

BANGLADESH feels like home

SOHAIL KHAN

“The Bangladeshi film industry is steadily growing and moving towards a positive direction. I believe actors from both mediums will merge.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan’s ‘Being Human Clothing’ finally launched its first outlet in Bangladesh yesterday. The inaugural ceremony was attended by renowned actor and brother of Salman Khan – Sohail Khan, and Salman’s nephew, Ayaan Agnihotri, alongside the CEO of ‘Being Human’, Sanjeev Rao.

There was a huge crowd in front of the outlet. A special flash mob was arranged for the “Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya?” actor – Sohail also danced nonchalantly with the performers on popular tracks like “Just Chill”, and “Sajan Radio”.

Sohail, also a producer and filmmaker, came to the store around 2 pm, and officially opened the outlet by cutting the ribbon. A press meet and greet was arranged to interact with the media. He shouted towards the crowd that “Ami Bangladesh Bhalobashi.”

“Being Human is a family brand and as a family we are proud to come to Bangladesh. It’s a beautiful country which is so close to



our culture and our fashion. When we landed here it felt like I was still in India,” said Sohail Khan.

“Everyone is smiling and everyone wants to be here. Everybody wants to be part of this beautiful opening. I was nervous at first as to how this brand will be accepted in Bangladesh. However, it has been accepted so beautifully. in Sha Allah, the store will do well,” said the actor.

Sohail Khan was also excited to taste the Bengali cuisine. He was eager to try out the scrumptious fish of Bangladesh.



(Second from left) Sanjeev Rao, CEO, Being Human, Ayaan Agnihotri and Sohail Khan.



When asked whether he watches Bangladeshi content, the filmmaker replied that he watches them on loop on his channels.

“The Bangladeshi film industry is steadily growing and moving towards a positive direction. I believe actors from both mediums will merge. First, there was a huge crowd for Hollywood, and Bollywood and then it shifted towards Tollywood. In Sha Allah Bangladesh films will be on the world platform soon,” stated the actor.

Sohail Khan also teased the possibility that “Dabangg” star Salman Khan might

come to Bangladesh soon. The actor revealed that Salman Khan couldn’t attend the inauguration due to prior commitments.

The first 50 customers were surprised with caps personally signed by Bollywood superstar Salman Khan. Sohail Khan took photos with VIP guests and sponsors and a special photo booth was placed in front of the outlet.

Popular influencers, fashionistas were also present at the event.

The franchisees of Being Human Clothing, Bangladesh, are Rehan Rahman and Mohaimin Mostafa, who are also the co-owners of Crimsoncup Bangladesh.

A part of Being Human Clothing Profits are paid to ‘Being Human – The Salman Khan Foundation’, which is based in Mumbai, India. The Foundation supports the twin causes of education and healthcare for the underprivileged and spreads love, care, share, hope, help, and joy.

The brand has grown to over 500+ retail touch-points and has continuously reinvented itself to become one of the leaders in casualwear clothing.

‘Mita-Juboraj festival’ will honour legendary couple at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Two of the most celebrated faces of the country’s showbiz arena are the late playwright, Khaled Khan—better known as Juboraj—and Rabindra Sangeet artist Mita Haque. Even after their departure from this world, their family, friends and well-wishers still remember them with fondness and love.

Now, a special event is being organised in memory of the star couple, which has been titled, “Mita-Juboraj Festival 2022”. The festival will take place between 4 pm and 9 pm on Friday at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The festival has been organised by the Juboraj Association.

Legal action threatened over South Korean hit Netflix show

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The country of Suriname will explore the possibility of legal action against the producers of South Korea’s hit Netflix series, “Narco Saints”. This is due to the show fostering a negative image of the country by portraying it as a “narco-state”, according to Suriname’s government.

“Narco Saints”, which was released this month with the title “Suriname” in South Korea, tells the story of a man who risks his life to join a secret mission to capture a Korean drug lord operating in Suriname. The show is based around real-life events from almost two decades back.

In a statement on the government’s website, Foreign Minister Albert Ramdin said, “Suriname no longer has the image that emerges in the series or no longer participates in these kinds of practices.”



