

Bashundhara's Best Burger

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For those of us living a city away from Bashundhara, a trip to there might eat up our entire day. I was in a similar rut and during lunch time too. Luckily enough, a few of my friends dragged me to Burger Lab because burgers.

A cute little place next to Jamuna Future Park right next to Arabian Sweets, only 10 people can fit inside at most. If you can find a place to sit which I did both the times I went there, you can actually see the amount of effort put behind Burger Lab. The decorations are excellent and they reflect the overall laboratory theme of the joint. There are quirky little quotes on the wall where someone is insisting they're on a date but they end up delaying it for a burger. If you're with a bunch of friends, it can be a really fun place to hang out over burgers.

The soft yellow lights complement the red of the décor, giving the place a friendly feel.

I'm one of those people who go to restaurants and obnoxiously order more food than the couple sitting in the next table. As the girl whispers to the boyfriend to look at the thin guy in the next table, I gorge down the food. Of course I feel embarrassed and guilty afterwards. Just because I eat like one doesn't mean I am an animal. Now, following that, I ordered Burger Lab's Big Bang which cost Tk. 350 while my friends were getting the Mushroom Cloud (Tk. 250) or the Burger Lab Legacy (Tk. 290).

The Big Bang, like its namesake, was huge. Two patties, beef bacon, jalapeno, pickles, mushroom and possibly everything in the universe in between two buns. I hate eggs in my food and since the

BURGER LAB



The Prototype II

menu type was small, I completely missed that, realising it when I bit into a portion of the fried egg. I actually didn't hate it. That's the thing with the burgers at Burger Lab, the ingredients are balanced out very well. Mostly, one or two flavours overpower the food like an audio track with too much bass. But the burgers at Burger Lab felt unique in a sense that the flavours were very distinct from each

other. The fries that we ordered were very run-of-the-mill and forgettable. They make a good supplement but the ketchup and mayo they give with the fries are great. Oh and did I mention that the portions were quite fair?

If you can grab a seat at Burger Lab, thank your luck and get a burger. If not, get takeout and make that Bashundhara trip worth it.

FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE 2015

Alliance Française celebrates World Music Day

SALMA MOHAMMAD ALI

'Fête de la Musique', also known as World Music Day, began as a music festival in France in the year 1982. Since then it is celebrated all over the world, especially in European countries. This year, just like every other year, Alliance Française de Dhaka arranged a two-day musical programme to celebrate the occasion.

The first day (June 12, 2015) saw performances such as *ghazal* and an open mic stage but the main highlight was the second and final day (June 13, 2015). Entry was open for all and was free. The event kicked off as eager spectators filled

up La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka (Dhanmondi) and comfortably seated themselves on chairs and floor mats. The primary performances were by students of the institution, singing the likes of "Papaoutai", flawlessly in French.

The gallery made for a cosy atmosphere, the colourful paintings hanging all around the walls, setting a perfect artsy mood. The food corner situated in the next room offered scrumptious snacks and beverages to go with the music.

As the main theme of this year's event was western classical music, there were a number of performances belonging to this category. First were classical guitar

performances: Aymanur Rahman played the Spanish based "Capricho Arabe", followed by Mehbeez Binte Matiu who performed classical Scottish music – "Wild Mountain Thyme". Both are guitar students at Alliance Française de Dhaka but could be easily mistaken for professionals.

There were quite a few piano recitals by students of all ages and their music teachers. Other than western classics such as "Guajira" this included a rendition of Tagore's "Purano Shei Diner Kotha", performed by Afra Anjum Shayari.

The audience was left in a trance when Md Akash and Abidur Rahman took the stage for a musical duet. The guitar (Abidur) and flute (Akash) were played in perfect harmony as the duo performed four truly enchanting pieces: "Love is Blue", the famous classics "Ave Maria", "Scarborough Fair" and the immensely popular "Yesterday" by The Beatles.

Then to add more diversity there were songs, accompanied by guitar, in French, Bangla and English by the multilingual students. The excited audience lost themselves in favourites such as "Annie's Song" and "I'll be There for You" (theme song, *Friends*). Understandably, everyone was found to be singing along to "Summer of 69" (Bryan Adams).

It was around 7pm when the announcer explained they had something special in store. The lights were dimmed and the stage set up and soon the audience



looked up to find an

orchestra group

of fifteen violinists, clad in black, and conductor Philip Hazra ready on the stage – they were the Dhaka Strings orchestra group. Violinist Asif Mahtab introduced Dhaka Strings and explained they would be playing western classical music as it is "a timeless form of art"; the audience seemed engrossed as the group began playing the *rondeau* from "Abdelazer". It was a captivating number performed in perfect synchronisation, and arranged in F major.

With some more solo performances the event drew to a close. Satisfied spectators are certainly eager to find out what next year's Fête de la Musique will bring.

Salma Mohammad Ali fears she is becoming a crazy cat lady and uses writing as a means to grasp on to sanity. Send her your views/hate/love at [facebook.com/salma.ali209](https://www.facebook.com/salma.ali209).



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