

BAPPA MAZUMDER'S 'Odyssey' is a lesson on how to arrange concerts



PHOTOS: THABT AL BASHAR



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DOWEL BISWAS
National Award winner and immensely popular musician Bappa Mazumder, with all his ingenuity, musical brilliance, genteel and humility, turned all tables and entertained a Krishibid Institution Bangladesh's Complex on Friday evening with ease and charming nonchalance at his solo concert, aptly named *Bappa Mazumder's Odyssey*. The concert was arranged by Karkhana. The musician immediately struck a chord with his younger audiences by having young sensation Masha Islam open for him. As crowds started pouring in from 5pm onwards, Masha mesmerised the audience with a stunning ensemble of crowd favourites. Beginning with Nancy's *Harano Diner Moto*, she blended this musical journey with Arijit Singh's *Tomake Chhuye Dilam* and Shreya Ghoshal's *Jao Pakhi Bolo*.

Anticipations were high as Bappa himself waltzed in, dressed in black and white like the gentleman that he is, his similarly coloured Stratocaster

complimented him.

He started his three-hour-long show with the song *Shoppopure*, followed by his most famous songs, including *Nikuchi Kori Ami*, *Tumi Hobe Buri*, *Ghum Ashena*, and many more that he delicately weaved on the consciences of Bangladeshi youths for almost three decades of his career. Bappa's ensemble was comprised of 11 seasoned musicians, with Shawon Gaanwala and Antara Rahman as his backing vocals.

The polite singer, totally disregarding the common modern practices of engaging audiences, paused from time to time to gently ask the audience if they were comfortable and entertained, and received favourable responses in form of tremendous chants.

Bappa also remembered the legendary Bangladeshi singer-songwriter Sanjeeb Choudhury, who was his closest confidante, through a song that they created together, *Ami Phire Pete Chai*, in memory of the late musician.

The halls were soon buzzing with choruses from *Tor Karone Eto Kichu*, *Surjosnane Chol*, *Kokhono Eccho Hoi*, *Chaicho Jokhon Ferot Sob Debo* — sang along by hundreds of people

together. However, the concert reached its height when Bappa Mazumder and Masha Islam came to the stage to sing a song together, blending two generations in a beautiful way.

When came the time of his all-time hits *Din Bari Jay* and *Pori*, the entire hall struggled to contain the sound waves and excitement that emanated from the audience.

The most fascinating aspect of the concert was that at first glance, it seemed like a reunion of people in their 40s and 50s, who came with their long-lost friends to re-live their youth. The sweet voices of toddlers and children from every part of the hall reminded me of those fans who attended to see Bappa with their children, to make the children see a part of themselves.

Popular actress Masuma Rahman Nabila, who came to watch the show with her toddler, said, "As it is Bappa da's show, I knew it would be very organised, entertaining and appropriate for people of all ages and walks. This is also very special to me as I brought my daughter to her first concert here. Bappa da is a legend, and the audience turnout and excitement are a testament to that. My daughter



and I are enjoying the show very much."

Singer Somnur Monir Konal, who also came to the concert, said, "The music that Bappa da creates are not mere songs, but experiences. I am fortunate enough to sing with him often, but this time, I came here as just an audience and an ardent fan. It was blissful to watch him perform, and I

sang along, danced, and screamed the choruses with other fans. I came here just to sit and listen to him play, and it was a beautiful experience. He is a magician."

The crowd of Dhaka is not new to the common concepts of local concerts, with severe mismanagement and overcrowding problems at every corner. However, when it comes to merely the second solo concert of a musician who has been entertaining, enthralling his audiences for more than 30 years, it had to be different, and it was.

Bappa himself personally told all the photographers and organisers not to come in front of the stage under any circumstance, so that his audience wouldn't miss a glimpse of the show and remain seated comfortably in front of him.

Bappa Mazumder devoted his second solo concert to those fans who missed the first one, which took place on September 23, 2022. However, seeing hundreds of his fans, from toddlers to 60-year-olds, eagerly waiting for him to sing their favourite songs at the show, the question remains: Will the audiences ever get enough of Bappa Mazumder and his songs? The answer is probably no.

COUNTRYWIDE

Parts of 6 roads freed from encroachers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Several thousand residents of different villages under Lalmonirhat Sadar municipality area are happy to get back six rural roads, after several decades of illegal occupation by some local influential people.

Previously, local people urged the authorities concerned on several occasions to recover the roads as they had to cover additional distances to reach their destinations in absence of those rural roads.

Finally, a section of people led by Lalmonirhat Municipality Mayor Rezaul Karim Swapan came forward to recover a total of 7525-feet-long earthen roads in different areas to ease villagers' communication.

The recovered roads include a 500-foot-long road at Telipara village, 3200-foot road at Raypara village, 750-foot road at Battala village, 2000-foot road at Madanerchak village, 1100-foot road at Majhapara village, and a 1175-foot road, stretching from Baniadighi to Dhanitari village, under the municipality.

Local residents said they are happy as the recovered roads will ease their communication trouble they have been facing for years.

While talking, villagers said some local influential people had kept occupying

the officially recorded road since the pre-independence era.

As there was not much traffic then, land owners on both sides of all the six roads gradually occupied the roads and turned them into arable land in order to establish their claim on the road land.

Following complaint from locals, the municipality authorities had a glance through the Mouza Map and demarcated the areas before recovering the lost roads from illegal occupiers.

After demarcations, the mayor with the help of law enforcing agencies started freeing the roads from illegal occupation in the first week of January that continued till the end of that month.

Currently, the earth filling work of the recovered roads is going on, locals said.

"We are very happy as the recovered roads will ease our communication problem," said Abdur Razzak of Baniadighi village.

