



Concert goers had to keep hands raised at all times so they could make space to fit in the overcrowded hall

PHOTO: TIJS VAN LEUR

# CONCERTGOERS honoured with medals of heroism

“Having 10,000 attendees is simply inconceivable. Perhaps in the heat of the moment, people felt that way, but it’s not accurate. There were only 9,000 people,” one organiser corrected.

NUTBOLTU

The city recently witnessed an epic concert featuring a YouTube sensation from our neighbouring country. Tickets sold out faster than you could say “barbecue sauce,” because the people realised the only other thing they can do in this city is to go to a food shop and eat concoctions dipped in barbeque sauce. Either that or visit a bridge.

The demand for tickets was so great that organisers upped the price because, why not. If you are willing to pay three times the amount to eat ‘aaloo bharta’ simply because it is spelled Pomme Puree in the french looking menu, then yeah, pay up.

However, the concertgoers soon discovered

that the event would not only give them audio stimulus but also crushing despair. The faced poor ventilation, no complimentary deodorants, overwhelming crowds, and scams to sell plots in the mystical Foy’s Lake. Some frustrated attendees took to social media accusing the organisers of greedily overselling tickets well beyond the venue’s capacity of 3000 people.

“Having 10,000 attendees is simply inconceivable. Perhaps in the heat of the moment, people felt that way, but it’s not accurate. There were only 9,700 people,” one organiser corrected.

Some concert goers were prevented from taking their water bottles inside and had to throw them outside all over the lawn. “Water

bottles are a safety hazard. People throw them when they forget the lyrics. But you could buy them from stalls inside which are significantly pricier and thus safer. You don’t throw around a pricey new iPhone, do you?”

In the end, the organisers decided to award a medal of honour to all ticket holders because they risked their lives to contribute to the economy. Not only that they showed great resilience by not fainting or dying more than once.

A concert is all about igniting the senses and arousing emotions. As it stood, people were feeling all kinds of emotions starting from rage to confusion and severe hysteria. “What doesn’t kill you only makes you stronger,” said the organiser in a Scrapchat tweet post gram.

## Tobacco company angered as low air quality makes their products useless

JEAN PAUL SATIRE

In a joint statement signed by Churut International (CI), tobacco companies expressed their disappointment at the rapidly deteriorating air quality in Dhaka and adjacent areas of the country.

On Wednesday, a press conference was held in the palatial headquarters of CI, where journalists were laughed at and ridiculed for their meagre pay by a group of employees for the tobacco company, who had all recently returned from a vacation in Dubai. After it was sufficiently established that not working in the tobacco industry is the biggest professional mistake an educated individual could make, Shahzada Cigarsson, CEO of CI, read from a prepared statement and answered questions.

“Our products have been around for centuries for those who are sick and tired of breathing in fresh natural air and want something a little spicier for their lungs. But for the last couple of decades, we have noticed that the difference between the air that is naturally available and the fumes that come out of the ends of our death sticks is rapidly diminishing. This is an existential threat to our trade and we will not accept it,” he said.

A presentation was shown at the press conference where it was shown that the city’s air quality index (AQI) is one of the worst on the planet, and prolonged exposure to it can severely damage internal organs.

“Damaging internal organs is OUR job,” Shahzada Cigarsson cried out and interrupted the presentation. “We massively overpay hundreds of BBA graduates every month to make sure that this job is done right. But with this AQI problem, our Universal Graduates™ are left helpless. Why would anyone choose to smoke if taking a walk around town has the same effect?”

As a solution to this industry threatening problem, CI announced a campaign focused on improving the air quality of the city. “For every packet of cigarettes of any brand – even the cheap ones – sold, we will plant one tree. In this way, we intend to create a positive change in society where even the act of smoking might help the environment,” the CEO said.

In his closing remarks, Cigarsson said, “For centuries, the tobacco industry has been at the forefront of innovation. From solving the European labour crisis with the Transatlantic Slave Trade to pioneering the practice of using industry-sponsored research in false advertisements during the 1950s and 60s, we have shown time and again that we only have the best interests of society in our hearts. Now that air pollution is something we have set our eyes upon, the world better brace itself for what’s about to hit them. I can guarantee that this will be something we talk about for decades to come.”

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## HR head angry at rain for inspiring office workers to go home on time

STEVE TASKS

Our city, akin to Singapore in many ways, has been experiencing a temperature spike over the last three weeks. The temperature was determined to keep climbing, making many wonder if the city was becoming the new Dubai.

