kids for her performances in TV series, also feels a strong connection to music. There is a sense of tranquillity and serenity in her voice, evident in her song *Amar Obhiman*. She collaborated with her son Zaveer for a cover of Lucky Akhand's song *Abar Elo Je Shondha* for G-series.



## Coldplay announces third Mumbai show due to 'phenomenal demand'

In response to overwhelming fan demand, British rock band Coldplay has added a third Mumbai concert to their *Musical Of The Spheres World Tour 2025*.

The newly announced show, set for January 21, 2025, at the DY Patil Sports Stadium in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, follows fan frustration over long waits and server crashes during ticket sales for the first two dates.

The band made the announcement via X (formerly Twitter) yesterday. The world tour is going to kick off in Melbourne, Australia, on October 30, 2024, and will conclude in London, UK, on August 31, 2025, with a grand finale at Wembley Stadium.

## Shabnam declines offer to join Film Certification Board

Veteran actress Shabnam was recently offered a position on the newly formed Bangladesh Film Certification Board. After being approached via a phone call on Thursday (September 19), the actress requested two days to consider the offer.

However, she later declined, citing her inability and disinterest in the role. Shabnam, a celebrated artiste and recipient of Pakistan's highest civilian award, confirmed her decision to the media.

The Bangladesh Film Censor Board is undergoing a name change to the Film Certification Board due to heavy criticism. While current members will serve on the new board, two positions recently became vacant, one of which Shabnam was invited to fill.

# COUNTRYWIDE

## High yield, low price

Betel nut traders in Rangpur region counting losses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Betel nut has always been considered as an important part of agricultural economy in Rangpur region for years.

Farmers earn some extra income by producing betel nuts while traders make expected profits by storing and selling the item.

But this year, the nut traders suffered losses as they are forced to sell their betel nuts at the purchase price.

Several traders said usually all the betel nut markets in Rangpur region get crowded from April to June every year.

This year they have to spend Tk 350 to Tk 450 against each pon, consisting of 80 pieces of betel nuts, including transportation, labourer and storage cost.

But currently each pon of betel nut is selling for Tk 250 to Tk 350, traders said, adding that they are counting loss of Tk 100 in each pon.

Last year traders managed to earn up to Tk 150 to Tk 200 from each pon of betel nut.

Badiar Rahman, a betel nut trader at Borobari village in Lalmonirhat Sadar

upazila, said last year he had purchased and stored 1,000 pons of betel nuts and made a profit of Tk 180 from each pon by selling the item in August-September.

This year he bought 1,200 pons of betel nuts and was forced to sell 800 pons last month at a lower price and counted Tk 100 loss in each pon.

"In the past, huge quantities of betel nuts were sold to buyers from southern part of the country but it seems the demand of the item has drastically fall this year," he said.

Another trader Nazrul Islam of Kurigram's Rajarhat upazila said last year he made a profit of Tk 18 lakh by storing and selling betel nuts worth Tk 50 lakh.

But, this year he bought and stored betel nuts worth Tk 80 lakh and counted a loss of Tk 20 lakh, he said. According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), there are about 50 to 55 lakh betel nut trees in five districts -- Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Nilphamari -- in Rangpur region. Moreover, there are about 16,000 betel nut orchards, each consisting of 250 to 1500 betel nut trees, in the region.

## Biden, Modi

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Hasina as prime minister on August 5 in the face of a student-led mass movement that led to her escape to India.

The Modi-Biden sharing views on Bangladesh came in the backdrop of reports that the chief adviser of Bangladesh's interim government Prof Muhammad Yunus may meet Biden in the US later this week.

The possibility of a first in-person meeting between Modi and Yunus has been dashed as the chief adviser is going to the US only after Modi returns to India from his three-day visit to the US.

## India eager

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Fakhrul said India is keen on fostering greater goodwill and positivity in the relationship between the two neighbours.

Other BNPL leaders present at the meeting included Standing Committee member Salauddin Ahmed, Vice Chairman Nitai Roy Chowdhury, and foreign affairs advisory committee member Shama Obaid.

## Hezbollah

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Civil defence agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal said hundreds of displaced Gazans were sheltering there, reports AFP.

The health ministry in Gaza said yesterday that at least 41,431 people have been killed since the offensive began in October, now in its 12th month. The toll includes 40 deaths in the previous 24 hours, according to the ministry.

Sirens sounded across Israel all night as multiple rockets and missiles were fired from Lebanon and Iraq, most of which were intercepted by Israeli aerial defence systems, the military said.

