

KUBRA KHAN to tie the knot

Popular Pakistani actress Kubra Khan has announced that she will be tying the knot in February, according to a report by Geo News.

Rumours of Kubra's impending marriage had been circulating for some time. However, the actress remained tight-lipped about the matter. Recently, during an event, she confirmed the news while responding to questions from journalists.

The groom is actor Gohar Rasheed. The duo has shared the screen in several dramas, including *Jannat Se Aage*, which gained significant praise from audiences.

Kubra Khan, whose real name is Rabia Iqbal Khan, made her television debut in 2016. Aside from her work in dramas, she is also a regular face in films.



WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'It's in Our Nature'

Pathshala South Asian Media Institute presents *It's in Our Nature*, a photography exhibition featuring eight stories by students. The exhibition sheds light on the struggles, adaptations, and acceptance required to maintain nature's balance while also exploring societal issues that affect individuals and communities, ultimately shaping collective human experiences.

DATE: SUNDAY | JANUARY 26

TIME: 6PM-9PM

VENUE: DRIKPATH BHOBON, PANTHAPATH



'Boli: The Wrestler' to be screened at Burning Crab Festival



The critically acclaimed Bangladeshi film *Boli: The Wrestler*, directed by Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury, will be screened at the Burning Crab Festival in Cox's Bazar from January 29 to 31. The film, which won the top award at the Busan International Film Festival, has been showcased globally, including in Shanghai, Toronto, Los Angeles, and Dhaka. Representing Bangladesh in the Best International Feature Film category at the 97th Academy Awards, *Boli* highlights Chattogram's wrestling culture and coastal folklore, and features Nasir Uddin Khan alongside a stellar ensemble cast.

The Burning Crab Festival, curated by Japanese artist Jiro Endo, will take place at Mermaid Beach Resort along the Marine Drive under the theme "Take a Break".

Kaavish to headline 'Dhaka Dreams' concert today

The much-anticipated *Dhaka Dreams* concert is set to take place today at Senapranan. The event will feature a lineup of artistes, including Level Five, Ghashphoring Choir, Shunno, and Arnob alongside singer Sunidhi Nayak, and the celebrated Pakistani band Kaavish as the headliner.

Kaavish landed in Dhaka last Wednesday and shared their excitement with fans through their verified Facebook page. They posted a photo taken at the Dhaka airport and captioned it, "See you on January 24."

The organiser, Blue Brick Communications, offered refunds for this rescheduled event, with requests closing on January 23 at 1:30pm.

Initially, a two-day occasion scheduled for January 10 and 11, *Dhaka Dreams* was postponed due to technical issues and has been lessened to a one-day event.



Uma Thurman joins Michael C Hall in 'Dexter: Resurrection'

Hollywood veteran Uma Thurman has joined the cast of *Dexter: Resurrection*, starring Michael C Hall. She will play Charley, head of security for billionaire Leon Prater, and a former Special Operations officer.

Hall reprises his role as Dexter Morgan, the notorious serial killer. Returning cast members include David Zayas as Detective Angel Batista, James Remar as Harry Morgan, and Jack Alcott as Harrison Morgan. *Dexter: Resurrection* is a continuation of 2021's *Dexter: New Blood* and is set to premiere this summer. The franchise also includes a prequel, *Dexter: Original Sin*, which explores Dexter's early life, connecting the overall franchise's timelines.



DiCaprio, Scorsese to adapt 'The Devil in the White City' for the screen

Leonardo DiCaprio and Martin Scorsese are set to reunite as the iconic star-director duo, to adapt Erik Larson's book *The Devil in the White City* for the silver screen under 20th Century Studios.

The true crime story follows serial killer HH Holmes and his "Murder Castle" in Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. DiCaprio has held the rights since 2010, but the project faced several unforeseen delays.

The movie adaptation, yet to have a script, is gaining traction with 20th Century's support under David Greenbaum and Steve Asbell. DiCaprio and Scorsese will produce the project, joined by Stacey Sher, Rick Yorn, and Jennifer Davisson from Appian Way.

NEWS

Country may face shortage

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result in disruption of irrigation when cultivation of paddy begins, they added.

"This can even make food security uncertain," Imran said at the event at a hotel in the capital.

BIPPA President David Hasanat said, "We met government high-ups several times and asked for arrears, but found no solution yet. It will not be possible to meet the national demand during the summer if the payments are not cleared."

Do not portray power generators as villains then, he told reporters, adding that the summer was likely to be very hot this year.

The government owes independent power producers around Tk 16,000

crore.

BIPPA estimates that power demand will reach 18,000MW on hot days and heavy fuel oil-based plants will generate up to 4,149MW if the fuel is available.

In a presentation, Imran Karim said, they have been getting delayed payments since the last quarter of 2022, and currently they do not have the means to import fuel oil to generate electricity.

As per the contracts between power plants and Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB), the IPPs have rights to suspend power generation.

When the interim government has been planning on how to reduce power generation costs, saying the

ousted Awami League government has increased the cost illogically, the BIPPA recommends increasing electricity prices at retail level.

Comparing the pricing data of four countries, including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, Imran said, the price in Bangladesh is the lowest and the subsidy the highest.

"We want a logical price here as the lower price left the PDB to depend on the government subsidies which is why they are not able to pay the power producers."

David Hasanat said they also want investigation into who made excessive profit from the power sector with the help of unsolicited contracts with the PDB.

Beximco Garment Division, at the press conference.

Beximco, one of the most talked about industrial giants in Bangladesh, landed in hot water following the ouster of the Awami League government in early August last year.

