



Artcell



Shakib Al Hasan



Zohad Reza Chowdhury from Nemesis

A SHOWCASE OF community, brotherhood and mutual respect

Musicians came together to perform tributes to Azam Khan and Ayub Bachchu, two pillars of Bangladesh's rock music industry.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

In a line up full of hard-hitters like Artcell, Black, Cryptic Fate, Arbovirus, Nemesis, AvoidRafa, Mechanix, and Dreck, the most memorable moment was Shakib Al Hasan gingerly singing "Amra Korbo Joy", much to the elation of the crowd.

This could very well be interpreted as criticism, but in this instance, it was merely the cherry on top of a great show.

Concerts in the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) are what I consider the acid test of a true music lover – with



Raef Al Hasan Rafa from AvoidRafa



Shakib Chowdhury from Cryptic Fate

disappoint.

As I entered the premises, the youthful exuberance was really something to behold, as sparkly-eyed teenagers younger than most of the bands themselves waited to see the heroes. I entered with the general expectation that I could see the entire line-up even after being late, I was simultaneously impressed and disappointed that I had missed Mechanix and Black (concerts are in the habit of starting very late).

It wasn't long before I kicked myself in the curb, as I got to know that Black had performed with Mila for their iconic "Tumi Ki Shara Dibe". Much like this performance, the concert lived up to its 'Hybrid' moniker – with Mechanix featuring Jamshed Chowdhury, Black covering Arbovirus' "Obhishap" and Arbovirus returning the favour with their rendition of "Aamra". AvoidRafa's rendition of Artcell's "Tomake" was magnificent, as

frontman Rafa's high-pitched voice perfectly suited the parallel scales of the song.

Musicians came together to perform tributes to Azam Khan and Ayub Bachchu, two pillars of Bangladesh's rock music industry. However, what was most refreshing to see was the tribute to Warfaze guitarist and legend Ibrahim Ahmed Kamal, as it is rare that we get to see tributes to a living, performing musician.

The organisers Full Circle and title Sponsor Daraz deserve felicitations for the execution of this wonderful idea – leaving no stone unturned in the sound, lighting or stage design.

When a concert is done well, it can hardly be rivaled by any other experience in the world – not only because of the music, but the sense of community, brotherhood and belonging in band music – one that was almost destroyed due to the pandemic.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

commutes to the place from most of Dhaka being a torturous grind, and the sound systems always being a hit-or-miss – but "The Hybrid Experience" on Friday did not

COUNTRYWIDE

Paddy processing on roads: A DANGER INVITED

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmonirhat

Regardless of smooth vehicular movement and impending danger, farmers in different areas of Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts are using roads and highways for threshing and drying paddy as Boro harvest gains momentum.

Around 3,000 vehicles including buses and trucks ply the Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway, Kurigram-Bhurungamari highway and Rangpur-Kurigram highway and they face much hurdles negotiating the roads because of the presence of careless farmers processing paddy, said leaders of Transport Workers' Union.

Locals said very often, straw gets entangled with the wheels causing them to veer off the roads. The roads become more treacherous when rains drench the straw strewn on them.

"We need to drive more cautiously because of the presence of farmers

processing paddy on the roads," said trucker Masudul Islam at Burimari Land Port in Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila. Farmer Delwar Hossain, who was seen drying paddy on highway in Namuri area of Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila said "We the marginal farmers have hardly any space for processing paddy and so, we use roads for the purpose."

"We prefer threshing and drying paddy on the paved road to keep the colour of the crops fresh. The crops get dirty and sandy if it is processed and threshed on fields or yards," said Atiar Rahman, a farmer at Sarpukur village in Aditmari upazila, who was seen drying paddy on Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway.

Aslam Hossain, a trader of Kurigram's Chilmari upazila, said he was injured as his motorbike skidded on straw while he was going to Kurigram town on Kurigram-Chilmari road on May 14.

