

Shakib Khan



Afran Nisho



Sariful Razz



Siam Ahmed

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

2027 to be a big year for DHALLYWOOD'S LEADING MEN

ZAHID AKBAR

Dhallywood is gearing up for an eventful 2027, with several big-budget films already announced for release, particularly around the Eid holidays.

A number of leading male stars are set to headline these films. While two projects are reportedly in the final stages of production, release schedules for the others may change depending on filming, censor clearance, cinema hall availability and Eid release plans.

Here is a look at the leading actors and their upcoming films to watch in 2027.

Shakib Khan

Dhallywood's leading star Shakib Khan is expected to return to the big screen with ***Nissho***, which is being planned for release during Eid-ul-Fitr 2027. The film's title may change. Directed by Mehedi Hassan Hridoy, the project reunites the actor and director following ***Borbaad***.

The upcoming film is being planned as an action-romance drama centred on revenge. Kolkata actress Idhika Paul will star opposite Shakib Khan.

The actor is also set to feature in ***Mohabbat***, announced by director Himel Ashraf. Produced by Arshad Adnan, the film is scheduled for release during Eid-ul-Azha next year. With two major projects in the pipeline, Shakib is set to remain one of the most prominent faces of Dhallywood in 2027.

Afran Nisho

Following his appearances in ***Surongo***, ***Daagi*** and ***Domm***, Afran Nisho is preparing for his fourth film, ***Khalnayak***. Directed by Vicky Zahed, the film is expected to be released during Eid-ul-Fitr 2027.

Tama Mirza will play the female lead, while Mehazabien Chowdhury will appear in a guest role. The cast also includes Shahiduzzaman Selim, Chanchal Chowdhury, Intekhab Dinar and Kolkata actress Priyanka Sarkar.

With an ensemble cast and a planned Eid release, ***Khalnayak*** is among the films generating anticipation for the coming year.

Sariful Razz

Sariful Razz is set to appear in ***Kanabhula Paradox*** along with Sabila Nur. The film is produced by Tanim Noor. It will mark the directorial debuts of Ayman Asib Shadhin and Susmoy Sarker.

Razz is also expected to star in another film, ***Premik***, although further details about its production and release schedule are yet to be confirmed. The films will offer audiences a chance to see him take on new roles and explore different stories.

Siam Ahmed

Siam Ahmed is set to return to the big screen with ***Andhar***, directed by Raihan Rafi. The film is reportedly scheduled for release in March 26, 2027, coinciding with Bangladesh's Independence Day.

The cast includes Siam Ahmed, Chanchal Chowdhury and Nazifa Tushi. The film's planned release date places it among the notable projects to look forward to next year.

Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha are expected to remain important periods for major releases, while other films will seek to draw audiences throughout the year.

Beyond the star power, the success of these projects will depend on their stories, direction and ability to connect with audiences. Their release schedules and the availability of cinema halls will also shape how the year unfolds.

Iranian filmmaker **JAFAR PANAHI** imprisoned for five years



Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi has been sentenced to five years and one month in prison by a Tehran Revolutionary Court in a separate verdict.

His lawyer, Mostafa Nili, told Emtedad News Agency that the ruling was issued in Panahi's absence. The filmmaker's bank accounts were frozen last week, leading his legal team to approach the prosecutor's office.

Panahi, who already faces a one-year prison sentence, has also been banned from travelling abroad and using social media for two years. The court has ordered the seizure of his assets.

Known for films such as ***The Circle***, ***Taxi*** and ***No Bears***, Panahi has repeatedly faced restrictions from Iranian authorities. He returned to Iran after promoting his latest film internationally.

Hiron Kiran Theatre to stage 'A Father's Sky' in Nepal



Bangladeshi theatre troupe Hiron Kiran Theatre will stage ***A Father's Sky***, written and directed by Jahangir Alam Dhali, at the sixth Lalabala Kathmandu International Children's Theatre Festival in Nepal from November 2 to 6. The festival will be held at Imperial World School in Kathmandu. The troupe will leave Bangladesh on November 1.

Themed "Celebrating Autumn with 13 Countries", the festival aims to promote children's theatre and cultural exchange. ***A Father's Sky*** explores love, self-respect, personal aspirations and the bond between a father and daughter.

This will be the troupe's seventh visit to Nepal. It has performed at festivals in around 10 Indian states and Sri Lanka.

EVENTS

'The River Script'



In this solo exhibition, Rashid Khan reads Bangladesh's rivers as living archives of landscape, culture, history and change. Bringing painting into dialogue with the written word, ***The River Script*** traces the histories and human experiences carried along the riverbanks of the world's great delta.

Date: Thursday–Sunday | November 5–15, 2026
Time: 3 pm- 8 pm
Venue: Dhaka Gallery, H-44, Road 12, Block E, Banani

NEWS

LPG selling above

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percent to Tk 80 from Tk 50 per cylinder and the retail charge by 55.6 percent to Tk 70 from Tk 45.

Importers and distributors argued that the proposed rates would not adequately cover their expenses or ensure sustainable operations.

Distributors demanded a commission of Tk 150 per cylinder.

