

VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ROMANCE

Nidra and Prantar go from reel to real

SHARMIN JOYA

Some connections are simply meant to be. For Nidra Dey Neha and Prantar Dastider, it all began on the set of Goutam Koiri's directorial web film *Antonagar* (2023). When they first worked together, little did they know that the film would change their lives forever.

"This project will always be special to both of us," shared Prantar. "Whenever we think about how we got together, it feels like it was destined, as Prantar had no plans of becoming an actor, rather, he wanted to pursue direction," added Nidra.

What began as an on-screen pairing soon blossomed into a real-life bond. They tied the knot on January 31 last year, that too, at the very place where they first met.

"It wasn't love at first sight, but I liked him from the beginning, and wanted to know him better. Working together gave us more time, and the moment I was sure about my feelings, I knew that I was going to marry this man!" Nidra said excitedly. "I was the who confessed first, which actually surprised Prantar."

Prantar then took some time to confirm whether Nidra truly wanted a lifelong commitment. "I knew she was head over heels, and so was I. But I needed to be sure she was ready for this journey with me," said the actor, who made his silver-screen debut with *840*.

Nidra entered showbiz through Miss Universe 2020, where she placed in the top ten. She was crowned Miss Photogenic Bangladesh 2020 and went on to feature in top-brand TVCs, ramp shows, and acting projects. Last year, she made her film debut with *Shoroter Joba*.

As we spoke, they expressed their love and care for each other, with a hint of teasing. "He's an incredibly supportive partner," Nidra shared. "He understands whenever I'm home late—that's the advantage of being in the same profession. At the same time, he ensures that I'm comfortable and well-rested after a long day on set," added the *Adhunik Bangla Hotel* actress.

While this side of her husband won her heart, Prantar shared his admiration for Nidra's cooking. "She's an amazing cook and completely changed how I eat. I used to rush through meals, mixing and swallowing to save time. But she taught me to savor each dish separately and appreciate that eating is a form of art."

Nidra shared her surprise at observing Prantar's newfound love for pets after marriage. "He never had pets before and was initially a bit uneasy around animals, though he liked them. But once, while I was away for a shoot, he bonded deeply with our cat, Fighter. That really impressed me. Now, with three cats and a dog, he loves them as much as I do—and that makes me fall for him over and over again."

I like
any other
couple,
do they
argue?

"Definitely", Prantar admitted. "But we have a rule—no matter what, we will never disrespect each other," Nidra added. "When we fight, we don't blame each other; instead, we focus on finding the root of the problem. But since I'm the short-tempered one, I tend to have outbursts of anger."

For their first Valentine's Day together, Nidra surprised Prantar by decorating the entire room with hundreds of balloons. "Being an asthma patient, I blew over 200 balloons myself just for him," she shared. Prantar added, "Nidra is expressive, while I'm the opposite. But as we continue this journey together, we're gradually becoming more like the other every day."

Despite working on multiple projects together, including *Shokher Nari*, Nidra and Prantar couldn't collaborate on a Valentine's Day project this year, even after receiving offers. "My father has been diagnosed with cancer, and I'm dedicating my time to him—from his treatment to overseeing everything," Nidra shared.

However, they will reunite on an

upcoming fiction by Mehdi Hasan. "I enjoyed shooting this project the most because there was a scene where I had to beat Prantar—I gave it my best shot by channeling all the annoyance I had toward him," Nidra laughed.

Having recently wrapped up a web series, Prantar is now gearing up for his next film shoot.

As colleagues in the same industry, they appreciate, critique, and advise each other. "Nidra helps me prepare for roles, guiding me on the right amount of effort to put in—neither too much nor too little. I believe this has made my performances more impactful," Prantar shared.

Despite their busy schedules, they make time to watch each other's work and offer feedback. "I loved his performance in *Tithidor*, but I deliberately avoid some of his projects that I feel I shouldn't watch as his wife," Nidra shared. Prantar, however, believes that whatever happens on-screen is part of their profession and never takes it personally. Prantar thinks that one of Nidra's finest performances was in *Hasher Salon*, an episode of *Adhunik Bangla Hotel*.

Nidra and Prantar's relationship is built on mutual respect, shared passions, and immense support, both on and off-screen.



NIDRA'S OUTFIT: AGISTAR
PRANTAR'S ATTIRE: UMAAB
NIDRA'S MAKEUP SPONSOR: MAKEOVER FINESSE BY FARHANA CHATTY
PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHEAD

'Jongli's' first romantic track impresses listeners



Following the unveiling of the protagonist's new look for the much-anticipated movie *Jongli*, its first song, *Jonom Jonom*, was officially released. The music video for this romantic track features the dynamic pairing of Siam Ahmed and Prarthana Fardin Dighi.

