



'MELODIES OF VIENNA'

A night of opera in Dhaka

levels of experience gathered, from seasoned opera aficionados to newcomers eager to explore the art form.

Though many in the audience did not understand the language, music's universal appeal transcended linguistic barriers. The synergy between Janevska and pianist Vaterl

more than just the audience's sense of hearing—it became a deeply emotional experience, full of joy and hope.

In his closing remarks, Sameed Quasem, honorary vice consul of Austria to Bangladesh, expressed his gratitude to the Austrian Cultural Forum, stating, "Thank you for giving us this

The synergy between Janevska and pianist Vaterl elevated the performance, presenting the two as equals in an engaging dialogue between voice and instrument.

RAZIA SULTANA KHAN

An opera night in Dhaka might seem a bit of an oxymoron, but contradictions can often coexist. Such was the case on the evening of last Friday (September 30), when *Melodies of Vienna* unfolded in the capital, featuring opera singer Soprano Mila Janevska and pianist Silvia Vaterl.

Opera, with its intricate fusion of music, drama, poetry, and movement, presents a complete sensory experience. The selected pieces for the evening showcased compositions by legendary Austrian composers, including Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791), Hugo Wolf (1860-1903), Gustav Mahler (1860-1911), Franz Schubert (1797-1828), and Richard Strauss (1864-1949).

The Austrian Cultural Forum, in collaboration with the Austrian Consulate in Dhaka, the Quasem Foundation, and Sun Drinking Water, hosted the spectacular evening of Austrian opera at the Gulshan Club.

The event—aimed to bring together opera enthusiasts, and the diverse audience who braved Dhaka's notorious traffic—proved that the love for opera knows no single demographic. Spectators of various ages, backgrounds, and



PHOTOS: COURTESY



elevated the performance, presenting the two as equals in an engaging dialogue between voice and instrument.

Their seamless interaction often blurred the lines between where the piano ended and the vocals began, creating an immersive experience. Janevska's voice displayed technical precision, but it was her warmth and joy that captivated, while Vaterl's flawless performance was equally expressive, her energy and smile radiating through every note.

As the music enveloped the room, it stirred

the chance to experience such an intrinsic part of Austria's cultural heritage in Bangladesh. We are hopeful that in the future, we will be able to organise many more events like this, aimed at strengthening ties and facilitating the exchange of ideas between two nations with such rich histories in culture and the arts."

While some may argue that such an exclusive presentation isn't fitting for the current times, denying Dhaka this experience would have been unfortunate. Art and culture must endure, even in uncertain times, as they continue to uplift and inspire. We can only hope for more magical nights like this.

Razia Sultana Khan is a professor of English and Advisor at the Department of English and Modern Languages, Independent University Bangladesh (IUB).

Bangladesh nominates 'Boli' for Oscars



Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury's film *Boli* (The Wrestler), which won an award at the Busan Film Festival, has been selected to represent Bangladesh in the Best International Feature Film category at the 97th Academy Awards.

A seven-member Oscar Bangladesh Committee, chaired by director Matin Rahman, was formed to oversee the nomination process. After inviting submissions, the committee unanimously chose *Boli* on October 1 as Bangladesh's official entry for the 97th Oscars, following careful deliberation.

Robin Shams, the coordinator of the Oscar Bangladesh Committee, confirmed the news.

Boli received a grant from the Bangladesh government for the fiscal year 2020-21. Nasir Uddin Khan stars in the film, portraying a quirky fisherman living by the sea.

'Priyo Satyajit' premieres on Amazon Prime

Bangladeshi film *Priyo Satyajit* (Dear Satyajit), directed by Proshoon Rahmaan, has started streaming on Amazon Prime since September 15. Only viewers in the United States and the United Kingdom can watch it.

"Thinking about the country's tumultuous situation, I didn't feel like making the news public, which is why the announcement arrived late," Proshoon told The Daily Star.

However, an OTT platform for Bangladesh viewers is yet to be confirmed.



NEWS

A family wracked by tragedies

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unfathomable devastation.

"Our family is ruined. We lost my brother, then my parents died from grief and now my traumatised younger brother is in a care centre," said Mim, a second-year student of Utara Management College.

