

A match made in music PUTUL AND REZA’S STORY

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RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

For Putul Sajia Sultana and Syed Reza Ali, love has always revolved around music. Their little world grew even more beautiful with the arrival of their daughter, Geetoleena. Despite their differences in taste, with Putul finding happiness in regional songs, while Reza leans towards metal. Even their football loyalties differ, as one supports Brazil and the other Argentina. Yet it is this very passion for music that drew Reza from Australia to Dhaka, where he not only found his calling, but also his soulmate.

The couple recently visited The Daily Star, complementing each other in coordinated outfits. Between interviews and photographs, they could not stop capturing moments of one another on their phones. Married for four years, t h e y

describe themselves as best friends who respect each other’s personal space while nurturing their shared world. Although deeply in love, they affectionately address each other using *tui*, a term that might sound a bit strange to others, but feels natural to them.

“I am used to calling her *tui* because we were friends first. Some might find it odd, but it does not bother us. Our friendship is what makes our relationship special,” laughed Reza. Their love story was never about formal confessions. Instead, it unfolded naturally. Their families, especially Putul’s mother-in-law, could see that they were made for each other.

“At that time, I was looking for a composer. It was just after Covid had ended, and I wanted a studio close to my house. While talking to him, I found out he lived in Dhanmondi and his studio was there as well. That is how we started working together. Our friendship grew so close that we did not even realise when it shifted from tumi to tui,”

“We first met at a Valentine’s Day programme organised by NTV in Australia. We had two shows in Sydney and Melbourne. Our first interaction was brief, only a one-hour practice session on February 16. I returned to Bangladesh soon after, but we stayed connected on Facebook. For a long time, we did not even exchange a simple hello,” recalled Putul.

Reza, spontaneous by nature, once had everything. He had a stable banking career and an Australian passport. Yet in 2019, he came back to pursue music in Dhaka.

“I made the decision within hours,” he shared. “After years in banking, I felt suffocated. I could not give time to my love for music. In 2011, I shared the stage with Ayub Bachchu in Australia and that was magical. Then in 2015, when Wind of Change came to Bangladesh, I thought that if our country could produce something so extraordinary, then I must pursue music. Within hours, I sent in my resignation, told my agent I would sell my house, left my

car behind, and packed my bags. I had a huge collection of guitars, but brought only my red guitar with me. And with that, I came to Dhaka.”

Their paths crossed again in 2020, in the most unexpected way. While commenting on a mutual friend’s post on Facebook, Reza left a funny remark that caught Putul’s attention. A lighthearted exchange of comments led them to finally move their conversations to inbox, and from there, a friendship began to blossom.

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For a long time, they lived in their own little bubble, caring deeply for each other without ever putting a label on their relationship. “Putul’s elder sister and my mother saw that our chemistry was strong. They decided between themselves and told us that we were ideal for each other,” said Reza.

Their marriage, too, came about in a spontaneous way. Putul recalled the story with joy. “The day we got married, my mother-in-law told us in the afternoon that the government was going to impose lockdown again. She said, ‘I have decided you will get married in the evening.’ It is true—we got married with only three hours’ notice. But somehow, my mother-in-law managed everything, from my bridal makeover to arranging a lovely dinner for our guests. We even took photos. And guess what, we got married at his house with the local Kazi. So, in the end, I never had to leave my own home,” said Putul, her face lighting up.

The musical duo is now working on two albums. With eight tracks, the first will step away from their usual genres, featuring stage-ready songs, alongside jazz and blues. Reza himself is also working on his own solo album, in which he plans to use Putul’s voice.

Although both are singers, Putul has been active in the industry for two decades, much longer than Reza’s career. His journey hasn’t been without challenges. “Since I was abroad for so long, entering the music field here has been tough. Right now, the industry is struggling because listeners aren’t always engaging with good music, or good songs aren’t reaching audiences and getting views. It’s a huge challenge to establish myself,” said Reza.

As an artiste couple, they also face prejudice. “Because I have a longer career, people sometimes assume Reza is getting extra privileges because of me,” said Putul. “Whatever Reza has achieved so far, he has earned on his own. He has worked on films, TV series, background scores for various projects—sometimes I don’t even know the clients he is working with. The projects we’ve done together are actually quite small compared to what we’ve done separately. But people assume that we only work with each other. The truth is, we simply respect one another’s work ethics. We make sure no outside pressures can affect our relationship,” she concluded.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



Reels of Resistance: Voices from the Hill Tracts
Oct 12 | 7 pm onwards
TSC, Dhaka University



Play: Rajnetra
Oct 17 | 7 pm – 8:30 pm
National Theatre Hall, BSA



‘Hajar Bochor Dhor’
Oct 18 | 4:45 pm – 9 pm
Bishwo Shahitto Kendro

TV TALKIES

KURUKSHETRA The Great War of Mahabharata

Netflix’s *Kurukshetra: The Great War of Mahabharata* is an animated series that launched yesterday, depicting one of India’s most beloved epics. This animated series marks Netflix’s dive into Indian mythological storytelling, and it’s a visual treat that brings ancient battles to modern screens.

The series show the 18-day war between the Pandavas and Kauravas—a

battle that tore families apart. 18 different warriors, give a personal look at their struggles, doubts, and heartbreaks.

The first season dropped on October 10, 2025, with all 18 episodes now streaming on Netflix in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and English.



WHAT’S PLAYING



‘The Fate of Ophelia’ by Taylor Swift

Fresh off her new album *The Life of a Showgirl*, Taylor Swift drops the lead single “The Fate of Ophelia”, released October 3, 2025.

The track blends dance-pop and synth-pop with a driving beat, and anthemic energy. Lyrically, it reimagines the tragic story of Shakespeare’s Ophelia—Swift positions herself as someone pulled back from the brink through a deserved and loyal love.

It became the most-streamed song in a single day on Spotify, breaking records for first-day performance. The album *The Life of a Showgirl* also shattered streaming records, becoming the biggest first-day album on several platforms. Swift also released the music video for “The Fate of Ophelia” in conjunction with a theatrical “Release Party of a Showgirl” event, adding cinematic flair to the visual narrative.

With its bold production, poetic lyricism, and strong debut in streaming and buzz, *The Fate of Ophelia* cements Taylor’s return to high-stakes pop storytelling in her Showgirl era.