

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Stars hope for a fruitful 2025

From career milestones to personal aspirations, we dive into what some of our biggest stars are looking forward to as they step into the new year.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

As 2024 wraps up and the promise of 2025 looms ahead, the excitement of fresh beginnings is in the air. Like the rest of us, Bangladesh's top celebrities are brimming with hopes, dreams, and plans for the year to come. From career milestones to personal aspirations, we dive into what some of our biggest stars are looking forward to as they step into the new year.

Pori Moni

As another year ends, I find myself reflecting on how quickly time passes. The end of the year marks the close of a chapter, and 2024

to bring even better work in 2025, whether in films or OTT platforms. All I can say is, exciting things are coming!

Mehazabien Chowdhury

My debut film, *Priyo Maloti*, was released in the final month of this year, and the amount of love I received from close friends, fans, and industry peers was overwhelming. I'm deeply grateful for everyone's support. Not only did *Priyo Maloti* earn praise locally, but it also received international recognition. The year went really well for me. As we move into 2025, my next film *Saba* will be released soon, and I think it will be a great surprise for my fans. I'm excited to take on new

to focus even more on quality over quantity. I want to step away from the usual and do work that stands out—something that breaks the norm. All I want is to do meaningful work; and, of course, my biggest wish is for our beloved Bangladesh to thrive and for its people to stay happy.

Moushumi Hamid

At the end of 2024, *Noya Manush*, which touches on real-life issues, was released, and it received positive feedback from moviegoers. It felt good to be appreciated for such a personal project. Over the last year, I had several other projects that were well-received. Overall, 2024 was a good year for me, filled with



PHOTOS: STAR AND COLLECTED

Abdun Noor Shajal

throughout my career. I started out in television, but now I mainly work in cinema, with some ventures into OTT as well. I've even worked in Indian Bengali cinema. As an actor, you have to deliver great work to stay relevant and to win people's hearts. Without that, it's impossible to survive in this industry. I had a good 2024 with some strong projects, and I'm eager to keep the momentum going into the new year. I want to do more films and see myself grow as an actor. Above all, I want to keep working with the love and support of my audience.

Tanjim Saiara Totini

Happy New Year everyone! My wish is that 2025 brings joy and beauty into everyone's lives. May it be a wonderful year for us all! When it comes to work, I had a great 2024, filled with many successful projects. I received so much love for my work, and I stayed in the spotlight throughout the year. In 2025, I hope to take on even more meaningful roles. I want to be part of projects that make people think. With some exciting plans already lined up, I can't wait to see what this year has in store!



Tanjim Saiara Totini



Moushumi Hamid



Mehazabien Chowdhury



Bidya Sinha Saha Mim



Pori Moni

has come to a close. I want to send my love and best wishes to everyone. To my fans, thank you for your constant support. It's because of you that I am who I am today. Your love inspires me to keep going, to continue working and striving for more. This past year, my new projects *Rongila Kitab*, *Felubakshi* and *Kagojer Bou* were well-received, and I hope

roles and challenges, and I hope to continue delivering good work in the new year.

Abdun Noor Shajal

It feels like 2024 flew by in the blink of an eye! It was a great year for me, and I'm happy with how it went. I released new projects that the audience loved, and I felt their appreciation. In 2025, I want

work. In 2025, I hope to continue working on projects that resonate with me. I've been very selective with my roles, and I intend to keep that going. As an actor, work is what keeps you alive, and I'm ready for whatever this new year brings.

Bidya Sinha Saha Mim

I've worked on several films



Asha Bhosle stuns Dubai crowd as she performs 'Tauba Tauba'

At 91, legendary singer Asha Bhosle wowed fans at a Dubai concert with Sonu Nigam on December 29. She performed for hours establishing her timeless relevance.

Asha Bhosle, draped in a white saree, captivated with her rendition of Karan Aujla's *Tauba Tauba* from the film *Bad Newz*, even recreating Vicky Kaushal's signature dance step.

Videos of her iconic moment went viral on Monday, garnering widespread admiration. The live audience cheered loudly as the nonagenarian proved that her charm and spirit remained unmatched.

Irrfan Khan: Only Indian in The Independent's '60 Best Actors of 21st-Century'



Irrfan Khan has been named the only Indian actor in The Independent's prestigious list, titled *60 Best Actors of 21st-Century Cinema*, securing the 41st spot. His exceptional performances in films, such as *The Warrior*, *Slumdog Millionaire*, and *Jurassic World*, were key to his inclusion.

The list also features renowned actors like Tom Cruise, Emma Stone, and Song Kang Ho. The Independent highlighted Khan's "stoic fortitude" in portraying a warrior in his native Rajasthan. His remarkable career includes roles in *Haasil*, *Maqbool*, *The Namesake*, *Piku*, *Hindi Medium*, and more.

