



Artwork by Farhan Labib



Artwork by Shontu Amit



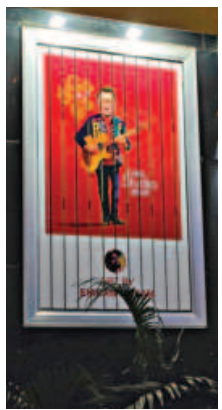
Artwork by Shafayet Hossain Tamal



Artwork by Rafid Rahim

Billboards across Dhaka-Chattogram showcase fans' love for music

Artworks by many talented fans of Coke Studio Bangla have been showcased on billboards across the capital, and in Chattogram.



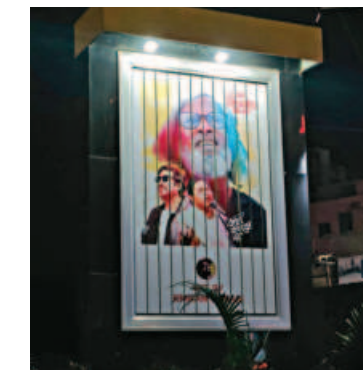
PHOTOS: COURTESY OF COKE STUDIO BANGLA

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

In 2022, Bangladesh's musical landscape was altered by Coke Studio Bangla. Since its inception, this unique platform has played the role of a cultural catalyst, bringing together musicians and audiences from all walks of life. The result? A symphony of diverse backgrounds and a chorus of shared passion for Bangla music. From the ethereal strains of Baul to the soul-stirring melodies of Rabindra Sangeet, the platform has become a harmonious meeting point for tradition and modernity.

One of the core principles of Coke Studio is to honour the rich heritage of local music, while breathing new life into it. In the case of Coke Studio Bangla, this mission is further elevated as it aims to introduce the younger generation to the treasures of Bangladesh's musical past. With a contemporary twist, the platform pays homage to luminaries like Kazi Nazrul Islam, Rabindranath Tagore, Palli Kobi Jasimuddin, and Bengali folk tales. These renditions of timeless musical pieces have won the hearts of millions, while engaging young listeners with the contemporary blend of tradition and modernity.

As the platform embarked on its melodic journey across Bangladesh,



Artwork by Emran Hasan

it inadvertently ignited a creative spark amongst its fans. In a mere twenty months, an outpouring of artistic expression erupted in various forms, transcending the boundaries of conventional fan appreciation. Paintings, sketches, digital art, animations, calligraphy, and even AI-generated images flooded social media platforms, each reflecting the passion and artistic prowess of the fan community. What sets Coke Studio Bangla apart is not only the quality, but also the sheer quantity of art inspired by its music.

To express their gratitude to the dedicated fan base, the musical venture initiated the **Coke Studio Bangla Billboard Fan Art Contest**. With over a thousand fan-submitted artworks already

on record, the platform decided to take the celebration a step further. Launched officially on July 30, 2023, the contest encouraged fans to publicly share their favourite artworks on social media. The popularity of these works have been awarded a prestigious honour - being showcased on 11 billboards across Dhaka and Chattogram.

The impact of this initiative is most vividly captured through the eyes of the artists themselves. Reduanul Islam Maruf, an LLB student and an ardent fan of



Artwork by Partha Dibos Chowdhury

Arnob's work in Coke Studio Bangla, poured his love into a mesmerising Vector Art

creation. When he saw his art on the billboards at GEC Circle, Chattogram, "The pride I felt was unmatched," he remarked. His family and friends joined in his celebration, motivating him to pursue his passion for art more fervently.

Partha Dibos Chowdhury, a Sociology student with a lifelong passion for art, channelled his love for the platform and his favourite artist, Bappa Mazumder, into his artwork. Upon learning that his creation would grace the billboards of his beloved musical platform, his joy knew no bounds. These superfans, alongside many others, continue to participate in the contest, with fresh submissions arriving almost daily, eagerly awaiting their turn to be featured on the nation's giant billboards.

This artistic celebration will continue throughout the year, with fresh fan artwork adorning the billboards every month.

Beyond sharing the magic of Bangladesh's music landscape with a global audience, the platform remains committed to fostering various forms of art and supporting artists. This appreciation campaign beautifully demonstrates how art begets more art, creating a vibrant cultural ecosystem where music and visual art harmoniously coexist.

