

A RESOLUTE MEHAZABIEN

Mehazabien Chowdhury loves to travel whenever she finds time in her busy schedule. Recently she flew to Malaysia to celebrate New Year's Eve and welcome a new year in a new place - like she always dreamt. Star Showbiz catches up with the actress over the phone.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

"I came here with my friends and am enjoying the time with them," says a jolly Mehazabien. "To be honest, after I started working in the industry, I couldn't get enough time to spend with my loved ones. Most of the time, I would be occupied with shoots and prior commitments."

About expectations for 2024, the *Punorjonmo* actress says, "Last year went quite well, and I am hopeful for this year as well. This year, I want to give more time to my family."

In 2023, Mehazabien was featured in five projects -- and all of the roles she played were different from one another. Due to her incredible talent, even scripts are now being written with her in mind. "It didn't come in one day though, it is a testament to my journey," she says, adding, "There was a time when I used to take up over 50 projects in a year. I thought if people did not see me enough on-screen, they would forget me."

As the conversation continues, we ask her to rank her own performances from last year. Without much diplomacy, she says, "My character of Kajol in *Kajoler Din Ratri* was fantastic while people loved *The Silence*. In fact, audience demanded a sequel for it," claims Mehazabien. "The *Punorjonmo*

universe is a phenomenon that I am glad to be part of. *Ami Ki Tumi* gave me the opportunity to play a challenging and diverse character, while *Neel Joler Kabbyo* inflicted 'nostalgia' of the pandemic times. My last project of 2023 was *Anonna*."

In her long career, who supported Mehazabien Chowdhury the most? She answers, "Each member of my family has contributed to my success. It began with my mother's influence and my father's support. My siblings were too young when I started working. Thus, they didn't get enough time, particularly from our mother. I will always be grateful to all of them for whatever I have achieved to date," concludes the actress.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



Theaterian presents 'Death of a Salesman'

January 15 | 7 pm
Main Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



Ghurni: o/sthir

January 19 | 7 pm
Jatra Biroti



Masterclass with Majid Majidi, Anjan Dutt & Dr Shi Chuan

January 27 | 11 am - 7:30 pm
Bangladesh National Museum

WHAT'S ON THE GRAM Jacob Elordi

Euphoria catapulted him into the hearts of Gen Z, turning Jacob Elordi as their ultimate heartthrob. Yet, it's his magnetic transformation that's stealing the spotlight -- portraying Elvis in Sofia Coppola's *Priscilla* and diving into the enigmatic role of Felix Catton in Emerald Fennell's mind-bending thriller, *Saltburn*. Audience witnessed Jacob Elordi's evolution from heartthrob to a bona fide movie star.

Draped in an all-white chic suit and adorned with a scarf delicately wrapped around his neck, Jacob Elordi exudes timeless glamour, as always, effortlessly commanding attention both on and off the screen.



TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix
Kho Gaye Hum Kahan



Amazon Prime
Saltburn



Hoichoi
Mobaroknama



Hulu
Good trouble



Disney+ Hotstar
BTS Monuments: Beyond the Star



1-MINUTE REVIEW

Vidhu Vinod Chopra can create magic without Rajkumar Hirani

This time around Vidhu Vinod Chopra undertook his solo directing and writing venture *12th Fail*. The result of this project may lack the creative collaboration with Rajkumar Hirani, with whom he produced significant projects such as *Sanju*, *PK*, *3 Idiots*, and the *Munna Bhai* franchise, but it proved to be magical nonetheless. The director thus created an impactful film worth engraving in our minds and beliefs.

Adapted from Anurag Pathak's 2019 non-fiction book of the same name, the film powerfully depicts the true story of Manoj Kumar Sharma, who rose from dire poverty to achieve the rank of an Indian Police Service officer -- thereby inflicting upon viewers that hard work indeed yields in success.



TV TALKIES

Mobaroknama

Under the direction of Golam Sohrab Dodul, the web-series *Mobaroknama* on Hoichoi commences with Suraiya (played by Shahnaz Sumi), a young girl, alleging that her brother-in-law raped her following a party at their residence. When she protests, she is expelled from her home, leading her to seek assistance from Mobarok (Mosharraf Karim), a once-renowned lawyer who had abandoned his legal career after inadvertently convicting an innocent man.

Mobarok, tormented by his personal history, is a principled individual who ultimately opts to represent Suraiya after recognising the validity of her case.

In a skillfully executed courtroom drama, dialogues play a vital role. However, in this instance, they become predictable resulting in extended scenes and a slowdown in the plot. Nevertheless, Karim adeptly utilises the situation, adopting a style of stoic cynicism that resonates.



WHAT'S PLAYING

Happy New Year ABBA

ABBA's Happy New Year is a bittersweet anthem that beautifully captures the complex emotions associated with the passage of time.

Released in 1980, the song reflects on the highs and lows of the past year while expressing hope for the future. The melancholic melody contrasts with the optimistic lyrics, while the harmonious vocals of Agnetha, Björn, Benny, and Anni-Frid add depth to the song's emotional resonance. The introspective lyrics and the wistful tone make *Happy New Year* a timeless piece on the universal themes of reflection, nostalgia, and the anticipation of new beginnings.