

- [Home](#)
- [Opinion Home](#)
- [1971](#)
- [Agriculture](#)
- [Development](#)
- [Economy](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Environment/Climate](#)
- [Finance](#)

- [Polls Archive](#)
- [Readers' Opinion](#)

- [Subscribe](#)
- April 19, 2011

Rubana Huq

In transit: from fun to folly

December 12, 2010



35
shares

Share

Shahrukh Khan and Rani Mukherjee perform in King Khan Live show at Army Stadium, Dhaka on Friday. Photo:Hassan Bipul

December 10, 2010

4:30 pm:

The camera was nervous, shaking from one side to the other, mimicking emotion of the cameraman trying to capture a unique telescopic moment of the King Khan. They were all there. Meantime, the shadow stage had been set up in the studios and there were celebrities streaming in to the platform, one after the other, trying to outsmart one another with more insights into Shahrukh and his life. Participants were sharing their expert opinion on Shahrukh Khan's quality of production, his family life and his commitment to profession. Meantime, shifting her attention from the studio to the field, handling tensions of a live production, the anchor was carrying on the show.

After all, the nerve to be on stage is not something everyone can handle. Therefore, I commended her for her spontaneity and spirit, irrespective of the diction and delivery. Her marathon stamina alone deserves kudos. Even the reporter on the field, being the breathless one, entrusted to talk about the slightest knot of Shahrukh's scarf, the "nachanachi" references was entertaining enough for one lazy Friday afternoon. That poor soul also had to go around interviewing the important sponsors and their guests who were obviously occupying the prominent spots in the audience. By the way, there were 23 sponsors including an educational institution that has lately been lauded for their contribution in the academic field. All is understood as long as the end goal is justified. I am sorry but I don't think even Machiavelli would agree with the end, let alone the means.

The screen was being bombarded with ads and sneak-peaks into the teasing pre-Shahrukh moments. There were a few sought after advertisements which promised to take us "beyond the horizon" of air travel. I couldn't agree with the tagline more as it aptly related to our economy which is anyhow poised to take off on uncertain wings while the ground beneath our feet smells of corrupt practices and evasions.

We run too fast, hide too quick, and blush too late.

There are too many events to watch out for today. While the Nobel ceremony begins at 1:00 CET and is likely to clash with the King Khan event, I am wondering which one to watch. But thanks to the new media, I can watch the Nobel on the 13" inch computer

screen by streaming the internet live, I can have the television screen glaring at me through out...

I want to watch more of this joke and dissect it at a later hour tonight.

7:45 pm:

The show has gone from bad to worse. We are the lucky ones enjoying the circus while sitting at home and yet complaining of the ads, the band and the bad coordination. My heart goes out to the audience who paid, painstakingly got ready for the event and then had to bear the "just-a-minute" introductory speeches by organiser who carried the burden of a gold medallion heavier than what his shoulders were ready to bear. Come to think of it, giving in to the pressure of his "home" ministry, he even had to usher his jolly wife in and make a substantial mention of his only son.

8:25 pm:

The third dance performance is on. We are all wondering whether the King will actually perform more than two numbers. As much as we are familiar with Hindi, the smoke is subsiding and gradually many of us sitting together are realising that perhaps we are a bit too close to Bollywood for comfort.

8:34 pm

Rani Mukherjee is on and Bollywood has finally taken over.

Twenty-five thousand cheering for the King Khan now!

Rani is too sweet with her West Bengal 'ch's stressed; she is charming.

The King is on stage and is being the spirit that he always promises to be.

10:55 pm

Om Shanti Om...

Thank God it's over...

Shahrukh Khan is truly a legend and the organisers could have done much better. But, to put it very bluntly, did we really need to watch granddaughters and daughters on stage, right beside the dancers wearing next to nothing?

Bangladesh takes pride in moderation tempered by religion and an ideology fiercely fed by our thirst for freedom. This should never be forgotten. True we love watching Hindi movies and enjoy item numbers, but I bet that majority of the people in this country today are feeling uncomfortable not having grieved enough for the Narsinghdi tragedy and for not knowing much about the seized ship with 25 Bangladeshi crew onboard. I am certain that while there were 25,000 people swaying with Hindi beat and tune, there were also a handful who reflected on the Nobel committee handing the Peace Prize over to an empty chair while the violin played in the honour of Liu Xiaobo, who's serving an 11-year term in a Chinese jail. Instead of a packed stadium falling prey to the shameless display of corporate pull of advertisement and promotion, I am doubly certain that given a chance, the same people would have reflected more on the obvious truth of the day: mostly morons have money these days.

