Lapse in security taints stellar concert: 'Rock & Rhythm 5.0' at JFP

SHAHBAZ NAHIAN



PHOTOS: SHAHBAZ NAHIAN

As I tried to enter the concert premises at Jamuna Future Park, a large group surged through security barriers made of bamboo poles tied with rope and covered with thin black fabric. A policeman was being overwhelmed and assaulted by a group. On the other end of the spectrum, a lone law enforcement officer waved his stick at people trying to flee. Elsewhere, armed police and security personnel stood watching, while some merely blew their whistles.

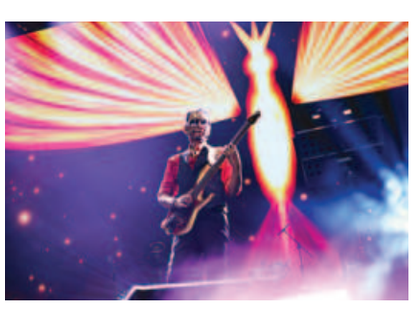
It took me more than 30 minutes to reach backstage. By then, I had missed a lot of the action.

The stark contrast between what happened on stage and off it defined ***Rock & Rhythm 5.0: No Limits in The Zone***. Organised by Adventor Communications at the Carnival Arena of Jamuna Future Park on Friday, October 23, the concert offered memorable performances alongside troubling security failures.

"Looks like they have overbooked the venue," a performer from one of the night's standout acts remarked during a conversation in the green room.

From intimate, ticketed concerts in living rooms to large festivals, audiences have been finding different ways to engage with the arts. Young people have been a visible part of that participation. Friday's concert offered another reminder of the enthusiasm surrounding live music—and the responsibility that comes with bringing so many people together.





Beyond the disorder, the night delivered musical moments that a social media reel could only partly convey.

The programme opened with A K Rahul featuring Black Zang, followed by Hasan with Ark. Oni Hasan's band, featuring Jamshed Chowdhury, then tore through the venue with the heaviest setlist of the night. Later, Shunno took to the stage with original member Shaker Raza for a mesmerising performance.

During Aurthohin's set, Shishir ascended on a boom lift to perform atop four stacked shipping containers. Bassbaba emerged through the middle of the stage on a scissor lift, performed his signature bass flip, and played with his teeth.

Warfaze followed, bringing Oni Hasan on stage midway through their set. Like Bassbaba, he emerged from the middle of the stage. For roughly 25 minutes, ***Na***, ***Purnota***, and ***Boshey Achi*** brought an earlier chapter of the band's history back into view. It was a chance for younger listeners to experience that lineup and for longtime fans to revisit it.

Another standout was Dibbomoy Chakraborty Rizu, the new drummer in Oni Hasan's band. Playing his first major show, the teenager delivered one of the night's most commanding performances.

In the final hour, James held the crowd spellbound with Nagar Baul classics.

The staging was ambitious. The lifts and towering containers gave the performances a striking visual dimension, while entrances from beneath the stage added an element of surprise. Yet those moments sat uneasily alongside the disorder at the entrance.

Adventor Co-founder Nehal Hossain acknowledged that the evening had not gone as intended.

"As organisers, we always try to add new things to our audience's concert experience. This time, we also tried to host the biggest open-air concert of the year, bring in a memorable lineup, and try things that have never been done before. We tried our best, but things didn't go as planned. I am having mixed feelings. We will try to recover from this," he told The Daily Star.

He also appealed to those forcing their way into concerts:

"To the people who mob and ruin everyone's concert experience – please at least try to respect the artistes and organisers. We put a lot of effort and funding into arranging a show. We never oversell tickets, but because of the mobs, we get a lot of blame. I hope they will stop."

The performances gave the audience plenty to remember, but the scenes outside the stage area served as a stark reminder that a great concert experience also depends on being able to enter, watch, and leave safely.

EVENTS

'The Fold Fest Bangladesh'



Celebrating World Origami Days 2026, Kun Creative Studio presents ***The Fold Fest Bangladesh***, an independent showcase of paper-folding art. Through hands-on workshops, mathematical seminars, and collaborative installations, the festival turns simple paper sheets into intricate sculptures, blending geometry, imagination, and community craft.

Date: Saturday–Wednesday | October 24–November 11, 2026
Time: 5:00pm–9:00pm
Venue: Kun Creative Studio, Zigatola

'Animal Farm' returns to Shilpakala for two shows



Animal Farm, presented by the theatre department of Tagore University of Creative Arts, returns to the stage with two performances at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy today and tomorrow.

Both shows will begin at 7:00pm at the main auditorium of the National Theatre Hall in Dhaka.

Directed by Saidur Rahman Lipon, the play has been adapted by Nazrul Syed from George Orwell's political allegory ***Animal Farm***, published in 1945.

The production explores the abuse of power, the betrayal of revolutionary ideals, political deception, the distortion of history and the denial of ordinary people's rights—themes that continue to resonate today.

NEWS

BB fights on to curb family grip on banks

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The new draft also tightens the conditions for anyone seeking to become a bank director or managing director.

