



Hassan Abidur Reja Jewel

Moni Kishore

Abu Zafar

Jahidul Haque

Waliul Haq Rumi

Ahmed Rubel

Rishta Laboni Shimana

Khalid

A YEAR OF FAREWELLS

# Those we lost in 2024

**ZAHID AKBAR**  
In 2024, we lost several prominent figures from the entertainment world. Though they have departed, their contributions to film, television, music, and dance will remain etched in our memories. Here are some of the individuals we lost this year:  
**Ahmed Rubel**  
On February 7, actor Ahmed Rubel passed away. He was supposed to attend the premiere of his film *Peyarar Subash* but collapsed after stepping out of his car.  
Rubel gained recognition for his role in the popular TV drama *Pret* on Ekushey Television and appeared in Humayun Ahmed's *Shyamol Chhaya*. His performance in shows like *Ronger Manush*, *69*, and films like *Guerilla*, *Meghla Akash*, and *Laal Moroger Jhuti*, among others, received widespread acclaim.  
**Jahidul Haque**  
Lyricist Jahidul Haque, who passed away on January 15 at the age of 75, penned many memorable songs, including *Amar E Duti Chokh* sung by Subir Nandi.  
**Sadi Mohammad**  
Renowned Rabindra Sangeet exponent Sadi Mohammad passed away on March 13. Known for his deep devotion to music, Sadi was a respected teacher and composer.  
He studied Rabindra Sangeet at Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, and received numerous awards, including Channel i's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 and the Rabindra Puraskar from the Bangla Academy in 2015.  
**Khalid**  
Khalid, a pioneering Bangladeshi pop singer from the 1980s and 1990s, was born in Gopalganj and passed away from a heart attack in Dhaka on March 18, at the age of 60. He gained fame as the lead vocalist of the band Chime and also enjoyed success as a solo artiste.  
Khalid's soulful voice defined hits like *Shorolotar Protima*, *Himaloy*, and *Kono Karonei*, as well as beloved tracks such as *Hoyni Jabar Bela* and *Jotota Megh Hole*. His music continues to resonate with fans, cementing his legacy in Bangladeshi pop.  
**Rishta Laboni Shimana**  
Actress Shimana passed away on June 4 at the age of 39. She started her career in 2006 with the *Lux-Channel i Superstar* competition and appeared in numerous dramas, films, and advertisements. She notably appeared in Tauqir Ahmed's directorial *Daruchini Dwip*, which also featured her other contestants from that competition, and gained critical acclaim for her acting.

**Waliul Haq Rumi**  
Actor Waliul Haq Rumi, who passed away from cancer on April 22, began his acting career in 1988 with the play *Kreetodash* and quickly made a name for himself with his debut in the television drama *Kon Kanoner Phool*. Despite his battle with illness, he had hoped to return to acting.  
Rumi's notable works include popular dramas like *Suggestion Selim*, *Bokashoka Tinjon*, *Makeup Man*, *Dhaka Metro Love*, *Bap Beta Dourer Upor*, and the iconic *Jamoi* sequels, leaving a lasting legacy in the Bangladeshi entertainment industry.  
**Shafin Ahmed**  
Shafin Ahmed, the iconic Bangladeshi rock bassist, singer-songwriter, and record producer, passed away on July 25 at the age of 63 while receiving treatment in Virginia, USA. As the lead vocalist and bassist for the legendary band Miles, which he joined with his brother Hamin Ahmed in 1979, Shafin became a defining figure in Bangladeshi rock music.  
His timeless hits, including *Chand Tara Surjo*, *Phiriye Dao* and *Khola Bari* (2009), and *Emon Keno Holo* (2017).  
**Shilpi Chakraborty**  
Filmmaker Shilpi Chakraborty, best known for his directorial film *Ujan Vati*, passed away on March 7 at the age of 71 due to excessive bleeding at the National Hospital in Old Dhaka.  
Throughout his illustrious career, Chakraborty directed several notable films, including *Bini Shutar Mala*, *Amar Adalat*, *Tomar Jonno Pagol*, *Shobar Ojante*, *Chorompotro*, and *Mimangsha*. His contributions to Bangladeshi cinema left a lasting mark on the industry, earning him

**Prothom Premier Moto**, have left an enduring legacy in the country's music scene.  
**Hassan Abidur Reja Jewel**  
On July 30, singer and director Hassan Abidur Reja Jewel passed away battling with cancer for 11 years. His album *Ek Bikele* became a fan favourite following its release in 1993.  
His notable productions include *Amar Ache Ondhokar* (1995), *Ekta Manush* (1996), *Beshi Kichu Noy* (1998), *Bedona Shudhui Bedona* (1999), *Firtce Pothe* (2003), *Dorja* recognition as a pioneering filmmaker.  
**Moni Kishore**  
Moni Kishore, a prominent singer from the '90s, was found dead in his home on October 19. Known for timeless hits like *Ki Chile Amar Bolo Na* and *Phul Jhore Tara Jhore*, Kishore lent his voice to over 500 songs and composed around 20.  
Despite being a registered artiste with radio and television, he recorded only a few songs and largely focused on audio releases. His other popular songs include *Sei Duti Chokh*, *Tumi* Lifetime Achievement Award.  
**Jamal Uddin Hossain**  
Television and stage actor Jamal Uddin Hossain, who was awarded the Ekushey Padak, passed away on October 12 in Calgary, Canada, at the age of 81. He founded the Nagorik Natya Sampradaya.  
**Shujee Shyam**  
Music director Shujee Shyam, a key figure of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, died on October 18. He was honoured with the Ekushey Padak



