

# Ayub Bachchu's dream becomes a reality: 16 bands to perform at 'Band Music Fest 2022'

**"Ayub Bachchu is a visionary and he had a dream of taking Bangladeshi band music to the next level. Every year we have been celebrating Band Music Fest on December 1 and we did it because December is the month of our Victory."**

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Legendary musician Ayub Bachchu had a vision of creating a band music fest, which would feature popular bands from Bangladesh coming together for an enthralling musical experience. Nine years ago, he requested Channel i to arrange *Band Music Day* on December 1 of each year, with elaborate functions to celebrate the joyous union of Bangladesh's top bands.

Since then, every year on December 1, Channel i has celebrated Ayub Bachchu's vision with an annual mega concert.

However, this year Channel i joined forces with Bangladesh Musical Bands Association (BAMBA) to create one of the biggest musical events of all time, *BAMBA - Channel i Band Music Fest 2022*—powered by Gaan Bangla—which will feature 16 popular bands coming together under one roof in Army Stadium on December 2.

A special press conference was organised on Tuesday to announce the event. As part of



BAMBA Band Music fest press conference at channel i bhaban

Association, Rangpur Musical Band Association and Gazipur Musical Band Association, among others were also in attendance.

Popular musicians including Naquib Khan (Renaissance), Foad Nasser Babu (Feedback), Sheikh Monirul Alam Tipu (Warfaze), and Maqsoodul Haque (Maqsood O' dHAKA) presented their speeches at the event. Cryptic Fate's Shakib Chowdhury and Aurthohin's Shishir Ahmed were also in attendance.

Project Director, Izaz Khan Swapan said, "We have organised this programme to fulfil Ayub Bachchu's dream. We wanted to organise an event on a large scale, with even more bands. So, we are hopeful that both BAMBA and Channel i will be able to make this dream a reality, come next year. I am thankful to Shykh Seraj for creating the logo of *Band Music Fest*. Let's make this event a wonderful one to remember for the ages."

"Ayub Bachchu is a visionary and he had a dream of taking Bangladeshi band music to the next level. Every year we have been celebrating *Band Music Fest* on December 1 and we did it because December is the month of our Victory. In order to celebrate December 16, we have brought 16 bands together for a huge concert this year," said Channel i's managing Director, Faridur Reza Sagar.

Shykh Seraj, Director and Head of News at Channel i said "Bangladeshi bands rule over the hearts of the people of our country, with their unique songs and powerful lyrics. We

have been celebrating *Band Fest* for almost nine years, and for the first time, we will be collaborating with BAMBA for this year's event. Thus, it will be a milestone for us and we are hoping that at least 15,000 people will show up in the audience at the festival."

"We want to promote original Bengali songs which enthralls the audience and also enriches the vision of Ayub Bachchu's dream. We want to remove the notion of band music being a form of 'counter-culture'. While selecting bands for the festival, we tried to ensure groups who have contributed largely to the band culture scene—with their iconic songs—were selected. We are hopeful that young audiences will appreciate this event," added Hamin.

The programme will showcase some of the most popular Bangladeshi bands including Nagar Baul, Renaissance, Miles, Warfaze, Aurthohin, Artcell, Feedback, Souls, Dalchhut, Vikings, Obscure, Cryptic Fate, Shironamhin, Maqsood O' dHAKA, Pentagon, and Powersurge, among others.

The gates of Army Stadium will open at 12:00 pm on December 2, with the concert officially starting at 2:30 pm. Tickets are available for purchase on Get Set Rock's website, being priced at BDT 500 only.

Somewhere up in the sky, Ayub Bachchu will surely be smiling down at Army Stadium, as his dreams of Bangladeshi band music going to the next level becomes a reality this December 2.

## Two-time National Award-winning makeup artiste Abdur Rahman no more

Abdur Rahman, the two-time National Film Award-winning makeup artiste, passed away yesterday at 5:20 am. The artiste was under treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was 76 years of age at the time of his passing.

On Monday, after his health began to deteriorate, his nephew Mohammad Halim took him to the hospital's emergency room, where the doctors recommended that he be admitted to the hospital.

Apart from being a diabetic patient for many years, Abdur Rahman was having breathing complications. According to his nephew, for the past few days, the artiste was not able to eat anything—leading to him becoming physically weak. Due to his old age, he also struggled to even recognise anyone.

The artiste was laid to the rest at Azimpur graveyard. His Namaz-e-Janazah took place at Baitul Monowar Mashjid (ward 55, Kamrangirchar) after Zuhr prayers, yesterday.



