



Jaya Ahsan



Bidya Sinha Mim



Azmeri Haque Badhan



Mehazabien Chowdhury

'Let's be a better version of ourselves'

Celebs share New Year's resolutions

May humanity win above all negativity. May the light touch all. Personally, I am always looking for new challenges on the work front. I also want to stand beside people and help them in whichever way I can.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

It seems like 2023 went by the blink of an eye – more so for the showbiz industry, which saw its own ups and downs. Like any of us, celebrities are also looking to take the time to appreciate and reflect on the past year, to make their own New Year's resolutions. We talk to six of the biggest stars in the industry about what they will do this year.

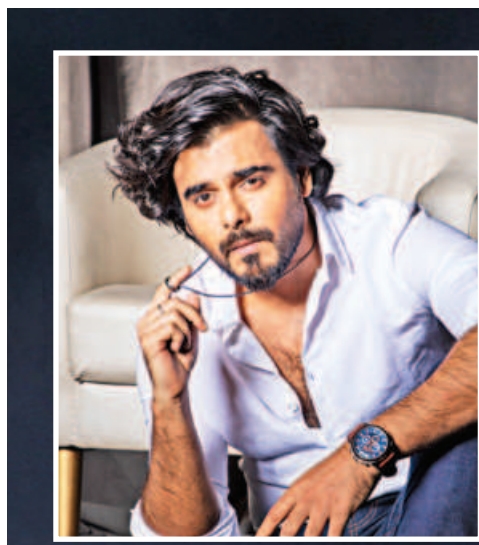
Not just humans, but let's think about animals as well: Jaya Ahsan

I hope that everything negative will somehow be erased this year. I wish well for not just humans, but innocent animals as well – let them be safe and sound from any aggression. I want to be able to continue the work that I'm doing.

Love your country: Chanchal Chowdhury
May humanity win above all negativity. May the light touch all. Personally, I am always looking for new challenges on the work front. I also want to stand beside people and help them in whichever way I can. One message to the audience: Please be with good art, and also, love your country.

I try to reinvent myself all the time: Badhan
Every day, I try to enhance focus on myself, and the new year will only bring me incentive to do so even more. The present is what matters the most to me. I wish everyone the very best for 2024.

In 2023, I worked from the heart, this year I will be more calculative: Siam Ahmed



Siam Ahmed



Chanchal Chowdhury

PHOTOS: STAR & COLLECTED

I can't complain, I've had a very happening year as an actor, I poured all my heart out into whatever I've done. However, in 2024, I want to work for myself, and be more calculated in my approach. I want to continue experimenting with more types of roles.

The audience is everything to me, I wish them well: Mehazabien Chowdhury

The new year brings more incentive to pick out more good projects to bring under my

repertoire. I can't even begin to say how grateful I am to them, and how they supported me. I am looking to do more of the same this year.

Don't want to make numbers the prime goal: Bidya Sinha Mim

This year, I've had a great time when it comes to films. However, I just don't want to measure my work with numbers – I want to ensure their quality as well. I want to work on both the silver screen and OTT.

Shilpakala Academy to screen 'Saatao' in 63 districts



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) is going to screen the internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi film *Saatao* (Memories of Gloomy Monsoons) in 63 districts of the country.

Under BSA's nationwide film screening initiative, *Ganajagorone Chalachitra Utsab*, the film is one of the 17 films that will be screened across the country from December 29, 2023, to January 5, 2024.

The story of *Saatao* is based on the universal struggle of farmers and marginalised women.

Khandaker Sumon directed and wrote the story, screenplay, and dialogue for the film which features Sabera Yasmin, Tashmita Shimu, Mitu Sarkar, and more.

Javed Akhtar becomes highest-paid lyricist with 'Dunki' song

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



In a groundbreaking move, veteran lyricist Javed Akhtar has secured his place as the highest-paid lyricist with the track *Nikle The Kabhi Hum Ghar Se* from Rajkumar Hirani's latest film, *Dunki*, starring Shah Rukh Khan.

Reports reveal that Akhtar charged a remarkable Rs 25 lakhs for his lyrical contribution, setting a new benchmark in the world of Bollywood music.

