

# 2026 brings a new beginning for RESOLUTE STARS

This year is anticipated as an important one for the Bangladeshi cultural scene, as it is filled with a renewed sense of hope and energy. After navigating a year of change, uncertainty, and creative breakthroughs, artistes from film, television, music, and theatre are hoping for a change, more resilience, and greater respect for art and culture. From seasoned names to new voices, there is a shared desire to grow, connect and create with purpose—hinting at a more confident, collaborative and inspired chapter ahead for the industry.

SHARMIN JOYA

Veteran actor Zahid Hasan hopes to remain healthy and safe this year, as he wishes for everyone else. "Like everyone else, my first wish is that we all stay healthy," he said, adding that he wants people across the country to live safely. Referring to violence, arson and unrest, he noted, "So many things are being burned and destroyed, my prayer and wish is that I don't want this imbalance. I want peace for everyone."

He also expressed a desire for religious freedom and collective wellbeing. "May everyone practise their faith freely, live independently, stay healthy and be happy."

For the audience, renowned filmmaker Shihab Shaheen has several announcements looking ahead this year. "A new series is slated for Eid, which we will announce shortly, while I can assure that the second season for *Golam Mamun* and the third season for *Myself Allen Swapan* are in the pipeline for this year. My next film's announcement will also arrive by the end of this year."

On a wider scale, Shihab expressed hope for the industry. "We have gone through a difficult phase; however, I believe that after the election, better days will return." He remains optimistic that despondency will fade, a culture-friendly environment will prevail, and creative work will continue smoothly in the year ahead.

Actress Sadia Ayman calls 2025 a turning point, with web projects and brand work ahead. "I'm lucky to be part of a special web



Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed



Pritom Hasan



Tasnia Farin



Raihan Rafi



Sadia Ayman



Shihab Shaheen



Zahid Hasan

project with so many great artistes including some legends," she said. Looking to 2026, she plans "meaningful choices," prioritising health, balance, family and quality over haste.

"I want to maintain my confidence in fitness and health, make deliberate work decisions, and ensure my family and pets stay well," she explained.

Young and multitalented artiste Pritom Hasan did not just win hearts, but kept the entire 2025 buzzing with his masterful creations. "I would call 2025 my year! A year I consider so far, the best of my life career-wise."

He revealed plans for April this year, marking his official ten-year milestone in the Bangladeshi music industry—and expressed hope for a major shift in his work. This year, he will be seen sharing the screens with Xeler

Rahman in one of Shihab Shaheen's web projects, and he also assured that, "I hope to collaborate with Shakib *bhai* again; talks are underway."

With film, song and announcing her own production house, Tasnia Farin had an eventful 2025, which she wants to focus more on settling down this year. "Entering into a new role in my career, I realise that acting is quite uni-focused, while producing comes with so many responsibilities, from pre- and post-production to marketing and reaching audiences. The pressure is completely new for me, but seeing even a small production succeed gives me immense confidence for bigger plans."

Music will remain a key focus, and she hopes to produce quality content for OTT

platforms, bringing exciting stories to life. "But no matter what role I take, I want to contribute meaningfully, whether through acting or producing."

Farin is particularly excited about her first collaboration with Shakib Khan on the big screen. "Working with Shakib *bhai* for Eid is both nerve-wracking and thrilling. His films have a unique connection with audiences, and I'm hoping to experience that energy firsthand," she said, expressing anticipation for a year of creative growth, new challenges, and meaningful contributions to the industry.

As an artiste, Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed has always spoken and stood for the art, philosophy of life and peace. Nawshaba spoke about life, art, and responsibility with heartfelt clarity, sharing how she sees her journey and the year

ahead.

"Whatever I do—whether it's theatre, film, OTT projects, or my own creations—I express what I genuinely believe in. Even in personal life, I try to act consciously, holding on to my principles without seeking validation. I don't feel the need to explain myself; I just let my work speak," she said. For her, art is not just entertainment—it is a means to heal, inspire, and reflect culture.

Looking forward, she wants to use her work to make a real difference. "I want to reach people who feel frustrated or isolated, bring them into creative spaces, and help them understand themselves. It's not about pointing fingers; it's about awareness and change," she said. Her vision includes nationwide initiatives and even international projects, with dreams of creating theatre on a Broadway scale.

Nawshaba aims to continue expressing her beliefs through art, building consciousness and empathy step by step. "I will keep holding on to what I believe in, whether on stage, on screen, or in my own life. Change doesn't happen overnight, but gradually, we can make a difference—for ourselves, our society, and beyond," she said, highlighting a journey of integrity, purpose, and transformative creativity.

