

Nemesis celebrates unrivalled 25 as Maher Khan makes emotional appearance

Twenty-five years means a generation that grew up inside these songs and then grew older and found the songs had grown with them. It means a country that changed and kept reaching for the same guitar riffs when it needed something to hold onto.

TAZRI MARWA AHMED

From underground stages to performing in front of millions, Nemesis marked its 25th year with a remarkable solo concert called *Eto Diner Porco Je* on May 22 at InterContinental Dhaka from 6 pm onwards. Presented by Dhaka Broadcast and sponsored by Prime Now and Carpe Diem, the evening was the kind of night that does not leave you — one that felt less like a concert and more like a landmark.

That evening belonged to more than one generation. The first generation that loved Nemesis showed up that night carrying twenty-five years with them. Some brought their teenagers. Some brought children young enough not to fully understand where they were yet, only that something important



PHOTOS: MOHAMMAD AL-AMIN, ABRAR HOQUE AND SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

was happening.

The room felt everything from tears, joy, disbelief, gratitude and people let it all move through them without resistance and did not want it to end. Neither did the band members. The only reason anyone reached for their phone that night was to hold onto a moment, a song, or a face on stage that already felt like a memory they knew they would want to return to.

The night of May 22 was extraordinary. The surprises came one by one. When former guitarist of Nemesis, maestro Maher Khan, walked out and performed, the room did not quite know what to do with itself. Former members Yawar Mehboob and Omayr Khan performed before him. Dio Haque also showed up and rocked the stage. And at one point, three-fourths of Cryptic Fate, including Shakib Chowdhury and Farhan Samad, performing alongside Nemesis in front of a crowd that had long stopped expecting the night to get any bigger.

Before the show, the band had said it plainly: “Any hardcore Nemesis fan who misses this show will never get to experience anything like it again.”

Twenty-five years means a generation that



grew up inside these songs and then grew older and found the songs had grown with them. It means a country that changed and kept reaching for the same guitar riffs when it needed something to hold onto. It means *Gonojowar*, written a decade ago, has become the sound of a revolution, its bridge sung in the streets by people who found in it exactly what they needed, exactly when they needed it.

“What we stand for, and why we make music — that has not changed,” says Zohad. “The hunger to test ourselves, to learn, to explore beyond what we already know. I love getting on stage and trying to win the crowd over. Every single time.”

That hunger is the through line. Across line-ups, across decades, across an industry that has shifted beneath them more than once, that hunger is what has remained. And it is what will carry them into the next twenty-five years.



NEWS

Ex-CJ Khairul shown arrested in fresh case

FROM PAGE 12

Defence lawyer Saju said his client would not be released from jail unless he secured bail in the case.

Earlier, Khairul was granted bail in seven other cases, the lawyer added.

During yesterday's hearing, Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi first argued in favour of showing Khairul arrested.

He said, “In connection with this case, many people have already been arrested during the investigation. In this process, the investigating officer found specific involvement of Khairul Haque. For the sake of a proper investigation, I pray that he be shown arrested in this case.”

Opposing the prosecution's

plea, defence lawyer Mostafizur Rahman said, “There is nothing in the investigator's statement that justifies showing him arrested. He is not a named accused in the case. The incident in this case took place at 11:00am.

“Again, he has also been shown arrested in a case filed with Adabor Police Station, where the incident also occurred at 11:00am. One person cannot be present in two places at the same time. We pray that he not be shown arrested.”

After hearing both sides, the judge ordered that Khairul be shown arrested in the case filed by Jobayer Ahmed over the killing of his brother Khobaib in Jatrabari on August 5,

2024.

On May 17, a High Court bench — following a petition filed by Khairul's son, advocate Md Asik Ul Haque — directed the government not to show Khairul arrested or harass him unless he is named as an accused in a specific case.

Khairul was arrested at his Dhanmondi residence in Dhaka on July 24, 2025, nearly a year after the fall of the Awami League government.

He was later shown arrested in multiple cases, including several filed over killings during the July uprising and allegations of manipulating the Supreme Court verdict on the caretaker government system, and has remained in jail since then.

Police likely to press

FROM PAGE 2

officer-in-charge of Sitakunda Model Police Station, said, “We had sent the victim's clothes, samples, and other evidence for examination. We received the DNA report from Dhaka a few days ago, which showed a positive match. We hope to submit our findings implicating Babu Sheikh by May 30.”

Earlier, police said the accused had a prior dispute with the victim's father, which led to the incident.

During primary interrogation, Babu admitted that he had taken the girl to a hill inside the park from her house and attempted to rape her but failed. When she screamed and threatened to tell her parents, he slit her throat with a knife and dumped her at the foot of the hill.

The victim managed to walk nearly one kilometre in that condition before being rescued.

