

Fake Marriage, Jealous Ex: New Details Emerge In Missing Photographer Case

Missing photographer Hannah Kobayashi's ex-boyfriend got "jealous" of her alleged fake husband, a source close to the case revealed. Ms Kobayashi, who vanished after a trip to New York, was travelling with Amun Muniz-Miranda, her ex, and Alan Cacace, an Argentine national she was believed to have secretly married. The FBI is now investigating the case as a potential green card visa scheme gone wrong. The NY Post reported.

Sources close to the investigation suggested that Muniz-Miranda, who has a history of legal issues, may have played a role in orchestrating the suspicious marriage. "Maybe [Muniz-Miranda] got jealous of Hannah and Alan," said a colleague who worked with Kobayashi in Haiku, Hawaii. The source added that Ms Kobayashi kept the marriage a secret, and only a few close friends were aware of it.

Muniz-Miranda's legal history complicates the case. In 2021, police arrested him in Texas for false identification, and he also faced a DUI arrest in Haiku in 2020. These incidents, along with growing suspicions around the marriage, led the FBI to focus on potential marriage fraud, a federal crime punishable by up to five years in prison.

Ms Kobayashi's family was shocked to learn that she never mentioned her marriage to Cacace. The photographer, who seemed to lead a normal life before her disappearance, later claimed that she was "tricked" and swindled out of her funds by someone she thought she loved. After she vanished, authorities discovered that she was in contact with an immigration lawyer, which further gave rise to suspicions that the marriage was part of a larger scheme.

Ms Kobayashi's behaviour in the days before her disappearance raised alarms. She got off a flight to New York and sent troubling messages to her family. She was reported missing on November 8.

On November 12, she bought a bus ticket to the Mexican border and was last seen crossing into Tijuana, Mexico, the following day. Police declared her a "voluntary missing person" earlier this month.

Friends and family insist it was unlike Ms Kobayashi to disappear without notice. Ms Kobayashi's father, who had flown to Los Angeles to search for his daughter, died by suicide after being unable to find her.

This Ex-US Marine Of Indian Origin Is On 110-Day Solo Antarctica Quest

Akshay Nanavati, a former US Marine with Indian roots, is pushing the boundaries of human endurance with a solo ski quest across Antarctica. This 110-day expedition, never before attempted, will see him confront temperatures as low as -40 degrees Celsius.

Despite his years as a Marine, accustomed to harsh conditions, Nanavati's mother, based in Bengaluru, had a different concern when she learned of his Antarctica expedition. Four months ago, her only question was, "Do they have good hotels there?" A bemused Akshay had to explain that his accommodations would be far from luxurious - a tent, with a four-minute walk to the nearest toilet, as reported by The Times of India.

As a boy studying in Bengaluru, Akshay always had a penchant for swimming and running, his father Ajay told the publication. He added that as a teenager, Akshay was struggling with drugs and alcohol. At that time, a Ridley Scott movie Black Hawk Down inspired him to join the US Marines.

Even with a blood disorder that "two doctors said would kill him in Marine Corps boot camp", Akshay not only managed to survive but also served in Iraq. Nanavati previously achieved a remarkable feat, becoming one of only 26 individuals to successfully ski up the remote Axel Heiberg Glacier in Antarctica. However, this challenging expedition resulted in frostbite, leading to the amputation of two fingers. One finger could not be saved, while the other was preemptively removed, as his wife Melissa explained to the Times of India, "Once you get frostbite, you're always more prone to it in the future."

Amid Split Rumours, Trump Picks Donald Jr's Fiancee As Greece Ambassador



WASHINGTON DC: US President-elect Donald Trump has picked Kimberly Guilfoyle, a former Fox News host turned political fundraiser and - more pointedly - the fiancée of his son Donald Jr, as the next United States ambassador to Greece. Ms Guilfoyle has been engaged to Donald Trump Jr since December 31, 2020. In his announcement of Ms Guilfoyle's posting to Greece, the incoming president called her "a close friend and ally" for years, but made no mention of her relationship with his son.

She is "perfectly suited to foster strong bilateral relations with Greece, advancing our interests on issues ranging from defence cooperation to trade and economic innovation," he said in a post on the social media platform Truth Social.

"Her extensive experience and leadership in law, media,

and politics along with her sharp intellect make her supremely qualified to represent the United States," the post added.

However, what preceded Tuesday's announcement was a report that the president-elect's eldest son was dating a socialite, Bettina Anderson. On Tuesday, British tabloid The Daily Mail published a series of photos of Donald Trump Jr with "it girl" Bettina Anderson, describing them as "incontrovertible proof the soon-to-be First Son has moved on" with a "stunning 'it girl.'" So far, there is no official confirmation from Mr Trump's office or Ms Guilfoyle about the engagement being called off.

