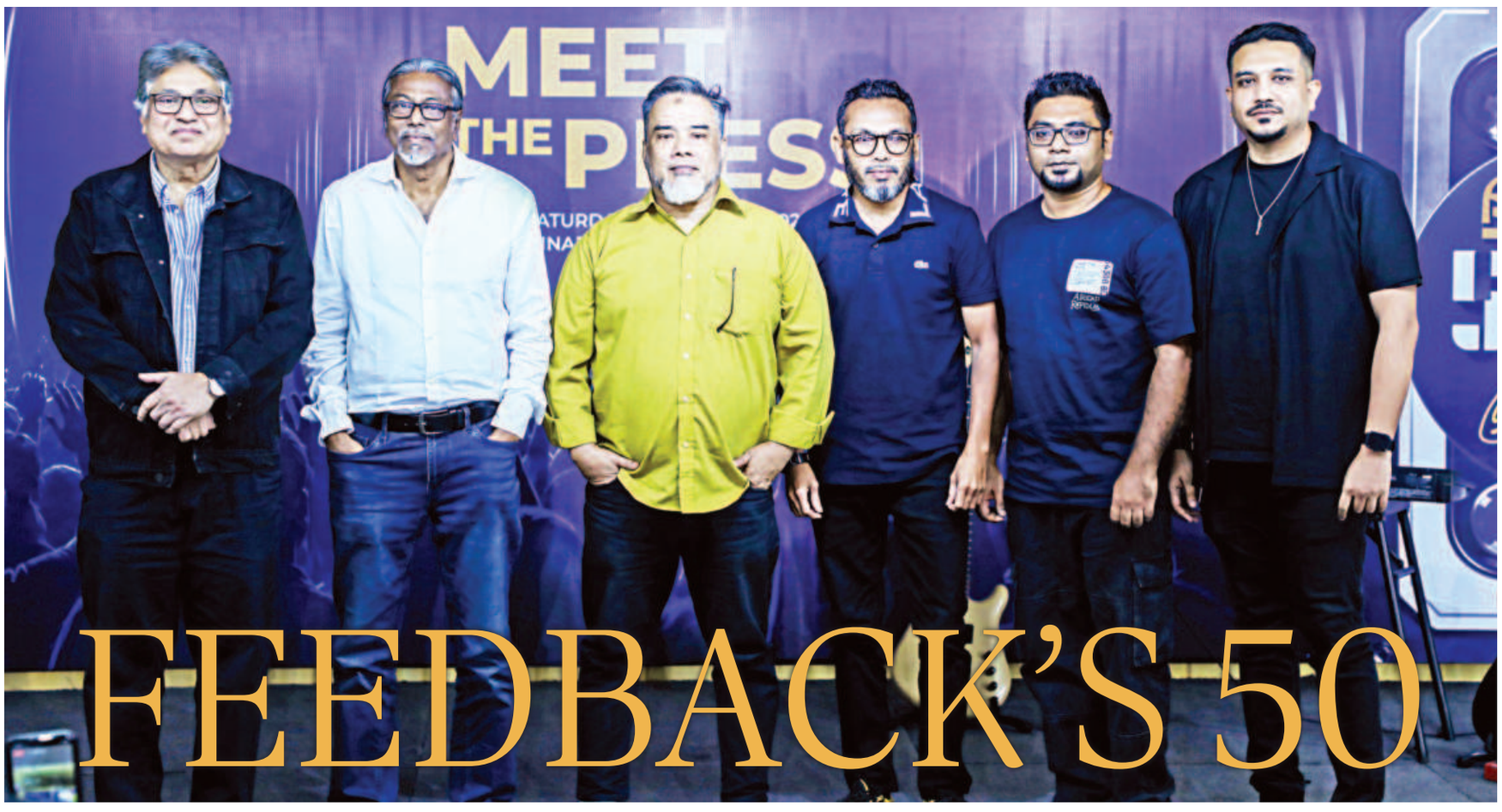


PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

FEEDBACK'S 50

Bangladesh to witness legendary band's grand celebration

NAVEEN ISLAM TOREE

"For a band to remain in listeners' hearts for five decades is truly a cause for joy. This journey belongs to more than just us; it has involved countless members, lyricists, composers and, above all, our millions of fans and listeners," said Foad Nasser Babu, a veteran who has woven magic with his ephemeral keyboard riffs for 50 years, before the press conference at The Daily Star's A S Mahmud Hall.

