"I recently went to the Cantonment to play with a friend. I envied the wide courts on every open field and lawn. It feels pretty cool to gear up right for a proper game of badminton. I wish there were more open spaces to play badminton in other residential areas."

While some may take it to the ward commissioner or other local authorities for a proper court, badminton enthusiasts usually build a court on their own. Courts are also erected in a few empty school grounds and sometimes in university campuses. The 20 feet deep pond in Dhaka University that never got filled up provides a good ground for intensive rounds of badminton. Students take over once the sun sets and games continue late into the night. In fact, this space is as much coveted by musicians too as sometimes it transforms into a space for music lovers, one of the many quirks of winter! As winter sets in, so does the season of gigs and concerts. The previous week saw two very successful concerts, one being the last Tribute concert at Sheraton and the other that had a vital cause -- helping the Aila victims, which was held at Cuppa Coffee, Gulshan. Yet another winter concert took place at the Roadhouse arena in Gulshan 2, where young bands got together and jammed to their hearts' content. Both the concerts boasted of the most wanted line up in town and needless to say, both saw big and successful turnouts. Music aficionados look ahead to more such shows which are expected to take place in the many lounges and other open spaces.

Winter brings together many souls for a brief time till the time comes once again to split apart and start afresh. Here's to lasting memories and new beginnings!

Look out for the Mosquitoes!

As Dhaka gears up to wrap up the year in style, some laze under the late afternoon sunshine, the air bearing whiffs of burning leaves and *dhup* to repel mosquitoes. Sitting in the traffic, you jump to a hiss and a pop outside the window. A man just showed you a demonstration of ingenious mosquito killing. The electric rackets that promise to fry the winged devils are everywhere on the streets in this season. The mosquito nets that have been locked inside closets come out. Sale of sprays and coils surely rocket upwards during this time. Yet, despite the red welts, winter in Dhaka is too short and eventful not to be enjoyed and be caught under its spell.



PHOTO: SHAMSUL ISLAM-SHAKIL

The concert season returns, attracting pools of young music lovers.