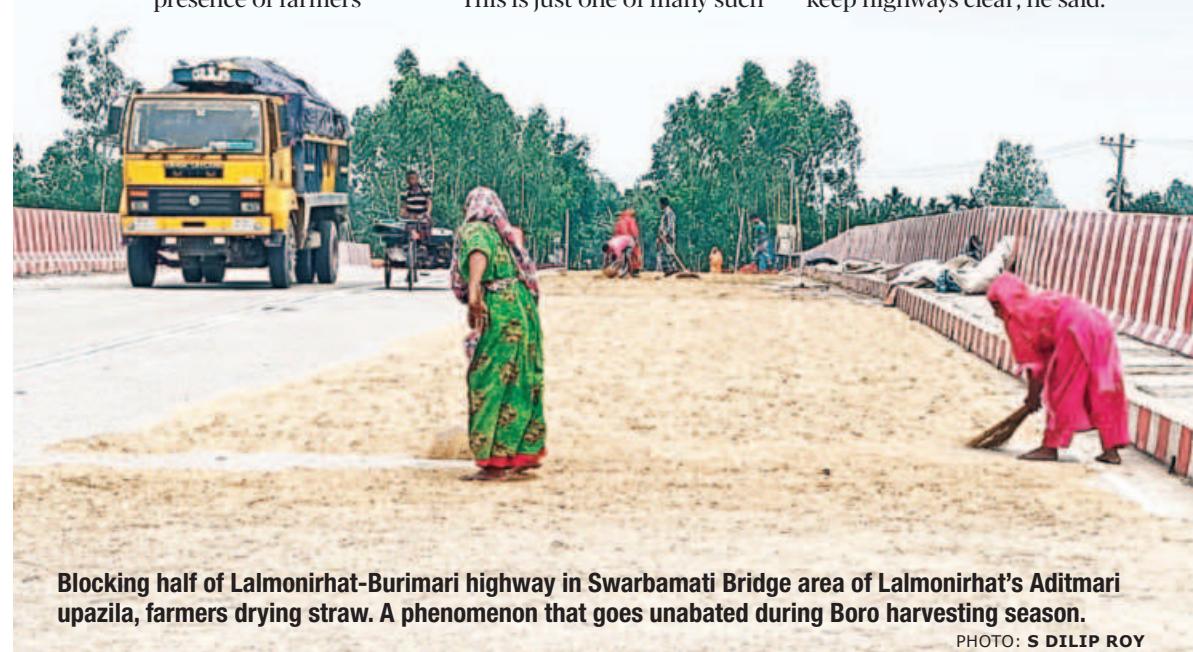
This is just one of many such

incidents, he added.

Traffic Inspector in Lalmonirhat Abdur Rafique said it is hard for the authorities concerned to refrain so many farmers from doing such nonchalant activities.

Around 3,000 vehicles including buses and trucks ply the Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway, Kurigram-Bhurungamari highway and Rangpur-Kurigram highway and they face much hurdles negotiating the roads.

Public representatives along with all concerned citizens must play an effective role to raise awareness among the farmers to keep highways clear, he said.



Blocking half of Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway in Swarbhami Bridge area of Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila, farmers drying straw. A phenomenon that goes unabated during Boro harvesting season.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Despite some abuse

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was organised by the Law and Justice Division of the law ministry.

Anisul said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had included the independence of the media in the constitution as a fundamental right. The government led by his daughter Sheikh Hasina will never formulate any such law which would damage the freedom of press and freedom of expression, he added.

Cybercrimes are not committed physically, and the Digital Security Act has been formulated to hold trials for cybercrimes, the minister said.

He urged the lawyers not to seek adjournments of case hearings repeatedly in order to reduce the backlog of cases.

Eight government pleaders and as many public prosecutors from eight divisions spoke at the meeting, presided over by Law and Justice Division Secretary Md Golam Sarwar.

JP doubtful

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ideological differences between the Awami League and the BNP, there are no differences in their character.

He alleged that the two parties have created divisions among the people through corruption, misrule, and extortion.

"The people have no rights and security. Large buildings are being constructed for hospitals, but those do not have doctors and necessary equipment."

The JP chief said educational institutions were being set up, but there was no education there.

Quader said there is no effective initiative in controlling drug use. There are allegations that those in power are involved in spreading the use of drugs to destroy the nation, he added.

Crops damaged, fish farms

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losses worth Tk 674 crore.

Md Abul Kalam Azad, district fisheries officer in Sylhet, said, "Fish farmers in Zakiganj, Gowainghat and Biswanath upazilas have been suffering the most. We are now expecting huge losses, which are increasing over time."