Feedback, a cornerstone of Bangladesh's band music scene, will soon celebrate its five-decade journey with a series of special concerts and attractions under the banner ***Feedback: 50 Not Out***.

Founded in October 1977, Feedback has entered its 50th year, marking the occasion with a year-long programme featuring fresh renditions of popular songs, new releases and concerts across Bangladesh.

"We will start with Chattogram because we feel like we have more fans there," continued Babu, outlining the plans for the year-long celebration.

"We want to bring our old members and the people who have been part of this journey together and make the occasion memorable," he said.

"Feedback is not out. We plan to go on for a long time. There is no retirement in this profession," said Labu Rahman. Labu's energising guitar playing has been a hallmark of the band, and he has also been an inspiration for generations of guitarists who went on to become famous.

The occasion also brought together musicians who have shared different chapters of Bangladesh's band music history with Feedback.

Recalling the early days of the country's band music scene, Miles frontman Hamin Ahmed said, "The two bands started their journey from Hotel InterContinental. There was a sense of brotherhood in sharing the same amplifier. Feedback was the first band that came to our minds when Miles was looking to release Bangla songs."

The host, Hasibul Hossain Upal, also highlighted the musical contributions of Miles and Feedback, pointing to the quality of their musicianship and arrangements.

The programme also included tributes to Feedback's first guitarist, Selim Haider, whose contribution to the band's history was remembered.

Pilu Khan of Renaissance praised the musicians and their character, saying, "All the best musicians seemed to be in one band, and that was Feedback back in the 1970s. They are not only fine musicians, but the finest human beings."

Sayed Hasan Tipu of Obscure recalled how Feedback had helped younger musicians find their footing in the industry.

"When we first came here, we didn't know anything. We learned our basics from them. Feedback acted like a guardian to Obscure," he said.

Since the mid-1980s, Feedback has developed a distinctive sound blending folk, pop and modern rock, helping shape the evolution of Bangladesh's band music scene. Over the years, musicians including Maqsoodul Haque, Pearo Khan and Labu Rahman have contributed to the band's musical journey.

The group's repertoire includes songs such as ***Melay Jaire***, ***Ei Din Chirodin Robe***, ***Ek Jhak Projapoti***, ***Jhau Boney***, ***Udashi***, ***Moushumi***, ***Chithi***, ***Sukhi Manusher Bhire*** and ***Geetikobita***. Among them, ***Melay Jaire*** has become closely associated with Bengali New Year celebrations and is widely regarded as an unofficial anthem of the occasion.

As Feedback approaches its golden jubilee, ***50 Not Out*** is intended to celebrate not only the band's musical achievements but also its enduring connection with generations of listeners. With new music, concerts and a reunion of former members in the works, the band is looking to honour its past while continuing its musical journey.

EVENTS

'Chitrangada'



Swapnadal presents ***Chitrangada***, Rabindranath Tagore's poetic drama based on a story from the ***Mahabharata***. The play follows Chitrangada, a warrior princess of Manipur who falls in love with Arjuna and struggles with questions of beauty, identity and self-worth. Seeking his affection, she wishes to transform herself into a conventionally beautiful woman, but eventually comes to realise the importance of being loved for who she truly is. Directed by Zahid Repon, the acclaimed production was staged at the 23rd Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2024, organised by India's National School of Drama.

Date: Wednesday | October 28
Time: 7:00 pm
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA

Who will be the **next James Bond?**



The search for the next James Bond is nearing its final stage, with a select group of actors reportedly set to screen-test for the role of 007 in London this weekend.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Callum Turner, recently seen in ***One Night Only*** and ***Slow Horses*** actor Jack Lowden are among the contenders. The auditions could begin as early as Friday, with at least three and possibly five actors involved.

Jack O'Connell and Jacob Elordi are reportedly out of the running.

The tests will reportedly assess stunts, camera presence and dialogue. Denis Villeneuve will direct the next Bond film for Amazon MGM Studios, with Amy Pascal and David Heyman producing.