[Rubana Huq](#) is Managing Director, Mohammadi Group and CEO TV Southasia

Tags: [Bollywood](#), [King Khan Live](#), [Shahrukh Khan](#)

This entry was posted on December 12, 2010 at 1:14 am and is filed under [Lifestyle](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed.

WARNING: Any unauthorised use or reproduction of bdnews24.com content for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited and constitutes copyright infringement liable to legal action.

[More](#)

21 Responses to "In transit: from fun to folly"



1. Russel on January 9, 2011 at 10:47 am

very nice writing. keep writing.

[Reply](#)



2. SAJJAD on December 29, 2010 at 11:15 am

Good to read your columns.
Keep writing.
Nice to hear a voice from the past.
You too have survived well, I believe.

[Reply](#)



3. Saif Khan on December 14, 2010 at 2:23 am

Nowadays, the culture Bangladeshi's are adopting and enjoying is dismal, sick, abhorrent and perverted to say the least. The media and the urban population have totally lost their identities. Vulgar Indian and western cultures have become the standard. In the name of open and modern entertainment, the country lost its heritage, modesty and decency. And nobody seems to have the guts to say so. It is a cultural and moral bankruptcy the country has submerged into. Bangladesh had rich traditions in arts and culture, which is not being practiced these days and almost nobody talk about those. The culture of Bangladesh is in decay and has rotten so bad that it smells.

[Reply](#)



4. Akhtar Shah on December 13, 2010 at 7:04 pm

A tad harsh.

[Reply](#)



5. Rabi on December 13, 2010 at 6:33 pm

Surprisingly, most of the front-seaters at the show refused to admit that the event was not worth the money. It's actually difficult to say whether they took such a stand out of defiance or shame.

[Reply](#)



6. Rizwan-ul Huq Anando on December 13, 2010 at 11:33 am

Great article! The moral of the article is highly appreciable.

As a nation, it's a sad truth that we are getting more and more derailed. I can still remember the day Dilip Kumar came to Bangladesh. BTV aired his classic movies showing great respect to the artist. There is nothing wrong to honour someone who's as great as Dilip Kumar.

Shahrukh Khan indeed has a great fan following. Bangladesh is no exception. But what pained me most are schizophrenic fans and sycophants and their flattery.

Selucas, a strange country, indeed!

[Reply](#)



7. Fatemy Roomy on December 12, 2010 at 11:10 pm

Thanks to bdnews24.com for publishing this. I couldn't have agreed more as to what has been written by Rubana Huq. In fact as a nation, it seems we have lost our way or we really don't know our destination. Fun is part of life but having fun in a style not related to our culture is a kind of mockery. What have we gained through this? Absolutely nothing. May be we had to give away thousands of dollars legally or other way to some foreign people. In return we saw something which are obnoxious and classic mismanagement. May be some of our people made huge money out of this which will be distributed among the wealthy and powerful people. I am waiting to see whether our ACC or NBR make any inquiry into this.

[Reply](#)



8. Radin on December 12, 2010 at 10:36 pm

By seeing the people who attended the show spending from Tk. 100,000 to Tk. 25,000 who would say that it is a country where people struggle to manage one decent meal a day?

Tk. 100,000 for one show?? I don't have the right word to describe what kind of lunacy this actually is.

[Reply](#)



o shams zakir on December 13, 2010 at 10:17 pm

I think people have the freedom to enjoy their life. Some people are very poor and that's their destiny. I was poor too. Then I worked, made money and improved my life. Now I can spend money and enjoy my life. I could afford a Tk10,000 ticket and watched the show for it was good recreation and high quality entertainment.

[Reply](#)



9. hasan m. on December 12, 2010 at 10:34 pm

Transit? Folly? A strange title. Where do Narshingdi and the Nobel fit into all these? Maybe we are the morons. But I just think those of us who had a blast need not be made to feel guilty by such profound reflections which, frankly, do not make much sense to the "ordinary" Bangladeshi like me.

[Reply](#)



o Partha Pratim on December 13, 2010 at 5:11 pm

You miss the point completely.

[Reply](#)



10. [Monir Uddin Ahmed](#) on December 12, 2010 at 10:24 pm

It was a shame for us to see a state minister sitting on the carpet. Shame both on the organiser and the minister.

[Reply](#)



11. blackeyedwriter on December 12, 2010 at 7:19 pm

On a different note, aren't there similar shows and fashion parades held celebrating corporate globalisation in 5-star hotels where female models parade more as products than anything else?