NEWS

EC doctored

FROM PAGE 1

were not in favour of EVM use in the next polls and they made it very clear during their talks with the EC.

“We have written to the commission about our proposals. We have nine point proposals and we clearly mentioned that we are against the use of EVMs in national elections. We gave this proposal not secretly. So any sort of distortion of our proposal is unacceptable,” Matin said.

Shamim Haider, acting secretary general of Zaker Party, said they did not say anything in favour or against EVMs. They talked about blockchains.

“It is not possible to hack blockchain. We also proposed e-voting. There is no scope to keep our name on the list that favour using EVMs,” he said.

Azizur Rahman Helal, publicity affairs secretary of Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, said they opined against EVM use during the talks with the EC.

“We don’t know why our name is on the list that favours EVMs,” he said.

Unveiling its work plan for the 12th national polls, the EC on Wednesday underscored the need for having the parties agree to the use of Electronic Voting Machines, which would be deployed in as many as 150 constituencies.

It said 29 parties took part in the talks and 12 of them clearly took a stance against EVMs and 17 were in favour.

Nine parties, including the BNP, skipped the talks, saying they have no confidence in the EC.

They claimed every government influences the EC and that the EC is independent on paper only.

Robot taught

FROM PAGE 12

just responding correctly. So we decided that one way a robot can empathise with users is to share their laughter, which you cannot do with a text-based chatbot.”

Creating a “shared laughter” model, the researchers used AI to help detect laughter, decide whether to laugh and also what kind of laughter would be best.

Four short two to three-minute dialogues between real people and Erica were used to test the system, which performed well.

Allegations mount against

FROM PAGE 12

Rana could not be reached for comments.

Against General Secretary Omi, there are allegations of drug abuse and beating up of a fellow BCL activist.

According to footage that went viral on social media recently, Omi was seen taking “Phensedyl” in his Rajshahi Medical College (RMC) dorm.

On September 3, he beat up Bagmara upazila BCL activist Aminul Islam Sabuj over a Facebook post.

Earlier, RMC authorities issued a show-cause notice upon him and asked him to obey the rules and regulations of the dormitory. The Daily Star obtained a copy of that

2 govt agencies face

FROM PAGE 12

raised the concern that despite repeated requests, the prison authorities were still trying to place the demarcation flags.

The forest is home to dozens of plant species and the critically endangered Asian Elephant along with wild boars, reticulated pythons, leopard cats and the Asian Palm Civet, the letter said.

Asked, Amir Hossain Chowdhury, chief conservator of the Forest Department, told The Daily Star that the forestland is a protected forest according to a 1935 gazette notification and that there was no scope to hand over the forest.

“We wrote a letter to the land ministry to cancel the handover citing the existing laws and commitment to conserve forestland,” he said.

Shah Alam Khan, Cox’s Bazar jail superintendent, said the land is under the deputy commissioner of Cox’s Bazar. In light of the prison department’s application, he granted the lease maintaining all procedures.

Asked whether they obtained any clearance from the FD as per the Cabinet Division circular, he said they did not need it as the land is khas land.

notice.

Talking to this correspondent, Omi said, “All the allegations against us are baseless. Some of the Chhatra League men are conspiring against us.”

He brushed aside the allegations of taking drugs and claimed he was having a soft drink.

Omi, however, admitted to slapping Sabuj.

Meanwhile, a three-member probe was formed last night, following the allegations, said a press release signed by central BCL president Al Nahian Joy and general secretary Lekhak Bhattacharjee.

The committee was asked to submit a probe report within seven days.

Ex-EC staffer sued under DSA

FROM PAGE 12

discharged from his duties as an Outsourcing Scanning and Equipment Maintenance Operator for violating the office’s privacy policy.

However, he claimed he was collecting evidence to lodge a complaint against the chief election officer of financial corruption.

“On July 25 this year, I sent an email to the Election Commission against the chief of the upazila election office and two female staffers for earning money illegally through contracts with local brokers,” he told The Daily Star.