Filmmaker Raihan Rafi already begun work on a new film, a long-cherished dream project for the big screen. While the project has not yet been officially announced, he confirmed that a formal announcement will come early in the new year. "It's something I've wanted to do for a long time, and I'm finally doing it," he added. "I believe that I've been successful in gradually building a diverse audience that regularly comes to theatres. Now I want to offer them something different—films I've always wanted to make but held back for commercial reasons," he said.

The new year will also mark a milestone in his career with the release of his first film as a producer under his own banner, Kanon Films, named after his mother. "This is a new identity for me," he said, noting plans to produce films by new directors in the future.

## NEWS

### A section of civil service is biased

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central publicity department.

The council said a "new Bangladesh" was achieved through the sacrifice of 1,500 martyrs and injuries to more than 30,000 protesters after 16 years of struggle against fascism, adding that it must not be allowed to "fall hostage to any conspiracy, plot, or group".

The party demanded strict measures to ensure 100 percent neutrality of the administration and urged the Election Commission and law enforcement agencies to carry out their responsibilities without partisan bias.

Meanwhile, addressing a rally in front of the Raju Memorial Sculpture, Nasiruddin alleged that the civil administration had begun "leaning towards a specific party, the BNP," mirroring the partisan practices of the previous regime.

"When Tarique Rahman arrived in Bangladesh, we welcomed him. But we saw government officials leaving their offices to greet him by the roadside," he said.

"We witnessed such activities during the Sheikh Hasina regime, and we do not want to see them in the current Bangladesh," Nasiruddin, a

prospective parliamentary candidate for Dhaka-8, spoke after visiting the grave of Sharif Osman Bin Hadi, the slain leader of Inqilab Moncho, beside the university's central mosque. He expressed frustration that the killers of Hadi, who was gunned down last month in Dhaka, have yet to be traced.

Outlining his election plans, Nasiruddin said he would contest under the II-party alliance Azadi Jote, using the NCP's Shapla Koli (water lily bud) symbol.

He declared the Dhaka-8 constituency, comprising Ramna, Shahbagh, Motijheel, and Shahjahanpur, as well as the rest of the country, as "Azad Zones" (Free Zones).

Calling on people to resist extortion and corruption, he urged citizens to protect future generations. "If any individual or party attempts extortion or illegal occupation in these zones, arrest them raising the 'Azadi' slogan and hand them over to the administration," he said.

He also warned authorities against siding with extortionists and terrorists, vowing to carry the movement for economic, political, and cultural freedom, born at Dhaka University, into parliament.

### 'We need Greenland'

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Of Iran, which is being roiled by protests, Trump said, "If they start killing people like they have in the past, I think they're going to get hit very hard by the United States."

Trump suggested that military intervention was unnecessary in Cuba, a key ally of Venezuela, because it was "ready to fall."

"I don't think we need any action," Trump said. "It looks like it's going down."

"I don't know if they're going to hold out, but Cuba now has no income," he added. "They got all their income from Venezuela, from the Venezuelan oil."

Secretary of State Marco Rubio had suggested earlier in the day that Cuba could face US military action.

### Rab complicit in 25% cases

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recommended withdrawing the armed forces from internal law enforcement agencies, enforcing strict legal accountability for all security forces, and repealing or fundamentally amending the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009.

The commission chief said Rab was responsible for nearly 25 percent of complaints it received, followed by the police at 23 percent and the Detective Branch at 14.5 percent. Other agencies, including the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit (CTTC), Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), and National Security Intelligence (NSI), were also involved in the crimes.

Justice Moyeenul said enforced disappearances carried out "systematically and institutionally" by these forces reflect coordinated state action rather than isolated incidents.

Other measures recommended by the commission include adopting community-based preventive counterterrorism policies, repealing Section 13 of the Armed Police

Battalion Act of 2003, making human rights training mandatory for forces, ensuring victim-centered justice, compensation, and rehabilitation, and converting the 'Aynaghar' (detention) sites into museums as symbols of truth and accountability.

The commission also recommended creating a comprehensive DNA database, following international standards, to identify missing victims, who were mostly political figures, he said.

The inquiry reviewed 1,913 complaints and verified 1,569 as cases of enforced disappearance, including 287 considered "missing and dead." It estimates that 4,000 to 6,000 such cases occurred between 2009 and 2024.

The commission emphasised that armed forces officers should be withdrawn from law enforcement and civilian intelligence agencies.

"The police are responsible for maintaining law and order. The army's job is to train and prepare for war and develop combat strategies. They [army officers] should be withdrawn," he said.

He added that a specialised elite force could instead be formed from skilled police officers.

"Every intelligence agency in the country needs reform. Our intelligence agencies have meddled in internal politics because they want a share of power," the commission chief said.

He added, "Previous governments have all misused them. But the last government did so to a much greater extent. This trend must end."