Cabinet members, members of parliament, and local government representatives would be barred from serving as bank directors, a measure intended to limit political influence over lending decisions.

In a separate change, the central bank would be able to relax the current 10 percent cap on individual shareholdings for "strategic institutional investors" if it judged this beneficial for the sector. That could open the way for larger stakes by foreign or domestic institutions.

The proposals come as Bangladesh tries to clean up a banking system weighed down by bad debt. Non-performing loans stand at about 32.8 percent of the total, according to a September 15 report by Moody's Ratings.

Economists blame much of that on families and conglomerates that have used their banks to lend to their own businesses.

The Bangladesh Association of Banks, which represents owners, has lobbied hard against the reforms.

It argues that limiting family representation on boards would disrupt established ownership arrangements, shorter tenures would deprive boards of experience, and independent-majority boards would curtail shareholders' control.

- Only two family members to be allowed on bank board
- Directorships would be capped at six years

At a September 20 meeting at the Financial Institutions Division, the owners sought a three-seat limit for their families and a nine-year tenure for directors. Minutes of the meeting suggest officials were receptive to those arguments.

A senior finance ministry official told The Daily Star yesterday that an inter-ministerial meeting would review the draft before it goes to the cabinet.

"The goal is to place and pass the bill in the upcoming parliamentary session," the official said.

The cost of the banking crisis to the state has been rising. The interim government merged five failing private lenders into Sammilito Islami Bank, backed by Tk 20,000 crore from the budget.

The sector would need Tk 60,000 crore a year in public funds for the next five to eight years to make up for money plundered from banks, Governor Mostaqur said on October 10.

Moody's estimates the cost of recapitalising the system at about 10 percent of GDP.

Rules on bank governance have shifted with the political cycle. Following pressure from the owners, the tenure of bank directors was raised from six to nine years in 2018. The then government again pushed through a last-minute amendment in 2023, raising the tenure to 12 years.

Opposition lawmakers walked out of parliament in protest, with one of them calling bank directors the "masterminds of bank looting".

Jeddah mission

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Arabia on October 14 without prior notification to Dhaka, according to the information presented to the committee.

They had been detained since August 2023 over separate allegations, one involving "cybercrime" and the other "adultery".

The foreign ministry informed the committee that Saudi Arabia had sent a list of around 2,500 prisoners about 14 days before the executions. The names of the two Bangladeshis were on the list, but their cases were not properly identified.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, committee chairman Zohra Adib Chowdhury said members wanted to know why the consulate had not acted earlier and whether there had been any negligence or shortcomings in the process.

"Bangladesh has good relations with Saudi Arabia. So why were we not informed earlier?" she said, adding that the incident pointed to weaknesses in the overall process.

Referring to the exchange of information 14 days before the executions, she said the ministry had acknowledged that the report had not been properly examined.

Asked why officials had mistaken the cases of the two executed Bangladeshis for ones carrying prison terms, a foreign ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star that Saudi Arabia can impose the death penalty for cybercrimes involving online activities deemed to be directed against the kingdom.

"However, cybercrimes such as hacking, data theft or online fraud do not necessarily carry the death penalty," the official said.

"Saudi Arabia does have a history of imposing the death penalty for adultery, although such sentences are extremely rare. Available records show that Saudi courts have handed down prison sentences for adultery in previous years. So, it was difficult to realise from the conviction details that the two Bangladeshis had been sentenced to death, particularly as the sentence column was left blank in the shared lists," the official added.

The parliamentary committee also discussed reports of abuse of Bangladeshi women workers in Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries.

The foreign ministry informed the committee that around one to two per cent of Bangladeshi women workers in Saudi Arabia faced abuse. The committee asked the ministry to take necessary measures to bring such incidents down to zero.

Arrests in overdrive

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groups of young people, many clad in all-black, attacking businesses in Barcelona after gathering in the city centre for a rally that had not been declared to the authorities.

In Portugal, police again cleared tents set up by protesters against skyrocketing housing prices overnight yesterday, with organisers criticising the brutality of the officers involved, reports Reuters.

In a message on X, the police said officers had "intervened early this [Sunday] morning... to put an end to these illegal encampments".

"Once dialogue ended, the operation led to 31 arrests for disobedience," the police added.

According to the force, 11 people were injured, of whom eight were civilians with the remaining three police officers, while 171 structures were taken down.

Cited in the Portuguese press, organisers of the movement put the toll at 37 protesters injured as a result of the police raids, most of them in Lisbon.

The protesters have accused the government of failing to act to tackle Portugal's housing crisis and trying to push through rent reforms to make eviction easier.

Marine Le Pen, France's far-right candidate to succeed President Emmanuel Macron in elections in six months, was due to give her first campaign speech later yesterday, a day after protests sweeping the country again flared into violence.

Le Pen -- the frontrunner according to surveys -- is seen to be benefiting in the polls from the convulsions France has been going through for weeks, punctuated by mass rallies and violent clashes on Saturday and a week earlier.