Importers also said the committee's calculations of loan interest costs and expected returns on equity did not adequately reflect their financing costs and required returns.

"We want to ensure that no distributor or retailer charges more than the fixed regulated rate in future. But the rate should be logical. Without a distribution charge of Tk 150 per cylinder, it would not be possible for them to run a decent business," said Abu Sayed Raza, chief marketing officer of Fresh LP Gas, a concern of Meghna Group of Industries.

Their demands for higher charges came despite audit reports submitted to the evaluation committee showing that most companies were profitable.

Multiple representatives from the consumer end asked about the issue, but got no response from the commission and the businesses.

Raza rejected allegations that the current shortage had been artificially created, saying companies were struggling to secure imported cargoes.

Companies had been providing the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission with daily information on sales and stocks and supplying security agencies with details of their imports, cargo sources and prices since the shortage began, he said.

Syed Mizanur Rahman, a representative from Bangladesh Economic Association, questioned the justification for raising LPG business margins without first investigating allegations of artificial shortages, hoarding and overcharging.

The LP Gas Business Cooperative Society had lodged a complaint with the BERC on September 21 alleging that some companies sold LPG to distributors above the regulator-fixed prices, prompting distributors and retailers to charge consumers more than the prescribed rates.

Rahman questioned whether the BERC had taken any action against the companies named in the complaint. He also said that consumers had paid around Tk 630 crore above the BERC-fixed prices in a single month.

In contrast, the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection conducted raids only on retailers and collected only Tk 11 lakh in fines for overcharging, he said.

"By remaining inactive, BERC has effectively legitimised this unlawful business practice. Should the commission not also be held accountable?"

He went on to demand an investigation into the allegations and action against those responsible.

BERC Chairman Jalal Ahmed said the commission would examine the complaints and views expressed at the hearing before deciding on the proposed charges. He acknowledged that LPG was not always available at BERC-fixed prices but said the commission had also found instances when the fuel was sold below the prescribed rates.

"When the price was fixed at Tk 1,940 per 12kg cylinder, companies like Meghna and Omera lodged complaints that some were selling below the rate, which barred competition."

BERC is developing a system to monitor daily sales, stocks and imports, while working with the Bangladesh Bank to track letters of credit opened for upcoming months.

Changes in sourcing patterns and other variables, including exchange rates, need to be considered when assessing the proposed charges. Such variables change over time and are not entirely within the commission's control, he added.

BERC will receive written statements from stakeholders until Sunday before deciding on the matter and announcing the monthly LPG price.

Over 45% women

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TFGBV, while 57.4 percent had faced such violence in the previous 12 months.

Harassment and gender-based abuse affected 52.7 percent, economic exploitation and fraud 37.1 percent, sexual and image-based abuse 24.5 percent, and identity misuse or abuse involving fake IDs 17.3 percent.

Young women and students were particularly vulnerable, with 49 percent of respondents aged 15 to 24 reporting TFGBV. Among university-educated women, the rate was even higher, at 76.7 percent.

Although 71 percent of respondents were active internet users, 67 percent had never received formal online safety guidance or training.

Facebook and Messenger emerged as major platforms for abuse, with 39.7 percent reporting violence on Messenger and 36.7 percent on Facebook. Among those who reported the abuse to these platforms, 56 percent said no action was taken.

Only 4.6 percent of survivors reported the abuse to police, of whom 81.8 percent said their cases had made little or no progress.

Following the abuse, 21.1 percent reduced their social media use out of fear, 20.7 percent cut back on online participation, and 4.6 percent had to change their place of study, job or residence.

Sayema Chowdhury, an independent consultant and member of the research team, described the problem as structural.

"The forms of cyber violence are changing as fast as technology is advancing," she said, adding that online abuse often spills into women's offline lives.

Liza Sharmin, additional deputy commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Women Support and Investigation Division, said police faced challenges in identifying offenders behind fake accounts, preserving digital evidence and accessing forensic facilities.

"When a mobile phone is sent to a digital forensic lab, it takes at least three months," she said, calling for specialised training and stronger forensic capacity outside the capital.

Miraj Ahmed Chowdhury, founder and managing director of Digitally Right Limited, said technology had expanded opportunities for women but also increased the risks, sometimes prompting women in public-facing roles to censor themselves or withdraw from online spaces.

Fowzul Azim, a legal analyst, researcher and retired senior district judge, called for greater accountability among digital platforms, including Bangla-language terms of service, reporting mechanisms and safety support.

Dr Fowzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said the recommendations should now be presented to relevant stakeholders.

"As long as gender inequality remains, new forms of violence will continue to emerge," she added.

The study recommended reforming the Cyber Security Act 2026, expanding digital forensic capacity beyond Dhaka, adopting trauma-informed and gender-responsive responses, strengthening survivor support, and requiring digital platforms to provide Bangla-language safety tools, simplified reporting mechanisms and procedures for emergency content removal.

Hanif sentenced to death for crimes against humanity

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government fell amid the student-led uprising.

The tribunal also ordered the confiscation of half of each convict's immovable property, with proceeds from the sale to be distributed as compensation to the families of those killed and injured through the July Foundation or another designated statutory body.

