

Leading charts and stealing hearts

LUBABA MAHJABIN PRIMA

From her rendition of Bollywood song "Zara Zara" to performing on stage with Shaquaq Amanat Ali, Masha Islam's rise in the music industry has been meteoric. Now, be it TikTok reels or YouTube shorts, her song "Tekka Pakhi" from the Chorki Original film "Dui Diner Duniya" is all the rage. We talk to the singing sensation about her life, career, and more.

Your recent song "Tekka Pakhi" has received immense popularity. How do you feel about that?

I'm extremely happy. The experience of working on the song was marvelous – we wanted to create a new vibe in the song, which was challenging. Getting to work with a genius like Emon Chowdhury was a beautiful experience.

You started uploading covers of songs five years ago. What inspired you to start?

I had never anticipated to be where I am today. I started YouTube because friends and family members wanted to hear me sing. However, I've received immense love from people all over the world, which is my biggest achievement. I love singing in multiple languages, and it fills me with immense joy when I receive appreciation from the native speakers who like my work.

How do you plan your videos?

I don't plan my videos at all and I have no schedule for my

platforms either. If I happen to like a song, I'll listen to it all day, and at some point, I'll sing it. I love the spontaneity which is an integral part of my style. I believe this is precisely what has made audiences love me as well.

What is your philosophical take on music?

Like every art form, music has immense power. As someone who practices this art form, I think that it can connect people like nothing else. Even if someone doesn't know a language, melodies can connect people emotionally. Many of my audiences don't understand Bangla, many don't understand the other languages I sing in. Despite that, the emotional connection we've built is priceless.

Who is your favourite Bangladeshi artiste?

I listen to music of all genres, and I look up to many artistes in Bangladesh. However, if I had to name one person, I'd like to mention that I'm a huge fan of the legend Sabina Yasmin Ma'am, whose sweet voice is unparalleled. Her works have had an immense impact on my musical journey.

Recently, you've mesmerised your followers with your dancing skills as well.

(Laughs) I have really loved dancing since my childhood, even though I've never formally learned it. I don't dance often, but when I'm with my friends, I genuinely enjoy dancing. I've recently uploaded a few dancing clips, and audiences loved them.

Have you ever experienced any 'funny' fan moments?

Yes, actually there are several such incidents. This one time, a friend of mine and I were walking, and another friend of ours told someone that my friend who pretended to be me and they started a conversation, while I walked away. She even gave them an autograph as Masha Islam!



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

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Out and about IN DHAKA



Mixtape Vol I

October 28 | 3 pm

Iccb Pushpoguchcho, Hall -2



Meta-Real

October 14-31 | 4 pm

Shunno Art Space



Karnival Aftermath Owned Live! By Get Amped Series

October 29 | 4 pm

Liberation War Museum, Dhaka



WHAT'S PLAYING SHOINIK Hallucination

Hallucination is a criminally underrated metal band from Dhaka, who are popular for their originals, and a unique metal tribute to Ayub Bachchu. Shoinik, one of their signature melo-death songs, can be easily recommended as someone's entry point to melodic death metal.

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix
The Watcher

Chorki
Mukherjee Dar Bou

Hoichoi
Byomkesh
Hotyamancha

Disney+
Hall of Villains

Amazon Prime
Run Sweetheart Run



WHAT'S ON THE GRAM

BTS Kim Seok-Jin, who has fans swooning for his cute dimples, recently posted a few adorable, yet sleek, photos on Instagram. The singer wore a crème coloured semi-embroidered top, paired with a white ruffled shirt which complimented his angelic face. The "Dream Glow" singer held a shimmery green mic in one hand, which complimented his washed-out-blue jeans, giving him a dream-like look in the photos.