Banks curbed finances owing to the default of a huge amount of loans, alleged to have been taken by the group using the influence of its Vice Chairman Salman F Rahman, who was an influential adviser to deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina. Salman is now behind bars.

attacks since August 4 last year.

It said that 15 cases and 29 GDs were filed with different police stations in these connections. A total of 23 suspects have been arrested.

Hasan Shah Dipu Noore, however, said many of the victims could not lodge cases fearing reprisal.

Among those present at the press briefing were members of the Global Sufi Organisation's central executive committee, including Mohammad Ahsanul Haque, a teacher at Dhaka University's Persian language and literature department; Aftab Alam Zilani, Nasir Uddin Chishti, Maulana Tauhidul Islam Chishti, and Shah Alauddin.

those involved.

It also demanded heightened security for all religious establishments.

The organisation called for measures to protect religious harmony, coexistence, and peace and order of the country. It urged the authorities to issue directives through the Islamic Foundation and relevant ministries to ensure that no negative sermons about mazars, darbar sharifs, and Sufism are delivered at mosques or religious gatherings (Waz Mahfils).

On January 18, the government said at least 40 mazars and darbar sharifs have been targeted in 44

Israel continues West Bank raids

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could enter at any moment."

The Israeli military launched an operation in Jenin on Tuesday, saying it aims to "uproot militants in the camp and the city".

The offensive began just

days after a ceasefire deal paused fighting in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli assault has killed at least 10 Palestinians and injured 40 more, according to the Ramallah-based Palestinian health ministry.

Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu said that "Operation Iron Wall", as it has been dubbed, will "eradicate terrorism" in the West Bank city.

Violence has surged throughout the West Bank since the Gaza offensive

erupted on October 7,

2023. According to the Palestinian health ministry, Israeli troops or settlers have killed at least 850 Palestinians in the West Bank since the conflict began.

Ziaul Ahsan got Antiguan citizenship

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accused him in two separate cases while his wife Nusrat Jahan faces charges of acquiring illegal assets worth Tk 41 crore.

Her accounts in 12 bank accounts saw transactions totalling Tk 342.5 crore, anti-corruption officers said.

The family acquired citizenship of Antigua and Barbuda, a tax haven, in 2017. On their behalf, \$200,000 was paid by Martil Consulting Malaysia Berhad to C&C Consultancy and Management Services.

Investigators found that Ziaul had transactions of approximately 6 million dirhams, around TK 20 crore, in his accounts with First Abu Dhabi Bank, approximately 23 million dirhams, around Tk 75 crore,

with Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, and approximately 7 million ringgit, around Tk 75 crore, with Affin Bank Berhad, Malaysia.

Additionally, he has an account in the Bank of America. The ACC has evidence that he laundered a significant amount of money using that account, officers said.

Ziaul owns a farmhouse, an eight-storey building in Dhaka, an eight-storey building in Barishal, a house in Jhalakathi, three flats and 3333.51 decimals of land in Dhaka. He has an investment of Tk 5 crore in the stock market and Tk 1 crore in savings bond, officers said.

The value of these properties acquired between 2009 and 2024 is Tk 15.77 crore.

According to the cases, Ziaul acquired assets worth Tk 22.27 crore which is inconsistent with his known sources of income.

There were suspicious transactions of approximately Tk 120 crore in eight of his bank accounts. He deposited \$ 55,000 into an account, violating the Guidelines for Foreign Exchange Transactions 2018 and the FEOD Circular-6 dated February 3, 2020.

The complaint filed against Ziaul's wife, Nusrat Jahan, said she acquired assets worth Tk 18.59 crore that are inconsistent with her known sources of income.

There were unusual transactions of approximately Tk 222.50 crore in four of her accounts.

Ziaul was arrested on August 15.

Produce in US or pay tariffs

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Trump is always a top draw in Davos, making waves at two previous in-person appearances during his first term in 2018 and 2020.

But showing up this year was tougher as the forum happened to start on the day of his inauguration in Washington on Monday.

Scores stood in line to hear him

speak. Some in the audience included European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde, Polish President Andrzej Duda and Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic.

Trump already gave Davos a taste of what is to come since his inauguration on Monday.

He has threatened tariffs on China, the European Union, Mexico

and Canada, pulled the United States from the Paris climate pact and renewed his claim the Panama Canal, just to name a few.

His plans to cut taxes, reduce the size of the US federal government and deregulate industries likely found a sympathetic ear amongst many businesses, though economists warn the policies could rekindle inflation.

suspension letters were yet to be issued.

Earlier, on the night of July 14 and the afternoon of July 15, members of the now-banned Chhatra League were accused of attacking students involved in the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement.

On the same day, the central coordinator of the movement was reportedly pulled off a shuttle train and assaulted. There were also allegations of

students involved in the movement being searched and beaten at different times.

Furthermore, on July 31, there were allegations of a bomb attack on a teacher's residence, reportedly carried out by Chhatra League members. Additionally, allegations of assault on Shah Riyaz, a journalist from Dainik Purbodhesh working on campus, were also raised against Chhatra League members.

80 shrines, Sufi centres attacked

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their establishments will be met with strong resistance.

Representatives from various shrines and darbar sharifs in Dhamrai, Sirajganj, Mymensingh, Narsingdi, and Gazipur, which were attacked, also shared their accounts of the attacks at the press briefing.

To further illustrate the gravity of the situation, the organisation presented a documentary on the attacks.

Describing its four-point demand, the organisation called for a judicial investigation into the attacks. It urged the authorities to identify and ensure exemplary punishment of