According to a New York Times report, rumours about the closeness between Ms Anderson and the president-elect's son gained pace in September, when the pair was reportedly seen kissing dur-

ing a brunch. Ms Anderson was reportedly a friend of Donald Jr's ex-wife, Vanessa Trump, with whom he shares five children.

The chatter on the love triangle grew in recent days after Ms Anderson's recent birthday celebration. On the occasion, Ms Anderson posted a story on her Instagram account, showing a big bouquet of flowers, with a gushy card from an admirer. "Many have said that you're aging out but I think you're perfect," the card read. "Tough but fair," Ms Anderson added to the post, with the NYT report saying Donald Trump Jr's Instagram handle was noted in the posting.

Guilfoyle Add To List To Trump Appointee With Family Ties

Ms Guilfoyle is not the President-elect's first appointee with family ties. In November, Mr Trump announced plans to nominate his son-in-law Jared Kushner's father, Charles Kushner, as ambassador to France and to appoint Massad Boulos - the father-in-law of his youngest daughter, Tiffany Trump - as a senior adviser on Arab and Middle East issues.

His pick for ambassador to Turkey, Tom Barrack is a longtime friend of the Republican president-elect. He's also a private equity executive and has been previously charged with unlawfully acting as an agent of the United Arab Emirates and was acquitted in 2022 of all nine counts he faced.

"Enemies Can't Resist": Trump Launches Perfume Using Photo With Jill Biden

US President-elect Donald Trump has used a photograph of himself sitting next to US First Lady Jill Biden to unveil his new line of fragrances. Called 'Fight, Fight, Fight', the fragrance line includes perfume for women and cologne for men, each retailing at \$199.

According to the GetTrumpFragrances.com website, they are also selling bundles of two or more fragrances, while there is a 50% discount on the second item.

"A fragrance your enemies can't resist!" Trump wrote to introduce his latest product.

"Here are my new Trump Perfumes & Colognes! I call them Fight, Fight, Fight because they represent us WINNING Great Christmas gifts for the family. Go to gettrumpfragrances.com/. Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

The image of Trump seated near Jill Biden was taken on December 7 in Paris where they attended the reopening of Notre Dame Cathedral.

The event was held nearly five years after the prestigious landmark faced a massive fire that toppled its spire. In the viral image, the US First Lady and Trump can be seen in conversation, while there is an empty chair between them, which was marked for Brigitte Macron, French President Emmanuel Macron's wife.

South Korea Leader Attempts Suicide Using Underwear Over Failed Martial Law

SEOUL: Kim Yong-hyun, the former South Korean Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun accused of playing a lead role in the failed imposition of martial law on December 3, tried to commit suicide shortly before he was formally arrested. The defence minister, who resigned last Thursday, had been detained since Sunday. He was formally arrested on Tuesday.

During a parliamentary hearing, the commissioner general of the Korea Correctional Service said that Mr Kim tried to kill himself minutes before his arrest was announced.

"Former Minister of Defence Kim Yong-hyun attempted suicide at the Seoul Dongbu Detention Center" shortly before midnight, an AFP report quoted Shin Yong-hae as saying.

As per the official, Mr Kim had tried to kill himself in the toilet using a string from his clothing.

A Reuters report said the former defence minister used underwear to commit suicide, adding that he was under observation and his life was not currently in danger.

Mr Kim is being investigated on insurrection charges related to President Yoon Suk Yeol's brief declaration of martial law. He has now been arrested on charges including "engaging in critical duties during an insurrection" and "abuse of authority to obstruct the



exercise of rights", according to a report by AFP.

As per the report, Kim's formal arrest came amid concerns that evidence might be destroyed. It was determined that the former minister's alleged offences "fall within the scope of crimes for which the prosecution can initiate an investigation," a court spokesperson said early Wednesday.

Mr Kim was contrite Tuesday, saying through his lawyers that "all responsibility for this situation lies solely with me". He also "deeply apologised" to the South Korean people, saying that his subordinates were "merely following my orders and fulfilling their assigned duties".

Martial Law in South Korea

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol suspended martial law a week ago and sent special forces and helicopters to parliament, before lawmakers forced him to rescind the decree in a country assumed to be a stable democracy.

The brief declaration of

martial law plunged Asia's fourth-largest economy and a major U.S. ally into a constitutional crisis.

Earlier Tuesday, Army Special Warfare Command chief Kwak Jong-geun told lawmakers that Yoon had ordered him to stop enough MPs from gathering at parliament to vote down the martial law decree.

