

Nusraat Faria reunites with Jaaz Multimedia for ‘Jinn 3’

Seven years after her last project with Jaaz Multimedia, Nusraat Faria is set to return to the renowned Bangladeshi production house for *Jinn 3*, the third installment in its popular supernatural franchise. Directed by Kamruzzaman Roman, the film is scheduled to start production in February, featuring captivating storyline and the debut of fresh new faces.

Faria, one of Bangladeshi cinema's most recognisable stars, made her debut with Jaaz in 2015's *Aashiqui: True Love*, a film that launched her to stardom. Her last collaboration with the production house was *Inspector Notty K* in 2018. Faria described her return as “coming home,” expressing heartfelt gratitude to Abdul Aziz, Jaaz’s head, for providing her with pivotal opportunities that shaped her career.

Jinn 3 follows the success of *Jinn* (2023) and *Monica: Jinn 2* (2024), both celebrated for their dark, eerie narratives. Alongside the movie, she is also set to release several music projects this year with Fuad Almuqtadir and Muza.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTO: COURTESY OF BANGLADESH TREE PROTECTION MOVEMENT

After much anticipation and postponement, Kaavish finally graced the stage of *Dhaka Dreams*, enchanting audiences at Senapangan on the evening of January 24.

Organised by Blue Brick Communications, the concert unfolded like a symphony of emotions — with enchanting performances by Level Five, followed by the soul-stirring melodies of Shunno, the ethereal harmonies of Armeen Musa and the Ghashphoring Choir, and the heartfelt renditions of Arnob and Sunidhi Nayak. But it was the closing act that truly enraptured the crowd — the arrival of the beloved Pakistani band, Kaavish.

As the night unfolded, Kaavish wove a spell with their music, serenading the audience with timeless favorites like *Moray Sayyaan*, *Tere Naam*, *Baat Unkahi*, and *Tere Pyaar Mein* — each note carrying the weight of nostalgia and longing.




PHOTO: THABIT AL BASHAR

Artists and activists demand restoration of Panthakunja Park

The Bangladesh Tree Protection Movement (BTPM) yesterday launched a protest, demanding the restoration of Panthakunja Park, a 5.39-acre urban green space, and the adjacent Hatirjheel water-catchment area. They are both threatened by the construction of ramps for the Dhaka Elevated Expressway (DEE).

The citizen-led demonstration, which began at 10am at Panthakunja Park, spoke out against practices that isolate communities and harm local ecosystems, diverging from the principles of sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Several artists took part in the installation art segment, including Afsana Sharmin Jhumpa, Farah Naz Moon, Sumana Akter, Ritu Sattar, Walid Saddam Topu, Efat Razowana Reya, Tahmina Hafiz Liza, Mehedi Masud, and Syed Muhammad Zakir.

The open-to-all demonstration underscored the growing demand for environmentally conscious urban planning.

Hans Zimmer contacted by Saudi government to ‘rework’ national anthem



Saudi Arabia has enlisted Oscar-winning composer Hans Zimmer to create a new arrangement of its national anthem.


Zimmer, known for composing scores for *The Lion King* (1994), *Dune*, and *The Dark Knight* trilogy, has agreed to the general framework of the project, stated Turki Alalshikh, chairman of the General Entertainment Authority.

“We discussed numerous future projects that I hope will come to life soon, including a rearrangement of the Saudi national anthem employing different instruments,” Alalshikh shared on X (formerly Twitter).

Additionally, Zimmer explored plans for a Saudi-inspired musical titled *Arabia*, and the soundtrack for *The Battle of Yarmuk*, an upcoming film, Alalshikh concluded.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

‘ART’



Open Space Theatre presents *ART*, a critically acclaimed play written by Yasmina Reza, directed by M Arifur Rahman. This Bengali adaptation explores the dynamics of friendship and the subjective nature of art, humorously delving into how personal tastes influence relationships and provoke self-reflection.

Centering on three friends and their conflict over an expensive white painting, the performance examines the fragility and strength of human connections.

DATE: SUNDAY | JANUARY 28
TIME: 4:30PM-6:00PM AND 7:00PM-8:30PM
VENUE: EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE HALL, BANGLADESH SHILPAKALA ACADEMY

COUNTRYWIDE

BORO SEEDLING CULTIVATION

Advanced tray method sees success

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

For the first time, a group of farmers in Palash upazila started using advanced tray method to grow hybrid Boro seedlings this season.

The group of 120 farmers of Noakanda village under Gazaria union, under the supervision of local agriculture department, have successfully grown Boro seedlings on 45 decimals of land using the advanced technic, which will be gradually transplanted on 150 bighas of land.

Agriculture officials said this unique method will not only reduce the production and labourer costs, but ensure a better yield.

Moreover, alongside protecting the seedbeds from adverse weather, it will also encourage farmers to adopt modern machine-based farming practices.

This year, a total of 2,320 plastic trays are being used, with 10 kilogrammes of hybrid seeds sown in each tray, to grow Boro seedlings on 45 decimals of land.

The advanced method ensures nearly 100 percent germination, resulting in robust seedlings.

Farmers cover all the trays with plastic sheets at night in order to protect the

saplings from extreme cold and fog.

Besides, the seedlings will be ready for transplantation within 20 to 25 days.

Farmer Faruk Mia of the village said, “We only have to bear the irrigation and land preparation costs. All other steps, from preparing the seedbeds to transplanting, will be done under the supervision of the agriculture office.”

The advanced method has not only reduced their expenses, but also made the process much easier, Faruk added.

Another paddy grower Rahim Uddin said seedlings grown in the trays remain healthy even in adverse weather as the plastic sheets protect the seedbeds from cold and fog.

