

# A tribute to the PRINCE OF DARKNESS

## Ozzy Osborne gone after paving unique legacy



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

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“Times have changed and times are strange,

Here I come but I ain’t the same,  
Mama, I’m coming home.”

And just like that, the ‘Prince of Darkness’ is back in his kingdom. While the world mourns, afterlife welcomes him home, with open arms. Ozzy is finally reunited with his beloved mama and his dearest friend, Randy Rhoads.

When I heard that he was gone, I felt a part of me was gone. I kept listening to **War Pigs**, **Iron Man**, **Paranoid**, and **Mama, I am coming home**, perpetually breaking down into tears.

I was more of a Backstreet Boys girl when I came across **War Pigs**, but it rocked me to my core. That shrill, unapologetic opening cry of “Oh, Lord, Yeah” was immediately imprinted on my mind.

Just a few days ago, I had the privilege of witnessing the Black Sabbath reunion concert online – the one that took place on July 5 at Birmingham, London. The legend sitting in his leather throne, paralysed, yes, unable to stand, sure. But he was unbroken. Unapologetic. Unfiltered. He was undeniably Ozzy

Osborne.

He wore his signature black suit, long straight hair, heavy black eyeliner, and those round, iconic glasses. In front of 45,000 fans, with mascara running down his face, he shouted, “You have got no idea how I feel!” and “Thank you from the bottom of my heart.” That wasn’t just a performance -- it was a farewell carved into the soul of music history. He was a legend in leather, a haunted soul who transformed chaos into something powerful, raw, and unforgettable.

Such was my fondness for him, that I wanted to sing this song on our wedding day. Sadly, that never happened. I still remember that I ordered a customised Black Sabbath cake for my husband for our birthday.

This was the man who looked death in the eye for decades, and said, “Survival is my legacy. Never give up. If you’ve got a passion for something, you’ve got to find a way to carry it on.”

He lived through the darkest corners of addiction, stumbled through the worst phase of

relentless fame, and yet came out the other side—until yesterday. Reinvented, scarred but unbroken, he even welcomed the world into his home as a reality TV star, where we got to witness a softer and funnier side of Ozzy which we never witnessed before.

**The Osbournes**, which aired from 2002 to 2005, was viral at that time. When it aired on MTV, we saw the real man behind the myth. A loving dad. A funny, confused human being who drank Diet Coke, struggled to find the History Channel, and reminded his kids not to drink or smoke.

In the early ‘70s, Black Sabbath’s obsession with horror and the occult earned them a reputation for being “satanic.” And Ozzy’s bizarre antics only made it more obvious. One of his most talked about incident was when he bit the head off a live bat thrown onstage during a 1981 concert. (In his defense, he thought it was fake.)

In 1987, he was sued by the parents of a 19-year-old who died by suicide while listening to **Suicide Solution**. The lawsuit was later dismissed. Ozzy explained that the song was actually a warning about alcohol abuse, and that it was a tribute to his friend Bon Scott, the late AC/DC frontman, who died from alcohol poisoning.

In 1990, Cardinal John J O’Connor of New York accused Ozzy’s music of causing demonic possession and suicide. Ozzy responded to that by saying, “You are ignorant about the true meaning of my songs. You have also insulted the intelligence of rock fans all over the world.”

Born John Michael Osbourne in working-class Birmingham, Ozzy never set out to be a rock icon.

His early years were marked by hardship: dyslexia, poverty, odd jobs in factories and slaughterhouses, and even a short stint in prison. Music wasn’t part of some master plan. It was survival. He began simply singing in local clubs, searching for purpose.

Then in 1968, he joined a band called the Polka Tulk Blues Band with guitarist Tony Iommi, bassist Geezer Butler, and drummer Bill Ward. They eventually renamed themselves Earth, and then after drawing inspiration from a Boris Karloff horror film, Black Sabbath was born. With ominous, sludgy riffs and lyrics that explored war, fear, and the supernatural, they arguably created the entire genre of heavy metal.

With the help of his wife Sharon and the brilliance of guitarist Randy Rhoads, he rose from the ashes. In 1980, Blizzard of Ozz launched his solo career, bringing us **Crazy Train**, **Mr Crowley**, and a whole new chapter in metal history. Tragically, Rhoads was killed in a plane crash in 1982, but Ozzy pressed on.

Ozzy Osbourne was first inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2006 as a member of Black Sabbath. Almost 20 years later, in 2024, he was honoured once again for his solo career, placing him among the rare group of artists who have been inducted more than once.

There had never been a singer like him—he wasn’t smooth or seductive like other frontmen. Ozzy was there to haunt you, whether by telling the apocalyptic tale of **Iron Man** or spinning the mental torment of **Paranoid**.

And though the Prince of Darkness has left this world, his voice, his pain, his truth, it all lives on in the echoes of Sabbath’s songs and in the hearts of those who listened. Rest in power, Ozzy.