“The complaint was not properly investigated. Instead, I was terminated for filing it. Now, I am being penalised [further] for it.”

Contacted, Sohrab Hossain said, “Mohsin’s allegations against us are totally false. He broke the office’s

privacy ... He was found guilty during a departmental enquiry, so he was terminated.”

In the case statement, complainant Sohrab said, “Mohsin joined the election office in Shariatpur Sadar upazila on June 12 this year as an Outsourcing Scanning and Equipment Maintenance Operator under Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services [IDEA] Project II.

“He secretly took photos of important and confidential documents and server passwords of the election commission, and made various audio and video recordings of conversations in his mobile at different times from June 12 to August 8.”

He added, “The EC is a very important sensitive constitutional institution. National Identity Cards

are being issued to all the citizens by the Election Commission and all their data is stored on the server.

“As per the constitution, all important documents related to voter lists, national ID cards and personal information of every citizen are protected by this institution. Apart from this, important documents of various national and local elections are secured here. The server station, various national interest documents of the government, various server equipment are secured in the office.”

The statement further reads, “The secret recordings of conversations of the officers, employees and incoming service takers is very alarming, inflammatory and a threat to the state’s security. Above all, his activities are a threat to the security and transparency of the Election Commission.”

EU worried

FROM PAGE 12

all people, everywhere,” he said in a message marking the International Day of Democracy.

“Yet across the world, democracy is backsliding,” said the UN chief, adding that civic space is shrinking.

“Now is the time to raise the alarm. Now is the time to reaffirm that democracy, development, and human rights are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,” Guterres said.

Now is the time to stand up for the democratic principles of equality, inclusion, and solidarity, he said.

Attempts to silence journalists are growing more brazen by the day – from verbal assault to online surveillance and legal harassment – especially against women journalists, he mentioned.

Media workers face censorship, detention, physical violence, and even killings – often with impunity, said the UN chief.

Sweden’s right-wing in talks to form govt with far-right

AFP, Stockholm

Sweden’s incoming leader yesterday got to work on the thorny task of building a government supported for the first time by the far-right, a day after securing a slim election victory.

Rangpur JP rife with tension

FROM PAGE 12

The sudden decision to relieve Ranga came through a JP press release on Wednesday afternoon. It said Quader relieved Ranga of all party posts, exercising his power conferred under the party’s charter.

In an immediate reaction, Ranga on Wednesday evening said Quader did not have the powers to expel him.

“Either he or I will do politics. I accept this as a challenge. I helped him become the party chairman at a time when everyone was against him. He won’t be able to go to Rangpur.... Earlier, he ignored the party charter and removed me from the post of secretary general without holding any council.”

The lawmaker, however, made a U-turn yesterday saying he would not create any trouble in Rangpur centring the issue.

“I was a bit angry when I received the party’s order. That’s why I issued the challenge to the chairman [GM Quader]. But I have withdrawn it. I am announcing that there will be no trouble in Rangpur over this issue.

“I want withdrawal of the party’s decision on my removal. But I will not be unhappy even if it is not withdrawn,” the JP MP said at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium.

Ranga also announced he would

quit the party if it was not run in a democratic manner.

“I will not be in the party even as a member if it is not run democratically. However, I won’t join any other party.”

Speaking at another press conference yesterday, JP Secretary General Mujibul Islam Chunnun said Ranga was relieved of all party posts as he was involved in activities that violated the party’s discipline.

“He [Ranga] had been involved in such activities for about a year. His activities went against the party’s policy and discipline. He was relieved of all party posts in line with the party’s constitution.”

Chunnun said Ranga would be able to return to JP only if the party chairman wanted him to.

Our Dinaipur correspondent contributed to this report.

Court frames

FROM PAGE 12

and prevented them from discharging their duties, the statement added.

Following the incident, Sub-Inspector Shahidul Islam of Motijheel Police Station lodged the case against Aman, Khokon, Sohel and 10 others.

SI Shafiqul Islam Akond of the same police station and also the investigation officer of the case pressed charges against the 51, including the 13 accused in the FIR.