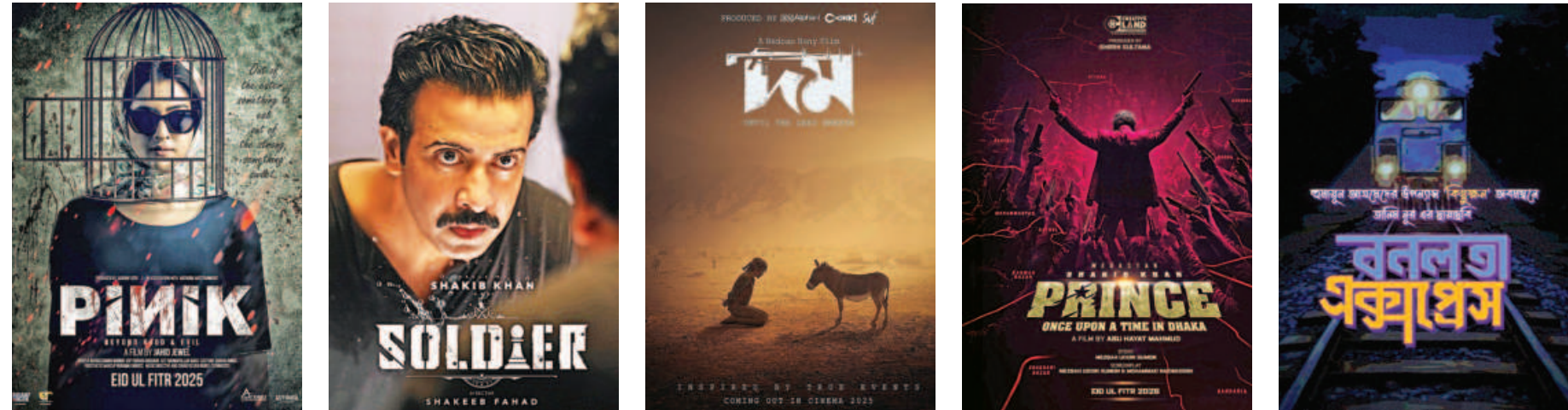




2026 films to look forward to

A new year has begun. In the past year, a total of 46 Dhallywood films were released, with only a handful achieving commercial success. Audience turnout was largely concentrated around Eid releases, while a few other films earned appreciation from viewers and critics alike.

ZAHID AKBAR

Several Dhallywood films are now lined up for release in 2026. Some have already gone into production, a few are nearing completion, while others have wrapped up preparations and are awaiting shooting. Here is a look at twelve Dhallywood films expected to hit theatres in the new year.

Soldier

Top Dhallywood star Shakib Khan will be seen in Soldier, directed by Shakeeb Fahad. The film also stars Tariq Anam Khan, Tauquir Ahmed, Tanjin Tisha and Jannatul Ferdous Oishee, among others. Built around themes of patriotism, action and human emotion, the film is currently in the final stages of shooting.

Prince

Another Shakib Khan starrer, Prince, is yet to begin shooting. Tasnia Farin has been finalised as the female lead, while Indian actress Jyotirmoyee Kundu will also appear in the film. Directed by Abu Hayat Mahmud and produced by Shirin Sultana under the banner of Creative Land Films, the action-driven film is expected to be released on Eid-ul-Fitr.

Dommm

Directed by Redoan Rony, Dommm is slated for release on Eid-ul-Azha. The film stars Afran Nisho, Puja Chery and Chanchal Chowdhury. Parts



of the film have already been shot in Kazakhstan, with the remaining portions currently being filmed in Bangladesh. It is being produced by SVF Alpha-i Entertainment.

Bonolota Express

Tanim Noor's Bonolota Express is scheduled for an Eid-ul-Fitr release. The cast includes Chanchal Chowdhury, Mosharrar Karim, Sabila Nur, Sariful Razz and Azmeri Haque Badhan, among others.

Malik

Arifin Shuvoo headlines Malik, directed by Saif Chandan, with Bidya Sinha Mim starring opposite him. The pair previously worked together in Taarkata and Shapludu. The film

is being made with an Eid-ul-Fitr release in mind.

Rakkhosh

Siam Ahmed stars in Rakkhosh, directed by Mehedi Hasan Hridoy, opposite Indian actress Susmita Chatterjee. The film's first-look poster has already been released, and shooting is currently underway. Produced by Shehrin Akter Sumi, the film is expected to be released on one of this year's Eids.

