



Hassan Abidur Reja Jewel



Moni Kishore



Abu Zafar



Jahidul Haque



Waliul Haq Rumi



Ahmed Rubel



Rishtha 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*, and films like *Guerrilla*, *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*

### Waliul Haq Rumi

Actor Waliul Haq Rumi, who passed away from cancer on April 22, began his acting career in 1988 with the play *Krektodashi* 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 *Jamoj*

*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 Bikel* became a fan favourite following its release in 1993.

His notable productions include *Amar Ache Ondhokar* (1995), *Ektak Manush* (1996), *Beshi Kichu Noy* (1998), *Bedona Shudhui Bedona* (1999), *Firtee 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.

### Shujeo Shyam

Music director Shujeo 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



Shujeo Shyam



Sadi Mohammad



Papia Sarwar

and *Jotota Megh Hole*. His music continues to resonate with fans, cementing his legacy in Bangladeshi pop.

**Rishtha 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 Tauquir Ahmed's directorial *Daruchini Dwip*, which also featured her other contestants from that competition, and gained critical acclaim for her acting.

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*, *Phiriyi 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 Adalot*, *Tomar Jonno Pagol*, *Shobor Ojante*, *Chorompotro*, and *Mimangsha*. His contributions to Bangladeshi cinema left a lasting mark on the industry, earning him

*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 Ratri*, Khan's contributions earned him the Meril-Prothom Alo

in 2018 and the Shilpkala 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.

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



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

PHOTO: STAR

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

Nurul Muhammin 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 Fatiqu Islam have urged for urgent action to address the risks posed by polythene.

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.

### 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.

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

"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.

"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."

The leadership within the police had collapsed, and

public trust had eroded, he said.

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