ARTS & ENTERTAINMEN

Poorly arranged concerts should not be an 'Aadat'

Jal's controversial outing sparks age-old debate

"Boss, I can't stand in here, let alone take photos. People have broken in and it's extremely chaotic," said our freelance photographer Thabit from Jamuna Future Park (JFP), where Pakistani rock sensation Jal performed on Saturday. The concert, originally supposed to take place at Purbachal's Dhaka Arena, was abruptly shifted to JFP because of heavy rain.

The arguable coup de grâce to the concert happened when Jal had to be stopped mid-act amidst their final set for an absurdly abrupt ending of the concert.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Due to the sudden venue change, organisers, Assen Buzz and Xirconium, were unable to provide proper logistics for concert. Hundreds of hooligans stormed in due to the lack of proper security, resulting in the proceedings becoming mired in chaotic disarray. Assessing the situation, I instructed the photographer to abandon the assignment. Then he informed me the army was there to control the audience and he could continue. The concert, titled Legends of the Decade,

featured Jal, alongside Bangladeshi bands Aurthohin, Vikings and Conclusion.

It is rather telling of the people when the army has to show up because of how people behave at a concert. "They brought an international band to a mall to perform," said Sakib, who had attended the concert with high hopes. "It was a total joke.

Organisers started taking selfies with the band mid-show, while Jal had to ask 20 times for a light to be turned off."

"I was shopping at JFP when I stumbled across the concert from the balcony," said Saadh, who currently works at a private bank in Dhaka. "I just stood there and enjoyed a better view than people who paid Tk 3000.

During the concert, there were multiple skirmishes between some organisers and people who had tried and succeeded in entering forcefully, before the JFP authorities had to call in the army. "Throughout the first half of the concert,

drinking water wasn't provided to the bands, and I saw Conclusion rather irate because of it. It was hell in there," said Thabit, who was relieved to finally be able to provide photos of the concert. A one-hour break had to be

introduced by the organisers Aurthohin 'allow' perform. Aurthohin, a marquee Bangladeshi act led by Bassbaba Sumon, took all the deficiencies of sound and lighting gracefully, and performed their heart out. However, the arguable coup de grâce to the concert happened when Jal had to be stopped mid-act amidst their final set for an absurdly abrupt ending of the concert, leaving people furious.

"It is so disrespectful to treat an international band this way," said Rubaba, a student of North South University. "We were shocked and to see them being escorted down the stage without even completing their set."

When approached, Anondo Chowdhury, CEO to the bands who knew that the concert would be a



Authorities calls in the army to control the mob and

reinstate order at the venue. of Assen Buzz, admitted that the

mismanagement was primarily due to the sudden change in venue. "We knew that to deviate from our original plan, which was at Dhaka Arena, would be a problem. We had every single precaution taken at that venue, and simply could not accommodate those precautions at a mall," he said, audibly disappointed. Anondo further explained that due to major earthing that could have been life-threatening to the artistes, they had to stop the performances. "I am grateful compromise, but performed anyway."

AK Rahul, a prominent musician and organiser, believes that many organisers try to make a name for themselves with international artistes before they even understand how a concert works. "I have been arranging concerts for 15 years, and you cannot skip your baby steps. Organisers are more concerned about the marketing than ensuring the quality of the concert. First, learn to organise for 200 people, then try to organise for 2000." Rahul further emphasised on the importance of respecting the audience. "Do not see the audience as Tk 500 notes, see them as people, your work will immediately improve."

However, there is much to learn for the audience as well. "There is only so much organisers can do if so many people want to break in," said Rudan Al Amin, CEO of Dhaka Broadcast. "People have even broken into charity concerts! That being said, the venue selection was a big misstep, we all saw this from a mile away, when JFP became the venue for Jal's concert."

Powersurge vocalist Jamshed Chowdhury believes that the free concerts have ruined the music industry, and has led people to become entitled to ask for free passes. "I had been saying for a long time that Joy Bangla and similar free concerts have led to people refusing to want to pay to see artistes perform, resulting in the increase in such hooligans barging into paid concerts as well. When I brought it up first, people trolled me, saying that I only said it because I did not get a 'slot' at Joy Bangla, go figure!"