On Wednesday, in a dramatic escalation of the probe against Mr Yoon, South Korean police said they raided the President's office. Mr Yoon is already under a travel ban as part of an "insurrection" probe into his inner circle after his short-lived suspension of civilian rule on December 3.

The President has not been seen in public since apologising on Saturday for trying to impose martial law. Apart from the former Defence Minister, two top police officials were also taken into custody in the early hours of Wednesday, as the investigation into the political turmoil caused by the martial law declaration gathered pace.

Syria's New Transitional PM Calls For Stability And Calm

DAMASCUS: Syria's new transitional prime minister on Tuesday said it was time for "stability and calm" in the country, two days after longtime president Bashar al-Assad was toppled by rebels in a lightning offensive. The rebels appointed Mohammad al-Bashir as the transitional head of government to run the country until March 1, a statement said. "Now it is time for this people to enjoy stability and calm," Bashir told Qatar's Al Jazeera television in his first interview since being appointed.

Assad fled Syria as an Islamist-led opposition alliance swept into the capital Damascus over the weekend, bringing to an end five decades of brutal rule by his clan. A senior official told US broadcaster NBC that the ousted Syrian leader was now in Moscow. Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, the Islamist leader who headed the rebel offensive, had previously announced talks on a transfer of power and vowed to pursue former senior officials responsible for torture and war crimes.

On Tuesday, he sought to



allay fears over how Syria would be ruled, telling British broadcaster Sky News the country was "exhausted" by war and would not be heading back into one. "Syria will be rebuilt... The country is moving towards development and reconstruction. It's going towards stability," he said. "People are exhausted from war. So the country isn't ready for another one, and it's not going to get into another one." His group, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, is rooted in Syria's Al-Qaeda branch and is proscribed by many Western governments as a terrorist organisation, though it has sought to moderate its image.

US Secretary of State

Antony Blinken urged all nations to support an "inclusive" political process in Syria, saying the United States would eventually recognise a government if it meets such standards.

"Unity, inclusiveness" - Blinken said the future government of Syria should be "credible, inclusive and non-sectarian". Laying out US priorities, Blinken said the new government must "uphold clear commitments to fully respect the rights of minorities" and allow the flow of humanitarian assistance.

The United States wanted the next government to "prevent Syria from being used as a base for terror-

ism", he added.

Although they no longer hold any territory in Syria, the jihadists of the Islamic State group remain active.

The UN Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said IS fighters killed 54 government troops after capturing them as they fled across the vast Syrian desert.

The UN envoy for Syria said the groups that forced Assad to flee must transform their "good messages" into actions on the ground. "They have been sending messages of unity, of inclusiveness," Geir Pedersen said.

"What we need not to see is... that this is not followed up in practice in the days and the weeks ahead of us," he added.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas warned of the risks of sectarian violence and a resurgence of extremism. "We must avoid a repeat of the horrific scenarios in Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan," she said.

Syria's nearly 14-year civil war killed 500,000 people and forced half the country to flee their homes, millions of them finding refuge abroad.

Why Luigi Mangione Killed UnitedHealthcare CEO: A Chronic Back Pain Link

Chronic back pain has emerged as a point of interest in the murder investigation of UnitedHealthcare CEO, who 26-year-old Luigi Mangione allegedly gunned down in New York last week.

Mangione, an Ivy League graduate, yelled and struggled as he was taken into a courtroom in Pennsylvania after he was held from a McDonald's in Altoona on Monday, ending over a week-long nationwide manhunt after Brian Thompson was shot down in Manhattan. He is in custody in Pennsylvania and faces multiple charges there as well as murder charges in New York.

As police say the head of one of US's biggest health insurers was deliberately targeted, a trail of posts on social media by Mangione could point to likely grievances he harboured against the healthcare system. Mangione was also arrested with a manifesto where he accused health insurance companies for putting corporate greed over the well-being of people, according to NY Post. This has led to theories that the murder could be linked to Mangione's disappointment with the insurance provider.

Mangione lived in Hawaii in 2022 and, according to his former roommate RJ Martin, suffered from back pain, and was hoping to strengthen his

back. After a surfing lesson, Mangione was "in bed for about a week" because of the pain, Martin told CNN. Earlier this year, Mangione confirmed he'd had back surgery and sent him photos of the X-rays, Martin said.

He also told the manager of Surfbreak, the co-living residence in Hawaii he resided at, that he had a back problem, and in August of 2023 sent him pictures of a back surgery, according to the New York Times. "His spine was kind of misaligned. He said his lower vertebrae were almost like a half-inch off, and I think it pinched a nerve," Mr Martin told New York Times. "He knew that dating and being physically intimate with his back condition wasn't possible," he added, while saying that Mangione was a young man yearning a normal lifestyle.

