



(L) The core team of musicians for Coke Studio Bangla were excellent. (R) During the performance of Coke Studio Bangla's rendition of "Ekla Cholo Re".



'Guru' James was phenomenal, as always.  
PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## COKE STUDIO BANGLA CONCERT

# When music won against pessimism

**Coke Studio Bangla Concert will be remembered as the time that an entire day of pessimism and online trolling lost to a bunch of stubborn musicians.**

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Let us address the elephant in the room first: Coke Studio Bangla is obviously an elaborate advert for Coca Cola. It does not take a genius to come to that conclusion: the enormous Coca Cola logo on top of the stage at Army Stadium yesterday should be enough of a 'hint'.

That being said, what the platform has done to re-ignite interest in our local scene is admirable, only exemplified by thousands of people showing up in droves in Bangladesh Army Stadium on Friday, despite an entire day of incessant rain.

The wait was tense for a variety of reasons: a virtual battlefield spawned on social media



Mizan and Momotaz Begum performing "Prarthona".



Animes Roy and Pantha Kanai performing "Nasek Nasek".

stage to sing their original promo for this season of Coke Studio Bangla: a mashup of Rabindranath Tagore's "Ekla Cholo Re", Gagan Harkara's "Ami Kothaye Paabo Tare" and Shironamhin's "Abar Hashimukh".

From that moment onwards, the crowd ate it all up. Logistically, it was not unlike any other concert - confused sound workers (it would be a stretch to call most of them 'engineers') failing to give proper references to the musicians on their monitors, artistes repeatedly asking to adjust volumes, or having to haggle about where the spotlight should be. It took a few performances until the various outputs could balance each other.

None of that seemed to matter to the crowd because emotionally, they were all

invested in having a great time: singing along not only with Arnob, Animes Roy, Boga Taleb, Ritu Raj, Nandita, Momotaz Begum and Mizan, but vibing with Jalali Set's verses and even singing along flute maestro Jalal Ahmed's rendition of "Nithua Pathare".

This is when you knew that if something positive came out of the rain, it was the fact that only the most dedicated of music lovers made it a point to stay till the very end, in this case surpassing midnight.

All of the performances were cut short. Tahsan took the crowd through a brief detour through memory lane with "Irsha" and "Alo," the crowd joyously took over "Kobe" from Nemesis, Band Lalon did two versions of "Pagol Chara Duniya Chole Na", first the Coke Studio version with Sumi and Jalali Set, the latter one being their original hit. Warfaze and Nagar Baul's performances proved that the legends, after decades of performances, still haven't lost an inch.

When it is all said and done, many won't remember the myriad of technical difficulties over the fact that the organisers, after a lot of back and forth, decided to move ahead with the show. The immense number of workarounds and plan changes was understandably visible in execution, immediately overlooked by a generous and passionate crowd. Coke Studio Bangla Concert will be remembered as the time that an entire day of pessimism and online trolling lost to a bunch of stubborn musicians.



Tahsan was visibly emotional during his performance.

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during the time that the concert's fate was left to the Almighty: with many taking to social media to laugh at the misery of people like us, who had waited in adverse weather despite rumours of cancellation. Others made memes while some protested, and bizarre 'counter-protests' ensued, where "anything can be made fun of" philosophy was preached by people claiming to be flag-bearers of humor.

I mentally exited the social media negativity the moment I entered the venue: a wonderful effort was made to re-construct the stage after it was partially ruined by the storm. The bedazzlement was pieced together when Arnob & Co got up on



Nemesis during their fiery set.



(L) Band Lalon impressed during the night. (M) Warfaze performing at the concert. (R) Ritu Raj and Nandita share a light moment during "Bulbuli".



## Mahima Chaudhry beats cancer

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Anupam Kher recently shared an emotional video of Mahima Chaudhry discussing her battle with breast cancer on his Instagram account. Having successfully won her battle against breast cancer, Mahima confirmed that she has started working in her next project, "The Signature" with Anupam Kher and Annu Kapoor.

Mahima revealed the details for this upcoming project, stating, "I've started shooting the movie with Anupam Kher and Annu Kapoor. The movie will be directed by Marathi filmmaker, Gajendra Ahire."

Many people were caught by surprise when Anupam Kher's shared the video, as Mahima had not shared her diagnosis with her fans. Not even her parents knew about her battle with cancer.

"The Signature" is the story of a common man, and Kher has been sharing updates about the movie's shooting on his social media regularly.



## Tanjin Tisha receives silver play button from YouTube

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Noted television actress Tanjin Tisha recently announced that she received the "YouTube Silver Play Button" for having 1 lakh subscribers. The actress took to her Facebook account to announce the news to her fans.



"During lockdown I opened this YouTube channel. I just randomly opened that and because of your love and support...I got this Silver Play Button from YouTube. I am really overwhelmed by all your support and love. Love you all," read her photo caption from the post.

The actress was last seen in "Bouer Boyosh 16" opposite Mosharraf Karim.

## BTS marches on with 'Proof'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

BTS has finally released their new album "Proof" on music streaming platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music and Amazon Play. The anthology album was released today, Friday, June 10.

Alongside the album, the supergroup also released the music video for the title track, "Yet to Come (The Most Beautiful Moment)" on YouTube today.

The anthology album, which has a total of 3 CDs, consists of over 48 tracks. Over these 48 tracks, many are old BTS tracks while some are new. The band wanted to do this anthology-style album to represent the past, present and future of the band as a whole for their fans. The three new songs in "Proof" are "Yet to Come", "Run BTS" and "For Youth".



## Chorki announces two new web films



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Two new web films, "Sahosh" and "Ei Muhurte" have been announced by the streaming platform Chorki.

While the poster of Mejbaur Rahman Sumon's "Kothay Palabe Bolo Rupban", a segment of the anthology film "Ei Muhurte" was unveiled, the teaser of "Sahosh" was also released on their Facebook page and YouTube channel.

"Ei Muhurte" will also be featuring "Kolpona", directed by Piplu R Khan, and the Abar Athar directorial story "One Piece Made, Karigor Is Dead". Sazzad Khan's "Sahosh" features Nazia Haque Orsha and Mostafizur Noor Imran in the lead roles, among others.

Chorki is yet to announce the release date of the productions.