COUNTRYWIDE



Treatment seekers often have to wait to get treatment as there is only one staff member at Chaumohani Union Health and Family Welfare Centre in Habiganj's Madhabpur upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Habiganj union health centres grappling with staff shortages

MINTU DESHWARA

Chaumohani Union Health and Family Welfare Centre in Habiganj's Madhabpur upazila provides health services to nearly 40,000 people living in different villages under the union.

As surprising as it sounds, only one family welfare inspector provides services to several thousand healthcare seekers at this particular sub-centre.

Roksana Akhter, family welfare inspector at the health centre, said, "Lots of patients visit this health centre every day. I alone cannot provide services to so many people."

"If there's an emergency case, I do not even get the chance to talk to any other patient," Roksana said, adding that she needs at least one staff member to assist her when any child delivery is performed.

According to data received from the district family planning office, there are a total of 52 union health and family welfare centres in Habiganj.

Alongside minor diseases, these health centres mostly provide services to pregnant women and perform child deliveries.

When most of the private hospitals encourage expectant mothers to have caesarean sections, the union health centres perform 100 percent normal child deliveries.

In 2022, a total of 8,737 normal deliveries were performed at all the union health centres in Habiganj, while 8,816 were performed in 2023.

Till June this year, the number is only 2,161.

Staffers at health centres said the number of delivery cases would have been doubled if they had adequate staff members.

According to regulations, every union health centre should have at least 10 staff members in six posts, but in reality, most of them have only one or two employees.

Only 10 staff members are in service against a total of 52 posts of deputy assistant community medical officers in the whole of Habiganj district.

Moreover, as many as 60 family welfare inspectors are working against 101 designated posts because many of them, who are posted in the union health centres, are performing their duties at the upazila or district level while some are on leave.

As a result, people living in remote areas are being deprived of medical services.

Monihar Begum, who came to Lukra Health and Family Welfare Centre for treatment, said she was advised to take calcium tablets regularly, but most of the time there is no medicine available at the sub-centre.

Contacted, Sirajul Islam, deputy director (acting) at Habiganj District Family Planning Office, said though a circular was issued to fill the vacant posts, the current political situation is causing further delays to the appointment process.

Major changes coming to Bangla, English textbooks

FROM PAGE 12

autobiography by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, have been dropped from the class six English textbook, while a poem -- "The Magic E" -- was also removed.

A new write-up titled "Our Pride", a passage on Victory Day, and a poem called "The Chaos" will be included in the textbook.

Two texts -- "Bangabandhu's love for sports" and "Bangabandhu's responses to natural calamities" -- will be removed from class seven's English textbook.

Another write-up "Bangamata: our source of inspiration", on the life of Bangabandhu's wife and Sheikh Hasina's mother Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, will be dropped from same book, while two write-ups titled "A New Generation" and "Our Winners in the Global arena", on student-led mass uprising, will be included.

A content titled "Bangabandhu and Bangladesh", on Sheikh Mujib's role in the Language Movement, his historic March 7 address at Suhrawardy Udyan, his declaration of independence in the first hours of March 26 of 1971, is also going to be dropped from the class eight English textbook.

Texts like "Women's Roles in The Uprising" and "Human and Development" will be added to the textbook.

A write-up titled "Father of the Nation", which deals with Bangabandhu's family during the 1971 Liberation War, his return home from captivity in Pakistan, his time at the UN and others, is likely to be dropped from the class nine English textbook.

On the other hand, a content on the graffiti art during the student mass uprising and two others titled "Sense of Self" and "Loneliness" -- are set to be included in the same

textbook.

CHANGES IN BANGLA TEXTBOOKS

A poem "Roudra Rekhe Joy" by Shamsur Rahman, a rhyme "February'r Gaan" written by Lutfur Rahman Riton, and short story "Opekha" by Selina Hossain will be dropped from class five's Bangla textbook.

Texts titled "Matir Niche Shohor", on The Wari Bateshwar ruins in Narsingdi; "Dekhe Elam Niagara" on the Niagara Falls; and contents on Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani and on Titumir, a revolutionary in British India; are set to be dropped from the same textbook.

Meanwhile, a write-up titled "Amra Tomader Bhublo Na" on the July uprising; a poem "Sobar Ami Chhatro"; and write-ups like "Jalpuri Kathurer Golpo", "Nolok", "Kumro O Pakhir Kotha", and "Doityo O Jele" are to be added to the textbook.

Two prose titles "Our Fine Arts" by Kamrul Hasan, and "Satire and the Language of Protest", a compilation of writings on the July uprising, will be included in the Charupath textbook for class six.