NEWS

Jubo Dal leader, grocery shop owner shot

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Terokhada Police Station.

According to a press release issued by district police, Ramim was sitting in a van in front of a house near Khan Bricks in Parhaji village, along the Sener Bazar-Madhupur Road. At that time, unidentified assailants on a motorcycle fired at him from behind and fled the scene. A bullet hit his rib cage.

Meanwhile, in the district town, grocery shop owner Dhananjay Kundu, alias Akash Kundu, 45, of the Gachhtala Temple area, was shot on Dakshin Tutpara Cross Road around 6:45pm, said Khulna Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge of Lokmon Hossain.

Quoting witnesses, the OC said the assailants arrived on a motorcycle, fired a single shot at Akash and fled the scene. Akash sustained a gunshot wound to his abdomen.

Both of them were rescued by locals and taken to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

The identities of the attackers and the motive behind the shootings were not immediately known, police said.

Security was beefed up following the shooting.

The incidents took place on the same day the inspector general of police was on an official visit in the district. IGP Ali Hossain Fakir visited Khulna Police Lines and met police personnel and representatives of different policing committees.

The shootings come amid growing concerns over law and order in Khulna.

According to district police data, 35 murders were reported in Khulna district between January and the first week of October this year. Police had solved 25 of the cases, while the remaining 10 were yet to be solved, Khulna Superintendent of Police Sarker Omar Faroque said earlier.

Meanwhile, Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) recorded 33 murders in the city between January and September. Police claimed to have solved 31 of the cases.

According to a police list, at least 10 major criminal gangs are active in Khulna city. Clashes, retaliatory attacks, and killings have occurred among these groups over territorial control and revenge.

A joint force has launched a special operation in four upazilas to improve law and order, with a focus on curbing drug-related crimes and recovering illegal firearms.

The operation began on October 6 in Rupsha, Dighalia, Terokhada, and Batiaghata upazilas, involving the Special Response Battalion (formerly RAB), KMP, and district police.

"Most of the targeted killings in Khulna are linked to drug-related activities," the SP told The Daily Star.

Dual system proposed

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In the July charter, most political parties agreed during talks held by the National Consensus Commission that the upper house should be based on the percentage of votes in the lower house election.

The ruling BNP, however, supports forming the chamber based on the percentage of seats in the lower house.

Chaired by committee head and Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, the committee held a six-and-a-half-hour meeting yesterday at the Cabinet Room of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Committee members, along with invited constitutional experts, senior Supreme Court advocates and law professors from various universities, took part, according to the parliament secretariat. Of the 60 people invited, 44 attended.

Sources from the meeting said a law teacher from a public university put forward the mixed-system proposal, and several participants supported it.

Another academic, from a private university, termed it acceptable and suggested forming an election-time caretaker government headed by the Speaker of the upper house.

If this is adopted, he said, the post of vice-president could be created in the constitution, with the upper house Speaker serving as ex-officio vice-president.

Advisers to the caretaker government would be nominated from the upper house on the recommendations of both the government and the opposition.

He also proposed setting the term of the lower house at four years and that of the upper house at six, which, meeting sources said, would ensure that an elected parliament remains in place even after the government's term expires.

Speaking at a press conference after the meeting, Salahuddin said detailed discussions were held on the structure, process and jurisdiction of the caretaker government system.

Some participants proposed that if an upper house is established through a constitutional amendment, an election-time caretaker government could be formed under the leadership of its Speaker, based on the views of the government and the opposition, he said.

Noting that "such a proposal can be considered", Salahuddin said, "Many opined that there could be a provision where, besides the Speaker, other advisers are appointed with the consensus of the government and the opposition. This can be considered also."

He said there was no scope to make an immediate decision.

"Everyone discussed in detail and shared their views. Among the meetings held so far, today's discussion was the most fruitful. We have one or two more meetings left. We have already started compilation work, with no time constraint for submitting the report," he said.

Among the key issues discussed were the constitutional basic structure theory and judicial review of administrative action, legislative action and constitutional amendments.