Ganga Jamuna cultural festival to kick off on Friday

The Ganga Jamuna Theatre and Cultural Festival, one of the major theatre festivals of the country, will commence at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on Friday (October 6).



The 12-day long event will have a variety of plays, recitals, musical and dance performances, by 145 different theatre troupes from Bangladesh and India. Around 80 solo artistes will grace the programme.

The performances will be showcased at BSA and Mohila Samity.

The open-for-all drama festival will run until October 17.



Pori Moni to make Hoichoi debut with upcoming web series

Acclaimed actress Pori Moni is set to make her debut on the OTT platform Hoichoi with her upcoming web series. She will take on the role of the lead female character in this eagerly anticipated project, based on Kingkar Ahsan's novel, **Rongila Kitab**.

The web series, adapted from the contemporary novel, will explore themes of love, redemption, and the power of second chances.

Pori Moni recently shared a photo on her Facebook account, featuring herself alongside Anam Biswas, fueling further speculation about the project. The production for the series is set to kick off shortly.

COUNTRYWIDE

Tanim finds fortune in embroidery business

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

When everything seemed to be going in the wrong direction, his determination and willpower to excel brought him to the place where he is today.

Abu Syed Tanim, a successful entrepreneur from Jamalpur's Sarishabari upazila, now runs an embroidery business at his home in Baushi area of the upazila.

Moreover, he has created work opportunities for many underprivileged women of his locality.

After completing his postgraduation from a private university in 2016, Tanim was looking for a job so that he can support his family, but failed to find a suitable work in the next four years.

Finding no other alternative, Tanim started a small handicrafts' shop at a corner of his homestead in Baushi Bazar area, where nearly 2,000 women are currently working as part time workers.

Prior to starting the new venture, he visited different embroidery shops in Jamalpur to gather ideas on handmade products.

In 2019, he started producing embroidered Nakshi Kantha in a small scale and gradually developed his shop called 'Deshio Ponner Mela.'

Within three years, hundreds of women, mostly from low-income group families, joined Tanim's small industry

as part time workforce to support their families.

During his journey towards a successful entrepreneur, Tanim's family members always encouraged him and gave their all-out support.

While talking, Tanim said his workers are currently producing different kinds of Nakshi Kanthas like Bakul Kantha, Nayon Moni Kantha, Sujola Kantha, Monipuri Kantha and Latapata Kantha.

Apart from Nakshi Kantha, other embroidery products like Nakshi Chadar, Nakshi Pillow Cover, Baby Kantha, Kushon Cover are also being sold at his shop.

He is selling each product for Tk 4,000 to Tk 12,000, depending on size and quality.

He buys raw materials, including thread and cloths, from Dhaka and Narsingdi and sells the embroidered products to buyers from different area across the region.

He is also selling the items on online platform since the outbreak of coronavirus in 2019.

"Now I am earning around Tk 70,000 to Tk 80,000 every month," he said. Momana Begum, a housewife from Baushi Bangali village, said with her earning now she can maintain her five-member family quite easily and provide her two children's education expenses as well.



Abu Syed Tanim is seen selling his embroidered products at his shop in Jamalpur's Sarishabari upazila. PHOTO: STAR

No rallies

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about. I have not seen any concern among my colleagues regarding visa policy after joining."

As an organisation, DMP has always been working for the people of Dhaka and for a safe city, said Habibur, adding that traffic congestion is not the problem of only the traffic police, other agencies are also involved.

"We have already formed a coordination committee and we will start operating the traffic light system soon, where available."

Habibur also stressed the need for strict vigilance to prevent criminals from carrying illegal weapons in the capital ahead of the upcoming polls.

"DMP is fully committed to doing whatever is necessary to maintain safety in the city."

He acknowledged the unique challenges of policing of a megacity like Dhaka, where the population density exceeds 73,000 people per square kilometre. Despite these challenges, the DMP is committed to providing essential civic services to the city dwellers.

In line with this commitment, a dedicated phone number will soon be launched, allowing citizens to directly lodge complaints with the commissioner. This initiative is aimed at making policing services accessible to every resident.