Offshore bidding opens

FROM PAGE 12

percent of international Brent crude, the 2026 framework introduces “floor and ceiling” protections.

Under the updated model, gas prices are uncoupled by depth, offering 10.5 percent of Brent crude for shallow-water blocks and 11 percent for high-risk deep-water blocks.

By calculating the price boundaries using the lowest and highest average Brent prices over the preceding five years, the new model effectively shields both foreign investors and the national exchequer from sudden shocks in the global energy market, according to insiders.

The mechanism ensures a minimum floor and a maximum ceiling price based on a five-year average of the Brent price. It means that if global prices fall sharply, gas prices cannot drop below a minimum level calculated from the lowest five-year average. If prices spike, the gas price will not exceed the ceiling. Duty exemptions have also been widened.

While the previous round offered tax waivers on imported equipment for petroleum operations, the 2026 framework explicitly extends the benefit across exploration, development and production activities.

The 2026 framework also allows bidders to apply for two adjacent deep-sea blocks under a single contract — a provision officials say could improve operational efficiency and help companies spread geological and infrastructure risks across larger connected areas.

The government has also reserved the right to limit the number of blocks awarded to a single bidder, meaning no single corporate giant can monopolise the Bay of Bengal's resources.

Energy experts say the revised structure indicates a strategic shift away from rigid, silo-based bidding arrangements that previously discouraged broader participation.

The latest framework further introduces a financial protection mechanism for unsuccessful exploration wells.

Under the model contract, contractors will receive increased profit-sharing percentages if they continue exploration after unsuccessful drilling outcomes. If the first exploration well becomes dry or commercially non-viable and the contractor proceeds with a second well, the contractor's profit share increases by 1 percent.

If the second well yields the same result and the contractor continues with a third or subsequent well, the profit share then increases by 2 percent. Under the MPSC 2026, Petrobangla will continue to hold the first right of refusal for purchasing the contractor's share of gas.

However, if Petrobangla fails to provide written notice confirming a market outlet within six months of submission of the evaluation report, the contractor will be allowed to independently identify buyers within and beyond Bangladesh.

It permits the use of pipelines of local distribution companies for such sales subject to negotiated distribution service charges.

Merely raising gas prices or offering financial incentives will not automatically attract foreign companies, said Maqbul-E-Elahi Chowdhury, former member of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission.

The key lies in creating a stable

investment environment and reducing bureaucratic complications.

“Simply increasing prices does not mean companies will rush in — you have to create the right investment environment,” he said, adding that international companies seek quick decision-making and smooth administrative support.

They want equipment clearance to happen quickly when they bring machinery into the country. In reality, files move endlessly through ministries and bureaucratic layers before approvals are granted, he said.

He welcomed the relaxation of qualification criteria in the 2026 offshore bidding round, saying earlier conditions discouraged mid-sized companies.

While the new provision offering additional profit shares for dry wells is a positive step, the core challenge remains: data accessibility and investment conditions.

“The data centre should have been fully opened at least three months before the bidding round... You cannot expect someone to agree to a marriage proposal without even seeing the bride or groom properly.”

Bangladesh has historically controlled seismic and exploration data too tightly, discouraging foreign investors and argued that the objective should not be revenue from data sales but wider access to maximise national benefit, he added.

Information and promotional packages for the new bidding round will be available from June 1, with the final bid submission deadline set for November 30.

The information package will cost \$100, down from \$300 earlier, while bidding documents will cost \$7,000, compared to \$10,000 in 2024.



Coke Studio Bangla season 4 opens with Nazrul's 'Room Jhoom'

Coke Studio Bangla launched its fourth season on May 23 with a tribute to Kazi Nazrul Islam ahead of the national poet's birth anniversary on May 25.

The season opened with a special rendition of Nazrul's classic *Room Jhoom*, celebrating his musical legacy through cultural remembrance. The song traces its roots to *Üsküdar'a Gider İken*, an Ottoman-Turkish folk song that Nazrul reimagined into a Bengali monsoon poem.

Bringing that journey full circle, the track reunites the two musical traditions through a collaboration between Bangladeshi artistes Mahtim Shakib and Nusrat Jahan and Turkish artistes Elif Hande Ceygel and Mustafa Ipek. The release also marks Mahtim's Coke Studio Bangla debut and introduces Nusrat as a new voice on the platform.

Zayed Khan shares screen with Zohran Mamdani in 'Immigrant Diaries'



Actor Zayed Khan, who is currently based in the United States, has surprised audiences with a new revelation about his latest project. The actor shared that the current mayor of New York City, Zohran Kwame Mamdani, appears alongside him in an upcoming short film.

Directed by John Kabir and Saad Al Amin, the short film is titled *Immigrant Diaries* (Episode 2). The first

episode of the series was released in March.

