

FUAD DELIVERS a Bangladeshi musical buffet to the States



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SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

"What makes this particular tour unique is that we didn't cheap out on the sound and lights," laughed Fuad Almuqtadir over the phone, as he bragged about hiring Zakir Hossain and Nadeem Q Ahmed, for arguably the biggest concert tours for a Bangladeshi contingent, in the States. From Michigan to Washington DC to New York, the artistes have been representing Bangladesh with flying colours.

The ace music producer has been accompanied by Pantha Kanai, Tashfee, Muttaque Hasib, Pavel, Nick Gianni, Adhnan Sulaiman Nayeem and Tanvir Tomal for an extensive series of shows in the United States. They were also joined by artistes like Habib Wahid, Muza, Tahsan and Sanjoy at different junctures of their concert tour. Their first show was BNE (Bangla New Era), followed by the West Coast Bangla Music



PHOTOS: SOHEL PHOTOGRAPHY, ANDREW BIRAJ & AYMAN SIAM

Fest, by OKBRO Records. In between, the team has also played many one-off gigs as well.

Bringing in so many artistes from Bangladesh, accommodating them from July 9 and running back-to-back shows was a gargantuan task. "As you well know, these things don't always go smoothly," said Fuad.

He further said that after he moved to the US, this is his biggest musical tour. "The easy thing to do would have been to do it with 5-6 people, whom we are familiar with. However,

we really did spare no expense on this one."

Taking further advantage of the unforeseen gathering of talent in the land of the free, the artistes have also worked on an original song together. "We shot the video with an iphone, in a desert in California. The song is called *Doyal*," said Fuad.

As the tour closes in on an end, all the musicians, regardless of their years of experience, will benefit from it. "The new generation of musicians are simply outstanding," said Fuad. Would he like to incorporate some of these artists to the *Fuad Live in Dhaka* series? The answer, to the delight of any local music fan, was a resounding yes.



Khilgaon street named in honour of Fakir Alamgir



The enduring memory of the legendary folk singer, Fakir Alamgir will now be etched forever in the very streets he called home.

After his untimely demise due to COVID-19, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) announced on September, 2021 that a road in Khilgaon Chowdhurypara will be named after him.

Yesterday, on the second death anniversary of this eminent musician, Road No 6 of Chowdhurypara in Khilgaon has officially been inaugurated as "Fakir Alamgir Road" in presence of Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor, Md Atiqul Islam.

Nusraat Faria and Afsana Mimi's 'Patalghor' to release on Chorki

Nusraat Faria and Afsana Mimi starrer *Patalghor* will be released on Chorki on July 27. Directed by Noor Imran Mithu, the film received incredible reception in international festivals

Afsana Mimi portrays the role of a single mother who battles through life with her only daughter by her side. The film also stars Mamunur Rashid, Salahuddin Lavlu, Gias Uddin Selim, Fazlur Rahman Babu, and Nazia Haque Orsha in pivotal roles.



COUNTRYWIDE

TRADITIONAL FISH TRAPS

Hard days for Kholas makers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Sale of popular fishing traps Kholas has dropped significantly as there has been no adequate water in different waterbodies and canals in Joypurhat due to lack of sufficient rainfall during the ongoing monsoon.

As fishes are not available even during this ongoing monsoon, people, engaged in Kholas making, in Panchbibi upazila are passing days amid hardship.

Many Kholas makers said sale of such traditional fishing traps goes up during monsoon every year, but the situation is quite different this year.

Locals said usually almost all the waterbodies and rivers across the country remain dry for most of the time a year and those are filled with water in the beginning of Bangla month of Ashar, creating scope for local fishermen for fishing.

Though the monsoon is almost close to end, there is no sign of sufficient water in the waterbodies and rivers, affecting sale of the traditional fish traps, made of bamboo and jute yarns.

Nowadays, only a few families at different villages in Panchbibi upazila are engaged in making the traditional fishing traps for years.

Sita Ram of Damdama village said he has been involved in making fish traps for nearly 15 years. "I have never witnessed such water crisis before."

Many artisans have left the profession as demand for the traditional fish traps has continued dropping, he said, adding that only a few families in Joypurhat and Nilphamari are still engaged in the profession.

During a visit to different rural markets in Panchbibi upazila, the correspondent saw a number of fishing trap sellers were sitting idle in absence of sufficient buyers.

Trader Abdul Majid said a fishing trap is being sold between Tk 450 to Tk 800, depending on its size.

Production cost of Kholas has increased nowadays due to hike in raw materials prices and higher labour cost.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Kholas traders sit idle as there is no sign of buyers at Baghjana Bazar in Joypurhat's Panchbibi upazila.

Police implicate 2 dead BNP men

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got included in the case.

"We have already informed the court about the matter," he said.

Noted rights activist Nur Khan said that such fictitious cases are nothing new. Dead men were also named in such cases in the past, especially before elections.

"These cases are filed to suppress the opposition parties," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Over 1,200 BNP men were sued in two cases over the July 18 clash between BNP and Chhatra League activists of Bangla College unit in Mirpur.

Mohidur Rahman filed one of the cases with Darussalam Police Station. It is in this case that 109

named and 500 unnamed people were made accused on charges of illegally entering the college and carrying out vandalism.

Talking to The Daily Star, Jabbar's wife Marzina Begum said her husband withdrew from active politics after was diagnosed with stomach cancer in 2019. Before that, he was general secretary of Sramik Dal, the labour wing of BNP.

"Since the current government took office, he faced 20-30 cases just because of his political identity," she said.

The family once owned a bus that ran between Gabtoli and Sadarghat. They had to sell the bus to pay for Jabbar's medical treatment and legal expenses relating

to the cases he faced.