Film analyst and critic Komal Nahta shared the news in his magazine, *Film Information*, stating, "Rs 25 lakhs for one song must be a record fee charged by any lyricist to date." This revelation was later confirmed by Javed Akhtar.



2024 – a year of exciting films

As we step into 2024, the film industry endeavours to maintain the momentum witnessed in the preceding year. Some have wrapped up shoots and are in the post-production stage, others are poised for theatrical premieres, while some are in pre-production stages.

SHARMIN JOYA

Let's take a look at the roster of films that audiences are eagerly anticipating release.

Just the year was about to end, two big films were announced by three giant production houses – Chorki, SVF and Alpha-i. Through that collaboration, Raihan Rafi is finally going to work with Shakib Khan in the film *Toofan*, which is lined up to be released in 2024.

Gias Uddin Selim's *Kajol Rekha*, featuring a star-studded cast, is set to premiere in the first quarter of the year, according to the director. The official promotional campaign for the film has already begun. The film, that has captured the time of about 500 years ago, took nearly 12 years from the writing stage to the post-production.

Due to political conditions, Badrul Anam Saud's film *Shyama Kabbo* halted

its theatrical release last year. The film, featuring Shohel Mondol and Neelanjona Neela is expected to release this year.

Anonno Mamun's directorial film *Dorod*, starring Shakib Khan and Sonal Chauhan will be released on the occasion of Valentine's Day. The psychological-thriller film which is being called the first Pan-Indian film from Bangladesh, will be released in six different languages.

Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz announced *Omar* in August 2023, featuring Fazlur Rahman Babu, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Nasir Uddin Khan, and Sariful Razz. The film is also on the line to be premiered this year and its poster was released yesterday.

Puja Chery and Ador Azad starrer film *Nakphul* is scheduled to be released on Valentine's Day. It has been directed by Aalok Hasan.

Sariful Razz is currently shooting for his



upcoming film *Kobi* in Kolkata, directed by Hashibur Reza Kallol and co-starring Ildhika Paul. Another film featuring him and Bubby titled *Dewaler Desh* awaits release at any time this year. It has been directed by Mishuk Moni.

After the success of *Priyotoma*, its

director, Himel Ashraf, is collaborating with Shakib Khan once again in *Rajkumar*. The film will also feature Courtney Coffey, and it is currently in the shooting phase. It is scheduled to be released this Eid-ul-Fitr.

Azmeri Haque Badhan will be seen in the action-packed commercial film *Esha Murder*. The joint production of Cop Creation and Binge is directed by Sunny Sanwar, and it is scheduled for a theatrical release during Eid ul-Fitr. The Binge app will later release the movie during Eid ul Adha.

Shabnur, one of the most popular actresses of Dhallywood, is planning to return to the silver screen. The actress who is always seen in romantic genres, has signed the thriller film *Rongona*, directed by Arafat Hossain. Meanwhile, she is also in talks with Chayanika Chowdhury for her film *Matal Hawa*, costarring Mahfuz Ahmed.

Two films by Nurul Alam Atique awaits releases. One is Jaya Ahsan, Tariq Anam Khan and Ahmed Rubel starrer *Periyar Subash* which is expected to be released in the first quarter of this year. Another film by the director named, *Manusher Bagan* featuring Jyotika Jyoti, Orchita Sporshia, Nasir Uddin Khan, and Manoj Kumar Pramanik is also awaiting release.

Apart from these films, there are some other productions which are also in the queue to be released throughout any time this year. They are Masud Hasan Ujjal's directorial *Bonolota Sen*, Jasim Uddin Jakir's *Maya: The Love* featuring Ziaul Roshan and Shobnom Bubby, Raihan Rafi's *Nur* starring Arifin Shuvo, Badiul Alam Khokon's *Agun* featuring Shakib Khan and Zahara Mitu, Ananta Jalil starrer *Kill Him 2* and *Netri: The Leader*, and Mehedi Hasan's *Shesh Baji* featuring Symon Sadiq and Shirin Akter Shela.