Monir, who worked at a private company, was the sole breadwinner of the impoverished family. After giving up his studies as a second-year student of BAF Shaheen College to support his family, he was involved in various types of work for 12 years.

"My brother did whatever job he could find—even as a mason—to make sure we didn't go hungry. "All of his efforts were to make us happy. He had also planned to open up a computer shop. But those dreams are now all gone and we are burdened with debt," Mim said, adding that she had to borrow Tk four lakh for the treatment of her parents and Moinul.

"His treatment costs Tk 10,000 a month, and our house rent is Tk 15,000. I had to look for a cheaper place to live... We received no help from the government."

WHAT HAPPENED ON JULY 19

It was around 4:30pm when Monir was shot in the stomach while taking part in the quota reform protests in the capital's Shahjadpur.

As he fell to the road, bleeding and gasping for air, his friends rushed him to DMCH.

"When my brother's friends called to tell me he was shot, I ran out of the house. I could hear gunshots and see fire on the roads, but all I could think of was my brother," said Mim, who lived with her family in Bhatara area.

Even after several tries, she could

not find transport to get to the hospital as the curfew was already in place and the situation in the area was volatile throughout the day.

"By the time I reached Dhaka medical the next morning, my brother was already gone."

The doctors at DMCH declared Monir dead around 5:15am on July 20. **LONG WAIT FOR MONIR'S BODY** Getting Monir's body back from the hospital was an unexpected struggle for Mim.

"For three days, I went from one police station to another—Gulshan, Bhatara and Shahbagh—begging them to let me take my brother's body home. They refused to release the body, giving his involvement in the protest as a reason.

"I stood outside the Gulshan Police Station for hours, but the officer wouldn't even look at me. I waited outside Bhatara Police Station from 9:00pm to 1:00am on July 20, but no one talked to me."

The family then came across a police inspector from their village home, who helped them obtain the clearance to take Monir's body after autopsy on July 24.

"I had to look through countless dead bodies for four hours before I could find my brother's almost decomposed body at the Dhaka medical morgue."

BURIAL ANOTHER STRUGGLE When Mim thought the worst was over, she faced resistance from graveyard authorities and local AL leaders to bury Monir's body in Dhaka.

"Four graveyards in Dhaka refused to bury my brother when we communicated with them over the phone. They said they had orders not to bury protesters. We

didn't know where to go."

She said the AL leaders in Bhatara also threatened to not allow his burial anywhere in the city.

The family then decided to take Monir's body to their village home in Jhalakathi.

"Even there, police officials threatened to take his body away. We had to pay them Tk 4,000 in bribe just to let us bury him."

Mim demanded justice for her brother's death and the innumerable sufferings they were subjected to over the past two months.

"I don't know who shot my brother, but I want them to be held accountable. I will file a case soon."

WHAT AUTHORITIES SAY Speaking to The Daily Star recently, Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's media wing, said, "If a family member files a case in this regard, necessary actions will be taken against the accused."

"In similar incidents, many victims are filing cases and submitting written complaints to the police. Action is taken after that."

Asked about police officials taking bribes to allow Monir's burial, Ataur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Rajapur Police Station in Jhalakathi, said, "We'll investigate the incident if we receive a written complaint."

Meanwhile, Hafizul Islam, caretaker of Azimpur graveyard, said, "We received no instructions to stop the burial of the protester's body. Those who came to bury the body were given permission to do so."

This newspaper was unable to contact the authorities of the other graveyards for comments.

Age limit for entry into govt jobs likely to rise

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Muyeed emphasised that the committee's review will take into account the government's current policies, future plans, and broader circumstances.

"There has been a long-standing movement on this issue, and the government has formed this five-member committee to address it. We aim to submit the report within the deadline," he added.

BFIU seeks bank account details of Shakib, wife

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for manipulating the share price of Paramount Insurance in 2023.

Shakib was at the centre of many controversies in the past, including for his finances on some occasions.

He has recently made headlines after his name came up on murder charges following the deadly July-August uprising that toppled the Sheikh Hasina-led AL government. A Supreme Court lawyer on August 24 sent a legal notice to the Bangladesh Cricket Board, asking it to remove Shakib from the national team as he was an accused in a murder case.