Their daughter, who works as a schoolteacher, now takes care of the monthly expenses.

"We are still in debt of Tk 12 lakh. Now, when they make my dead husband an accused in another case, then you can very well understand our situation," she said.

Suman, who was made accused number 73 in the case, died on November 9, 2022, his brother Tariqul Islam said.

Suman distanced himself from politics after he was diagnosed with blood cancer in 2018, but was made vice-president of Bangla College Chhatra Dal unit about a month before his death, said his cousin Samsul Huda Sohag.

Justice seekers suffer as deadlines ignored

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three in Dhaka, two in Chattogram, and one each in Rajshahi, Khulna, Barishal, Sylhet, Rangpur, Gazipur, Cumilla and Narayanganj.

The six new courts in Barishal, Sylhet, Rangpur, Gazipur, Cumilla and Narayanganj started operation in April this year.

However, the government is yet to appoint registrars to Gazipur, Narayanganj and Cumilla labour courts. The second labour courts in Dhaka and Chattogram and the lone one in Sylhet are presently operating without a registrar.

The absence of a registrar also delays case proceedings, said lawyers.

Also, the lone Labour Appellate Tribunal in Dhaka is being run without a chairman since April 25.

The appellate tribunal is composed of a chairman and a member. The chairman is a sitting or retired judge of the High Court and the member is a senior judge of a district and sessions judge's court. Most of the pending

cases have been filed over disputes related to layoffs, sackings, retrenchments, non-payment or delayed payment of wages and benefits, workplace injuries, and violations of trade union rights, said court officials.

The trials of some cases have been pending for about a decade, they added.

Razekuzzaman Ratan, a leader of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP), expressed concern over the small number of labour courts and the difficulties facing the workers and their relatives.

"The inordinate delay in resolving cases has left workers frustrated. This also often leads to an unhealthy situation in different industrial sectors," Ratan told The Daily Star.

He said the hearing in a case gets postponed if any party fails to appear in court. Both sides can request extensions up to six times each, he added.

Ratan said if a judge finds a lack of evidence, the hearing is delayed further.

He proposed amending the labour law to make compliance with certain requirements mandatory and to specify the consequences for failing to resolve cases within the stipulated time.

The labour leader also suggested establishing a labour court in each industrial area to ensure speedy trial of cases.

Supreme Court senior lawyer Sharmin Sultana said labour court judges lack the necessary expertise to handle labour-related cases and they require more time to understand the underlying issues, which ultimately delays the disposal of cases.

Sharmin, also the vice president of the Labour Court Bar Association, said the representatives from both the company owners and workers often show loyalty to the government and fail to appear before the courts concerned in certain cases, leading to a lack of quorum which subsequently leads to delay in the delivery

of justice. Sending summonses to litigants by post often results in delays in holding hearing of cases, as the litigants may not receive them in time, she added.

Adhir Chandra Bala, the registrar of the appellate tribunal, said the rate of disposal of cases is now "quite satisfactory".

"We are making efforts to dispose of cases. Though there are some issues which causes delays, we are trying our best," he added.

Md Ehsan-E-Elahi, secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, said they implemented various measures to ensure swift disposal of cases related to labour disputes.

"To expedite the judicial process, we have set up three labour courts in as many districts and transferred cases to them accordingly.

"Besides, we are coordinating with the law ministry to fill the vacant posts of judges to further speed up the disposal of cases," he added.

Scrap by-polls results

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Awami League candidate who won the by-polls, cannot take the oath as lawmaker.

He mentioned that he took part in 2018 national polls and two by-elections this year held under this government. He was beaten up on all three occasions, he alleged.

Hero Alom, who contested as an independent in the by-polls held on July 17, said he was disheartened by the remarks of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq that police could not provide him with security as he went to the same polling centre for the second time without informing the police.

"I want to tell him one thing, you look at the footage whether I went to the same centre twice or not."

He alleged that police didn't come to provide him with security. "Why should I inform you about my visit to the centre? You will provide me with security. When the attackers punched me, it was the responsibility of police to save and take me home safely."

"When I was being beaten up, I went to a BGB vehicle to save my life, but not a single person got out of the car," he alleged.

Hero Alom came under attack near the Banani Bidiyaniketan polling centre.

AL candidate Arafat bagged 28,816 votes and won the by-polls. Hero Alom got the next highest 5,609 votes.

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officials in a case filed over labour law violation should not be scrapped.

The bench of Justice Md Ruhul Quddus and Justice Ashish Ranjan Das issued the rule following a petition filed by Prof Yunus challenging the labour court order.

Apart from Grameen Telecom Chairman Prof Yunus, the other accused are its Managing Director Ashrafur Hasan, and directors Nur Jahan Begum and Mohammad Shahjahan.

On September 9, 2021, SM Arifuzzaman, a labour inspector (general) of the Inspection for Factories and Establishments Department, filed the case with the court.

Lawyer Abdullah-Al-Mamun appeared for Prof Yunus while Attorney General AM Amin represented the state during the hearing.

The complainant's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that an appeal would be moved before the Appellate Division challenging the HC rule.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told this correspondent that the tax authorities will assess how much Prof Yunus will have to pay.

On May 31, the HC in its verdict said the decision of imposing tax on the money donated by Prof Yunus was "legal".

According to the case documents, Prof Yunus donated Tk 76.73 crore to Professor Muhammad Yunus Trust, Yunus Family Trust and Yunus Centre between 2011 and 2012 and 2013 and 2014 tax years.

HC ISSUES RULE ON STATE

The HC yesterday issued a rule on the state asking it to explain in two weeks why a labour court order that on June 6 framed charges against Prof Yunus and three other top Grameen Telecom

officials in a case filed over labour law violation should not be scrapped.