## Jungkook sets new US, iTunes record with World Cup song 'Dreamers'

BTS member Jungkook has set a new US record, sweeping the iTunes charts, with his FIFA World Cup song "Dreamers".

As soon as the song was dropped, it shot to the top of iTunes charts in multiple countries across the world.

Just 13 hours after its release, the single had already reached the number one spot on iTunes' Top Songs charts in at least 102 different regions, including the world's eight biggest music markets, the US, the UK, Japan, France, Canada, Australia, Germany and Italy.

Additionally, "Dreamers" set the new record for the fastest official FIFA World Cup song to hit number one on the iTunes Top Songs chart in the United States.



PHOTOS: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

the press conference, it was also shared that an initiative is in place to declare December 1 as *Band Music Day*. Additionally, each year, the *BAMBA Channel i Band Music Fest* will be organised on the first Friday of December.

An announcement will be made on Channel i by the Honourable State Minister of Cultural Affairs, K M Khalid on December 1, declaring it as *Band Music Day*.

Present at the event, from the organisers, were Channel i's managing Director, Faridur Reza Sagar; Shykh Seraj, Director and Head of News at Channel i; Izaz Khan Swapan, Project Director of the Programme; and Hamin Ahmed, President of BAMBA. Additionally, organisations like Chittagong Musical Band

# NEWS

## Govt to go tough

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The government will provide Tk 476 crore for the project and the rest will come from the state-run Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company, the agency implementing the project.

Another revised project that got the nod yesterday was the sixth revision of the project for modernising the security of 32 jails in 28 districts under Dhaka, Mymensingh and Chattogram divisions.

The project was originally scheduled to be implemented between January 2016 and December 2017.

After extending the implementation period six times, a new deadline of June 2023 has been fixed.

Its cost also increased: from Tk 32 crore to Tk 49.98 crore.

The other revised project placed at the meeting is the Info Sarkar (phase-3) project. This is the fifth revision for the project, which was originally scheduled to wrap up in June 2018. It will now end in June 2023.

It will not cost Tk 2,141 crore, which is more than double the original estimated cost of Tk 1,999 crore.

The government will give Tk 915 crore, with the remaining funds coming from China's Exim Bank.

Meanwhile, at the press briefing yesterday, Mannan said people can

breathe a sigh of relief as inflation is going down.

"We are not saying that it is already at satisfactory levels, but still, inflation is falling. The wage rate is also going up which is a good thing."

Another ray of hope for the economy is that there is a possibility of a bumper Aman harvest.

"This is also great news for inflation. The supply of goods is very important," he said, adding that the agriculture minister said the production of vegetables has increased six-fold.

The government has about two million tonnes of food grains in stock. Mannan expressed hope that inflation will go down further in November and continue the descent in December and January next year.

Inflation declined for the second straight month in October, shows data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

In October, inflation stood at 8.91 percent, down 19 basis points from the previous month.

The remittance inflows are now showing a positive trend, Mannan said quoting the central bank authorities.

"Media often reports on the dwindling reserves. As such, I request the media to also report when the reserves increase."

## Man could be living 'Dhaka should focus more on Indo-Pacific'

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will land us back on the moon again." Named after the Greek goddess of the moon and sister to the god Apollo, namesake of NASA's first moon missions, the Artemis programme will see the construction of the Lunar Gateway—a new space station where astronauts will be able to live and work.

He explained the gateway would act as an orbiting platform which would be a staging post for lunar missions, with the astronauts taking "landers" from the platform to and from the moon.

Hu also said the lunar missions were a step towards manned trips to Mars.

## Journos force envoys

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our media. And [diplomats] who come here seem to think they have probably come to the colony of their own country. This culture needs to change. It's our own fault as we gave them the chance to think so, and it's not right."

Momen told journalists, "They [ambassadors] come for a few days to improve their country's relationship with Bangladesh. They are not here to convey any negative message. You [journalists] don't ask the outsiders about your family matters, [then] why [ask foreigners about] national matters? This is a matter of shame."

## 60 hurt in BNP

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Hazrat Ali, general secretary of Sherpur BNP, alleged that police attacked their procession without any provocation. "We strongly condemned this incident," he told The Daily Star.

Contacted, Bashir Ahmed Badal, officer-in-charge of Sherpur Sadar Police Station, said BNP men were holding the programme blocking a busy road. On information, police went there and requested them to leave. But the BNP activists started throwing brick chunks, he added.

Seven police personnel were injured in the incident. Police detained 16 BNP activists from the spot, the OC added.

[Prothom Alo's Sherpur correspondent contributed to this report.]

