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CHORKI EXPANDS across the border

The event kicked off with an opening address by Chorki's Head of Content, Anindo Banerjee, followed by a 1-minute video highlighting the platforms various works.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

After reinvigorating Bangladesh's OTT space with some amazing content, Chorki has expanded across the border, announcing that the platform will work with talents from Kolkata as well.

The announcement came yesterday at a press conference in Kolkata's Oberoi Grand Hotel, where celebrities, Chorki officials, and members of the press were present.

The event kicked off with an opening address by Chorki's Head of Content Anindo Banerjee followed by a 1-minute video, highlighting the platform's various works.

When CEO Redoan Rony took the stage, he announced that he wants to work with Bangla content makers across the globe. "This is why we took the decision of coming here and reaching out to talented actors, directors and artistes from Kolkata, so that they can connect and work with us."

"Bengali, as a language, extends beyond national or regional boundaries. It possesses a global presence and significance. By uniting the talents from both Bangladesh and West Bengal, we can create exceptional content that will enhance the international market," he continued. "Collaboration is key amongst major players, and since a

platform like Hoichoi has established itself in Bangladesh and is actively producing content, we aim to forge partnerships with talents in the Bengal region to achieve similar success."

He further said, "Our gift to our fans in Kolkata is that they can very easily subscribe to our platform using the local currency, and our gift to the industry is that artistes from there can participate in our local productions."

A discussion session, with popular media personalities from Bangladesh and Kolkata, was held, where the likes of Mostafa Sarwar Farooki, Srijit Mukherji, Chanchal Chowdhury, Ritwick Chakraborty, Swastika Mukherjee and Tama Mirza participated.

The lively discussions shed light on many topics, including how working together can benefit artistes from both industries, how OTT has transformed the way in which we perceive content, how the friendly rivalry between productions of both countries have uplifted each other, and more.

The essence of the platform's decision to expand is rooted in the desire to increase international collaborations, as well as to provide the audience the opportunity to watch shows like *Syndicate*, *Pett Kata Shaw*, *Myself Allen Swapan*, *Shaaticup* without needing to acquire a means of international payment.

Rajinikanth's first look of 'Thalaivar 170' revealed

The first look of Rajinikanth from *Thalaivar 170* has been revealed recently. Lyca Productions released the image on social media on Wednesday.

In the poster, Rajinikanth sports a black suit, a black shirt, and a pair of black sunglasses.

This movie marks the official return of Amitabh Bachchan and Rajinikanth after 32 years. The shooting of the film started yesterday.

Earlier on Tuesday, Lyca Productions revealed that actors Fahadh Faasil and Rana Daggubati will star alongside Rajinikanth in the film.



Bangladeshi model-actress achieves Guinness World Record glory

Bangladeshi model-actress Rafah Nanjeba Torsa has recently become one of 12 individuals who earned a spot on the prestigious list of Guinness World Records while representing Bangladesh at an Indian fashion show.

This fashion event took place on the world's highest traffic-congested road, an accolade recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records. A

total of 12 people had the privilege of having their names recorded in the book as a result of their participation in this remarkable event.

The actress is overwhelmed by her success and shared, "It's a matter of great pride to have represented Bangladesh on a platform as esteemed as the Guinness World Records. The BGMEA played a pivotal role in my journey. I hope our honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the people of our nation take immense pride in this accomplishment."



NEWS

Trio win Nobel in chemistry

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Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and is worth 11 million Swedish crowns (\$1 million).

Earlier yesterday, the academy appeared to have inadvertently published the names of the three scientists before the official announcement.

Asked during a press conference how he felt to hear news of his award, Bawendi said by phone from the United States: "very surprised, sleepy, shocked, unexpected and very honoured."

One of the "fascinating and unusual properties" of quantum dots is that they create different colour lights, depending on the particle size, while keeping the atomic structure unchanged, said Johan Aqvist, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry.

"There's a lot of work that's still being heavily researched on other potential applications including catalysis and quantum effects of all sorts," Bawendi told a news conference. "It's a very exciting area of research. I'm sure something really interesting is going to come out of this."