The project centres on the experiences and stories of immigrants living abroad. The second episode is scheduled to premiere on May 27 at 9 pm Bangladesh time on Thikana.

Road crashes kill 16

FROM PAGE 12

Two people died on the spot, while two others succumbed to their injuries after being taken to hospital, said OC Abu Obayed of Kushtia Highway Police Station. Two of the deceased were identified as Nabil Hossain, 18, of Faridpur, and Rafia Khatun of Kushtia.

In Dinaipur, a truck hit a motorcycle coming from the opposite direction in Raniganj area of Ghoraghat upazila around 8:45am, leaving the rider and his two pillions dead on the spot.

The deceased were Abdul Kaiyum Mushfique, 20; Saikat Hossain, 18; and Al Amin, 16. All were local residents, said OC Shahidul Islam of Ghoraghat Police Station.

Police seized the truck, but the driver managed to flee, the OC added.

In the district's Birganj upazila, an eight-year-old girl was killed after a tractor hit her bicycle on a village road near Deuli Munshipara area in the afternoon. Morsalina was the daughter of Mominur of Sahadubi village.

Officer in Charge of Birganj Police Station Shariful Islam said was rushed to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital, where doctors declared her dead. The tractor driver fled the scene, OC added.

A three-wheeler driver was killed after a truck hit the vehicle, causing the driver to lose control before crashing into a roadside tree on the Thakurgaon-Dinaipur highway.

The deceased is Propid Chandra Ghosh, 58, of Ghoshpara village.

Nirmal Chandra Mahanta, officer-in-charge of Dashmille Highway Police Station, said the collision occurred around 10:30am in the Kabirajhat area after the three-wheeler entered the

highway from a regional road.

An unnatural death case was filed with the police station in this connection, he added.

In Chattogram, two teenagers were killed and another injured when a passenger bus of Hanif Paribahan coming from the opposite direction hit their motorcycle on the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway near Ansar Camp in Patiya upazila around 1:00pm, said Mostafizur Rahman, sub-inspector at Patiya Highway Police Station.

The deceased were identified as Walid Al Taslim, 17, and Shahadat Hossain Samir, 16, of Kochuai union.

The injured, Tanvirul Islam Joy, 17, was first taken to the upazila health complex and later shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

SI Mostafizur said locals seized the bus, but the driver managed to flee.

In Meherpur Sadar, a truck hit a motorcycle coming from the opposite direction, leaving the rider and his pillion dead.

The deceased were identified as Nayan Hossain, 22, of Khandkarpapa, and Jiban Ali, 21, of Bandar village in the upazila.

The incident took place near PTI intersection in Meherpur town. Critically injured Nayan and Jiban were rushed to Meherpur General Hospital, where they succumbed to their injuries.

OC Selim Reza of Meherpur Sadar Police Station said the bodies had been handed over to their families and a case had been filed over the incident.

[Our Benapole, Kushtia, Thakurgaon and Chattogram correspondents contributed to this report.]

Back to war or deal?

FROM PAGE 12

Trump has vacillated between the two poles of diplomacy and military strike since a ceasefire was declared six weeks ago to allow the sides to agree on Iran's nuclear programme and on reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a critical oil and gas supply route now controlled by Tehran.

Rubio, in New Delhi, said there had been progress in negotiations but did not rule out Trump resuming attacks on Iran.

“There's been some progress ... There is a chance that, whether it's later today, tomorrow, in a couple of

days, we may have something to say.”

Rubio reiterated US demands that Iran fully open the Strait of Hormuz, on which it has exerted control in response to the US-Israeli attack, and that Iran hand over highly enriched uranium.

He said the US still prefers a diplomatic solution to the crisis, but the problem will be solved in “one way or the other.”

Meanwhile, Iran yesterday said it was finalising a 14-point framework for a deal with the US, signalling a convergence of views while noting that gaps remain.

Nat'l interest first

FROM PAGE 12

agreement, whether with the US or any other country, will be signed only after the government and all relevant agencies determine, through consultations, that it serves the interests of the country and its people. Beyond that, no deal is expected to be signed,” the state minister said.

The General Security of Military Information Agreement is a foundational government-to-government bilateral agreement that would allow greater collaboration and sharing of classified military information, including intelligence and classified information on US

defence equipment, a diplomatic source told UNB.

It is a reciprocal, legally binding agreement that ensures governments understand and commit to protecting classified military information at an equivalent level of security.

The state minister paid a brief visit to Washington, DC, on May 18 and met senior US government officials at the US Department of State, as well as senior leaders of the International Republican Institute and the Atlantic Council.

Shama Obaid also met US Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs S Paul Kapur at the US State Department.