The song premiered last Wednesday on the Tiger Media YouTube channel and has already started receiving immense appreciation from fans—many of whom recreated dance and cinematic reels using the song within 20 hours of its release.

With *Jonom Jonom*, Siam Ahmed makes a return to his signature "chocolate boy" persona, a moniker that fans have long associated with him. His effortless charm, combined with Dighi's graceful performance, adds to the song's appeal, making it a standout romantic number.

Jonom Jonom's lyrics and composition were crafted by the legendary Prince Mahmud, while Tahsan Khan and Atiya Anisha lent their voices to it. The musical arrangement was handled by popular music director Imran Mahmudul, further enhancing the song's emotional depth.

British Railways to honour 30 years of 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge'



This year, as Britain's railway system prepares to celebrate the 200th anniversary of modern railways with its *Railway 200* campaign, it has also announced an exciting partnership with Yash Raj Films (YRF) to commemorate 30 years of the iconic Bollywood classic *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ)*.

As part of this initiative, Yash Raj Films (YRF) will present *Come Fall In Love - The DDLJ Musical* to celebrate both milestones. The production will be helmed by Aditya Chopra, the visionary behind *DDLJ*.

The film, starring Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol, was largely shot in the UK, with their first encounter at London's King's Cross Station. Trains played a key role in this beloved film, strengthening its ties to British culture.

Set to debut at the Manchester Opera House on May 29, 2025, the production aims to capture the film's magic on stage with an English-language performance and an original score.

Indywood secures global sales rights for 'Boli'

Indywood Distribution Network (IDN) has officially taken on the international sales rights for *Boli (The Wrestler)*, Bangladesh's official submission for the 97th Academy Awards in the International Feature Film category. The film, which also clinched the top honour at the Busan International Film Festival, is now set for worldwide representation.

Indywood is set to showcase *Boli* at the European Film Market (EFM), held alongside the Berlin International Film Festival, to secure broader global distribution.

Directed by Iqbal H Chowdhury, the film centres on Moju (Nasir Uddin Khan), a seasoned fisherman and former wrestling coach, who dares to take on reigning champion Dofor (AKM Ittam). His decision sparks turmoil, deeply affecting his son Shafu (Angel Noor) and newlywed wife Rashu (Priyam Archi).

Described by Variety as a "slow-burning exploration



of obsession," the film has drawn attention for its unconventional narrative.

Both Indywood's Shyam Kurup and director Chowdhury shared their enthusiasm about introducing *Boli* to a global audience through EFM.

Screens rife with Valentine's delights



A host of web-films and dramas are set for release this Valentine's Day, adding to the festive fervour. Let's take a look at the entertainment delights lined up for audiences to watch.

Chorki has unveiled the poster for its latest web-film, *Ghumpori*, featuring Tanjin Tisha, Parsha Mahjabeen, and Pritom Hasan. The tagline, "Everyone loves, but how many truly hold on?", has piqued audience curiosity, especially given Pritom Hasan's previous Valentine's release, *Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya*, which gained significant attention last year. Directed by Zahid

Pritom, *Ghumpori* will premiere on February 20.

On February 18, Binge will release Vicky Zahid's web film, *Neel Shukh*. Known for thrillers, Vicky explores romance this time, though the trailer hints at his signature genre. The project marks the first collaboration between Mehazabien Chowdhury and Forrukh Ahmed Rehan.

Meanwhile, iScreen is set to premiere *Ashbe Ki Phire?*, directed by Sagar Jahan and starring Khairul Basar and Tanjin Tisha, it will be released today.

Bongo will also introduce *Next Door*.



Neighbour, a lighthearted love story marking Mahmuda Sultana Reema's directorial debut. Starring Aisha Khan and Partho Sheikh, the drama will premiere tomorrow.

Several dramas have already premiered on YouTube. Among them, *Samudraneela*, starring Shohel Mondol and Tania Islam, is now available on Barfi Productions' channel. *Ladies Perfume*, featuring Mosharraf Karim and Jannatul Sumaiya Heme, is streaming on RTV Drama. Another project, *Prothom Premier Golpo*, directed by Rubel Anush and starring Partho Sheikh and Farin

Khan, premiered on Eleven's YouTube channel.

Meanwhile, awaiting release are several highly anticipated dramas, including *Reflection of Love*, starring Yash Rohan and Tania Brishti; *Bosontobowri*, featuring Khairul Basar and Tanjin Tisha; and *Dur Theke Bhalobashi*, starring Yash Rohan and Totini.

Additionally, *Mon Duyari*, marking Apurba and Naznin Nihal's first on-screen pairing, has generated excitement online. Directed by Zakaria Soukhin, it is set to release on CMV's YouTube channel on February 15.