In the early 1980s, Ekimov discovered that the colour of glass changes with the size of copper chloride molecules contained in it and that sub-atomic forces were at play. A few years later, Brus made similar ground-breaking discoveries on the

colour of fluids.

In 1993, Bawendi revolutionised the production of quantum dots, made up of clusters ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand atoms.

Bawendi is a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Brus is professor emeritus at Columbia University and Ekimov works for Nanocrystals Technology Inc.

Brus was hired by AT&T Bell Labs in 1972 where he spent 23 years, devoting much of the time to studying nanocrystals.

Bawendi was born in Paris and grew up in France, Tunisia, and the US. Bawendi did his postdoctoral research under Brus then joined MIT in 1990 and became professor in 1996.

Ekimov was born in the Soviet Union worked for the Vavilov State Optical Institute before moving to the United States. In 1999, Ekimov was named chief scientist at Nanocrystals Technology Inc.

The third of this year's crop of awards, the chemistry Nobel follows those for medicine and physics announced earlier this week.

Established in the will of Swedish dynamite inventor and chemist Alfred Nobel, the prizes for achievements in science, literature and peace have been awarded since 1901 with a few interruptions, primarily due to the world wars.

Info of 5.5 crore voters

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Telegram channel.

He added that it has been identified that information was being leaked through one of the 174 organisations that have access to the NID server.

"Appropriate action is being taken in this regard," he said, but refused to name the organisation.

"Organisations take information from the Election Commission for their portals. Sometimes, their portals have weaknesses and end up getting compromised," he added.

However, AKM Humayun Kabir, director general of the NID wing, said he was not aware of the matter, adding that the NID server is safe.

On June 7, TechCrunch, a San Francisco-based online publisher of start-up and technology industry news, reported that personal information of about 5 million Bangladeshi nationals have been

leaked from a government website.

Zunaid Ahmed Palak, the state minister for ICT, then said the leak happened through a breach in the server of the Office of the Registrar General.

The leaked data included names, phone numbers, email addresses and national ID numbers of people.

Following that breach, ICT experts recommended that the EC keep round-the-clock surveillance on the organisations that avail services from the NID server.

They also suggested the EC conduct vulnerability assessments and penetration tests on the server at regular intervals to identify vulnerabilities.

Jahangir Alam, a resident of Mirpur who was aggrieved by the leak said that this leak of personal information was a threat to his personal safety.

Man killed by truck as he chased mugger

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were done, they were returning to Manikganj. When their car reached Asad Gate around 11:30pm, a mugger snatched his relative's phone from inside the vehicle and ran."

Tajul then got off the car and chased after the mugger when a truck ran over him, killing him on the spot.

"His body was taken to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital around midnight for an autopsy."

Meanwhile, two separate cases were filed in this connection - one with Mohammadpur Police Station for the mugging, and the other with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police over Tajul's death.

US won't back those who stay away from polls

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the foreign ministry.

Asked about the new US visa policy, Momen said its main objective is to help ensure a free and fair election, and the US announced the policy to strengthen the hand of the government and the government agrees to this.

He said the visa policy is not a headache for the government at all and that countries don't issue visas to everyone, which is also true for Bangladesh and the US.

"It is not applicable to us. Those who apply, and if they are bad people, it is bad news for them. The US does not issue visas to all," he said without elaborating.

Asked about the prime minister's comment that Bangladesh can impose sanctions too, Momen said, "Of course, we will impose sanctions. If needed, the foreign ministry will prepare [a visa policy]. We can impose sanction on those who sanction us."

"There is no hurry, but we may get prepared. You will know that in time."

Asked about Roads and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader's recent comment that an "understanding" has been reached with all countries, Momen said Quader said it right.

Presidential pardon her only way out

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Khaleda Zia wants, she can appeal to the president for pardon and suspension of sentence."

Ruling out the statement of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Anisul said he never said that the government had no authority to suspend anyone's jail term.

He urged the BNP secretary general to tell the truth.

Anisul said Khaleda's travel abroad for treatment is not a political matter; rather it's a legal one. The law does not allow her to go abroad for treatment, he added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina applied her authority under section 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure granting Khaleda conditional release which barred her

from going abroad, the minister said.