Mr Martin said that Mangione left Hawaii in the summer of 2023, presumably for an operation on his back. In August that year, he checked in via text to see how his friend was doing, "and he sent me back pictures of his back surgery."

On his X profile, he shared a picture of an x-ray of a spinal surgery and on GoodReads, he reviewed a book called "Crooked: Outwitting the Back Pain Industry and Getting on the Road to Recovery."

"Will Respond If...": Netanyahu Warns New Syrian Regime On Ties With Iran



TEL AVIV: Stating that Israel has "no intention of interfering" in Syria's internal affairs, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned to take "necessary" measures if the current regime allows Iran to re-establish itself in Syria or transfers weapons to Hezbollah. "We have no intention of interfering in Syria's internal affairs. However, we do intend to do what is necessary for our security. As such, I approve the Air Force bombing of strategic military capabilities left by Syrian military. So that they will not fall into the hands of the jihadists. This is similar to what the British Air Force did when it bombed the fleet of the Vichy regime, which was cooperating with the Nazis, so that it would not fall into

the Nazis' hands," Netanyahu said in a video address on Tuesday.

"We want to have relations with the new regime in Syria, but if this regime allows Iran to re-establish itself in Syria, or allow the transfer of Iranian weapons, or weapons of any kind to Hezbollah or attack us, we will respond forcefully and we will exact a heavy price. What happened to the previous regime will also happen to this one," he added.

On Sunday, when the Syrian rebels entered Damascus, forcing President Bashar al-Assad to flee from the country, ending his over two-decade rule in the country, Netanyahu hailed the collapse calling it a "historic day" for the Middle East region. Netanyahu had fur-

Can Defeat China In Pacific, But Technical Advantage Shrinking: US Commander

TAIPEI: The US Indo-Pacific Commander, Admiral Samuel Paparo, expressed confidence in the US military's ability to defeat China in the Pacific. However, he warned that the US technical advantage over China is rapidly shrinking, Taipei Times reported citing The Washington Post report.

While addressing the Reagan Defence Forum on Saturday, Paparo emphasised the need for the US to maintain its technical lead over China. He highlighted two key areas for improvement: enhancing missile technology and developing a secure communications network that can withstand cyber attacks.

Further, he said, "Although the US is able to hit long-distance and difficult targets with its advanced cruise missile system, each launch costs more than USD 1 million. By contrast, drones, which are relatively cheap to build and develop, can be remotely controlled to fight on the front lines through a computer." As per The Washington Post report, Paparo stated that "Russia and North Korea had reached an agreement on Moscow providing fourth-generation Mikoyan MiG-29 and Sukhoi Su-27 fighter jets in exchange for Pyongyang

sending troops to help in the fight against Ukraine."

Pyongyang, rather than Moscow, proposed sending North Korean troops to Ukraine, Paparo said, adding that the condition was set so that Pyongyang could also obtain ballistic missile re-entry technology and submarine-related technology from Moscow, as per Taipei Times.

According to Paparo, North Korea on October 31 tested an intercontinental ballistic missile that reached an altitude of 7,000km. "Even though Pyongyang continues to test long-range missiles with adequate range to reach the US... the US has not yet seen evidence that North Korea has mastered the difficult task of building re-entry vehicles that could contain nuclear warheads, and that could withstand atmospheric resistance and heating when returning from space at a speed of 7km per second. This may help explain why the testing continues," he said.

"Chinese President Xi Jinping had given his military leaders the task of being ready to take Taiwan by 2027, even in the face of US military involvement, but it does not represent a decision to attack that year or any particular year," he said.



An activist from Kabkabiya said that, while there were typically a few soldiers in the market and other parts of the town, the vast majority of those present were civilians.

He said 87 bodies had been identified, but that some were too charred or mutilated to identify.

On Tuesday, the RSF aimed heavy artillery fire at an army-controlled sector of Omdurman, part of Khartoum state, residents said.

Emergency Lawyers said at least 20 people had been killed, including at least 14 who were riding on a bus that was hit. The state government, controlled by the army, said 65 people had been killed, and that other casualties had been transferred to nearby Al-Naw Hospital.

Images circulating on social media not verified by Reuters showed shrouded bodies on the street amid vehicle wreckage.

The United Nations has said more than 30 million people need aid, and some 12 million have fled their homes.

Famine has been declared in Zamzam camp in North Darfur, where shelling on Tuesday killed seven people, according to Adam Rojal, spokesperson of the Coordinating Committee for Displaced People.