The author is the Editor of Arts & Entertainment, The Daily Star

Death toll

danger mark, experts said.

But there were some

signs of respite vesterday

morning, with the rains

easing in many places, said

Govinda Jha, a weather

isolated showers, but heavy

police rescuers in knee-

high rubber boots using

picks and shovels to clear

away mud and retrieve 16

bodies of passengers from

rains are unlikely," he said.

"There may be some

Television images showed

forecaster in the capital.

OUNTRYWIDE

LACK OF DUSTBINS

Waste dumping pollutes Brahmaputra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Several thousand residents of Islambagh area in Mymensingh city have been dumping daily waste on the bank of the Brahmaputra river for years due to lack of public awareness and absence of sufficient dustbins.

Although the meanace has been continuing for over a decade now, the authorities concerned are seemed reluctant to stop the act.

While talking to this correspondent, some local residents alleged that they have sought Mymensingh City Corporation's (MCC) help on several occasions to set up adequate number of dustbins in the area, but no initiatives has been taken yet.

As there is no proper garbage management system, inhabitants of the area dump their household waste along the Brahmaputra bank according to their will, said Ansar Ali, a local resident.

Not only here, garbage dumping into the bed of the Old Brahmaputra river near Kalibari Puratan Gudaraghat (Old Ferry Ghat) has also been continuing for years, but the authorities concerned are keeping a blind eye, creating concerns among the environmentalists, they further alleged.

Though the city corporation has a designated spot at Char Kalibari on the

other side of the Brahmaputra Bridge, sometimes the garbage carrying trucks dump waste into the river at night on the plea of serious traffic jam or shortage of manpower, locals said.

During the monsoon, the pile of garbage often gets washed away and falls into the river, accelerating water pollution and threats of different water borne diseases, they alleged.

The mindless dumping of waste is not only polluting the river water but the adjoining residential areas also, putting hundreds of people in serious health hazard, said advocate Shibbir Ahmed Liton, secretary of Mymensingh Poribesh Rokkha O Unnayan Andolon, a citizen platform.

"We have submitted memorandums to local administration and city corporation authority on numerous occasions urging them to stop the heinous act, but nothing has been done so far," Liton said.

Terming lack of dustbins a lame excuse, advocate Nazrul Islam Chunnu, convener of Jonouddogh, Mymensingh unit, said once the garbage mixed with the river water, it affects the ecological balance and bio-diversity as well.

Contacted, Mohabbat conservation inspector at MCC, said around 500 tonnes of garbage are being produced in the city area every day and they can manage about 480 tonnes.



Dumping of waste materials badly affecting local environment as well as the already dying Brahmaputra river. The photo was taken from Mymeningh city's Islampur area a few days ago.

Biman curtails flights on five int'l routes

generating profit operating on this route.

The state minister was also optimistic making the new route profitable to attract passengers from Nepal, Bhutan, and the northeastern states of India apart from Bangladeshi nationals.

However, despite initial optimism, the route has proven to be a lossmaking venture due to the airline's inefficiency and mismanagement, said an aviation expert.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Kazi Wahidul Alam, an aviation expert, criticised Biman for its lack of effective planning, promotion, and

Barrister Rukunuzzaman

submitted the petition as a

public interest litigation on

September 17, which also

sought the court's directive

upon Bangladesh Bank

to provide information

regarding total credit

facilities availed by S Alam

Group, its shareholder

directors and other business

concerns from the financial

banks

institutions or

HC seeks list

marketing strategies to little in this regard. attract passengers and make the route profitable.

During the inauguration of the Narita route, the then Biman chief Shafiul Azim said the national flag carrier was planning to carry its passengers to Australia, the west coast of the United States, and Canada with the help of other carriers via Japan through code sharing.

"We are exploring with other airlines interlinking or code sharing so that we can offer our passengers different routes beyond Japan like a 360-degree airline," the Biman boss had

Although one year has passed, Biman could do

and the present status of

outstanding liabilities and

to bring laundered money

back to Bangladesh from

the HC to ask the Anti-

Corruption Commission

to hold an inquiry into the

allegations of siphoning

huge amounts of money to

foreign countries by S Alam

Group and its associated

petition urged

abroad.