[Reply](#)



12. Khuku on December 12, 2010 at 6:52 pm

We are ignorant about our capability and limitation...I do agree with you 100%.

[Reply](#)



13. Ezajur Rahman on December 12, 2010 at 6:21 pm

Thanks for taking an honest look at this concert. The truth is that many parties need to talk the concert up because, lets face it, we don't get to see any such concerts at all in Dhaka. It was a half-hearted effort by Shah Rukh Khan and I can't blame him – we Bangladeshi are easily pleased. Poor set, awful presenters, unacceptable delays and temperamental microphones.

[Reply](#)



14. Tofazzul Hussain on December 12, 2010 at 5:04 pm

Dear Rubana Huq,

You are really observant and thoughtful. Reading this critique is a relief for me; it's like somebody has vented my expressions as regards the King Khan show and the way it was organised and delayed by some grotesque event managers. I applaud your writing.

The audience who were unfortunately picked to perform with the King Khan on stage were a wrong representation of our unsung-smart population. Look around — there are a lot of youngsters who can outsmart our neighbouring audiences to many extent.

For the attention of the organisers: if you had kicked-start the programme with our national anthem, you certainly could have spread some positive message to bring about patriotism among the audience. This was an apt moment to deliver message. The whole programme should have had a key mission, just not some mimic performances to make us follow it grotesquely. The show should have also been anchored by some witty, educated and communicative persons who can connect with the audience. Trust me, there are many. All you need to do is and find them. PREPARATION, PREPARATION AND PREPARATION WITH THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION OF: THE DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERN, HABIT, STYLE, CULTURE, HUMOUR ARE THE KEY TO MAKE THE AUDIENCE CHEER THROUGHOUT THE SHOW. That's how you ensure "quality of fun for money".

To me, the fun curve was like M (McDONALD'S) shaped. At the end of the show I was more down than being amused and was cursing myself after spending 5 hours in-front of the TV set. It was a total wastage of time but I persisted merely to assess the quality of the whole programme which is the 1st of its kind that's ever happened in this city. Thanks to my apathy to such prolonged stage show (including queue time), I managed to save my energy level.

Tofazzul Hussain, FCA

[Reply](#)



15. Md. Shahriar Mizan on December 12, 2010 at 3:44 pm

I liked the topic of the write-up. I didn't think it was a much required programme, especially not in Bangladesh. Shahrukh's performance also showed that he was not that concern about it. In other words he was not that much caring about her performance or the programme.

[Reply](#)



16. Syed Imtiaz Ali on December 12, 2010 at 3:36 pm

You are absolutely right! "Mostly morons have money these days"—ill-gotten, ill-spent with ill-conceived priorities.

Thank you.

[Reply](#)



17. khan on December 12, 2010 at 10:40 am

bold...timely... precise...

[Reply](#)



18. [MBI Munshi](#) on December 12, 2010 at 8:34 am

The choice of an Indian Muslim actor and a Bengali female actress to perform in Bangladesh sends an interesting message. I wonder how many saw or realized the political and cultural subtext to this show. That SRK went out of his way to praise Sheikh Hasina is clearly meant to convey a subtle meaning and that's when I tuned to another channel.

[Reply](#)



19. Kamrul Hassan on December 12, 2010 at 1:57 am

I thank the writer Rubana Huq for a timely and wonderful write-up. I fully agree with her that the show truly went from fun to folly. We all like, if not love, King Khan, we all know he is a superstar, his spirit seems indomitable and ease of talking and making fun appear tireless. But I think anyone, even a superstar needs to do little homework before landing on the stage, know the culture of the land and respect the value system. Did not those money-hungry organisers, the over-enthusiastic crowd and the dull-headed representatives of the audience exposed our own follies even more? The cultural aggression is obvious, the nudity is universal and the language is Hinglish. I do not know who is the bigger clown — the performers or the organisers, or the jumping spectators? King Khan made all of us look poorer.








































[Reply](#)

