

SABRINA
CARPENTER'S
'Manchild'
debuts at No
1 on Billboard
Hot 100

Sabrina Carpenter's latest single **Manchild** has debuted at No 1 on the Billboard Hot 100, marking her first No 1 debut and second overall chart-topper after **Please Please Please** from her Grammy-winning album **Short n' Sweet**.
Released on June 5, **Manchild** is the lead single from her upcoming album **Man's Best Friend**, set for release on August 29.
The track earned 27 million streams, 14 million radio impressions, and sold 20,000 units, including 14,000 vinyl copies.
Carpenter described the song as "the embodiment of a loving eye roll." Meanwhile, Alex Warren's **Ordinary** dropped to No 2, and Morgan Wallen and McRae's **What I Want** rose to No 3.



Films postponed during Eid now eye Durga Puja release

Four Bangladeshi films—**Nadan**, **Sardar Barir Khela**, **Shironaam**, and **Pinik**—initially set for release during Eid-ul-Azha are now targeting a premiere during the Durga Puja holidays.

Nadan, directed by Farhad Hossain with Shamol Mawla in the lead role, delayed its release due to technical issues. The team will begin promotions this September.

Jahid Jewel's **Pinik**, a psychological thriller starring Ador Azad and Bubly, was postponed due to unfinished VFX. **Sardar Barir Khela**, directed by Rakhal Sabuj and featuring Roshan and Bubly, is also in the lineup for the Puja release.

Meanwhile, Anik Biswas's **Shironaam** was close to wrapping when it was slated for Eid. Unwilling to compromise on production, the release has been postponed to later this year.



Spandan Theatre to stage 'Deyal Janey Shob' this week

Spandan Theatre Circle will premiere its new play, **Deyal Janey Shob (The Wall Knows Everything)**, on June 19 at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's National Theatre Hall, with a second show on June 20.

Written and directed by Shakil Ahmed, the production is backed by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and explores themes of death, resistance, and rebirth, inspired by monsoon revolutions.

Sonnet describes it as a "chronicle of our times," where silence and loss give way to hope. The cast includes Jeetaditya Barua, Jayanto Tripura, Akash Mia, and Nusrat Jahan.

Set design is by Utpal Neel, music by Arpa Khandakar Chandni, and choreography by Krishna and Jayanto.



James Gunn blames Hollywood's output pressure for Marvel's decline

James Gunn has blamed Hollywood's output-driven model for the decline in superhero film quality, pointing specifically to Marvel's rushed Disney+ content. In a recent Rolling Stone interview, the DC Studios co-head stressed that no project under his leadership moves forward without a completed script.

Gunn revealed that a DC project was recently scrapped due to an unfinished screenplay, underscoring his commitment to storytelling over speed. He noted that audiences haven't lost interest in superhero films—studios are simply prioritising quantity over quality.

Gunn also clarified that Warner Bros places no pressure on DC to release a fixed number of films annually. His first film in this new era, **Superman**, hits theatres next month, with **Batman** and **Wonder Woman** titles in development.



Glenn Close boards 'The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping'

Glenn Close has officially joined the cast of **The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping**, the highly anticipated prequel to the hit franchise. She will play Drusilla Sickle, the cold and commanding escort for District 12's Tributes.

Billy Porter stars as Magno Stift, Drusilla's estranged ex-husband and the Tributes' disillusioned stylist. Directed by Francis Lawrence, the film also features Joseph Zada, Whitney Peak, McKenna Grace, Jesse Plemons, Kelvin Harrison Jr, Maya Hawke, Lili Taylor, Ben Wang, Ralph Fiennes, Elle Fanning, and Kieran Culkin.

Billy Ray wrote the screenplay, while Nina Jacobson and Brad Simpson produce under Color Force. With Lionsgate backing the project, **Sunrise on the Reaping** promises to deliver a powerful new chapter in the franchise.



WHAT'S THE HAPS? 'Timber Tales'



Alliance Française de Dhaka will present **Timber Tales**, a printmaking exhibition featuring woodcut works by Abu Al Na'em, Rakib Alam Shanto, and Shakil Mridha. The group show will explore themes of identity, environment, memory, and social narratives through layered textures and prints. Visitors will be invited to engage with the dynamic dialogue between emerging and established artists.

Date: Monday-Saturday | June 17-25, 2025
Time: 3-9pm
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi

NEWS

Ishraque holds meeting with DSCC

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protests began earlier at 11:00am. Supporters, along with some DSCC staffers, continued the sit-in until 1:00pm, as previously announced.

