

PHOTOS:
SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

DORA explores within

SHARMIN JOYA

A self-taught artiste driven by passion, Nadia Dora carved her path into the world of music with nothing but determination and a deep love for the craft. Known for a voice that can pack a punch, she quickly made a name for herself in the folk genre—a testament to her unique signature style.

Now, she is ready to take a new turn. The singer has stepped beyond her folk roots to explore a more diverse musical direction, beginning with her latest release *Chol Preme Pure Jai*—a chill step number whose lyrics, tune, and composition have been handled by Autumnal Moon. Released under the banner of G Series, the track marks a refreshing shift in Dora's journey as an artiste.

We caught up with the singer after an exclusive photoshoot at The Daily Star Centre to talk about her evolution, her inspirations, and her forthcoming musical journey.

"People are familiar with my folk songs, and I usually perform folk numbers more than any other genre, whether on stage or at any show," shared the singer. "However, after a three-year break, I wanted to come back with something outside my usual style. So, I shared my thoughts with Moon da, expressing my interest in experimenting with a different genre—and he took care of the rest! I'm truly overwhelmed by how warmly people have embraced the song."

It's not just the music that has captured attention—the accompanying music video, filmed across the breathtaking landscapes of Nepal, is a visual delight. Featuring Dora herself amid stunning natural backdrops, the video adds both depth and emotion to the song's narrative.

"We shot it last year in Nepal and it was a truly memorable experience—one I'll always cherish," she shared. "This was my first time appearing in a music video alongside having to act in it as well. Previously, I only appeared in studio setups alongside the musicians to lend my voice. This time, it was a completely different experience," she mentioned.

Although Nadia Dora comes from a culturally rich background, her journey

into music was anything but conventional. Without formal training, she shaped her path, inspired by the voices she admired. "Whenever I listened to singers like Fareeda Parvin, or later Anusheh Anadil, Faizan Rashid Ahmad Buno (Popularly known as Buno) from Bangla band, Nigar Sultan Sumi from Lalon band, and Sharmin Sultan Sumi from Chirkutt—my love for folk music grew stronger," she shared.

This passion for music led her to become a part of the band Dharok. "We didn't have original songs back then, but we used to cover Rabindra Sangeet and other classics," Dora recalled.

In 2014, she, alongside some of her close friends, formed the band Pandora, only to focus on working on a new style of fusion and rock music. Their last release was in 2016, and Dora disclosed that they have reunited once again with original material in the works.

The current lineup includes Zia on bass, Fahim, also a co-founder, on lead guitar and vocals, Debashish on drums, and Bipu on guitar.

"We're working on two new songs, which we hope to release by the end of this year. Fahim and Debashish were abroad for a while, which delayed our work. But now we're back and also actively performing at stage shows."

Dora spoke candidly about the common practice of syndicating artistes in the music scene. "The problem arises when an artiste starts working with a particular group—they often become part of a syndicate without even realising it. Such grouping is deeply concerning, as it hampers the entire industry. Individual artistes end up losing new potential creative collaborations because of such alliances."

"I won't shy away from admitting that I, too, was part of a syndicate for a long time. Now, I'm glad to have returned after a break, and moving forward, I hope to work in an environment that encourages open and creative collaborations rather than building barriers through a 'syndicated mindset.'

Dora also shared her concerns about recent disruptions in stage shows, which have reportedly been hampered by so-called 'mobs'. "We perform on stage regularly, and to be honest, due to growing security concerns in recent times, we often decline shows outside Dhaka," she admitted. "However, so far, we haven't faced any problems and things have been going well, with excellent security at our events."

When she is not making music, Dora works in the sales and marketing department of a private television channel, balancing her dual careers with dedication.

OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



Play: Komola Ronger Bodh
May 9-11 | 5pm and 7pm
Bangladesh Mohila Samity



Play: Agunjatra
May 11 | 7pm onwards
Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy



Natya Utsab 2025
May 13-16 | 7:30pm onwards
Jahangirnagar University

1-MIN REVIEW

'Superboys of Malegaon': A love letter to storytelling

Superboys of Malegaon is a charming and deeply human ode to the power of storytelling. Set in a dusty town far removed from Mumbai's glamour, it captures the grit, humor, and heartbreak of amateur filmmakers chasing an impossible dream.

Adarsh Gourav and Vineet Singh deliver heartfelt performances as friends navigating artistic ambition, financial strain, and personal ego. Reema Kagti's direction keeps the film grounded yet buoyant, while Varun Grover's writing balances



satire with sincerity.

The movie unfolds like life—unpredictable, messy, and poignant—constantly reinventing

itself while staying emotionally coherent. Its playful nods to cinematic history and social commentary never overshadow the central story of friendship, creativity, and survival. Reminiscent of films like *Be Kind Rewind* or *The Full Monty*, it celebrates underdogs with big hearts.

Funny, soulful, and honest, *Superboys of Malegaon* doesn't just entertain—it quietly inspires. It reminds us why people make art in the first place: not for perfection, but for connection.

'What Was That?' BY LORDE



Following an unannounced performance in Washington Square Park that swelled into a crowd-control moment, Lorde returned to the spotlight with *What Was That?*, a haunting new single that marks a dramatic tonal shift from her 2021 album *Solar Power*.

This jittery synth pop track, co-written with Jim-E Stack and co-produced with Daniel Nigro, projects raw emotional turbulence—drawing from a deeply personal chapter of heartbreak, hormonal shifts, and creative rebirth.

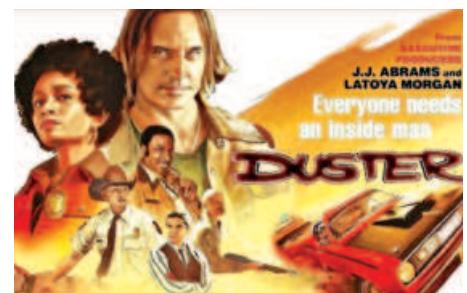
The music video, directed by Lorde herself under her birth name Ella Yelich O'Connor, mirrors this emotional chaos. Set across dimly lit interiors and blurred cityscapes, it captures Lorde wandering in solitude until a final shot where she screams silently into the night sky, encapsulating the feeling of quiet implosion.

On streaming platforms, *What Was That?* notched over 20 million streams within its first three days on Spotify and claimed the fifth spot on the platform's Global Top 50.

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix

The Four Seasons Season

Apple TV+
MurderbotHBO Max
DusterPrime Video
OvercompensatingBongo
Fyakra

STYLE STATEMENT

SHAH RUKH KHAN

The internet went into a frenzy when Shah Rukh Khan made his Met Gala debut, last Monday, in a fierce look designed by designer Sabyasachi. Draped in a black, maharaja-inspired suit, the King of Bollywood exuded unmatched grandeur.

The long coat—cut from exquisite Tasmanian wool—merged traditional Indian royal design with global haute couture.

Structured shoulders and dramatic wide lapels made his look a masterclass in balancing opulence with edge.

His timeless elegance met modern power dressing—and the world watched in awe.