## NEWS

### A decisive leader during 1971

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was part of his idealism.”

But after March 25, in those moments of deep uncertainty and danger, the decisions he made and the role he played were acts of true leadership, Chowdhury said.

At that time, no national leader was present in the country.

“And in that vacuum, Tajuddin Ahmad led with clarity, courage and practical wisdom. He led with substance over status. Even before 1971, his thoughts on freedom were deeply tied to economic and political self-dependence.”

Tajuddin’s ideological commitment went beyond just securing independence, Chowdhury said.

During the Liberation War, Tajuddin Ahmad believed in socialism, an ideal that was later enshrined in the state’s founding principles.

Tajuddin understood the dangers of capitalism, Chowdhury said.

“That is why he spoke of socialism – not as an abstract theory, but as a practical dream for a fairer, more humane society. When we speak of the spirit of the Liberation War, we must refer to the spirit of a social revolution – not merely the spirit of

national independence. This was our expectation -- that a social revolution would take place within our country.”

Through that, genuine democracy would emerge. And genuine democracy is not possible without socialism.

Reflecting on the erasure of progressive leaders from the national narrative, he asked: “Why did Tajuddin disappear? Why was Maulana Bhashani erased? The attempt to wipe out both figures is no coincidence -- they belonged to the same ideological stream.”

They disappeared from history because the social revolution they envisioned never happened.

“That is why we struggle to remember Tajuddin today. Tajuddin believed people needed food, but they needed dreams even more. His vision of Bangladesh was tied to those dreams -- and our future depends on whether we are willing to pursue them,” Chowdhury added.

Another speaker Alamgir Khan described the wartime government led by Tajuddin as the most effective and honourable administration in Bangladesh’s history.

“If we are to judge our leaders, the Mujibnagar Government should be the benchmark,” he said.

Writer Kajal Rashid Shaheen questioned why a nation capable of great uprisings remains politically fragile.

Bangladesh might not have come into being had it not been for Tajuddin Ahmad, said Ahmad Mostafa Kamal, a professor at Independent University Bangladesh.

“He was the spine of the Liberation War administration,” he said.

Tajuddin did not lead alone and acknowledged the contributions of his colleagues, said Morshed Shafiul Hasan, however, a writer and an academic.

Lawyer Arif Khan referred to Tajuddin’s speech on April 10 as the country’s “first constitutional document”.

Tajuddin had outlined the early administrative and ideological framework for the new nation, said Shahidullah Farazi, a lyricist.

There should be a more accurate representation of national leaders like Tajuddin Ahmad in textbooks, said Mohammad Asaduzzaman, director of the International Mother Language Institute.

The event was moderated by writer and journalist Emran Mahfuz. The other speakers included Gawhar Nayeem Wara and Shuvo Kibria.

### Two more cases filed, total accused 9,850

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Earlier on July 16, at least four people were killed and dozens injured in daylong running battles between law enforcers and Awami League activists in Gopalganj centering a rally of the National Citizen Party. Later, another bullet-hit victim died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital while undergoing treatment.

### Seven of family

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Talking to The Daily Star, Bonpara Fire Station Officer Md Ataur Rahman said the microbus was badly damaged after being hit by the speeding truck.

“We recovered the bodies after cutting through the microbus,” he said.

Traffic was disrupted on the highway due to the accident.

Relatives came to Bonpara Highway Police Station to receive the bodies.

Manjarul Islam Khokon, a cousin of Jahidul, told journalists that Jahidul’s daughter-in-law lives with her parents in Sirajganj since her husband works abroad.

The family members were going to Enayetpur Hospital in Sirajganj where she recently had a surgery, said Manjarul.

“We never imagined such a happy morning would turn into a tragedy within hours,” he added.

### Appointment

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the people,” he said.

“She knows nothing about healthcare, treatment or medical technology. Her only qualification is her ties to Grameen Bank and closeness to Dr Yunus,” the NCP leader alleged.

“What would we do with this health adviser?” Hasnat quipped. He added it was “unfortunate” that the adviser herself travels to Singapore for medical treatment.

“She should return every penny she has drawn as salary and resign immediately,” he demanded.

The NCP leader said, “We want to restructure the state after the mass uprising. But, unfortunately, our health system is in the same dire state as before, and so is the law and order.”

He also accused the Awami League of trying to “play politics over dead bodies” and urged all to stay united against “fascism”.

### The govt within the govt

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government must clarify which reforms will be completed before leaving office.

“Now is the time to clean the desk. We need to know what will end, what will continue.”

He added that without the active and extended involvement of the military, a peaceful and fair election may not be possible.

“The armed forces may need to stay on the ground for three to four months and lead disarmament. This can’t be done with just the civil administration,” he said, adding that ultimately, two key questions define this moment -- the neutrality of the government and its capacity to deliver.