The damage to fisheries is relatively less in Sunamganj.

After a blow to the Boro harvest due to flash floods last month, a fresh blow hit the farmers just a couple of days away from harvesting the crop.

In Sylhet, 1,704 hectares of Boro were flooded, while in Sunamganj, it was 829 hectares.

Aush growers have also

been facing losses as 1,600 hectares were damaged in Sylhet, along with 72 hectares of saplings and 20 hectares of freshly cultivated paddy in Sunamganj.

Meanwhile, the water levels in the Surma and the Kushiya receded but were still above the danger marks.

The Surma was flowing at 83cm above the danger level at Kanaighat point in Sylhet at 3:00pm, after going 15cm down on Friday.

At the same time, it was flowing at 17cm above the danger level (21cm down from Friday) at Sylhet city point and 1cm above the danger level at Sunamganj town point (15cm reduced from Friday).

The Kushiya was flowing at 151cm above the danger level (18cm lower than Friday) in Sylhet's Zakiganj upazila's Amolshid point and 54cm above the danger level (4cm lower than Friday) at Beainibazar upazila's Sheola point.

The Someshwari in Netrakona's Kalmakanda at the same time was flowing 15cm above the danger level.

Meanwhile, the water of the Jamuna in Manikganj's Aricha point has increased 34cm in the last 24 hours and was flowing 250cm below the danger level at 3:00pm yesterday, said Faruk Hossain of Water Development Board in Manikganj.

5 dead as nor'wester sweeps

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Ishwardia village; and his passenger Abdus Sahid, 47, of Char Nilaxia village in Mymensingh's Sadar upazila, police said.

On information, police recovered the bodies and handed those to the respective families. A case was lodged with the police station in this regard.

In Bogura, two people were killed during the storm, which swept the district over 88 kilometer square in hour around 4:00 am.

The dead were identified as Md Shahin Prodhan, 42, resident of Majigram village in Kahalou upazila, and Abdul Halim, 42 of Birkustia village under Shahjahanpur upazila in

Bogura.

Shahin died when a tree fell on him and the latter was killed when he fell from an uprooted tree while it was being cleared, police said.

Near hundreds of trees have fallen around the Bogura town by the storm, while over five hundred birds and their chicks died due to this at the Bogura Municipality Park, Govt Azizul Haque college campus and some other places, said Arafat Rahman, former president of TEER (Team for energy and environmental research).

Ruposhi Begum, 45, a homemaker in Kulchara village under Shailakupa upazila in Jhenidah, died when lightning struck her home during the storm.

Besides, thousands of trees were uprooted and around five hundreds homes were damaged during the nor'wester, said Mofidul Islam Monto, chairman of no.11 Rakhalgachi union.

Citing the Met bulletin, UNB reported, "Rain or thunder showers, with intense lightning flashes and squally wind, are likely to occur at many places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Chattogram divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Barishal divisions, with moderately heavy rainfall."

(Our Mymensingh, Bogura and Jhenidah correspondents contributed to the report.)

Only talks

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historical military non-alignment and applied to join Nato, after public support for the alliance soared following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Moscow has warned

Finland that joining Nato would be "a grave mistake with far-reaching consequences" and Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said it would respond by building military bases in western Russia.

But both Finland and Sweden are now apparently on the fast track to join the military alliance, with US President Joe Biden this week offering "full, total, complete backing" to their bids.

'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' emerges victorious at Bollywood box office

"Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2", featuring Kartik Aaryan, Kiara Advani, Tabu and Rajpal Yadav in key roles, has been garnering positive reviews from critics and audiences alike. Collecting Rs 14.11 cr in India, the Anes Bazmee directorial has emerged as the fourth-highest opening day grosser post the pandemic. Critics are saying that the film quenches Bollywood's thirst for an ideal family entertainer

Bubly's 'Talash' to release in June

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Shobnom Bubly and A K Azad paired up for the first time in Saikat Nasir directorial film "Talash". Azad will be making his silver screen debut with this project. The trailer of the film was released on May 19. The film will hit theatres on June 17. This news was posted on Bubly's official Facebook page.

The actress is working simultaneously on silver screen and OTT platforms. Her last project, "Floor no 7", directed by Raihan Rafi, was released on Chorki during Eid.