Earlier, farmers had to face serious trouble while carrying their crops from the field, he said.

Farmer Bipin Chandra Burman of Dhanitari village said in absence of a road villagers had to travel additional distances to reach their destinations for years.

Lalmonirhat Municipality Mayor Rezaul Karim Swapan said they followed all legal procedures in order to recover the lost roads.

Scientists

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Scotland (NMS) said in a statement on Friday.

The five-meter-long reptile from the Triassic period in China was first identified in 2003 but, after studying five newer specimens for ten years, scientists were able to depict the entire creature, which is named *Dinocephalosaurus orientalis*.

One fully articulated fossil, the last to come to light, offered a "beautiful complete specimen from the tip of the nose right down to the tip of the tail," Dr Nick Fraser, keeper of National Sciences at NMS and one of the researchers, told CNN.

"It's curled around in this sort of figure of eight and ... it's very reminiscent of a Chinese dragon."

That fossil helped illuminate this mysterious creature and an international team of researchers from Scotland, Germany, the USA and China published their findings in the journal *Earth and Environmental Science Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*.

Professor Li Chun from the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology in Beijing was the first to uncover the fossils back in 2003. He was visiting a small village in Guizhou Province, southern China when he noticed a small vertebra in a slab of limestone, according to his colleague Fraser.

Local farmers then took Chun to a pig pen where there were other pieces of that type of rock, and he started to find bone fragments and pieced them together to discover this new species, Fraser added.

Now, newer fossils indicate that the creature had 32 vertebrae, creating an extremely long neck that likely helped it to catch fish, though scientists are still unsure of its precise function.

Holy Shab-e-Barat tonight

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at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the capital, said a press release.

Besides, religious sermons highlighting the significance of Shab-e-Barat will be delivered at various mosques after Maghrib prayers, along

with holding special munajat (prayers) after Esha prayers.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday greeted the Muslim community in the country and elsewhere across the world on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat.

In her message, the premier said the night of fortune brings mercy and blessings from Almighty Allah for all of mankind.

Allah shows the greatness of forgiving and fulfilling desires, she added.

The premier urged all to devote themselves to

human welfare and nation-building imbued with the teachings of Shab-e-Barat.

Sheikh Hasina also called upon all to establish the spirit of Islam at personal, social, and national levels, shunning all kinds of injustice, violence, and superstition.

The judiciary now completely independent

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trend. The country has been in a stable situation since then.

"Through the 15th amendment to the Constitution, we have strengthened democracy."

Besides, she mentioned that the Awami League government has enacted a law for the formulation of an independent Election Commission.

"The Election

Commission was earlier attached to the Prime Minister's Office.... We have made it completely independent and allocated separate funds for it."

She said the AL government was able to make it happen as it believes in the independence of the EC.

Hasina further said her government also included an article in the Constitution, as per an HC

verdict, making the illegal grabbing of state power a punishable offence.

"By this inclusion, I can say, the basic and democratic rights of the people have been protected."

She also said Bangladesh will get the status of a developing country from 2026.

"By 2041, we will be able to make a developed and Golden Bangladesh

and materialise the ideals of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

Chief Justice of Bangladesh Obaidul Hassan, Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Anisul Huq and Justice M Enayetur Rahim of Appellate Division also spoke at the programme.

Israeli strikes kill 92 in Gaza

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Friday dozens of people held an impromptu protest.

"We didn't die from air strikes but we are dying from hunger," said a sign held by one child.

In the camp, bedraggled children waited expectantly, holding plastic containers and battered cooking pots for what little food is available. Residents have taken to eating scavenged scraps of rotten corn, animal fodder unfit for human consumption and even leaves.

Gaza's health ministry said a two-month-old baby identified as Mahmud Fatuh had died of "malnutrition".

"The risk of famine is projected to increase as long as the government of Israel continues to impede the entry of aid into Gaza," as well as access to water, health and other services, the charity Save the

Children said.

Israel has defended its efforts to deliver aid into Gaza, saying that 13,000 trucks carrying aid have entered Gaza since the start of the war.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 29,606 people, mostly women and children, according to the latest tally released yesterday by Gaza's health ministry.

With war still raging after more than four months, Netanyahu on Thursday unveiled a plan for post-war Gaza that sees civil affairs being run by Palestinian officials without links to Hamas.

The plan says that, even after the conflict, Israel's army would have "indefinite freedom" to operate throughout Gaza to prevent any resurgence of terror activity, according to the proposals.

It also says Israel will move ahead with a plan, already underway, to establish a security buffer zone inside Gaza along the territory's border.

A senior Hamas official, Osama Hamdan, said Netanyahu "is presenting ideas which he knows fully well will never succeed".

The plan also drew criticism from the United States.

"The Palestinian people should have a voice and a vote... through a revitalised Palestinian Authority," which currently has partial administrative control in the West Bank, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said.

He added that the United States did not "believe in a reduction of the size of Gaza".

An Israeli delegation led by Mossad intelligence

agency chief David Barnea travelled to Paris for a fresh push towards a deal to return the remaining hostages.

The United States, Egypt and Qatar have all been deeply involved in past negotiations aimed at securing a truce and prisoner-hostage exchanges.

Pressure has mounted on Netanyahu's government to negotiate a ceasefire and secure the release of the hostages. A group representing their families planned what it billed as a "huge rally" to demand swifter action, coinciding with the Paris talks on Saturday night.

"We keep telling you: bring them back to us! And no matter how," Avivit Yablonka, 45, whose sister Hanan Yablonka was captured on October 7, said at a traditional Shabbat dinner for hostage families in Tel Aviv.



PHOTO: STAR

Lalmonirhat municipality authorities recently recovered this 1175-foot stretch of road, from Baniadighi to Dhanitari, which had been illegally occupied decades ago.