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## Sinha murder pre-planned

*Finds Rab; charge sheet soon; 13-15 to be charged; Shipra, Sifat cleared of narcotics charges*

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and ZYMA ISLAM

Investigators have found that the murder of Maj (retd) Sinha Rashed Khan was pre-planned and they will mention it in the case's charge sheet, which will be submitted to court soon.

As per a plan of Pradeep Kumar Das, then officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, Liaquat Ali, an inspector of the same police station, shot Sinha leaving him dead, highly-placed sources at the Rab, which is probing the murder case, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The sources said the investigators came to the conclusion scrutinising evidence, including footage found from Sinha after his death.

Meanwhile, sources at the Rab headquarters said the investigators would press charges against 13 to 15 people for the murder.

The investigators, however, will drop the name of one accused -- an arrested policeman -- from the case and show him as a witness during trial, said the sources,

without going into details.

Lt Col Ashiq Billah, director of Rab's legal and media wing, said the charge sheet was being prepared and it would be submitted to the court soon.

A total of 14 people were arrested between August and September in the case. Since 13-15 people would be named as accused and one arrested cop would be named as witness, it is possible that a new accused could be included in the charge sheet, said Rab sources.

The key accused in the case included Pradeep, Liaquat Ali and sub-inspector of Teknaf Police Station Nandadulal Rakshit. Other accused included three members of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) -- Assistant Sub-inspector Md Shahjahan and constables Razib and Md Abdullah.

Sinha was killed at an APBn check point on the Cox's-Teknaf highway on July 31. Local police said Inspector Liaquat's team had taken over the check point from the three APBn officers before the incident happened.

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Clockwise from top left: Abdul Mukhtar, chairman and managing director of Incepta Pharmaceuticals, Rupali Chowdhury, managing director of Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd, SM Khaled, managing director of Snowtex, and Abul Kashem Md Shirin, managing director & CEO of DBBL, pose for photograph after receiving the 19th DHL-The Daily Star Bangladesh Business Awards at a virtual ceremony.

IMAGE: SCREEN GRABS FROM ZOOM MEETING

## Covid-19 deaths cross 7,000 mark

*34 more die, 1,329 infected in 24 hours*

STAR REPORT

Thirty-four more people died from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With this, the total number of deaths from the virus in the country has reached 7,020 and the death rate now stands at 1.44 percent.

A total of 1,329 new infections were recorded during the same 24-hour period, taking the total number of infected people to 489,178.

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## DEFACING BANGABANDHU SCULPTURE

## Protests continue, govt officials join in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Judges, government officials and businesspersons were among the people who demonstrated yesterday against the attack on a sculpture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

They said disrespect towards the Father of the Nation would not be tolerated and an attack on Bangabandhu was an attack on the state and the constitution.

Protesters under the banner of Government Official Forum held rallies, discussions and human chains across the country.

The programmes were coordinated by the Bangladesh Administrative Service Association (BASA).

Protests have been going on since December 5 when an under-construction sculpture of Bangabandhu was vandalised in Kushtia on December 5.

Two students and two teachers of a local madrasa were arrested in this connection.

Some of the arrestees told police that they were inspired after hearing Hefajat-e Islam leaders denounce sculptures at public events.

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two individuals and two companies yesterday won the prestigious Bangladesh Business Awards for creating jobs and contributions to the society and the economy.

Rupali Chowdhury, managing director of Berger Paints Bangladesh, received the award in the Outstanding Woman in Business category at the 19th Bangladesh Business Awards, an initiative of DHL Express and The Daily Star.

Abdul Mukhtar, chairman and managing director of Incepta Pharmaceuticals, scooped the

## HONOURING BUSINESS LEADERS

## Persevering through the pandemic



Tipu Munshi

award as the Business Person of the Year.

The Best Financial Institution award went to Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd (DBBL) and the Enterprise of the Year award to apparel manufacturer and exporter



Binod Chaudhary

Snowtex Group.

They were recognised in virtual presence of Tipu Munshi, the commerce minister, Binod Chaudhary, the wealthiest and most successful industrialist in Nepal, and Nurhayati Abdullah,

managing director of DHL Express Emerging Markets, along with business luminaries of the country, corporate leaders, and eminent citizens.

The event began with a tribute to late Latifur Rahman, one of the founders of The Daily Star and founder chairman of Transcom Group. The successful entrepreneur, known for his ethical business practices, died in July.

During his keynote speech, Binod Chaudhary, an entrepreneur, politician and philanthropist from Nepal, called Latifur Rahman a great entrepreneur and visionary.

In 2000, DHL Express and The

MORE ON B1

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আমরা ছিলাম, আছি, থাকবো অনিশ্চেষ্ট।

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