Roid

Mejbaur Rahman Sumon's Roid released its trailer on December 16 last year. The film will have its international premiere at the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) in February, before being released in local theatres. The cast includes Nazifa Tushi, Mostafizur Noor Imran, Gazi Rakayet and Ashabul Yamin Riyadh.

Bonolota Sen

Directed by Masud Hasan Ujjal, Bonolota Sen is slated for release on Eid-ul-Fitr. Masuma Rahman Nabila plays the titular role, while Khairul Basar portrays poet Jibanananda Das. The government-grant film also stars Shohel Mondol, Naziba Basher, Priyontee Urbee, Ruponty Akid and Sharif Siraj, among others.

Pinik

Pinik marks the third collaboration between Shobnom Bubly and Ador

Azad. Directed by Zahid Jewel, the film also features Ali Raj, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Jayita Mahalanobish, Azad Abul Kalam, Momena Chowdhury, Masum Bashar, Samu Chowdhury, Sharif Siraj, AK Azad Setu, Nazneen Shabnam and Nafis Ahmed Bindu. It is being produced by Euro Bangla Entertainment, with Shimul Khan as co-producer.

Tribunal

Directed by Raihan Khan, Tribunal is inspired by a widely discussed incident from 2011, when a woman was killed after being set on fire with kerosene in Chattogram. The cast includes Mousumi Hamid, Tania Brishty, Ador Azad, Nusraat Faria, Tariq Anam Khan, Saira Akhter Jahan, Rakib Hossain Evon, Shahed Ali, Ashok Bepari, Saberi Alam and Upoma, among others.

Rong Bazar

Rashid Palash's Rong Bazar stars Peya Janatul, Mousumi Hamid and Tanzika Amin. The film is expected to be released on Eid-ul-Fitr.

Biday

Biday, starring Bapparaj and Prarthana Fardin Dighi, is directed by Mehedi Hasan Hridoy. The film has completed shooting and is set for release later this year.

With a mix of commercial ventures, festival-bound projects and socially driven narratives, 2026 is shaping up to be a busy year for Dhallywood.

Fahmida Nabi's new songs bring back the '90s

At a time when many established artistes are largely focused on live concerts, veteran singer Fahmida Nabi continues to release new music. The singer has recently recorded three new songs that draw inspiration from the melodic sensibilities of the 1990s.

The new tracks are titled Dukher Dalil, Tai Kori and Ashlo Na Brishti. All three songs are written by Golam Morshed and composed by Shams Sumon. Shooting for the music videos of the songs is currently underway.

The songs are being produced under the banner of Gaan Janala, and will be released gradually in the near future.

In addition to these upcoming tracks, another new song sung by Fahmida Nabi, Brishti Tumi Jhorchhile Sedin, was recently released on Spriha Multimedia's YouTube channel.

Apurba's 'political' claims are from fake accounts

The spread of misleading information using celebrities' photos or videos is nothing new. In August last year, actor Ziaul Faruq Apurba became a victim of such misinformation. The same incident has occurred again. Apurba has claimed that controversial political statements are being circulated using his image, stating that these statements are baseless and entirely false.

Over the past few days, several Facebook accounts and pages claiming to be news portals have been sharing controversial political remarks using Apurba's name and photograph. The matter did not escape the actor's attention.

On Friday afternoon, Apurba shared screenshots of the fake photo cards on his own Facebook page. Apurba has categorically stated that these remarks do not reflect his views. Urging people to refrain from publishing such false news and misleading statements, he wrote in the caption of his post, "Please refrain from spreading such fake news and statements. Otherwise, legal action will be taken."

NEWS

Habiganj

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as to why he made his controversial comments.

It also instructed him to refrain from organisational activities, stating that his comments were inconsistent with the values of the Students Against Discrimination (SAD) and had tarnished the organisation's image.

A video that went viral on social media Friday afternoon shows Mahdi saying, "We burnt down Baniachong Police Station; we set SI Santosh on fire."

During the 2024 mass uprising, Baniachong Police Station was torched, and Sub-Inspector Santosh Chowdhury was killed by a mob on August 5, the day Sheikh Hasina's authoritarian government collapsed.

In the video, Mahdi is also heard threatening OC Abul Kalam: "If you have become an agitator, what happened? We are so many boys here, and we formed the government through the July movement. You are our administration now. You've arrested our people."

The confrontation followed the arrest of Enamul Hasan Nayan, vice president of the Shayestaganj Sadar Union Chhatra League, who was detained Thursday night for alleged involvement with the banned organisation.

