



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# ARNOB BACK on the canvas

collaboration he values deeply. "I was amazed at how people embraced the stories we told through Coke Studio Bangla productions, and we helped artistes transition from folk genres to rock, jazz, and pop. The entire journey has been ecstatic! Working with a team of 200 people felt wonderful."

He notes that although the Coke Studio platform exists and produces music in many countries, only the Bangla platform has organised a concert so far, which was met with tremendous enthusiasm. "Performing for 4,000 people with 200 musicians felt surreal," he reminisces.

Arnob shared that several new Coke Studio Bangla songs have completed production and are ready for release, however, the exact dates are up to Coke's discretion. "But they'll be out very soon," he hints.

Nevertheless, Arnob's musical style, with its modern touches, has also faced criticism. However, he embraces this fusion, believing it defines his artistic identity. "I think more people have appreciated and connected with my music than criticising. Just as we modernise our food, attire, and daily lives, music must evolve too."

He reflects on his experience in Shantiniketan—where people sing Rabindra Sangeet seated, whereas, in Dhaka, performers stand—highlighting differences in cultural expression. "Younger listeners connect more with my fusion due to its contemporary composition, and even many have discovered traditional music through my work," shares the musician.

Arnob's journey was documented in the 2021 musical film *Adhkhana Bhalo Chele Adha Mostaan*, which captured his growth as an artiste. He, now, reveals that his next project, initially planned as an album, will be another musical film.

It will feature 12 fresh songs, including lyrics penned by Arnob, along with renowned poets like Srijato, Rajib, and Zahid Haydar. Additionally, it will include a poem by Jibananda Das, featuring the original verses penned by the poet.

Reflecting on the upcoming project, Arnob shares, "There will be echoes of my older albums, like *Chaina Bhabish*, along with new experimental songs. I'm really excited about it."

SHARMIN JOYA

"Painting has always been deeply ingrained in me," says Shayan Chowdhury Arnob, a beloved musician known for his genre-fusing songs. However, Arnob's artistic journey stretches beyond music—he has dedicated himself to creating visual art, a medium he says brings him profound solace.

On a quiet autumn evening, we visited Arnob's studio, Kolorob, where he shared reflections on his musical career, insights into his creative journey in art, and his upcoming projects. "Art brings me peace, and I find greater joy in it than in creating music," he reveals. He further explains, "Music is something I share with others; it's a collective experience where audiences' reactions matter. But art is personal—there are no boundaries. I can draw or paint what I truly feel. There's a freedom in art that's entirely mine, allowing a space for complete authenticity."

Despite his passion, Arnob recognises that the public often struggles to engage with visual art as readily as they do with music. "People pay for concerts, but they wouldn't buy tickets for an exhibition! We lack the practice of appreciating and dissecting art. Music is simply an easier way to reach the masses."

Arnob describes the style of his art as mostly figurative and abstract, though he has experimented with sketches and representational art as well. His background in fine arts has shaped his approach to both art and music, teaching him techniques that serve him across both mediums. With expertise in

printmaking, Arnob feels a particular affinity for this medium. "Printmaking allows people to collect as many copies as they like, making art accessible," he explains. "As I share my work on social media, many enthusiasts have expressed interest in obtaining a piece. The response has been really positive."

Arnob's dedication to art is not new. His 2008 album *Doob* included artwork he created, and he has continued sharing his work through pre-ordered folios on his official social media page, where fans can request specific pieces. "I want to build my art career now; it's a core part of my identity."

Arnob's latest art folio, featuring 12 of his drawings, is now available for purchase on his official Facebook page, with special discounts available for students. This release is in collaboration with Qinetiic Music as the distributor and Pathao Courier as the delivery partner.

Besides being a fine arts graduate, Arnob grew up surrounded by creativity—his parents, Swapan Chowdhury and Suraiya Chowdhury are both painters. Although Arnob has already collaborated in group exhibitions, he's now preparing for his first solo exhibition—a long-held dream he hopes to fulfil next year.

On the musical front, while Arnob's music career has brought him widespread fame, he has continually experimented with his sound, blending folk and classical music in a unique style. With nine solo albums to his name, Arnob has been the producer of Coke Studio Bangla, for three consecutive seasons—a



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## OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



**Rhythm of Fusion**  
November 17 | 7pm-8pm  
Aloki



**Gaane Gaane Shayan**  
November 22 | 6pm-8pm  
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



**Moholla'r Mor**  
November 23 | 5pm  
Jatra Biroti

## TV TALKIES

### 'Mr Plankton': An absurdist tale of love, loss, and self-discovery

In a refreshing reminiscence of the 2017 hit English show, *The End of the F...ing World*, Netflix's latest limited series, *Mr Plankton* is an endearing and outlandish ride. This story about primary characters Hae Jo, played by Woo Do-hwan, and Jo Jae Mi, played by Lee Yoo-mi, getting united on account of tragic life-altering reasons is gripping from its outset.

With dark themes and unwarranted funny tones, the absurdist *Mr Plankton* dives headfirst into discovering oneself, the extent to which parents mould children, and finding family in friends.

At its core, *Mr Plankton* is a heartfelt exploration of self-discovery—about becoming who you are meant to be, letting others genuinely love you, and savouring precious moments before they slip away.

The show also boldly engages with Korean cultural taboos, such as the emphasis on having an



heir and traditional family values, presenting these themes in a fresh and compelling way that makes it well worth watching. The ensemble cast does a compelling job of making the absurd, real.

## WHAT'S ON THE GRAM

### HANIA AAMIR

The stunning Pakistani actress Hania Aamir, adored by fans in Pakistan and across borders in Bangladesh, has managed to effortlessly capture hearts with her charisma. Known for her role in the recently concluded *Kabhi Main Kabhi Tum*, Hania especially embodies elegance in ethnic wear, with her beauty radiating in traditional Pakistani lawn suits.

On her official Instagram account, comprising over 16 million followers, she shared a breathtaking look, draped in a sky-blue salwar kameez that complemented her luminous complexion.

The overall look, paired with delicate, dangling earrings and a chic mid-part ponytail, made her the epitome of grace. Her makeup was tastefully minimal, with soft, pink-nude lips and a touch of mascara that accentuated her captivating smile—making the photo stand out from the rest.



## WHAT'S PLAYING

### Somewhere Only We Know

Keane's *Somewhere Only We Know* captures the quiet melancholy of late autumn perfectly, reflecting on love, loss, and solitude. Without a guitarist, Keane builds their sound around Tom Chaplin's ethereal vocals and Tim Rice-Oxley's piano-driven melody, evoking a sense of timeless yearning.

The song's lyrics portray the protagonist revisiting a place that once felt familiar, a "somewhere" symbolising a



shared space or memory now haunted by absence. Lines like "I knew the pathway like the back of my hand" and "I felt the earth beneath my feet" convey nostalgia and introspection, as if retracing the steps of a fading relationship.

The anthemic quality of the song leaves room for personal interpretation—perhaps a heartbreak, perhaps the end of an era—making it the perfect reflective track for upcoming wistful, chilly days.