Prof Anu Muhammad said this government has gone in the opposite direction of building an equal, democratic Bangladesh. “People hoped for an end to autocracy, but that hope has been betrayed.”

He added that while women, minorities, and workers actively joined the movement, they now face increased attacks and exclusion.

“The state’s focus has shifted to striking long-term deals without public debate -- such as the Starlink agreement -- while ignoring urgent public demands like employment.”

He said the government has prioritised only the Constitutional Reform Commission, sidelining other key reports, and is failing to meet people’s expectations.

At the roundtable, Economist Hossain Zillur Rahman said the government must now be held accountable for its promises. “Sweet words and good intentions are not enough -- we need a ledger of what has actually been delivered on justice, reform, and elections.”

Referring to the growing disconnect between policy elites and public expectations, he said, “We see a parade of paper-based qualifications, but a collapse in real capacity.”

He criticised the ongoing institutional corruption and rising lawlessness, saying, “Even the police seem inactive now. There’s social instability, youth unemployment, and violence. A silent frustration is growing.”

“In the name of national consensus, decisions are made in isolation, excluding the public.”

Senior Supreme Court lawyer Sara Hossain, said fear still pervades the judiciary, even a year after the July

uprising. She said judges remain hesitant to issue orders or deliver verdicts in fear of backlash.

“In Bangladesh today, no one can say there is no fear. The judiciary is not free from it either.”

“Judges constantly worry -- what if someone raises their voice against them? One outcry from a group and a judge’s career could be over. Who will deliver justice in such an atmosphere?”

She criticised the sweeping arrests and vague charges filed after the uprising, saying many innocent people remain in jail.

Sara questioned the lack of transparency behind the removal of High Court judges and said the system discourages accountability.

At the discussion, writer Altaf Parvez said the past year has brought more bad experiences than good. The country has had to endure the pain of being under a government with limited or almost no capacity.

“This is the first time I’ve seen a culture of governance driven by Facebook trends.”

“We’ve witnessed repeated surrender to populism. Across society, there’s been a dangerous, tsunami-like rise of right-wing sentiment. Mob violence against dissenters has also increased.”

Political analyst Zahed Ur Rahman said there is now no alternative to holding elections.

“We’re in a strange situation -- we say we want democracy, but we’re not allowed to want polls,” he said.

“Right now, there are efforts to block or delay the election. Even if the country falls into chaos as a result, some people stand to benefit. But when there’s no election in sight, the nation’s character begins to erode.”

Development economist Maha Mirza said anyone criticising anything following the July uprising is being labelled unfairly.

“If someone disagrees with the government or makes a comment about the National Citizen Party, those who supported the uprising are attacking them. This is unfortunate.”

The event began with a one-minute silence in honour of those killed in the jet crash. Prothom Alo Executive Editor Sajjad Sharif moderated the discussion, where writer Farhad Mazhar, filmmaker Kamar Ahmad Simon, Prof Sayeed Ferdous, and researcher Sohul Ahmed, among others, spoke.

### Make your unity against fascism

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to maintain law and order but reaffirmed their commitment to remain united against fascism.

Prof Yunus said the government has taken programmes marking the first anniversary of the July uprising to bring all political parties together to remember the past events.

“This will make our unity against fascism visible. But even before a full year has passed, signs of various conspiracies by the defeated forces have become evident,” the chief adviser told the political leaders.

All participants of the meeting expressed support for maintaining unity against fascism. They also extended full support to the reform process, the trial of fascists, and preparatory moves for the upcoming election.

However, they urged the chief adviser to take a stronger stance in maintaining law and order.

Considering the election, they also urged the chief adviser to hold all-party meetings regularly.

Syed Hasibuddin Hossain from the Rashtra Sangskar Andolon, Zonayed Saki from Ganosamhati Andolon, Mujibur Rahman Manju from AB Party, Shahidullah Kaisar from Nagorik Oikya, Nurul Haque Nur from Gono Odhikar Parishad, Redwan Ahmed from LDP, Dr Ahmad Abdul Kader from Khelafat Majlis, Saiful Haque from the Biplobi Workers Party, Tania Rabb from JSD, Shahadat Hossain Selim from the 12-Party Alliance, Bazlur Rashid Firoz from Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BASAD), Ruhin Hossain Prince from CPB, and Dr Mizanur Rahman from Gono Forum

attended the meeting.

Earlier, on Tuesday night, Prof Yunus had a meeting with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Standing Committee Member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, Jamaat-e-Islami Nayebe e-Ameer Abdullah Mohammad Taher and Assistant Secretary General Hamidur Rahman Azad, National Citizen Party (NCP) Convener Nahid Islam and Member Secretary Akhtar Hossain, and Islami Andolan Bangladesh Presidium Member Prof Ashraf Ali Akon and Joint Secretary General Gazi Ataur Rahman.

The leaders of the four parties urged the government to take a more proactive role in maintaining law and order and ensuring a smooth path to the upcoming national election expected to be held early next year.