The pilot initiative has also facilitated better coordination among farmers of the village, he further said.

Palash Upazila Agriculture Officer (UAO) Ayesha Akter said cultivation of Boro saplings using the tray method is an innovative and eco-friendly approach, which saves both time and money.

“We are providing training and necessary technical support to farmers to promote synchronized farming practices and hope it will open new possibilities for the agriculture sector in the coming years,” Ayesha said.



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers cultivated hybrid Boro seedlings on vast areas using advanced plastic tray method. The photo was taken from Noakanda village in Narsingdi’s Palash upazila.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Keys cuts Sabalenka’s streak

AFF, Melbourne

Underdog Madison Keys upset Aryna Sabalenka 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 in the Australian Open final yesterday to win her first Grand Slam crown at the age of 29.

The American ended world number one Sabalenka’s dream of becoming the first woman for 26 years to win a third successive Melbourne Park singles title.

Keys yelled in delight and wiped away tears on securing the title after withstanding a fierce fightback from the Belarusian two-time defending champion, who buried her head in a towel after her 20-match win streak at Melbourne Park was ended.

12 robbers

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gang comprising 15 people reached the building around 10:00pm in two minibuses. They tied up and blindfolded three security guards, confiscated their mobile phones, and removed the CCTV hard drives. They also disconnected the building’s intercom service.

The robbers then broke into Gias Uddin’s flat and attempted to loot valuables. While trying to break a vault, neighbours alerted police by calling the emergency hotline, 999, the OC added.

A team from Khulshi police surrounded the building and arrested 12 suspects during the raid.

However, three members of the gang managed to flee.

“During primary interrogation, it was revealed that the gang members were engaged in various professions. We are questioning them further to identify and apprehend their accomplices,” the OC said.

Arrest warrant issued

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According to the investigation, on July 1, ACC Assistant Director Riaz Uddin submitted a report to the Senior Special Judge Court, seeking arrest, search, and seizure warrants against the accused.

Court records reveal that on November 19, 2014, Kaisarul Islam Chowdhury, a resident of Matarbari, filed a case against Ruhul Amin and 27 others, accusing them of embezzling Tk 20 crore allocated for land acquisition for the Matarbari power plant. The court had ordered an ACC investigation into the matter.

Shortly after, Sadikul, the then district and sessions judge, allegedly dropped Ruhul Amin’s name from the case documents and forwarded them to the ACC headquarters. Upon discovering the forgery,

Yunus returns from Davos

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Bangladesh’s Davos mission concluded on a high note, said the press secretary, adding that the chief adviser and his small Davos team is back home “with their heads held high”.

Prof Yunus held 47 meetings with heads of states, CEOs, and dignitaries. Top European leaders are firmly backing the interim government and its reform agenda to restore democracy, Shafiqul said.

Top journalists from some of the world’s best news outlets have queued to take Prof Yunus’s interviews.

“Nobody seems to be bothered by the propaganda campaign by the Indian outlets. They are very much aware of the dirty jobs that Indian media does for their political masters,” said the press secretary.

“The Tulip Siddiq saga in the UK added some extra layers to Hasina’s ‘highway robbery’ story. The Western press now knows the kind of plunder and looting that took place during the Sheikh Hasina dictatorship,” he said.

Prof Yunus also spoke about the data manipulation, blaming the world for being blind during the “dictatorship”.

Prof Yunus, who reached Davos on January 21, had four meetings with heads of government/state, four meetings with minister-level dignitaries and ten meetings with heads/top executives of UN or similar organisations, Chief Adviser’s Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder told UNB.

Yunus had 10 meetings with CEOs/high-level business persons, attended nine WEF-hosted programmes and four formal dinner and lunch events.

Yunus also had eight media engagements on the

Kaisarul Islam filed a separate case against Ruhul Amin, Sadikul and five others.

Following an investigation, the ACC submitted a report on July 1, naming five accused individuals and recommending the exclusion of government prosecutor Abdur Rahim and former additional deputy commissioner SM Shah Habibur Rahman from the case.

sidelines of the WEF annual meeting in addition to joining two other events.

The World Economic Forum’s (WEF) annual meeting in Davos brought together world leaders to address key global and regional challenges.

These included responding to geopolitical shocks, stimulating growth to improve living standards, and stewarding just and inclusive energy transition.

This year’s meeting convened under the theme ‘Collaboration for the Intelligent Age’ and the programme will be oriented around five distinct but highly interconnected thematic priorities:

Some 3,000 leaders from over 130 countries, and 350 governmental leaders, including 60 heads of states and governments, from all key regions attended the event.

Tarique warns students against using state support

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certainly welcomes the initiative. But if anyone seeks help from the state and administrative support to form a political party, it will disappoint the people,” the BNP leader said.

He also said that if the behaviour, comments, or statements of those intending to form a new party are antagonistic and vindictive towards other political parties, that would also be undesirable to the people.

“Of course, today’s youth are the future of Bangladesh. The youth will create a new path by coming out of the past, but not in a questionable way.”

He also considered unnecessary arguments between the interim government and the pro-democracy forces of Bangladesh as a waste of time.

“But at the same time, I want to draw the attention of the government and say that if the people can patiently accept its failures in various areas, it is important for those in the government to have much more patience and tolerance.”

As BNP pursues politics for the welfare of the people, he said their party aims to ensure the people’s political and economic power.

“Election is one of the main effective tools to ensure the political power of the people. Creating controversy over the election arrangement means unwittingly strengthening the position of fugitive and defeated fascist forces,” Tarique warned.