The law minister said during the 1/11 caretaker government, Hasina went abroad for treatment on bail, not agreeing to any condition of the government.

He said the government has not held any discussion with the BNP about permitting Khaleda to travel abroad, reports our staff correspondent.

Meanwhile, BNP Law Affairs Secretary Kayser Kamal yesterday said the government has ample powers under section 401 of the CrPC to send Khaleda abroad.

But the government is not using the powers due to political reasons, he told reporters at his Supreme Court Bar Association chamber.

"Khaleda Zia has legal, fundamental, and constitutional

rights to get treatment. Even the government has national, and international obligations to send her abroad for this purpose. But the government is not fulfilling the obligations as she is the sole rival of the head of the government [Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina]," he said.

Kayser demanded the condition that Khaleda cannot go outside the country be lifted.

Replying to a question about whether Khaleda will seek pardon from the president, the BNP law secretary said she is now out of jail on the government's order, not on the president's.

Khaleda is still now under the order and control of the head of the government and therefore, she cannot do anything if she wishes, he said.

North braces for flash floods

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Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC).

"The situation may worsen over the next few days. While the flood is likely to be of medium range, its impact will be severe," Md Arifuzzaman Bhuiyan, executive engineer of FFWC, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He added the water levels of the river will continue to rise for at least another two to three days and may start receding after that. "But there will be a lot of river erosion as it is going to be a flash flood."

District administrations and water development board authorities in Rangpur division have already initiated precautionary measures and issued warnings in risk-prone areas adjacent to the Teesta basin and other rivers in the districts. They have also advised those who live near riverbanks to remain alert.

People in those areas have also been urged to relocate their livestock and essential belongings to higher grounds and nearby shelters such as primary and high schools as soon as possible.

Nahid Tamanna, upazila nirbahi officer of Rangpur district's Gangachara upazila, said, "We have been conducting field visits in various unions along the riverbanks since this [yesterday] morning. We are cautioning people living near rivers to be careful."

Meanwhile, India's weather department has issued warnings of landslides and flight disruptions as heavy rain is predicted in parts of Sikkim, which is already facing severe flash floods, reports Reuters.

Experts at the International Centre of Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), an intergovernmental scientific authority based in Nepal, attributed the flooding in Sikkim to intense rain that triggered a glacial lake outburst.

"We observe that such extreme events increase in frequency as the climate continues to warm and takes us into unknown territory," Miriam Jackson, a senior cryosphere specialist at ICIMOD, said.

A cloudburst over Lhonak lake was the main trigger for the flooding in the valley located about 150 km (93 miles) north of Gangtok near the border with China.

The main highway linking Sikkim to West Bengal was snapped, while Gangtok was completely cut off by road, according to army spokesperson Anjan Basumatary.

Around 15,000 people living in the vicinity are likely to be affected and at least eight major bridges have been washed away along the banks of the Teesta, VS Pathak, chief secretary of the state, told Reuters.

Meanwhile, heavy rain hampered the search for 23 Indian soldiers reported missing on Wednesday after

the flash flood in northeastern Sikkim, as the capital city of Gangtok cut off by road, defence officials said.

Some army bases and facilities along the valley were affected and the rising water submerged vehicles following the release of water from a dam, said a defence ministry spokesperson based in the neighbouring city of Guwahati.

Rooppur plant

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power plant. Its first unit of 1,200MW capacity is set to be operational next year and the other unit in 2025.

The first batch of the nuclear fuel (Uranium rods) reached Bangladesh on a special cargo plane from Russia on September 28. It was transported to the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant site on September 29, according to the project officials.

Md Shawkat Akbar, the power plant project director, said, "We got the licence for nuclear fuel import and storage at the Rooppur project after fulfilling all necessary requirements ... under the IAEA's guidelines."

He said the arrival of nuclear fuel and its storage at the site took them into the final stage of commissioning the country's first-ever nuclear power plant.

The IAEA during its general conference in Vienna last month made Bangladesh a board member of the IAEA.