Speakers shared their opinions on the Supreme Court's power of judicial review and constitutional interpretation, Salahuddin said. Participants cited examples from different countries regarding the judiciary's jurisdiction in these matters.

Apart from this, almost everyone agreed that under article 70, members of parliament would be free to vote independently on all issues except four: constitutional amendments, money bills, confidence votes and national security, the committee chief said.

Meeting sources said some favoured allowing one person to hold the positions of PM and party chief simultaneously.

Under article 76 of the constitution, a parliamentary committee can summon anyone on any matter but cannot compel that person to appear. Although there is scope to enact legislation on this, no government has done so.

In response to a proposal on the matter, Salahuddin indicated plans to formulate a law.

1,000 held

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activists and criminal gangs of seeking to foment trouble.

PARIS IN LOCKDOWN

Authorities deployed 70,000 police officers and gendarmes, 10,000 more than a week earlier, after conceding they had underestimated the scale of the unrest on October 17.

Nunez told reporters the violence was less intense than a week ago, when looters and vandals went on the rampage. "What changed was anticipation," he said.

He also said far-right activists had sought confrontations with leftist groups in the southern cities of Nice and Montpellier, opening a potential new front in the disturbances.

Much of central Paris took on the appearance of a city under lockdown, with shopkeepers boarding up storefronts, museums closing their doors and more than 20 metro stations shut.

Business groups urged retailers to remain closed after thousands of shops and businesses were damaged or looted across France last weekend.

"There are hardly any customers, so it's not really worth staying open," said Oskar, manager of a Kiton boutique in Paris.

Several of the capital's best-known cultural institutions, including the Louvre, the Musee d'Orsay and the Paris Opera, closed for the day as a precaution, leaving tourists frustrated.

"Everything's boarded up and we're not quite sure where we should be," said Xavier Dolliole, a tourist from the US city of New Orleans.

PROTESTS RIPPLE ACROSS EUROPE

The nationwide disorder began with small student demonstrations in suburban Paris last month to denounce school conditions. It swiftly broadened into a wider protest against the government's economic policies and inspired demonstrations in neighbouring countries.

On Saturday Belgian police used tear gas and pepper spray as they clashed in Brussels with anti-government demonstrators, with protests also taking place in a number of Italian cities for a second weekend and in Albania.

Hard-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon, who joined the Paris rally, predicted the protests would continue until President Emmanuel Macron, whose mandate expires next year, addressed the social malaise in France, one of the world's richest nations.

"Given the current situation, I think he will come to understand that this will happen again every week. There is still time for (Macron) to give in. After that, the only thing left to him will be the exit door," Melenchon told reporters.

FAR-RIGHT PARTY HOLDS CONGRESS

Many demonstrators accused the government of overreacting to last week's turmoil, as soldiers were dispatched to patrol the Champs-Elysees, a grand boulevard lined with luxury shops and restaurants.

"We shed tears for shops, not for the people who are being impoverished all year round," said Clara Lebbadi, a 22-year-old arts student.

"My friend and I almost didn't come because we were scared, but we came precisely because it's important not to let repression win," she added.

2,200 Palestinians

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in the city's al-Jalda and Ein Deir Bahha neighbourhoods, as Israeli forces continue military operation in the occupied West Bank.

He also said the Israeli operations were motivated by parliamentary elections on Tuesday when Netanyahu's right-wing coalition may lose his majority, opinion polls show.

"Netanyahu and the radical ministers in his government are trying to win as many votes as possible from the settlers," Al-Jabari said.

The non-governmental organisation the Palestinian Prisoners' Club said Israeli forces had arrested around 70 Palestinians on Friday and Saturday. Israeli officials have not commented on any arrests.

Al-Jabari said the military had demolished shops, factories, homes, and roads in Hebron and that the response was disproportionate and unjustified.

Residents in Hebron told Reuters that the military expelled many people with no connection to the Palestinian attackers.

"We are calling on officials to stand by us because we are not involved in any of this. There are children. We are isolated; we don't do anything. This is all arbitrary," said Majdi Nasser, one of those driven from his home.

Residents told Reuters they saw Israeli soldiers marking homes with a black X after their Palestinian occupants had been forced to leave. It was not immediately clear what the X mark meant.