Besides, poem "Chithi Bili" by Rokonuzzaman Khan is likely to be added in the book, replacing poem "Mujib" by the same writer.

In the Bangla grammar book, an article called "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman", which termed him the "best Bangalee of 1,000 years" and the undisputed leader of the country's Liberation War, will be removed.

In the class seven Soptoborna textbook, a prose titled "Rokeya Shakhawat Hossain" by Selina Hossain is set to be dropped, while a new poem titled "Sithi" on the July uprising, written by Hasan Robayet, will be added. Two

other poems titled "Shono ekti Mujiburur theke" by Gouri Prasanna Majumder and "Sobar Ami Chhatro" by Sunirmal Bose will be removed.

In class seven's Anandapath textbook, a travelogue titled "Switzerland er Dinguli" written by Selina Hossain is also going to be dropped.

In the Bengali textbook for class eight, two prose -- "Library" by Motahar Hossain Chowdhury and "The Story of Mass Uprising" -- will be added. A prose titled "Our Fine Arts" by Kamrul Hasan will be dropped.

In another Bangla book for same grade, a novel titled "Amra and Crab Nebula" by Zafar Iqbal will be removed.

In the Bangla Literature textbook of classes nine and 10, two prose -- "Ekusher Golpo" by Zahir Raihan and "Amader Notun Gourab Gatha", a compilation of texts on the July uprising -- will be included.

Meanwhile, "Dena Paowna" by Rabindranath Tagore, "Library" by Motahar Hossain Chowdhury, "Pahela Baishakh" by Kabir Chowdhury, "Badh" by Zahir Raihan, "Rokte Bheja Ekush" by Selina Hossain, "Niyoti" by Humayun Ahmed and "Tothyo Projukti" by Zafar Iqbal are going to be removed from the book.

Four poems -- "Aj Srishti Shukher Ullashe" by Kazi Nazrul Islam, "Amar Porichoy" by Syed Shamsul Haq, "Swadhinota Ei Shobdoti Kibhabe Amader Holo" by Nirmalendu Goon, and "Shahoshi Jononi Amar" by Kamal Chowdhury -- will also be taken out of the same book.

A novel titled "1971" by Humayun Ahmed is likely to be added, while "Kaak Tarua" by Selina Hossain will be removed from Bangla textbook of classes

nine and 10.

About dropping contents by various writers, NCTB chair Reazul said, "It might seem that contents by many writers were removed, but alternative contents on the same themes have been added.

"For example, while some writings on the Liberation War by Selina Hossain and Zafar Iqbal were removed, other contents on the same topic were included."

Officials of the NCTB and other experts involved in the changes in the textbooks said the authorities concerned took up a policy, in which they decided not to keep any exaggerated information without historical evidence in the textbooks.

"Another policy is that no incident or person will get any undue preference and no incident or person will get less importance," said one of the experts, seeking anonymity.

He also said Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was not mentioned as "the father of the nation," in the primary and secondary textbooks.

Reazul said, "The terminology 'father of the nation' was imposed and is not relevant anymore. We should move to the terminology 'founding fathers'. If we say someone is the father of the nation, it becomes a singular narrative of one leader."

Speaking to The Daily Star, writer Rakhal Raha, who was also involved in the process of changing the textbook contents, said they did not wipe out Bangabandhu from the textbooks.

For example, a text on Sheikh Mujib's March 7 speech is still included in a class eight textbook. The English version of the speech is also there in a higher secondary level textbook. Another write-up on Sheikh Mujib is also there in a class three textbook.

"We firmly believe that, so far, his [Sheikh Mujibur Rahman] presence in textbooks remains significantly higher compared to other historical leaders or their roles," he said.

NCTB officials added that there are contents on Begum Rokeya and Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani and the poem "Shobar Ami Chhatro" in textbooks of different subjects.

Dhaka

FROM PAGE 12

no policy decision about giving them shelter in Bangladesh, he added.

"We need everyone's cooperation to resist these brokers. Otherwise, they will become a menace. Trespassing will not be allowed under any circumstances," he said, adding that Chief Adviser Dr Yunus had raised the Rohingya repatriation issue at the last UN conference.

"Bangladesh border is completely under the control of BGB and Coast Guard. The locals at the border have no reason to fear," he said acknowledging that violence is still continuing on the other side of the border.

Jahangir also said the illegal drug trade is a long-standing problem in the area. "This area [Teknaf] is infamous for drugs. Mr Bodi was also infamous [for the same reason]. We need everyone's cooperation to fight this problem. Law enforcers cannot solve it alone."

Earlier, the home adviser flew to Teknaf from Dhaka by helicopter. After holding a meeting with BGB officials, he visited some border points in Teknaf and observed the overall situation.