People will be able to file complaints directly by sending a "message to the commissioner", as outlined by the DMP chief.

Habibur said the authorities concerned have been instructed to ensure that complaints are received, addressed, and resolved promptly so that the complainants need not to appear before the commissioner's office.

Two pioneers of Covid vaccine win Nobel

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Kariko, a former senior vice president and head of RNA protein replacement at German biotech firm BioNTech, is a professor at the University of Szeged in Hungary and adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

In an interview after the award, she said her late mother had long speculated that she might win the Nobel - to which she would remind her there was a time when she could not even get a grant for her research.

"She (my mother) said, 'but you work so hard'. And I told her that many, many scientists work very, very hard," added Kariko, who was sleeping when she received the call from Stockholm and initially

thought it was a joke.

Co-winner Weissman is professor in vaccine research, also at Pennsylvania. "It's an incredible honour," he said. "We couldn't have come to the result without both of us being involved."

The two laureates in 2005 jointly developed so-called nucleoside base modifications, which stop the immune system from launching an inflammatory attack against lab-made mRNA, previously seen as a major hurdle against any therapeutic use of the technology.

BioNTech said in June that about 1.5 billion people across the world had received its mRNA shot, co-developed with Pfizer PFE.N. It was the most widely-used shot in

the West.

BioNTech, whose Germany-traded shares were up 3.8 percent, praised Kariko and Weissman for their passion and persistence.

Having grown up in a village in a house without running water or a refrigerator, Kariko got a biochemistry doctorate in Szeged before she and her husband sold their Soviet-made Lada car, sewed the money into their daughter's teddy bear and went to the US on a one-way ticket. The daughter, Susan Francia, became a US national rower and Olympic gold winner.

At the University of Pennsylvania, Kariko tried to turn mRNA into a treatment tool throughout the 1990s but struggled

to win grants because work on DNA and gene therapy captured most of the scientific community's attention at the time.

Kariko has said she endured ridicule from fellow faculty members for her dogged pursuit, which led to her demotion. Taunting continued, she said, when she joined BioNTech in 2013 because the firm did not even have a website at the time.

Weissman received his doctorate from Boston University in 1987 and joined the University of Pennsylvania in 1997.

The two have said they met in 1998 while waiting for rationed photocopying machine time. The ensuing chat piqued immunologist Weissman's interest in Kariko's RNA work.

Installation of all equipment

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seven months ahead of schedule and about Tk 700 crore would be saved. The saved money will be spent on airport development, subject to approval by the Japan and Bangladesh governments, the Caab chairman said.

Under the 3rd terminal project, other work, including construction of the export and import cargo terminal, widening the apron for parking of 37 aircraft, and additional taxiways, have been

completed.

Mafidur said the import and export cargo terminal will start operations in March next year if a cargo handler is appointed or the incumbent cargo handler, Biman, is capable of operating.

He said the third terminal is connected with multimodal transport system which would enable passengers to enter and exit the international airport.

The new terminal will be connected with the elevated

expressway, underground railway (MRT-5, Kamalapur to airport portion) and also with the airport railway station through an underground tunnel.

Besides, hajj pilgrims will be able to access the third terminal from Ashkona hajj camp through an underground tunnel, said the Caab chief.

"We have drafted a plan in coordination with the roads and bridges authorities to increase the existing connectivity of the third terminal with the

elevated expressway and highways in future so that passengers can directly access the airport."

Mafidur said the third terminal will be operated and maintained by a Japanese company under public private partnership.

"Passenger services will be entrusted to a Japanese company. We have asked them to ensure service standards like those in the globally renowned airports, including Changi and Dubai airports," he said.

'Govt wants Khaleda dead'

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don't want her to get well; they don't want her in politics."

At the rally, party leaders and activists chanted different anti-government slogans and

carried banners criticising the government.

Fakhrul also alleged that the government wants to establish a one-party rule in the country.

He said the government got hurt by Peter Haas' remarks.

Ignoring all diplomatic norms, the government resorted to falsehood about the ambassador.

Mentioning the lack of accountability in the government, Fakhrul said, "Remittance declined in

September as expatriate workers sent less money. They have no confidence in the Bangladesh economy."

A large number of law enforcers were deployed at the rally venue to maintain law and order.