Shafin Ahmed

Jamal Uddin Hossain

Shilpi Chakraborty

Masud Ali Khan

Shujee Shyam

Sadi Mohammad

Papia Sarwar

**Sudhu Amari Jonno, Mukhe Bolo Bhalobaso, and Ami More Gele.**  
**Masud Ali Khan**  
Ekushey Padak-winning actor Masud Ali Khan passed away on October 31 at 95, leaving behind a distinguished career across stage, television, film, and radio. A founding member of Drama Circle, he gained national fame for his roles in films like *Dui Duari*, *Dipu Number 2*, *Matir Moyna* and the BTV drama *Kul Nai Kinar Nai*.  
Known for his iconic performances in series like *Kothao Keu Nei* and *Ei Sob Din Ratni*, Khan's contributions earned him the Meril-Prothom Alo in 2018 and the Shilpakala Padak in 2015 for his contributions to music.  
**Abu Zafar**  
Celebrated lyricist, composer, and musician, Abu Zafar, passed away on December 5. Among his notable works is the song *Ei Padma Ei Meghna*, which ranked in BBC's top 20 Bangla songs of all time.  
**Papia Sarwar**  
Renowned Rabindra Sangeet singer Papia Sarwar (died December 12) was another invaluable loss to the cultural community this year.

PHOTOS: STAR AND COLLECTED

## COUNTRYWIDE

### Polythene bag use in Moulvibazar rampant

MINTU DESHWARA

Despite a nationwide ban, use of polythene bags continues to increase in all over Moulvibazar including in rural areas.

During a visit to several markets and bazars in different upazilas of the district, it was seen that grocers, vegetable vendors, sweetmeat shops, fish traders and even restaurants are using such bags freely.

Although the country has banned its use nearly two months ago, its widespread use continues in the absence of any alternative to polythene bags as packing material and lax monitoring as well.



Use of polythene bag continues at different markets in Moulvibazar due to lack of monitoring and affordable alternatives.

PHOTO: STAR

The current interim government has imposed a ban on use of polythene bags in the supermarkets from October 1, and all other markets across the country since November 1, many wholesalers at West Bazar, TC Market, Fish Bazaar and different upazila headquarters conducting their business in open and without any fear.

Consumers said although other alternatives like paper bags, jute bags and baskets are available in local markets, many shopkeepers and buyers still prefer polythene bags due to lower cost and convenience.

Some shopkeepers, seeking anonymity, admitted to secretly selling polythene bags in order to meet customer's demand.

Many local wholesalers are still selling polythene bags openly in Moulvibazar town and its other seven upazilas due to lack of monitoring by the authorities concerned, they added.

While talking, Moulvibazar Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mohammad Israil Hossain said they were conducting regular awareness campaigns to combat use of illegal polythene bags.

He has instructed the executive magistrates to continue special drives even at different village markets to eradicate the use of polythene, the DC further said.

Environmentalists said Department of Environment (DoE) first imposed a ban on use of polythene bags in 2002, but lax enforcement of law has allowed its widespread use to continue.

Meanwhile, price of polythene bags has gone up to Tk 550 per kilogram from

Tk 350 only a few months ago, while large polythene bag is selling for Tk 2 per piece.

Nurul Muhaimin Milton, general secretary of Bangladesh Environmental Journalists' Association, Moulvibazar unit, emphasized that polythene not only clogging the town drains, but polluting the Monu river as well.

Experts said polythene damages soil fertility and causes harm to human health as it takes nearly 400 years to decompose.

A number of local environmental activists, like Ahad Mia, general secretary of Kamalganj Biodiversity Protection Committee, and social activist Fatiquil Islam have urged for urgent action to address the risks posed by polythene.

Moulvibazar DoE Assistant Director Maidul Islam informed that they have conducted several raids recently, seized huge amount of polythene and fined six wholesalers a total of Tk 80,000.

### Suspect held over murder

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She died at Jashore General Hospital while undergoing treatment on Thursday night.

Dr Bazlur Rashid, resident medical officer at Jashore General Hospital, said initial examinations on the victim's body revealed signs of rape and poisoning.

"The victim's body bore injuries indicating sexual assault. The presence of poison was also detected in her stomach. An autopsy has been conducted, and further details will be

available after we receive the viscera report."

According to the case statement, Rinku Mallik, the incident occurred on Tuesday.