During this time, office attendance was showing record highs in most organisations. HR managers were pleased with their daily performance reports which mainly showed who came in and how long they stayed.

“We follow a metric called KPI (Keep People In) to measure employee performance. Longer they stay the more we think they work,” stated Mobasher Ahmed, junior executive HR at a local bank that cannot be named because of ongoing investigations in misappropriating large funds for buying office staplers.

Employees were averaging at least 12 hours a day for large organisations like media houses, ad agencies, MNCs and NGOs. Office goers were spending more time in the offices than previously recorded in biometric logs. “Productivity, yeah!” exclaimed the CEO of All Time Support Solutions when asked for a comment. He promptly hung up because CEOs don’t have time from counting all their money.

This spike in attendance likely had to do with



PHOTO: ANNIE SPRATT

current frequency of electricity load shedding. “It’s so hot outside that I prefer being in the office where it is air conditioned 60 percent of the time,” Raida Azila, 25, said when asked why she was logging in seven hours more at the office each day.

Unfortunately for many HR and admin, it rained the last two days causing temperatures to drop. This comes just a couple of days after the newly appointed chief heat officer was seen planting a tree. Following the rain, employees were seen leaving the workplaces on time. Some even had the audacity to stay home during the weekend. This caused great grievance for HR because now the KPI is down. “It is easy to get disconnected from family and friends when we get engrossed in work where air conditioning exists. I almost forgot I was married,” said Tanzeel Arman, 23, who was stocking up on soap and toothbrushes for the office.

Abida Sharmin, head HR at Headway Networks, expressed anger at the change in events and mostly at the rain. “We cannot grow as a nation if we are more concerned about going home and enjoying our free time. This is the time to hustle,” she texted from her weekend retreat in Gazipur. She wanted to fire all the employees leaving office on time but that meant she had to send them home for good. And that would kill the KPI.

## Impacted by loadshedding, joint families decide to break up

AFIZAN HADIAR

An alarming case has popped up in the capital recently, faced with surging rates of loadshedding. Forced to spend a lot of time together in the sweltering heat, and at times in complete darkness, joint families are deciding to live separately as the truth getting spilled has spilled bad blood among members.

As loadshedding becomes a regular part of their lives, the heat, the darkness, and the lack of entertainment options become breeding grounds for frustration, arguments, and sometimes even all-out war.

This correspondent recently got the opportunity to dive headfirst into the world of loadshedding and the havoc it wreaks on joint families. Buckle up, it’s gonna get dark.

This newspaper talked to the Mirza family, the latest victims of loadshedding, cracking open their family like a relationship therapist.

We begin with Aunt Sheila. This woman is plugged in more than an IV drip. When the power cuts hit, she loses her mind like a contestant on a cooking show with no butter. She’s running around the house like a mad scientist, searching for a single socket to power her phone.

Meanwhile cousin Ronny (or maybe Tonny) suddenly decided to dust up his harmonium and set up “Sangeet Sessions” for the family. But much to the other members’ misfortune, a shalik sings better than he does.

However, as per convention goes, none of the family members ever had the heart to tell him.

Shimul, the eldest in the family among the second generation of members, said, “I thought my woes were over after the pandemic ended. But now my tinnitus is back for all the out of tune Rabindra Sangeet.”

Meanwhile the adolescents of the household seem to be faced with a finger scrolling disorder as they were seen sitting at the dining

table, mindlessly scrolling on the smooth surface of the dining table as if it were a screen.

Ritu, a 15-year-old snapchat influencer with 6,000 followers, is obsessed with perfect lighting for her Instagram feed. When the lights flicker off, she’s like a vampire caught in the sun. She’s lighting candles all over the place, posing with them like she’s in some bizarre gothic photoshoot. Talking to this correspondent, Ritu disclosed her plans to start a candle-selling pyramid scheme.

But here’s the kicker, folks. The Mirza family have decided they’ve had enough. They start dividing the house like it’s a war zone, using masking tape to mark their territories, which seemed to be a more viable plan than seeking therapy.

I mean, who needs therapy when you can just grab some masking tape and say, “This is my side and that’s yours, and if you cross this line, I’ll cut out your share of the property?”

37 percent increase in poetry submission since loadshedding occurred.

PHOTO: MATTHEW HENRY