Leave a Reply

Name(required) Mail (will not be published)(required) Website

Writers

- [ABM Nasir](#)  (6)
- [Ad Spijkers](#)  (1)
- [AFM Mainul Ahsan](#)  (1)
- [Afsan Chowdhury](#)  (27)
- [AhmedArif Sirajee](#)  (1)
- [aladin](#)  (1)
- [Aly Zaker](#)  (5)
- [Anatul Fateh](#)  (1)
- [ANM Hamidullah](#)  (2)
- [Arafat A Islam](#)  (1)
- [Arshad Mahmud](#)  (9)
- [Asif Saleh](#)  (1)
- [C S Karim](#)  (4)
- [Devasish Wangza](#)  (1)
- [Bina D'Costa](#)  (1)
- [Dr. Adnan Morshed](#)  (3)
- [Dr. Ahmed Shafee](#)  (4)
- [Dr. Satparkash](#)  (1)
- [Dr. Zakir Husain](#)  (2)
- [Faisal Hamid](#)  (1)
- [Farhad Mazhar](#)  (2)
- [Farida Akhter](#)  (3)
- [Farooque Chowdhury](#)  (3)
- [Faruq Hasan](#)  (1)
- [Frank Cipriani](#)  (23)
- [Haider A Khan](#)  (1)
- [Hasan Reza](#)  (3)
- [Hasan Zillur Rahim](#)  (15)
- [Hasanuz zaman](#)  (1)
- [Helena Christensen](#)  (1)
- [Ikhtiar Kazi](#)  (3)
- [Isaac Robinson](#)  (1)
- [Ishrat Firdousi](#)  (5)

- [Julian Francis](#)  (1)
- [Jyoti Rahman](#)  (4)
- [Anis Ahmed](#)  (1)
- [Kayes Ahmed](#)  (2)
- [Kazi S M Khasrul Alam Quddusi](#)  (2)
- [Khademul Islam](#)  (3)
- [Kristin Davis](#)  (1)
- [Lalon Sander](#)  (1)
- [M A Taslim](#)  (12)
- [MM Akash](#)  (1)
- [Maha Mirza](#)  (3)
- [Mahbub Ullah](#)  (1)
- [Mary Robinson](#)  (1)
- [Maswood Alam Khan](#)  (1)
- [Matiur Rahman](#)  (4)
- [Meer Ahsan Habib](#)  (1)
- [Mehmet Celebi Azeem Ibrahim](#)  (1)
- [Mirza Azizul Islam](#)  (1)
- [MK Aaref](#)  (6)
- [Muhammad Habibur Rahman](#)  (1)
- [Nayeemul Islam Khan](#)  (1)
- [Neda Shakiba](#)  (1)
- [NM Harun Harun](#)  (1)
- [Ramya Sarma](#)  (21)
- [Rubana Huq](#)  (9)
- [Rumi Ahmed](#)  (7)
- [Rushanara Ali](#)  (1)
- [Sahar Ali](#)  (1)
- [Saima Hossain Putul](#)  (2)
- [Shabbir Ahmed](#)  (1)
- [Shafik Rehman](#)  (5)
- [Shahidul Alam](#)  (2)
- [Shamaruh Mirza](#)  (1)
- [Shamit Mahbub Shahabuddin](#)  (1)
- [Sharaban Tahura Zaman](#)  (1)
- [Sheikh Hasina](#)  (2)
- [Shobhon Shahabuddin](#)  (1)
- [Syeed Ahamed](#)  (6)
- [Taj Hashmi](#)  (6)

- [Tanim Ahmed](#)  (3)
- [Tom Heinemann](#)  (1)
- [Vincent Brosse](#)  (1)
- [Wasfia Nazreen](#)  (1)

Archives

Select Month

Search

Search & Hit Enter

December 2010

S S M T W T F

[1](#) [2](#) 3

[4](#) [5](#) [6](#) 7 8 [9](#) [10](#)

11 [12](#) [13](#) [14](#) [15](#) 16 17

[18](#) 19 [20](#) [21](#) [22](#) 23 [24](#)

[25](#) [26](#) [27](#) 28 [29](#) [30](#) 31

[« Nov](#) [Jan »](#)

Readers' Opinion

 [All](#)

Latest on Mon, 02:26
am



Somnath

GuhaRoy: USA &
UK, like other
progressive
democracies, do allow
people - citizens or
foreigners - to speak
their minds. Also, [...]



Ishan Khan: The

only weapon left
with us in population
control is rapid literacy
i.e. rapid spread of
education. No other
measure [...]



Ishan: Khondoker

Ibrahim Khaled's
comment that "only
martial law could ensure
trial of those he
perceives responsible for
the bubble-and-burst
chaos [...]



Rashed Ahmed:

The Awami League
is trying to re-invent Dr.
Goebbles, Hitler's
Minister for Propaganda.
The infamous Dr.
Goebbles had said that
[...]



Taneem: Raul

Castro proposed
term limits Saturday for
Cuban politicians –
including him. He said
politicians and other
important officials
should [...]

» Leave a reply

Name

Email

Comment

Submit

Copyright © 2011 [Opinion](#). All Rights Reserved.

[Disclaimer & Privacy Policy](#) | [About us](#) | [Contact us](#).