

I try to learn from criticism: ARNOB

Coke Studio season 3 coming next April



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Arnob's Coke Studio journey from *Dilaram* to *Nodir Kul* showcases his captivating compositions, maintaining a spellbinding connection with fans throughout his role as the programme coordinator for the popular franchise.

The musician believes that music has its language and that its uniqueness resides in the art of touching people's hearts and making it memorable. And thus, Arnob continues to strive to create something original for his fans.

Recently, Arnob interacted with the media about his upcoming album and more.

I'm in the final stages of completing my album, which features lyrics from my favourite poets that deeply resonate with me. Currently, I've recorded around 8-10 songs, and I'm eager to release it soon.

Why do you think space is an essential part for an artiste?

I believe providing space to both artistes and musicians is crucial for them to express themselves over time. For instance, *Nodir Kul* didn't just showcase the collaboration of two singers but also highlighted the synergy between a singer and a musician. It's essential to acknowledge the significance of allowing musicians to articulate their thoughts through their instruments. Granting space to individuals enable them to flourish and craft something truly brilliant.

What's your take on AR Rahman's rendition of 'Karar Oi Louho Kabat'?

In my personal opinion, he didn't necessarily need to compose this song. However, by doing so, he brought our language and literature to the world, which is a significant achievement. Perhaps his creative genius didn't resonate with the Bengali audience. This tendency is common amongst creative minds, as they often aim to present a song in their distinctive styles.

When will we get to see your new album?

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When will Coke Studio Bangla season 3 release next year?

We aim to launch the next season around mid-March or April. After completing season 2, we were occupied with concerts. Now, as we gear up to commence work on it, we have approximately three months. Every time we dive into this project, we feel overwhelmed by the pressure, knowing that people are always ready to scrutinise our efforts.

How do you take in all of the criticism?

At first, accepting criticism was challenging for me, but over time, I've come to realise the importance of learning from it. I make an effort to understand the reasons behind the critique and believe that constructive criticism is essential. It allows us to grasp the perspective of the listeners and improve our work accordingly.

Tisha sings after 15 years for 'Autobiography'



In an exciting turn of events, prominent actress Nusrat Imrose Tisha lent her voice to the title song of the web-film, *Something Like An Autobiography*. She co-wrote and acted alongside her husband, filmmaker Mostofa Sarwar Farooki in this directorial project of his.

The 2-minute 40-second-long song, titled *Autobiography*, was released on Chorki and Youtube on Tuesday evening. Pavel Areen arranged and composed the song written by Isteaque Ahmed.

Regarding the song, Tisha said, "I have sung a song for a movie after 15 years. I started my career with singing but couldn't continue it afterward. As the film is very close to my heart, upon listening to the composition, I requested them to take me as the vocalist, and they arranged it."

Taylor Swift joins Oprah, and Beyonce on Forbes' World's Most Powerful Women 2023 list



Taylor Swift continues her ascent, now standing alongside icons Oprah Winfrey and Beyonce on Forbes' World's Most Powerful Women 2023 list.

Forbes unveiled its 20th annual ranking of the World's Most Powerful Women, featuring a list that spans CEOs, entertainers, politicians, philanthropists, and policymakers.

Taylor Swift has surged from 79th place in Forbes' 2022 World's Most Powerful Women list to an impressive fifth place in the 2023 rankings. Meanwhile, this year Oprah came in at number 31 and Beyonce at 36.

COUNTRYWIDE

Sohrab's success in grape farming

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Sohrab Hossain Mahaldar in Jashore's Jhikargachha upazila has shown the way by successfully cultivating grape at his mixed fruit orchard.

The fifty-five-year-old from Fatepur village collected 38 pieces of six different varieties of grape seedlings including Chayan and Manikkaman from India and planted those around his mixed fruit orchard on one and a half bighas of land.

Of the 38 trees, planted over a year ago, 28 started flowering about four months ago and now full of matured grapes.

While visiting Sohrab's orchard one can see bunches of grapes are hanging from the trees.

Grape trees need moderate irrigation facilities and a little care like any other fruits, Sohrab said.

In this way, about three to four kilograms of grapes can be harvested from a single tree twice a year, Sohrab said, adding that he has been cultivating many other varieties of different exotic fruits like Rambutan and Vietnamese sugarcane at his integrated fruit orchard for the last couple of years.

"After watching some videos on grape cultivation on YouTube, I bought 38 grape saplings from India through an agent for Rupees 600 each in September last year," Sohrab said.

Grapes can be harvested within 120 days of flowering and twice a year from each tree, he said.

Though several buyers already visited his orchard, Sohrab has a plan to sell the fruit at least 10 to 15 days later.

Once a grape tree is planted, it will bear fruit for the next 35 to 40 years, the entrepreneur said. Jhikargachha Upazila Agriculture Officer Masud Hossain said although cultivation of foreign fruit variety like grape is quite difficult in our country due to soil its quality and unfavourable weather condition, entrepreneurs like Sohrab is showing the way of a great prospect.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Sohrab Hossain set up this grape orchard at Fatepur village in Jashore's Jhikargachha upazila.

Train schedule disrupted

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and talking about building new lines were violations of the electoral code of conduct, Suján said he was doing his regular job and it was not a violation of the code.