Basana was returning home after distributing TCB goods when a local man named Rajibul called her and offered to return some money he had earlier borrowed from her.

The man asked her to meet him and she complied and went to Daulatpur village. Rajibul along with other local

men named Faruk, Chanchal, and Shafiqul raped her at the house owned by one Moktar Molla, said Rinku.

The perpetrators filmed the act and demanded a ransom of Tk 2 lakh to keep the footage a secret.

When Basana threatened to file complaints, the perpetrators forced her to ingest poison before letting her go.

She then returned home, but didn't tell anyone what had happened before it was too late.

Suddenly she got severely sick and was admitted to the Jashore hospital on Wednesday.

While being admitted there, she told her family members what happened, naming the perpetrators and detailing the assault.

She died of her injuries on Thursday night.

"My mother died in my arms, recounting the horrific events. I demand justice. Those who did this must be executed. I want nothing else but justice for

my mother," Rinku Mallik told this newspaper.

Following Basana's death, the police visited the alleged crime scene and began their investigation.

The arrest has brought some hope to the grieving family and community, who have demanded swift justice for Basana.

Locals and her colleagues have expressed outrage over the incident, urging authorities to ensure that all perpetrators face exemplary punishment.

### Police have no wand to stop crime overnight

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robbery case, while the incident in Narayanganj was related to mobile phone snatching.

Besides, there are two other incidents of threats: one in Mymensingh and another involving a Brac University student.

The incident in Mymensingh was perpetrated by a class-X student, who was arrested and returned to his parents as he claimed "it was a prank".

In connection with the threat to the Brac University student, the detective branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested a person named

Jahid Hasan from Sirajganj. "We are working to resolve every incident, but not all of them are connected."

The Bangladesh Police is going through a critical period.

"Never before in its history has the police faced such a predicament. There is a significant difference between the pre- and post-August revolution police."

Before the revolution, the police had become an instrument of a "fascist government", leading to widespread public anger against them.

The leadership within the police had collapsed, and

public trust had eroded, he said.

The current challenge is to structure the police effectively, make them acceptable to the public and ensure that they never revert to an anti-people stance.

Alam said they sought help from representatives of the Students Against Discrimination platform to enhance the police's community engagement.

"We want them to put in extra effort to connect us with the community. I believe that without this, the police alone cannot fight crime. But we are trying."

Arrangements are being made to promote officers

whose service tenure is only 10-12 days.

"I had retired myself but have been given this responsibility again. I don't know how much I will be able to fulfil it, but I will try. I seek your help and advice so that I can leave with respect when the time comes," Alam added.

Speaking at the same event, DMP Commissioner Sheikh Md Sazzat Ali said that members of the Bangladesh Police must serve people to overcome their trauma as this is the only way to restore the force's tarnished image.

The lingering impact of the July incident has left

many police officers socially stigmatised.

"We still feel ashamed to introduce ourselves as police officers in various social events. To come out from trauma, we must dedicate ourselves to serving the people of this country. Only through service we can regain our lost glory and image, inshaAllah."

He urged serving officers to engage with the Administrative Reform Commission to advocate for police demands.

Individual efforts may not have the same impact as collective representation through the association, he added.

### Restriction on journo's entry temporary

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Building-7 at the Secretariat complex for almost 10 hours on Thursday.

A firefighter died after being hit by a truck while carrying a hose pipe across Abdul Gani Road at the time.

According to the press wing, the government will soon review the accreditation cards issued to journalists and invite fresh applications from local and international news outlets.

According to an office order of the home ministry, a special cell has been formed

at the Crime and Control Center to review applications for temporary entry passes to the Secretariat.

In another development, Abul Kalam Azad Majumder, deputy press secretary to the chief adviser, said no journalist's press accreditation card had been cancelled following the fire.

"Some people ask the government to be tough and then create a ruckus when it becomes even slightly tough. This must stop. This double standard has started again regarding the restriction

on journalists' access to the secretariat," Azad wrote on Facebook yesterday.

"It's an open secret that the Bangladesh Secretariat turned into a marketplace for middlemen. No one except those people should have any reason to be worried about the government's latest decision."

"We believe this will make journalists' jobs easier. Even though there might be temporary inconveniences, it will ultimately benefit everyone. That's why everyone's cooperation is being sought."

On Friday night, the home ministry in a media statement said entry to the secretariat for all, except the secretariat staff and government employees, was banned for an indefinite period.

Even journalists with accreditation cards will not be able to enter the building until further notice, it read.

In the interest of increasing the overall security of the secretariat, all types of temporary entry passes issued to non-government employees have been cancelled, it said.

### Putin

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killing 38 people out of 67 onboard.

Western experts have pointed the finger at Russia, while the US said it had "early indications" the plane was shot.

Putin told Aliyev the plane had tried to land in Grozny "several times."

"During this time, Grozny, (the town of) Mozdok and Vladikavkaz were being attacked by Ukrainian combat drones and Russian air defence was repelling these attacks," Putin said, according to a Kremlin transcript.