Demonstrations in support of Ishraque have been ongoing since May 14, with protestors demanding that he be officially handed mayoral responsibilities.

On May 15, demonstrators locked all entrances to the building. Under the banner of "Dhakabashi", they have since kept the Nagar Bhaban gates under lock and key.

Inside an auditorium of the Nagar Bhaban, Ishraque met with the ward secretaries and asked them to ensure uninterrupted civic services, including birth and death registrations, and the issuing of inheritance and citizenship certificates.

"Please continue providing these services so that citizens do not suffer," he was quoted as saying.

Administrative officers and former commissioners were also present at the

meeting.

As on Monday, the programme banner displayed behind the podium Ishraque spoke from described him as the "Honourable Mayor" of Dhaka South City Corporation.

That day, he also met with over 70 sanitation inspectors.

According to Ishraque's supporters, he is scheduled to meet officials and employees of the DSCC's health department today.

Despite conducting several meetings with DSCC officials, he has denied taking on mayoral responsibilities.

Expressing solidarity with his supporters, he said, "I haven't assumed the position of mayor on my own. According to the Local Government Act, I cannot perform the duties of mayor without taking the oath. The law clearly requires an oath-taking ceremony. Believe me, if the law didn't require it, I would have already taken on the mayoral responsibilities."

He also reiterated his demand for the resignation of Asif Mahmud, accusing

the adviser of "violating his oath of office" and "undermining the judiciary and democratic processes".

Criticising Asif as being "ignorant of the basic functions of a city corporation", Ishraque noted that services like immunisation under the EPI programme, mosquito control, and waste management were still running at ward level.

He described the situation as "a blatant disregard for democracy" and "an outright insult to the people's mandate".

Ishraque further alleged that the LGRD ministry had failed to arrange a swearing in ceremony by "hiding behind vague legal interpretations", and accused officials of using potential legal appeals and questions about the gazette's validity as excuses to delay the process.

"If someone gazetted as the winner [of the mayoral election] cannot be sworn in, it sets a dangerous precedent that could undermine all future elected representatives and render court verdicts meaningless."

Damage to nation's image

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file appeals before the Appellate Division, a HC source said.

The bench delivered its verdict on October 30, 2023, rejecting appeals against the lower court's ruling.

On July 1, 2016, five militants armed with firearms, machetes, and grenades stormed the Holy Artisan Bakery in Gulshan, killing 20 hostages -- three Bangladeshis, seven Japanese, nine Italians, and one Indian -- during a 12-hour siege. Two police officers were also killed. The militants died in a commando operation. A chef and another injured employee also later died.

The attack, which drew global condemnation, led to a nationwide crackdown on terror networks.

On November 27, 2019, the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal sentenced seven militants to death, calling the attack "disgraceful" and an attempt to undermine Bangladesh's non-communal character. One accused was acquitted.

The High Court commuted those death sentences to life imprisonment.

The convicts are Jahangir Hossain, Aslam Hossain Rash, Hadisur Rahman, Rakibul Hasan Regan, Md Abdus Sabur Khan, Shariful Islam Khaled, and Mamunur Rashid Ripon.

The HC observed they had direct roles in selecting and recruiting the five attackers, providing shelter, training, funds, and weapons, and inciting the killings. The court found the charges against them proven

beyond doubt under Section 6(2)(aa) of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009.

Defence lawyer Md Amimul Ehsan Zubayer, representing Shariful, argued that his client was abroad during the attack and was not directly involved.

He said his client should have been acquitted as the judgment was given under a section of the Anti-Terrorism Act 2009, which is supposed to be applied against the offenders directly involved in the offence.

He said he has yet to receive any instructions from his client regarding filing an appeal against the HC judgement.

All seven convicts remain in jail. Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman could not be reached for comment.

Freedom Fighter Sakhina

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prayers, she was given a guard of honour by Nikli Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rehana Majumder and Nikli Police Station Officer-in-Charge Kazi Arif Uddin at Gurui Eidgah ground of the upazila in the evening.

She was later buried near the historic Gurui Shahi Mosque.

UNO Rehana said, "She was a true daughter of the nation. The courage and heroism she showed in 1971 will be remembered for generations."

Born in Gurui village, Nikli upazila, Sakhina was the daughter of Sonalor

Mia and Dukhhi Bibi. She had no children. Her husband Kitab Ali passed away before the war.

Sakhina joined the Liberation War after her nephew, freedom fighter Matiur Rahman, was martyred.