An Awami League MP from Panchagarh-2, Suján will run in the January 7 national election for the same seat.

The BR launched Cox's Bazar Express on December 1 after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar rail line on November 11.

Considering the huge demand for train tickets, the BR is going to introduce the second intercity train on this route from January 1, Suján said.

"We will send a summary of the train to the prime minister with several proposed names for it. After having permission from her, we will launch the new train."

The minister said the new train, which will have 780 seats (330 AC chair and 480 non-AC chair), will leave Dhaka at 6:15am and reach Cox's Bazar at

3:00pm with five-minute stops at the Dhaka Airport Station and 20-minute stops at the Chattogram station.

He said the train will leave Cox's Bazar at 8:00pm and reach Dhaka at 4:30am. The fares of non-AC chair tickets would be Tk 695, AC chair Tk 1,325, AC seat Tk 1,590 and AC berth Tk 2,380.

Suján said they would also launch a commuter train on the Jashore-Khulna-Mongla route on January 1.

The newly laid Khulna-Mongla rail line was inaugurated by the prime ministers of Bangladesh and India on November 1 this year.

The train will make two roundtrips from Jashore to Mongla daily and one roundtrip on Jashore-Khulna route daily.

The fair from Jashore to Mongla will be Tk 120 to Tk 200, depending on seat category, he said.

A reporter at the press briefing said he submitted a written complaint about the poor condition of an AC berth on a Chattogram-

bound train from Dhaka about six months ago, but he was yet to get any response.

The minister then said the authorities might not have informed him about the steps they have taken.

Asked about the delay in the launch of the Burimari Express, Suján said a problem regarding the route has been solved and the train will be launched soon.

About a Panchagarh-bound train from Dhaka reaching the northern district late at night due to delays, the minister said the problem may remain until a double line is built on the route.

Hasina

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"Sheikh Hasina Wazed, the longest serving prime minister in the history of Bangladesh, is currently serving her fourth term," US magazine Forbes wrote in its profile of Hasina.

"She is also the world's longest-serving female head of government," it added.

Fighting rages

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were using improvised explosive devices and anti-personnel mines in a shift of tactics as the fighting moved to close ground combat.

Reflecting global concern over the plight of Palestinian civilians, the head of the Norwegian Refugee Council, Jan Egeland, said: "The pulverising of Gaza now ranks amongst the worst assaults on any civilian population in our time and age."

The Israeli military said yesterday it was going to "great lengths" to avoid harming non-combatants. It said Hamas was using the civilian population as human shields and preventing civilians from moving to safe places, an accusation denied by the group.

Rickshaws

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Madagascar, Junkanoo from the Bahamas, among others.

Unesco's list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity has some 704 elements corresponding to 5 regions and 143 countries.

It includes forms of expression that testify to the diversity of intangible heritage and raise awareness of its importance. By enhancing the viability of communities' cultural practices and know-how, Unesco aims to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of communities globally.

"Rickshaws and rickshaw paintings" is Bangladesh's fifth entry in the list.

The entries are Jamdani and Shital Pati weaving industries, baul songs and Mongol Shobhajatra.

Bangladesh downgraded

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fabricated charges." Josef Benedict, Asia-Pacific researcher for CIVICUS, said, "No free and fair elections can take place in the current environment."

CIVICUS lead researcher Marianna Belalba Barreto said, "We are witnessing an unprecedented global crackdown on civic space ... Bangladesh is now at the forefront of the worldwide assault on rights. The independent civil society has virtually no more space to operate there."

Only two countries in Asia were downgraded - Bangladesh and Sri Lanka - but Sri Lanka was categorised as "repressed".

The report said Bangladesh's violent attempt to crush the political opposition is the main reason for the downgrade.

Police banned protests and blocked roads, then followed up by indiscriminately firing rubber bullets, teargas shells and water cannons at protesters who came out anyway, it said, adding that police also beat opposition supporters with batons, while ruling party supporters, armed with hammers, sticks and clubs, attacked protesters as law enforcement stood by.

"The authorities also targeted journalists

exposing state abuses and shut down critical media outlets. Meanwhile, a new Cyber Security Act, rather than freeing online expression, retained most of the repressive language of the previous draconian Digital Security Act used to criminalise thousands of online critics."

It also said security forces stepped up harassment of human rights defenders too, including those in exile and their families.

Benedict said, "Now is the time for the international community to stand with Bangladesh's civil society and demand the Sheikh Hasina regime reverse course."

"World leaders must demand the immediate release of jailed opposition leaders and activists and urge the government to allow all political parties to genuinely participate in the elections."

The CIVICUS rates each country's civic space conditions based on data collected throughout the year from country-focused civil society activists, regionally-based research teams, international human rights indices, and its own experts.

The data from these four sources are then combined to assign each country a rating as either "open", "narrowed", "obstructed", "repressed" or "closed".

UN climate chief slams

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Scaling up renewable energy and phasing out fossil fuels is crucial to the world's goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"If we want to save lives now and keep (the) 1.5C goal within reach, the highest ambition COP outcomes must stay front and centre," Stiell said.

"At the end of next week, we need COP to deliver a bullet train to speed up climate action. We currently have an old caboose chugging over rickety tracks," he added.

"The tools are all there on the table. The technologies and solutions exist. It's time for governments and negotiators to pick them up and put them to work."