## Yunus to draw

FROM PAGE 12

bilateral meetings with the Italian president, Kuwait crown prince, and prime ministers of the Netherlands, Pakistan, and Nepal.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, president of the European Union, UN secretary general, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Bank president, and USAID administrator will call on Yunus there.

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain, who left for New York early Sunday, told reporters on Saturday that the chief adviser would make a presentation at the UNGA on how the interim government was formed and the current reform initiatives.

Bangladesh will host a high-level reception on September 24, marking the 50th anniversary of its UN membership.

"This year, the UNGA is very significant for Bangladesh. We will present

our position before the global community and seek support," Touhid said.

Bangladesh will attend a high-level side event on the Rohingya crisis.

The chief adviser would highlight Bangladesh's strong stance on international peacekeeping, climate change, global conflicts, Rohingya crisis, challenges faced by developing countries in achieving SDGs, preventing illicit flow of resources, and safeguarding migrant rights.

The chief adviser's meeting with President Biden will be very important for Bangladesh.

Touhid is also expected to hold a bilateral meeting with Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in what will be the interim government's first high-level formal engagement with India.

Dhaka wants to remove any tension that may have developed after the fall of Awami League government and advance the relations based on mutual respect and fairness.

## RMG workers

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president of the Garment Workers' Trade Union Centre in Gazipur, said, "Various factories are giving an attendance bonus of Tk 750 per month to workers who arrive on time and work regularly."

"This bonus is the workers' right, and their demand is justified," he added.

The workers' protest continued for four hours till noon, causing significant traffic disruptions from Chandana Chaurasta to Mauna.

Police were trying to keep the traffic flowing during this time.

Meanwhile, Assistant Superintendent of Police of Gazipur Industrial Police Mosharrar Hossain told The Daily Star that around 300 workers of MM Fashion and Composite Ltd, located in the Khaikur area, went on a strike inside the factory demanding

payment of their salaries for the month of August.

In Tongi, around 1,500 workers of Seasons Dresses Limited, located on Khan Para Road under Tongi West Police Station, stopped production demanding their due half salary for the month of July and are observing a strike on the factory premises.

According to authorities, the workers are scheduled to receive the remaining portion of their July salary later this month.

Around 500 workers of Prince Jacquard Sweater Ltd, located in the Satish Baganbari area of Tongi West Police Station, also went on a strike inside the factory, demanding their August salary. The workers later engaged in talks with the factory owners.

In a related development, Beximco Pharmaceutical workers in Tongi also went on a strike over several demands.

## Beximco seeks

FROM PAGE 1

and set on fire by miscreants, the letter said.

"As a result, we have no working capital left with which we can carry out further export activities. Customers have already started moving their orders from us to other alternative destinations and we now have fewer orders compared to our capacity."

If the situation continues, the company will lose its customers for good.

On the other hand, the company will have to downsize manpower and reduce other relevant expenditures to combat the present situation, the letter said.

Beximco, whose vice-chairman Rahman is now in jail on charges of murder, employs about 40,000 people.

In the application, Beximco also sought support from Janata to set up necessary back-to-back letters of credit against export letters of credit (LCs) that have already been received and are to be received now onwards.

The back-to-back LC is a secondary LC issued using the primary export LC as security.

It also sought bill discounting facility against the local supply of

fabric and accessories at a 10 percent margin and packing credit facility at 15 percent against each export LC or order.

Besides, Beximco also urged for the release of the maturity amount after adjusting interest and charges from the related or respective export proceeds.

The maturity amount is the total amount that becomes due for payment at the end of a loan or credit facility period. In the context of export financing, this usually refers to the loan or advance taken by the exporter, such as back-to-back LC or packing credit.

The company paid the workers' salaries amounting to Tk 69.05 crore for August after taking Tk 55 crore loans from Janata.

But it is concerning how the workers' salaries for September amounting to Tk 65 crore would be paid.

"In this case, we specifically requested Janata Bank to deduct and build up this amount (Tk 65 crore) from our export proceeds which have already been received and are to be received until October 6 for payment of wages of the current month."

Beximco has not received any credit facility from Janata after May 14, the letter added.

## Three Addl IGP's sent into forced retirement

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Inspector General (DIG) Imam Hossain of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and additional DIG Chowdhury Manjurul Kabir of Police Training Centre in Noakhali.

On August 13, two additional IGP's Monirul Islam, immediate past chief of Special Branch of police, and Habibur

Rahman, immediate past commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, were sent into forced retirement from service.

Around a dozen top police officials were sent into forced retirement after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and went to India on August 5 amid a mass uprising, and the interim government was formed.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers sorting out betel nut at Borobari Bazar in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.