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political ones. So, a country which upholds the ideals of democracy sees that Chinese ideological expansion will be a part of the economy. It looks at it not only as a threat to its national security but also to the inclusive economic and political system of the world. A single country's dominance in the sea lane jeopardises energy and economic security of the regional countries.

TDS: The US says it will increase its defence presence in the region. So, what security threats it feels?

Ali Riiaz: Look at the Chinese posturing—towards South China Sea, towards Taiwan and even contested islands. This gives some sort of indication that China has better influence over the Indo-Pacific. That is the threat. It is not that China is pulling up weapons, but the possibilities are there. This does not mean that China should be excluded. What is needed is a rules-based order for all—be it for China, the US or Bangladesh. They all should play their roles responsibly and be equal partners to the resources of the sea. You should make sure that the energy coming through the sea lane is not facing any obstacle on the way. Because the sea lanes are common

goods and belong to all countries and the entire human community.

TDS: How should Bangladesh handle such a situation?

Ali Riiaz: First, Bangladesh should acknowledge that it needs to recalibrate its focus given the growing importance of the region, for its economic and strategic interests. So far, Bangladesh never gave importance to the Bay of Bengal. It didn't have a deep sea port giving access to other countries. It is not only about maritime security and having control over it. Bangladesh resolved the maritime disputes with Myanmar and India, and it is now time for us to use the resources. Bangladesh's access to the Indo-Pacific is critical to develop its connectivity and getting integrated with the Asean and East Asia. This does not mean that these countries will have to give away all kinds of things.

TDS: Bangladesh has joined China-led Belt and Road Initiative. Meanwhile, the US has announced Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF). Dhaka has said it is still studying IPEF. Do you think Dhaka is in a dilemma?

Ali Riiaz: It is not a zero-sum game. Bangladesh having relationship with China is not an issue.

Bangladesh is going to be a nodal point as a bridge between South and Southeast Asia. Opportunities do not wait for you. You have to make a prudent decision now. Joining the IPEF would give Bangladesh more leverage to integrate with the Indo-Pacific. The US and Europe are Bangladesh's major trading partners. The IPEF can also help improve its market in the US. I would recommend establishing an inclusive political system, which might slow down a little, but it would ensure that everyone is part of it. The strength of democracy is that it allows you to make mistakes as much as it allows you to correct.

TDS: The US is talking of increasing defence presence in the Indo-Pacific. Bangladesh is reluctant to proceed with security cooperation. What is your opinion on this?

Ali Riiaz: The US-Bangladesh security cooperation is nothing new. It has only expanded after 9/11 and more after the Holey Artisan attack in Dhaka, especially on anti-terrorism efforts, as well as maritime security, apart from territorial integrity. Bangladesh should not embrace all US offers. Parliament and people of all levels should discuss the offers before reaching any decision.

## BNP may unveil outline

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the rally. "We wrote to them following all the rules and regulations. The BNP's peaceful rally will be held in Dhaka on December 10."

Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, BNP standing committee member, told The Daily Star last night that they were forging national unity to a simultaneous movement, and an announcement to that end could come anytime.

Party sources said the BNP would hold its December 10 rally in front of the party's Nayapaltan office by any means. It has deployed a number of teams for this purpose.

Its Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir at a programme yesterday said the authorities were dillydallying on giving permission for

keys to unlock handcuffs and chain cutters.

## Beijing sees record Covid cases as China outbreak spirals

AFP, Beijing

China's capital Beijing posted a record number of new Covid cases yesterday, with the city hunkering down under a tightening chokehold of restrictions that have sent schools online, closed many restaurants and forced employees to work from home.

in firearms and attacks with sharp weapons.

All four were essential for the outfit to execute a major attack, claimed a CTTC official.

## AYMAN LED THE WAY

Even though sacked Major Sayed Ziaul Haque alias Major Zia was the mastermind of the convict-snatching operation, the outfit's military wing chief Ayman alias Mashur Rahman led a 12-member team on the ground on Sunday, said CTTC investigators.

At least eight militants directly took part while four others were in the back-up team.

Ayman of Shahjadpur in Sirajganj was an assistant director of Public Service Commission. He quit in March 2020 and has never been arrested.

Sources said the militants had bought motorbikes using fake documents and had several master-

The home ministry yesterday formed a four-member committee to probe the Sunday's incident.

The additional secretary (prisons) of the Security Service Division has been made convener of the committee, which is to submit its report within seven working days.

An officer from the Police Headquarters not lower than the rank of deputy inspector general; additional inspector general of prisons and an additional district magistrate were supposed to be in the probe body.

Earlier, Police Headquarters and Dhaka Metropolitan Police formed two committees to investigate the incident. The DMP's committee yesterday sought four more days to complete its probe.