Teammates, however, rallied behind the ace all-rounder. Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said Shakib has been a "big asset" for Bangladesh, and he served for 17 long years to uphold the country's name in the world.

Batter Mominul Haque claimed Shakib had been falsely accused of murder, underlining that such a case was filed to harass the star all-rounder. Veteran batsman Mushfiqur Rahim also threw his support behind Shakib.

BNP leader sued over attack on Hindu house

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government fell.

The attackers vandalised the house and looted cash, gold ornaments, and other valuables. The victim's family fled the house in the face of the attack.

The statement added that the attackers demanded money and had also threatened the family with life.

The victim had also sent written complaints to the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police in Kishoreganj in this regard.

On September 27, she sent another written complaint to BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman.

This correspondent visited the house on Monday and saw the main gate, other doors and windows damaged. All six rooms were vandalised and the room for worship had broken idols scattered across it.

Gita could not be contacted over

phone for comments. Her brother Pradeep Barman, however, alleged the attackers looted Tk 15 lakh, jewelry, a television and a refrigerator, among other valuables.

"My sister and her family are still hiding as they are frightened."

Contacted, Idris denied the allegations and claimed his political rivals were conspiring against him to implicate him in a false case.

Meanwhile, Kishoreganj BNP in a press release on Tuesday said Idris has been expelled from the party for breaching the party's organisational discipline.

Tariqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kishoreganj Sadar Model Police Station, said they will take legal action after an investigation.

However, no arrests were made till the filing of this report around 9:00pm yesterday.

Man falls

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authorities have already initiated a probe into this."

Speaking to journalists at the hospital, the victim's sister-in-law said, "My sister and niece's futures are now uncertain. How will they survive? We want justice and trial of those responsible for my brother-in-law's death."

Speaking to this newspaper, Sohel Mia, duty officer of Joydebpur Fire Service, said, "We went to the spot after the hospital authorities informed us about the incident. After reaching, we saw the victim was already taken out of the shaft."

Inspector Rahedul Islam, investigation officer of Gazipur Sadar Police Station, said the hospital authorities have kept the victim's body in the morgue.

On May 12, a patient of the same hospital—Mumtaz Begum, 53—died after being stuck in a lift for 45 minutes.

The same day, the hospital authorities in a letter to the Directorate General of Health Services blamed the people inside the lift, saying they banged on the door, causing the "door safety" system to fail.

On May 3, another patient at the hospital—Zillur Rahman, 70—died after falling through an open gap next to the lift on the 12th floor.

Dhaka, Delhi

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opportunities for cooperation in the areas of trade, projects, and people-to-people contacts.

"Importance of resuming regular visa processing by the Indian High Commission was also discussed," the statement said.

Indo-Bangla relations strained after the fall of the Awami League regime on August 5. The Indian visa centres in Bangladesh had been closed for weeks and they are now operating with limited staff because of security concerns. Passports of thousands of Bangladeshi visa applicants have reportedly been returned.

On Tuesday, Touhid told the media that there are currently no security complaints from foreigners as police have resumed their duties with support from the armed forces.

Many projects under the Indian Line of Credit have also remain halted since August 5 as Indian contractors are yet to rejoin work.

Touhid said both Dhaka and New Delhi want to advance the Indo-Bangladesh relationship in the interest of both the countries.

Case filed with ICT

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of the Armed Police Battalion shooting indiscriminately in the alleys on that day," ICT Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam said.

A total of 31 complaints have been filed so far for alleged genocide and crimes against humanity during the movement and the Awami League's 15-year rule, according to Tajul. These include 13 with the chief prosecutor's office and the remaining were filed with the investigation agency.

A genocide complaint was also filed yesterday against the Awami League (AL) and its 14-party alliance

members on allegations that they were "directly involved in barbaric crimes during the student-led protests".

The complaint, filed by Nationalist Democratic Movement (NDM) chairman Bobby Hajaj, was submitted to the ICT chief prosecutor's office.

Besides the Awami League, the Workers Party of Bangladesh, the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, the Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal, the Tariqat Foundation, the Ganatantri Party, the National Awami Party and other alliance members were accused in the case.