Initially serving as a cook and informant for the Basu Bahini, she was captured by Pakistani forces. She managed to escape, carrying a sharp machete. She later used the machete to kill five Razakars in Nikli.

Her machete is now preserved at the Liberation War Museum in Dhaka, with her name inscribed on

its plaque.

She was known as "Khatki Begum" among locals and had been listed as a freedom fighter.

In her final years, Sakhina lived with her niece, Fairunnessa Akhter, in Hilchia, Bajitpur upazila, as she had no immediate family in Nikli.

Her story is documented in Kishoreganj's Liberation War history.

In recognition of her heroism, Sakhina received a grant of Tk 50,000 from the government in 1998 and received a monthly freedom fighter's allowance.

6 die on roads

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hit the motorcycle coming from the opposite direction, killing its rider, Abu Taleb, on the spot, said Khandakar Mohibbul Islam, the officer-in-charge of Phulbari Police Station, quoting locals.

Locals rescued pillion rider, Sajul Islam, but he died on the way to a hospital, the OC said.

Police seized the vehicle but the driver and his helper managed to flee.

Sajul's father Anarul Islam filed a case with the police station under the Road Transport Act, the OC said.

In Pabna, a truck driver was killed and two others injured when a bus and stone-laden truck collided head-on near the Pabna Bus Terminal in Sadar upazila.

The victim is Selim Hossain, 38, of Saharbaati village of Meherpur's

Gangni upazila.

The incident took place around 6:30am when the driver of a bus lost control of the vehicle and collided with the Mawa-bound truck, said Abdus Salam, the OC of Pabna Sadar Police Station.

Both the vehicles skidded off the road into a roadside ditch.

The helper of the bus was in the driving seat after unloading all passengers at the bus terminal, the OC said.

Truck driver Selim died on the spot while the helper of the bus Md Tarek, 35, and helper of the truck Md Al Amin, 32, were critically injured.

They were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Police seized both vehicles.

[Our correspondents from Thakurgaon, Pabna, and Gazipur contributed to this report]

ACC files case

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Tk 256.98 crore. Of this, Abul Khair and his wife misappropriated Tk 29.94 crore by concealing its source in tax returns. Khair also conducted suspicious transactions worth Tk 542.32 crore through 17 bank accounts.

The ACC said Shakib colluded with the main accused, Abul Khair, in manipulating shares of Paramount Insurance, Crystal Insurance, and Sonali Paper Mills, earning Tk 2.95 crore in "realised capital gain" from general investors' funds.

The case was filed under the Corruption Prevention Act, 1947, and the Penal Code following a preliminary inquiry and ACC approval.

Most dists lack Covid testing

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said test kits have been distributed to 40 government hospitals since Thursday.

"We are focusing on increasing the number of tests," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Covid-19 surveillance data, analysed by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), shows that the infection rate has been rising since last month.

Of 1,409 samples tested last month, 9.51 percent were positive—the highest positivity rate since January 2023.

BNP doesn't want conflict

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the London meeting in what they described as a productive and cordial environment.

Tarique informed the leaders that he told Yunus that the BNP would seek cooperation from him and his advisory team if the party forms the government, and in response, Yunus assured him of his support.

Leaders viewed the outcome as restoring public confidence and saw the acting chairman's handling of the meeting as evidence of political foresight.

As a result of the London meeting,

the distance between the BNP and the interim government has been resolved, and the uncertainty surrounding the upcoming 13th parliamentary election has also been cleared.

Yunus has expressed willingness to hold elections in the week prior to Ramadan next year.

"If they don't follow through on the election commitment, there will be ample time for stronger movements. But for now, we want to maintain a positive posture and focus on election preparation," said one senior leader.

Subsequently, the ongoing protest led by BNP leader Ishraque Hossain

regarding his swearing-in as mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation is sending a conflicting message to the interim government.

Given that the term of the current city corporation has already expired, the senior leaders felt it was time for Ishraque to call off the movement.

Tarique expressed concern that Bangladesh's economy is struggling and the law-and-order situation remains dicey.

Subsequently, he asked the party leaders to begin drafting concrete policy solutions so that if the BNP wins, they can take action from day one and begin restoring public trust.

Israeli tank fire

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of our troops."

Medics said at least 14 other people were also killed in separate Israeli gunfire and airstrikes elsewhere in the enclave, taking yesterday's death toll to at least 65.

The incident was the latest in nearly daily mass killings of Palestinians seeking aid in the past three weeks, since Israel partially lifted a total blockade on the territory it had imposed for nearly three months.