

# From TSC to Madison Square Garden

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SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

There are few bands in Bangladesh who are as internationally appealing and well rounded as Chirkutt. The folk rock pioneers will break new ground by performing with Scorpions at Madison Square Garden (MSG), New York at the Golden Jubilee Bangladesh concert, celebrating 50 years of our country's Independence. We talked to Chirkutt about their preparations, excitement, and thoughts about the concert.

**Congratulations on the tremendous achievement. How does it feel to be performing in the world's**

**most famous arena?**

Truth be told, it is surreal! The pride that we feel, being able to perform for our country in MSG, that too with legends like Scorpions, is overwhelming – we simply cannot wait for May 6.

**You are often referred to as the 'international' band of Bangladesh. Do you think that is the reason behind your selection at the event?**

We feel that it all boils down to our

hard work and perseverance, or 'rizik'. We have toured all over the world – Norway, the United Kingdom, Sri Lanka and even the USA, and I think the organisers found value in our resume. We are thankful to the ICT Division, UNDP, the US Embassy, and all the organisers for including us in this historic event.

**Scorpions and Chirkutt have something in common: both the bands have raised awareness on various social issues throughout the years.**

They (Scorpions) are a band older than Bangladesh itself, in terms of years. When it comes to awareness, we feel like not only artistes, but every individual needs to voice out in their own way when we see an injustice or an issue.

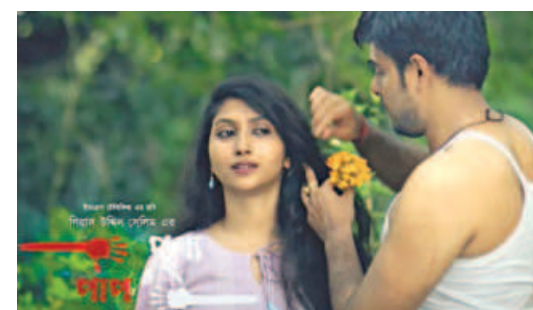
**We are entering an age where we directly compete with music all over the world. Do you think our local bands are ready for it?**

Many bands are doing really well, and will only grow in the future. With young acts like Smooches, Bangla Five, F Minor, The Rehman Duo, we see the industry having limitless potential. When we performed in MTV, we kept in touch with them, and recommended some artistes from Bangladesh. An industry will only be strong if we grow together.

**Chirkutt will celebrate 20 years in 2022. Do you have any plans?**

We will celebrate with our fans, well-wishers and colleagues later this year. We have come a long way – from performing in TSC all the way to Madison Square Garden. Our upcoming releases include "Maati Geeti", a project of 5 folk tracks, as well as the songs based on the countries we visit.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHIRKUTT



## Thrilling trailer for 'Paap Punno' released

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The trailer of the much-anticipated film "Paap Punno", directed by Gias Uddin Selim, was released recently, showcasing the beautiful chemistry between Siam Ahmed and debutant Shahnaz Sumi, alongside a mysterious role portrayed by Chanchal Chowdhury. Fazlur Rahman Babu plays a police officer in the film.

It also features Mamunur Rashid, Afsana Mimi and Farzana Chumki in pivotal roles.

The film is slated to hit theatres on Eid-ul-Fitr.



## Parna's first playback

Singer Himadrita Parna has lent her voice to two songs in the film, "Radio", starring Riaz and Zakia Bari Mamo.

Directed by Anonno Mamun, the movie depicts the contribution of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, which massively inspired the Freedom Fighters and others during Bangladesh's Liberation War.

Parna has sung the duet songs with Kumar Bishwajit. "This is the first time that I have done playback songs for a film. I feel honoured to be a part of a project that is based on such an important chapter of Bangladesh's history," she says.

The songs are composed by Emon Saha.

## No foreign plot

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country", widely assumed to mean the US, about the no-confidence vote.

Pakistan's lower house of parliament eventually voted in favour of removing Khan from office on Sunday.

Opposition parties and analysts say the military helped Khan win election in 2018, which they both deny, but that support waned after a falling out over the appointment of the country's next intelligence chief late last year.

## Cravings

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India, before returning home the same way.

This adventure came to an end on Wednesday when BSF members apprehended the boy, who was undertaking another such journey, said Banoj Biplab Das, Sonamura sub divisional police officer (SDPO).

The boy was handed over to police, who produced him before a court that placed him on 15 day remand in judicial custody, he said.