On Friday afternoon, SAD members gathered outside Shayestaganj Police Station demanding his release. District leaders, including Mahdi, entered the OC's office, escalating tensions.

Additional Superintendent of Police Shahidul Islam intervened around 3:00pm, and Nayan was released from custody around 3:30pm.

Despite repeated attempts, Mahdi did not respond to calls or texts from The Daily Star. Later, speaking to a local journalist, he defended his actions, claiming Nayan's arrest was politically motivated. He admitted his remarks about burning the police station were inappropriate, calling them a "slip of the tongue".

Mahdi confirmed he had received the show-cause notice and was preparing his response.

Meanwhile, OC Abul Kalam said, "We arrested Nayan as a suspect with alleged ties to the Chhatra League. The country saw what happened after the arrest, and the video was circulated widely. We are not involved in any wrongdoing."

The Habiganj Superintendent of Police could not be reached for comment despite repeated calls.

161 languish in jail

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lengthy incarceration of the accused -- whether under trial or investigation -- reflects a deep structural crisis, involving not only legal flaws but also human suffering, social humiliation, and financial ruin."

"Though the fundamental right to justice is guaranteed by articles 31 and 33 of the constitution, many individuals lose invaluable years of their lives before they can prove their innocence.

"Even if the court later declares that they were imprisoned wrongfully, the existing laws lack any specific provision for compensation or remedy, making this human and legal crisis even more severe," she added.

Mohammad Shishir Manir, a criminal law expert, said, "Many people are acquitted by the apex court after they spend years in custody. But there is no law to compensate them. Such laws exist in many countries. It is high time to enact one."

On February 25-26 in 2009, a mutiny broke out at the BDR headquarters in Dhaka's Pilkhana. A total of 74 people, including 57 army officers, were brutally killed in one of the darkest chapters in the country's history.

A couple of days later, police filed a case with Lalbagh Police Station on various charges including murder and use of explosives. The case was transferred to New Market Police Station on April 6 that year and then split into two cases -- one for murder and the other for use of explosives.

On November 5, 2013, a Dhaka court sentenced 150 BDR members and two civilians to death and jailed 160 others in the murder case. Another 256 people, mostly BDR soldiers, were awarded varying jail terms and 278 were acquitted.

Disposing of an appeal by the prosecution, the HC in November 2017 reduced the number of individuals sentenced to death to 139, awarded life imprisonment to 185, and sentenced 228 others to various prison terms ranging from one to 13 years. It also acquitted 283 people and exempted 15 others from the case.

The explosives case, however, has

not seen much progress over nearly 17 years.

In July 2010, police submitted the charge sheet in the explosives case to a Dhaka court against 808 people, mostly BDR members. Later, another 26 were included in the charge sheet.

Defence lawyers said that though trial proceedings in both cases started in August 2011, the explosives case was put on hold so that the murder case could proceed uninterrupted. The proceedings of the explosives case resumed after a Dhaka court pronounced verdict in the murder case in November 2013.

Between January 19 and November 20 last year, 316 ex-BDR members, accused in the explosives case, were released from jail after securing bail from Dhaka Metropolitan Special Tribunal 2.

Of them, 259 had earlier been acquitted by the HC in the murder case, and 57 already served jail terms ranging from one to 10 years, according to court staffers.

Aminul Islam, one of the defence lawyers, said the explosives case was used as a strategy to keep behind bars the accused who were acquitted or already served their jail terms. There was no specific evidence that they possessed explosives.

"The murder case is the main case. Yet, the trial court did not grant bail to these accused in the explosives case, citing the gravity of the offence..." he added.

Another defence lawyer, Tasmiah Nuhiya Ahmed said the trial proceedings in the explosives case are going on slowly.

"At least 989 out of 1,287 prosecution witnesses have yet to testify before the tribunal. It is uncertain when the proceedings will conclude," she added.

When contacted, Special Public Prosecutor Md Borhan Uddin said, "I hope those who are still in jail will get bail from the court soon."

Responding to a query, he said the recording of statements of prosecution witnesses will be completed soon. "The trial proceedings could be wrapped up within a short time."

Cops examining

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could not be reached.

Hadi was shot in the Paltan area on December 12 while campaigning for the upcoming national election. He died on December 18 while undergoing treatment in Singapore.

On December 14, Jaber filed an attempted murder case with Paltan Model Police Station against Faisal and several unnamed individuals, which later turned into a murder case.