The

companies.

2021, December Biman also resumed flights to Manchester, but has now been forced to reduce the number of flights on this route due to financial losses. the national flag carrier

is only earning profits in 11 out of 21 international routes. Currently, Biman is

only generating profits on 11 out of 21 international destinations. namely, London, Toronto, Dubai, Jeddah, Madina, Riyadh, Bangkok, Dammam, Kathmandu, Kuala Lumpur, and Singapore.

The airline is incurring operational losses on six including Manchester,

the court to direct the

Bangladesh Securities and

(BSEC) to impose restrictions

on transferring or handover

shares of S Alam Group, its

shareholder directors and

Lawyer Rukunuzzaman,

in the petition, said that S

Alam Group has reportedly

their family members.

Commission

Exchange

Kuwait, Delhi, Kolkata, the level of its main Bagmati river up 2.2 m (7 ft) past the

The remaining four

international routes-Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Doha, and Sharjah—are gradually becoming profitable by reducing the load penalty through coordinated excess baggage weight with airfare.

Due to a significant decline in passenger demand, Biman has reduced its weekly flights to Kolkata from 14 to seven. Flights to Delhi and Chennai have also been cut from seven to three weekly flights each. The downturn in passenger traffic is attributed to India's restricted visa issuance, which has led to a decrease international destinations, in travellers between the

The lawyer also requested financial institutions from

Hence, it has become necessary for the authorities concerned immediate steps to bring or repatriate the fund to Bangladesh laundered a huge amount for the best interest of the

Bangladesh to Singapore, Cyprus and other countries using various unethical mechanisms and massive irregularities.

appropriate of money availed from the country, the lawyer said.

Over 60,000 stranded in two districts

FROM PAGE 12

'Now we have taken shelter on a road near my house," she told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

"I planted vegetables on one bigha of land. I fear that all my vegetables, which have gone under water, may be destroyed," said Shamsul Alam of Teesta village of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Around 500 metre stretch of railway line in Teesta Rail Station area of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila was submerged, snapping communications

between Rangpur and Lalmonirhat for around seven hours since 6:00am yesterday, said Abdullah Al Mamun, Lalmonirhat divisional railway commercial officer.

The low-lying areas in Rangpur and Nilphamari have also been flooded.

"We are facing huge challenges to protect our livestock and poultry," said Akhtar Alam of Chhota village under Nilphamari's Dimla upazila. All 44 sluicegates of the

Teesta Barrage are open to

Mohammad Mostafizar Rahman, in-charge of the Meteorological Rangpur Office, reported that 130mm rainfall was recorded in the district on Saturday, which was the same the day before. Heavy rainfall is expected in

the coming days, he added. In Dinajpur, around 330mm of rainfall has been recorded over the past two

In Sirajganj, the Jamuna has been swelling rapidly due to the onrush of water

risk of flooding low-lying manage the pressure of water. areas.

"If such a situation continues, my home will go under water," said Sharif Uddin of Choto Boyra village in Sirajganj Sadar upazila.

However, Nazmul Hossain, sub-divisional engineer of BWDB in Sirajganj, said there is no possibility of flood in the district as the situation will become normal within the

next three days. correspondents Our from respective districts from upstream posing the contributed to this report.]

two buses swept away by a massive landslide at a site on the key route into Kathmandu. Weather officials the capital blamed the rainstorms on a lowpressure system in the Bay

of Bengal extending over parts of neighbouring India close to Nepal. Haphazard development amplifies climate change Nepal, risks in

climate scientists at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

12,000 bhori FROM PAGE 12

the cooperative sector," he remarked. The conference also

featured discussions on

BARD's recent research and initiatives in the field of rural development and cooperatives in Bangladesh. The event was attended by special guests including

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, chairman of the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), Professor Dr Tofail Ahmed, a local government expert, and Saif Uddin Ahmed, director general of Bangladesh Academy Development (BARD).

The session presided Mosammat Khatun, secretary to the Rural Development and Cooperative Division under the Ministry of LGED.