"During interrogation, the boy confessed to sneaking into India to buy chocolate. One hundred Bangladeshi taka was found with him but he did not possess anything illegal. He was arrested for entering India without valid documents," Das said.

"Further investigation is underway. He will be produced before the court again," The SDPO said, adding that no one from Eman's family had contacted Indian authorities yet.

"Bangladeshis often sneak into India to buy groceries and attend social functions. BSF generally ignores them on humanitarian grounds and takes action against smugglers and traffickers. But as far as I know, the boy had only come to buy chocolate," said Elius Hossain, a Kalamchoura resident.

## Man dies in cop

FROM PAGE 12  
proper investigation. Rabiul's wife Monira Begum was among the protesters.

"I want exemplary punishment for those involved in the killing. They tortured and killed my innocent husband. I became a widow and my child fatherless," said the mother of an eight-month-old girl.

Additional Superintendent of Police Rabiul Islam at a press briefing in the evening said, "We are investigating the incident... If he had been tortured by police and had died as a result, we will take strict action against the policemen. Once we

get the autopsy report, we will know the cause of his death."

The deceased was the son of Dulal Khan and Safa Begum. He was a timber trader.

Rabiul's younger brother Sohag Khan said his brother never gambled. "He went to the Baishakhi Mela near our house to buy toys for his baby daughter. Sub-Inspector Halimur Rahman detained him on suspicion of gambling and beat him up severely. This led to his death. Police later took the body to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital... We were preparing to take legal action against the policemen," he said.

Breaking down in tears,

Monira told The Daily Star: "He was the only earning member in our family. The police... ruined our family."

Sub-Inspector Halimur Rahman refused to talk about the matter.

Earlier yesterday, Additional Superintendent of Police Rabiul told reporters that the man who died was a gambler and was sick. "He was detained while gambling. When he fell ill and was admitted to the hospital, the doctor declared him dead."

Sahadat Hossain, a doctor at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital, told reporters that he would not comment on the matter before seeing the autopsy report.

## Ex-Huji chief faked identity

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Thursday, said Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab's legal and media wing.

The Huji-B leader used to serve as an imam at a mosque in the char for a monthly salary of Tk 5,000. He also taught at a women's madrasa in the locality.

Moin said the convict stopped communicating with his family members and relatives after going into hiding in Narsingdi in 2008. Before that, he had been staying at different places.

He, however, used to meet his son occasionally going far away from his hideout.

According to the Rab official, Shafiqur during

primary interrogation admitted that he was not directly involved with the militant outfit now, but he used to make misleading and provocative speeches in the name of religion.

Moin further said the arrestee was one of the planners of the Ramna Batamul blasts. Ten people were killed and dozens injured after two bombs went off during the celebrations of Bangla New Year, 1408 (on April 14, 2001).

In June 2014, a Dhaka court handed down death penalty to eight militants of Harkat-ul-Jihad Al Islami, Bangladesh (Huji-B),

including Mufti Shafiqur and its top leader Mufti Abdul Hannan. Six other militants of the banned outfit were sentenced to life in prison.

The Rab director said Shafiqur is an Afghan War returnee. Coming back from Afghanistan, he along with other war returnees formed the Bangladesh chapter of Harkat-ul-Jihad Al Islami.

He served as the publicity secretary of the militant group between 1990 and 1993 and as the ameer (chief) from 1993 to 1996, Moin said.

Shafiqur was a member of Majlish-e-Shura of Huji-B from 1997 to 2003.

## Run judicial enquiry

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Speaking at the meeting, Shahrir Kabir, president of the committee, said a judicial probe should be carried out into the incident involving Hriday, maths teacher of Binodpur Ramkumar High School in Munshiganj Sadar upazila.

"We have no confidence in the departmental investigation. All related incidents need to be judicially investigated. I am going to file a writ petition with the High Court in this

regard," he said.

Former Supreme Court judge Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, also the president of South Asian People's Conference Against Radicalism and Communalism, said Hriday would not have been arrested if the magistrate had not taken the case into cognisance.

"The district superintendent of police cannot avoid the responsibility for this incident. The SP of course

is responsible and he has to answer. The sub-inspector should also be held accountable."

Asad Miah, office assistant of Binodpur Ramkumar High School, filed the case against Hriday on March 22 over "demeaning religion". The case was lodged hours after police detained the teacher.

His bail petitions were denied twice on March 23 and 28 before he was released on bail on April 10.

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