According to DB sources, following the shooting of Hadi, law enforcement authorities conducted drives in various areas and arrested 11 individuals, including Faisal's parents, wife and a female friend. The arms used in the attack were also recovered. Among the arrestees, six have given confessional statements under section 164 of the CrPC, while the court recorded statements of four witnesses.

IS-linked fighters kill 14 in DR Congo attack

AFP, Beni

A militia linked to the Islamic State group staged a simultaneous attack on three villages in the Democratic Republic of Congo, killing at least 14 people, the military and local sources said Friday.

The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) carried out the attacks overnight within a seven-kilometre radius (4.3 miles) in the northwest of North Kivu province.

The three villages were attacked simultaneously in an "ADF incursion," said local leader Macaire Sivikunula.

Villagers panicked as gunfire rang out between 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, he said, adding that 15 people were killed and 13 houses burned.

Residents who spoke with AFP confirmed the deadly attack.

The Congolese army said two of its soldiers were killed.

"There was an incursion by ADF terrorists in the Bapera sector... the death toll is 14, including 12 civilians and two soldiers," Lieutenant Marc Elongo, the army spokesperson in the region, told AFP.

Trader dies days after being hacked, set on fire

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Locals rescued him and took him to Shariatpur Sadar Hospital. Later that night, he was transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and subsequently admitted to the burn institute.

His relative Pranto Das said Khokon suffered burns on about 30 percent of his body and had been under treatment at the institute since Thursday night. "His condition worsened early today [Saturday]. He died in the ICU around 7:30am."

After the autopsy was completed in the afternoon, family members took the body back to their village and performed the final rites last night.

Before his death, Khokon named two attackers: Sohag Khan, 27, and Rabbi Mollah, 21. Police later

identified a third suspect, Palash Sardar, 25.

A case was filed late Thursday night with Damudya Police Station by Khokon's father, Paresh Chandra Das, naming the three men as accused.

The incident sparked outrage among traders and residents of Tiloi village, who demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the accused.

Family members vented frustration about police failing to arrest any suspects in the two days since the incident, despite Khokon identifying the attackers before his death.

Police suspect the attack was motivated by the large sum of cash Khokon was carrying from his business.

Damudya Police Station Officer-in-Charge Robiul Haque said they are trying to arrest the accused.

Salahuddin's asset grew by 6.5 times to Tk 18cr since 2008

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Salahuddin is contesting this time.

In 2008, Salahuddin earned less than Tk 3 lakh annually, which has now soared by 221 times to Tk 6.2 crore. The primary source of this was capital gains from sale of land.

His land properties have also increased by one and a half times, from 16.68 acres in 2008 to 24.36 acres in 2025. During the same period, the land properties of his wife tripled to 9.43 acres.

In 2008, Salahuddin owned 30 plots of land, which nearly doubled to 55 plots in 2025. Fifty-two of these plots are in Cox's Bazaar, mostly in Pekua upazila. In 2008, the BNP leader had 10 plots of land in the upazila.

Between 2008 and 2026, Salahuddin purchased a 4,019 square feet flat in Gulshan 2. His under-construction home in Pekua was valued at Tk 50,00,000 in 2008. It is now a 3-storey building valued at Tk 2.84 crore.

With the couple intensifying real estate acquisitions, Hasina's income from rent grew from Tk 8.4 lakh annually in 2008 to Tk 52.05 lakh last year.

Back in 2008, Salahuddin had less than Tk 1 lakh in bank and Tk 22 lakh in cash, while Hasina had less than Tk 5,000 in bank and held Tk 40.6 lakh in cash.

According to their affidavits, Salahuddin's liquid money rose to Tk 1.75 crore and that of his wife dipped slightly to Tk 32.3 lakh.

Salahuddin now gets an allowance from his position as a director of a company, Pekua Livestock and Fisheries Farm, amounting to Tk 26.4 lakh per year.

Salahuddin has three firearms as before -- one pistol, one rifle and one shotgun -- valued at Tk 1.3 lakh.

There is also a large amount of internal lending -- Salahuddin lent Tk 3.33 crore to his wife, Tk 60 lakh to his son Sayeed Ibrahim Ahmed, and borrowed Tk 2.6 crore from his brother Giasuddin Ahmed.

The couple's son, Sayeed Ibrahim, borrowed Tk 16.77 crore from a company named Southern Sea Coast Asset Management Ltd. This company had taken out a Tk 30 crore loan from First Security Islami Bank PLC, which was paid by Salahuddin in full.