Justice Moyeenul said 40 detention centers, including 22 to 23 operated by Rab, have been identified. He, however, alleged that the elite force destroyed much of the evidence.

The commission chief also said no enforced disappearance victims were found among Bangladeshis detained in Indian prisons or those pushed back by India after August 5, 2024, except for one case.

Members of the commission, including Justice Md Farid Ahmed Shibli, Nur Khan Liton, Nabila Idris, and Sazzad Hussain, were present at the press briefing.

### 2 shipbreaking workers found dead in Sitakunda

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However, Taslim Uddin, owner of KR Ship Recycling Yard, said, "A new ship was brought to the yard for scrapping on Sunday. A group of robbers attempted to enter the yard by boat at night to loot the ship's parts."

"When the workers on another boat tried to resist, the robbers attacked them with sharp weapons, forcing the workers to jump into the water. One worker was dismembered after being struck by the robbers' boat propeller, while another worker also died in the incident."

Tapan Dutta, convener of the Shipbreaking Workers Trade Union Forum, said the workers died while ship beaching was underway at night.

He said the incident was the result of negligence and demanded action against those responsible, as well as compensation for the families of the deceased.

Contacted, Abdullah Al Mahmud, superintendent of police in Chattogram (Industrial Police), said the bodies were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy. "The exact cause of the incident can be determined only after an investigation."

After being informed, a team from the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) visited the yard and formed a probe body.

Shahid Parvez, an inspector of the DIFE's Chattogram office, said, "We've already spoken to

the two other workers who were injured in the same incident. We're working to find out the cause of the deaths."

According to the annual report of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, 48 accidents occurred in Sitakunda's shipbreaking yards in 2025, resulting in the injuries of 58 workers. Among them, four lost their lives. Nearly 63 percent of the accidents were classified as serious, with severe consequences such as amputations; fractures; head, eye, or chest injuries; burns from fire or explosions; and permanent disabilities.

The report states that of last year's accidents, 30 were serious, 14 were minor, and multiple workers were injured in four.

### Widow alleges rape, torture

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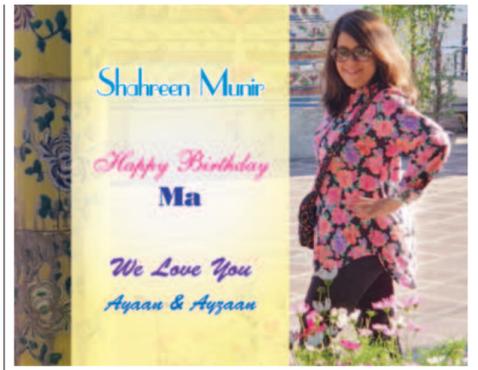
the phone, the victim said Shahinur had repeatedly made advances on her since she purchased the house.

He also demanded money from her at various times, she alleged.

"On that evening, two of my relatives came to my house. At that time, Shahinur and Hasan forcibly entered my house and claimed that I had an immoral relationship with my relatives," said the woman.

"They confined my relatives in one room, took me to another room and raped me," she added.

"Later, they dragged me along with my relatives out of the house. They tied us to a tree, beat us and cut my hair."



### Justice for Hadi within interim govt tenure

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Council Committee on Law and Order at the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Secretariat.

The government is treating the case with the highest priority, he said, adding that the charge sheet will be submitted on January 7. So far, 11 people have been arrested in connection with the killing.

Law enforcement agencies have also been instructed to take appropriate and effective measures to prevent similar incidents in the future, he added.

Jahangir Alam urged political parties to remain vigilant so that agents of "fascists" or saboteurs cannot infiltrate their ranks. He also cautioned against blaming one another, warning that such actions could create opportunities for saboteurs to exploit the situation.

Hadi, spokesperson for Inqilab Moncho and an aspiring candidate for Dhaka-8, was shot in the capital's Paltan area on December 12 and died on December 18 while undergoing treatment in Singapore.

On December 14, Inqilab

Moncho Member Secretary Abdullah Al Jaber filed an attempted murder case with Paltan Model Police Station against Faisal Karim Masud as the prime accused, along with several unnamed individuals. The case was later converted into a murder case and subsequently transferred to the Detective Branch.

On Friday, Shafiqul Islam, DB chief of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told this newspaper that the investigation was at its final stage. Asked about the number of accused to be named in the charge sheet, he declined to give a specific figure but indicated it could range between eight and 12.

Of the 11 arrestees, six have given confessional statements under Section 164 of the CrPC, while the court has recorded statements from four witnesses.

Following Hadi's killing, Inqilab Moncho has been staging demonstrations demanding justice. The platform has also launched a "March for Insaaf (justice)" campaign to mobilise public opinion, which will continue at various locations until January 6.