Two DGFI men

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the toilet, the report said.

Shortly after, Mamun, Nuruzzaman, Mukul and another accused allegedly entered the flat, confined Sharif and threatened him and demanded Tk 10 lakh.

Sharif handed over Tk 70,000 in cash that he had brought to buy the motorcycle, according to the report. The accused then allegedly assaulted him and again demanded Tk 10 lakh.

Sharif then called his family and tried to arrange the money, the report said.

Around 3:00am yesterday, Mamun, Nuruzzaman, and Mukul allegedly took Sharif out of the flat and forced him into a white Toyota Probox driven by Ziaul. Mahfuzur was also in the vehicle.

They drove to a tea stall across the Shishu Hospital in Shyamoli and kept him in the car while the accused had tea, the report said.

Spotting a police pickup, Sharif jumped out of the car and told police what had happened.

Police detained Mamun, Nuruzzaman, Mukul, Mahfuzur, Ziaul, and seized the car.

Rasel Islam, a sub-inspector of the Mohammadpur Police Station and the investigating officer of the case, said Sharif filed the case accusing eight people -- the six arrestees and a woman and another person who were in the flat.

Sohel was also arrested around 7:00am, Rasel said in the report.

Tarique to meet Takaichi

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On arrival, he is expected to meet separately with the president of the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship League and the chairman of the Japan-Bangladesh Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation.

He will later call on the president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

In the evening, he will attend a dinner hosted by the honorary chairman of the Nippon Foundation and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

He will then travel to Futtsu city in Chiba to visit JERA's LNG terminal and power plant. He is also scheduled to visit a Nippon Express logistics hub in Ichikawa City before returning to his residence.

On the third day, the prime minister will call on the president of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

He will also visit UNIQLO's Ariake office and meet its president and board members, followed by a meeting with the president of the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO).

Tarique is scheduled to meet representatives of major Japanese companies, including Mitsui & Co, Sumitomo Corp and JERA.

He will also attend the Bangladesh-Japan Economic Forum at JETRO.

On the final day of the visit, he will visit a Toyota factory before departing for Dhaka.

During the visit, Dhaka and Tokyo are expected to sign five to eight instruments, according to officials involved with the proceedings.

The instruments are likely to include memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and memorandums of cooperation (MoCs) covering loans and financial support, agriculture, civil aviation, business climate development, development at the upazila level, official security assistance (OSA) for the Bangladesh Coast Guard, and energy cooperation, the officials said.

Bangladesh is expected to seek financial support, investment and development cooperation, while Japan is likely to focus on regional connectivity and improving the business climate.

The two countries are likely to agree on around $2 billion in loans and financial support, according to the officials.

The proposed package is expected to include $300 million in budgetary support, infrastructure development, and cooperation in energy and maritime security.

Mob kills 2

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cause of death.

"According to preliminary information from local residents, the two men died after being beaten by a mob following the alleged theft of an auto-rickshaw," the OC said.

According to police and local residents, Sohel Mia, a resident of Bagpur Bagherhat village, noticed an auto-rickshaw being taken from his house early yesterday and raised the alarm. An announcement was then made over a nearby mosque's loudspeaker warning residents about the suspected theft.

Responding to the announcement, locals, including those who gathered for Fajr prayers, chased the two men as they fled with the vehicle.

The pair later abandoned the auto-rickshaw on the road and attempted to escape. However, locals caught them in a paddy field at Pukur Khurir Dola in the Uttar Panapukur area, about half a kilometre west of Sohel Mia's house.

They were subsequently beaten, killing them on the spot, witnesses said.

Comilla univ

FROM PAGE 12

did not die by suicide.

According to her family, Farzana married Nazmul, a former student of the same department, three years ago. The couple had been living in a rented house in Bhui Ghar for the past two and a half months because of Nazmul's job.

Her elder brother, Mohammad Ariful Islam, alleged that Nazmul had mistreated and physically assaulted Farzana. He said she had once left her husband's home and stayed with their parents in Brahmanbaria for four months before returning following a family settlement.

Farzana filed a case against Nazmul at the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court in Brahmanbaria on January 23, 2026, alleging torture and dowry-related abuse. Her brother said she later withdrew the case.

Ariful said the family had been unable to reach Farzana by phone since 7:00pm on Saturday. Around 10:30pm, Nazmul called and told them that she had died by suicide. Ariful called for a thorough and fair investigation into her death, saying the possibility of a planned killing should be examined.

Sayeedi case

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However, Sohrab Hossain Jewel, secretary of the district Jamaat's publicity and media department, denied the party's involvement, saying Jamaat did not support such activities.

At around 1:00am yesterday, police transported the body to Manik's home. About an hour later, he was buried in a re-excavated grave in the presence of family members and local residents.

On August 11, 2009, Manik filed a case against Sayeedi and four others with the court of the chief judicial magistrate in Pirojpur, accusing them of crimes committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

The International Crimes Tribunal later sentenced Sayeedi to imprisonment until death in the case. He died on August 14, 2023, while undergoing treatment in custody.