



NOVEMBER RAINS nostalgia on music lovers

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

The atmosphere was entirely different at the Expo Zone of ICCB, as people of all ages thronged to the venue. 'Of all ages' might be a cliché now, but it holds true in the case of this year's November Rain concert, but I'll get to that in a bit.

ICCB has been the go-to venue and the practical choice of concert organisers as of late – but for dedicated fans, the hit-and-miss acoustics of the halls could never quite capture the olden days of RCC and other stellar underground concerts.

As the event started, Powersurge alleviated all their worries, with their powerful set tailor-made for the open-air of the Expo zone. The more the headbangers did their ritualistic dance in front of the first-shaped stage, the price of admission in this festival of rock seemed immediately worth it.

Whether it be Ashes' intoxicating tunes fronted by Zunayed Evan, Chirkutt's wonderfully energetic back-and-forth between vocalist Sharmin Sultana Sumi and the maestro Emon Chowdhury or Meghdol's otherworldly sound in Shibu Kumer Shill's calming voice, the proceedings were wonderfully managed by the organisers.

Almost as much as it was a festival of music, it was one of surprises as well, as the rollicking crowd



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

ate up every bit of Viking's performance when they called their old colleague, 90's pop icon Kaniz Suborna on stage to sing *Bhalobashi Jare*.

The big pull, as suggested of the elaborate marketing of the concert, was the 'ABC' tag, the nostalgia of the 2000's, Artcell, Black and Cryptic Fate performing. This is where my previous remark of 'of all ages' comes to, as there were sections of the audience who were nervous as to what will happen once they take of their nostalgia-tinted glasses.

They were not disappointed – the three juggernauts of the music industry indeed blew everyone away with their iconic solo sets.

The usual 'Artcell, Artcell' chants were dime-a-dozen among the crowd. When they got to know

that Artcell's original bassist, Cezanne, flew in from Australia to perform in the show, they went crazier still.

Cryptic Fate and their 'Bhoboghure' fans owned the audience for their set, churning out one after another hits from their long library of dazzling heavy metal tracks.

Black hadn't lost a step, as their new vocalist Ishan showed why he is worthy of taking the mantle from Rubaiyat, their previous frontman.

The crescendo of their acts came when they stood together on stage for what seemed like an eternity to perform their iconic *Ashirbad*, transporting fans to the 2000's in a heartbeat. When the Limp Bizkit inspired verses of the song started blaring out the speakers, I once again was an 11-year old with a penchant for rock music.

Just when you thought that the night couldn't get better, the performance was capped off by Aurthohin, re-energising an almost spent crowd with their classics.

November Rain, based on the evergreen song of the same name by Guns N' Roses, was an initiative by Brandmyth Experimental. The organisers certainly deserve praise for going all-out for a memorable musical night.



Copyright office hands over \$10,000 royalty to Shah Abdul Karim's family

In order to preserve the musical works of **Baul Shah Abdul Karim**, Rabindra Shangeet artiste Rezwana Choudhury Bannya and poet Hason Raja, three new websites have been created under the initiative of the Copyright Office of Bangladesh.

The inauguration event took place yesterday, at the conference room of the National Archives Building.

At the event, **Baul Shah Abdul Karim's** family received \$10,000 as a year's worth royalty for his songs. State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid handed over the cheque to Shah Noor Jalal, son of **Shah Abdul Karim**.

Former Registrar of the Bangladesh Copyright Office Zafar Raza Chowdhury attended the event as chief guest. Cultural personas and artistes such as Artists Khurshid Alam, Rafiqul Alam, Rezwana Choudhury Bannya, and Sujit Mustafa amongst many others were also present.



Shafiul Badsha wins Magic Bauliana 2022

Folk music reality show **Magic Bauliana 2022** staged the grand finale of its fourth season at Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon. Shafiul Badsha from Dhaka has come out as the champion, while Fokir Chan from Netrokona scored the second place. Arnab Bhattacharya of Brahmanbaria won the third place at the coveted competition.

The event was sponsored by Square Toiletries Limited, while the programme was broadcasted on Maasranga Television under the initiative of Sun Foundation.

Shafiul Badsha received a cheque of BDT 500,000 while the second and third place winners were granted BDT 300,000 and BDT 200,000 respectively. Apart from the top 3 winners, Saiful Islam, Arpa Khondokar Chadni, Oyshee Rani Dristi were in the top 6 of the competition.

Popular actress and dancer Sadia Islam Mou performed a special dance sequence. Chanchal Chowdhury performed with the top 6 participants at the event.

We argued, fought, yet our friendship was endless

Asaduzzaman Noor reminisces Humayun Ahmed

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Even today, the works of Humayun Ahmed is loved by everyone. Today marks the 64th birthday of the literary wizard. He was a much-loved filmmaker as well. His directorial projects on BTV reached immense popularity in the 90s, some of which includes *Kothao Keu Nei*, *Bohubrihi*, and *Nokkhotrer Raat* among others. As a filmmaker his works such as *Aguner Poroshmoni*, *Srabon Megher Din* were also critically acclaimed.

Who does not remember Baker bhai, the iconic character from *Kothao Keu Nei*? The role would not have been this impactful, if it was not donned by the eminent cultural personality and former Cultural Minister, Asaduzzaman Noor, MP.

It might not be known to many that Asaduzzaman Noor and Humayun Ahmed shared a great bond. Reminiscing his friend, the artiste narrates some stories about Humayun Ahmed to The Daily Star.

"Till his last breath, we were great friends. We argued over a matter many a time, even got upset at one



Humayun Ahmed with Asaduzzaman Noor.

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

another, yet after sometime, we would let everything go. Our friendship was endless.

I remember that most of the time we had arguments, especially on casual gatherings. I am a person who

can't get too loud when angry, but Humayun was very short tempered, and he used to react extremely harshly. However, by the end of our 'adda', our rage would subside.

Once, I returned from the spot

without shooting for his project. I was called to shoot for a small scene. After reaching on the spot in the noon, they made me sit till evening. Humayun was deeply engaged in his work. I got annoyed and said to shoot my part and let me go. Humayun responded – 'I don't need you', and I returned without saying anything further.

At midnight, Humayun, along with his entire team came to my house. He told my wife to cook for us, and despite of what happened on the day, both of us forgot everything, and enjoyed the adda till latter part of the night. He had a heart like a child, he could never hold grudge.

He was very dependent on friends – I had never seen him spending a day without friends. He would travel a lot with friends.

Humayun was a magician, a genius storyteller. He was master in telling stories with simplicity, this is what made him unique. His style had a great impact on people.

I miss my friend dearly."

Translated by Sharmin Joya

Bipasha Basu, Karan Singh Grover welcome first child

Bollywood couple Bipasha Basu and Karan Singh Grover have welcomed their first child – it is a baby girl. The couple has announced the name of the baby along with picture of their daughter's feet on Instagram.

"Devi Basu Singh Grover- The physical manifestation of our love and blessings of Ma is here now and she is Divine," the post read.

The couple first announced pregnancy in August. Since then, Bipasha has been posting pictures and videos on Instagram, documenting her pregnancy journey.