The prosecution initially brought three charges, but the tribunal framed five, covering murder, torture, persecution, conspiracy to suppress the movement with lethal force and a common criminal design to attack civilians.

The tribunal also sentenced all four to rigorous life imprisonment under the remaining charges.

"We believe this is a very timely verdict. We welcome it as a mark of respect to the souls of those who were martyred during the July Uprising," Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam told reporters.

"I have nothing more to say, but I find the verdict unexpected and I am disappointed," state-appointed defence lawyer Md Amir Hossain said, declining to elaborate.

Yesterday's judgment was the eighth delivered by ICT-1 and ICT-2 since their reconstitution following the political changeover on August 5, 2024.

The tribunals have so far convicted 72 people, including ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former cabinet ministers, Awami League lawmakers and senior former police officials. Of them, 22 are in custody and the rest remain at large. A total of 23, including Hasina, have been sentenced to death.

The investigation began on March 25, 2025. The prosecution pressed charges on September 11, and the tribunal framed charges on November 2.

The prosecution produced 19 witnesses, including the investigation officer, and submitted 36 series of documents and five material exhibits.

Arguments concluded on October 7, after which the case was kept pending for verdict.

Dhaka to seek Hasina, Kamal's extradition at talks with India

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Hasina has remained in India since fleeing Bangladesh during the mass uprising in August 2024. She and Kamal were sentenced to death in absentia by the International Crimes Tribunal for crimes against humanity.

India proposed November 17-18 for the director-general-level dialogue, and Dhaka agreed, a diplomat said. Bangladesh had initially proposed late October, but India preferred November due to the Durga Puja festivities.

The meeting comes amid a series of bilateral engagements ahead of a possible visit to India by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. The two countries also held trade talks in October.

"At the consular dialogue, Dhaka will seek the extradition of political figures currently taking refuge in India, including Sheikh Hasina, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and the alleged killers of Sharif Osman Bin Hadi," a foreign ministry official said, requesting anonymity.

The talks are also expected to cover border management, alleged push-ins from India, visa services, repatriation of detained nationals, release of fishermen, the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and renewal of the Revised Travel Arrangement, which has been extended every six months since its expiry in 2023.

Repatriation of fishermen is a priority for India. A High Commission official said New Delhi had shared a draft protocol with Dhaka to expedite the process.

Esha Srivastava, joint secretary of India's consular, passport and visa division, and Shah Asif Rahman, director general of the South Asia wing at Bangladesh's foreign ministry, will lead their respective delegations.

Established in 2017, the dialogue covers consular matters, visa procedures and mutual legal assistance. Four rounds have been held so far, most recently in New Delhi in May 2024.

North Korea fires unknown projectile into East Sea: Seoul

AFP, *Seoul*

North Korea fired an unknown projectile off its east coast yesterday, Seoul's defence ministry said, less than a week after South Korea proposed talks over a growing border row.

Japan's defence ministry separately confirmed the launch of what it said "appears to be a ballistic missile".

"The North fired an unidentified projectile into the East Sea," South Korea's military said, referring to the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan.

Yesterday's launch comes against the backdrop of growing tensions over a landmine explosion along the heavily fortified border between the two Koreas that saw three South Korean soldiers wounded.

Spoiler glitch delays

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from one to two, operating every Monday and Thursday.

"The prime minister will return home aboard Biman's newly introduced Thursday flight from Narita," Alam had announced.

Contacted, Biman said the aircraft developed a fault in its № 1 hydraulic spoiler after it began moving towards the runway.

Spoilers are movable panels on an aircraft's wings that help reduce lift and control the aircraft's movement.

Engineers deactivated the affected spoiler so that the prime minister could return on the same aircraft.

Asked why the problem had not been detected during pre-flight inspections, Biman said no defects had been found during the checks.

The fault developed only after the aircraft began taxiing, it said.

Under the US Federal Aviation Administration's published Master Minimum Equipment List for the Boeing 787, an aircraft can depart with one hydraulic spoiler inoperative, subject to specified conditions, including deactivation of the affected spoiler and checks before departure.

Flight BG377, a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, was scheduled to leave Narita at 3:00pm Bangladesh time and arrive at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at 10:35pm.

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office said the aircraft was advancing towards the runway on schedule.

Five minutes later, the captain informed passengers that a technical problem had been detected and engineers were working to resolve it.

About 40 minutes later, the captain made another announcement, saying the aircraft was returning to its previous position while engineers continued working on the problem.

The aircraft was subsequently brought back to the parking apron, and passengers later disembarked.

The prime minister was travelling with his wife, Dr Zubaida Rahman, and other members of his delegation.

Tarique was returning from a four-day official visit to Japan, from October 26 to 29, at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi.

This is not the first time a Biman aircraft carrying a Bangladeshi prime minister has encountered technical problems.

On November 27, 2016, a Biman Boeing 777-300ER carrying then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina to Hungary made an emergency landing in Turkmenistan after an engine oil-pressure problem.

In another incident in April 2023, a Biman Boeing 787 Dreamliner developed a weather radar malfunction while returning to Dhaka after dropping Hasina off in Tokyo. She was not aboard when the fault occurred.