



DHAKA MONDAY MARCH 28, 2022

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXII No. 73

CHAITRA 14, 1428 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SHABAN 24, 1443 HJRI

20 PAGES : Tk 12.00



P5
A 20-yr-old menace
Brick kilns still operate near schools in Trishal



P6
Will 'destroy' them
Myanmar army chief says about coup opponents



P8
'It was by accident'
Sporthia says about becoming an actress



B1
Mission accomplished
Bangladesh meets UN affordability internet goal

A big leap in tech industry

Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City likely to get \$1.3b investment by 2025

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Oryx Bio-Tech Limited was struggling for quite some time to find a suitable plot near Dhaka for building a large manufacturing plant -- the first-ever plasma fractionation plant in Bangladesh.

It will produce human plasma-based pharmaceutical products to be used in the treatment of complicated fatal diseases like cancer and hepatitis.

However, it was not easy for Oryx to find the plot as it requires quite a large space with uninterrupted electricity, water, gas, and other supplies, as it is a highly sophisticated and research-intensive industry.

Then they came to know about Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City (BHTC), a 355-acre industrial park, in Gazipur's Kaliakair upazila, which offers a developed and ready space with all the necessary amenities for tech-based industries.

"We were amazed to find BHTC, which is so close to Dhaka and offers prime plots connected with all the necessary infrastructure, uninterrupted supply system, and excellent communication networks," said Dewan Shahryar, adviser to the managing director of Oryx-Bio-Tech Ltd.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BANGABANDHU HI-TECH CITY AT A GLANCE

- Total area: **355** acres
- Location: Kaliakair, Gazipur
- 44** companies have invested **\$130m** so far
- Expected investment by 2025: around **\$1,300m**
- Expected employment by 2025: **50,000** people



Kharkiv municipal authorities use sand bags to protect the city's monuments from strikes on Saturday. The local authorities reported 44 Russian artillery bombardments and 140 rocket assaults in a single day. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: AFP

Bangladeshi journalist, engineer missing in Libya

SHARIFUL HASAN

A Bangladeshi journalist, who went to Libya on March 21, has been missing for the last five days.

Zahidur Rahman is a special correspondent of private TV channel NTV.

Saiful Islam, a Bangladeshi expatriate engineer, and Mohammad Khaled, a Libyan driver, who were with him, are also missing.

Zahidur's family says they have learnt from different sources that the 48-year-old journalist has been picked up from Tripoli, the capital of the war-torn country.

Saiful's family believes the three might have been taken away by a government agency since the militias hardly have any grip on the city now.

Major Gen SM Shamim-Uz-Zaman, Bangladesh ambassador to Libya, however, would not rule out the possibility of a militia group capturing the three.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, he said, "At first, we thought

any of the government agencies might have hauled them up. But now it seems some militia members might be their captors. We have information about the place from where they were taken away on March 23, but we're not sure who picked them up. We're trying to



ZAHIDUR RAHMAN



SAIFUL ISLAM

reach the highest authorities.

"Zahidur was taking pictures at different places. This can be a reason. I know him personally. We are very worried about him."

Asked about Saiful, he said, "They were taken away together. But we have information that the driver called his family. They have probably been kept at separate places. We are

trying our best to rescue them. Let's pray they return safely."

Recently, Bangladesh lifted restrictions on sending workers to Libya, considering "improvement" in the political situation there. On March 3, Zahid flew to London on a family visa by a Turkish Airlines flight. From there, he travelled to Ireland, Scotland and then to Libya.

NTV aired several of the reports that he sent from London. He had secured the visa for Libya before leaving Dhaka.

In a Facebook post uploaded on March 22, he wrote that entering the war-ravaged country was quite challenging. Talking to this

correspondent yesterday, Zahidur's wife Taslima Rahman said she last spoke to him on March 23 noon. Since then, his mobile phone has been switched off.

"Initially, we did not understand what has happened. After 24 hours, many started calling us to say that my husband was not available online

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Dentist stabbed to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A doctor bled to death after being stabbed on his thigh by unidentified criminals in the capital's Shewrapara early yesterday.

The victim -- Ahmed Mahi Bulbul, 40 -- was a dentist who also owned a construction company, said police.

Bulbul was popularly known as "Goriber Dakta" for treating the poor at zero cost, said his friends.

Primarily, investigators suspected that the murder could be an act of muggers.

However, the victim's family members, relatives, and friends urged the law enforcers to investigate further motives as he recently owned a project in Noakhali.

The victim's wife Shammi Akhter filed a murder case with Mirpur Police Station against unnamed accused.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

TIPU MURDER

'Killer' arrested

He tried to flee country; cops held him at Bogura; no bike, weapon found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday said they arrested the man who shot Awami League leader Jahidul Islam Tipu and a college student in the capital's Shajahanpur on Thursday.

Masum Mohammad, who goes by the alias Akash, was about to leave the country, when detectives caught him in Bogura, Additional Commissioner AKM Hafiz Akhter of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police claimed at a media briefing.

The 34-year-old man was given the hit job five days before the murder and was informed about Tipu as the target two days later, Hafiz said without mentioning any possible motive behind the murder.

However, police could neither recover the firearm used in the murders nor the motorcycle on which the suspect fled the scene, he said.

The additional commissioner said Masum disclosed the names of several other suspects. "We will interrogate him on remand and let you know the details of his associates, masterminds and motives," he said.

Asked how detectives were so sure that Masum was the suspect without the weapon or the motorcycle, he said the security camera footage and other evidence corroborated their findings.

Masum admitted that he shot the firearm and disclosed the name of the man who rode the motorcycle on which he arrived at the scene and fled, said the officer.

The suspect, he said, told officers that he was already accused in four to five cases, including one for murder. "During primary interrogation, Masum said

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

A toddler's trauma

After mother's murder, she alerts neighbour and saves infant brother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the murderers left three-year-old Maimuna gagged and bound, sitting next to her mother's dead body, it was the toddler's quick wit that saved her infant brother.

The killers had also gagged 10-month-old Tanvir with duct-tape across his mouth and neck, and placed a heavy pillow on his face, slowly asphyxiating the baby.

While mother Tania Akter Mukta bled to death on the floor of her Sabujbagh home, Maimuna, with her hands, mouth and neck bound with duct tape, managed to open the main door and

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5



A young man holds on to a cyclist as they try to cross a street with heavy vehicles whooshing by in front of the Matsya Bhaban in the capital yesterday. Traffic police tried to stop them but in vain.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Shwapno : the first GLOBALG.A.P. Certified retail chain in S.E. Asia

Shwapno, the largest retail chain in Bangladesh, has been awarded the GLOBALG.A.P. Certificate recently. GLOBALG.A.P. is an international organization that works to ensure the standard of food safety across the world. After completing all the tests and formalities supervised by their audit committee, Shwapno received the certificate. Shwapno is the first and only retail chain in South-East Asia that has become a GLOBALG.A.P. certified member and the only Bangladeshi company to gain such recognition.

The GLOBALG.A.P. certificate is awarded after testing the food safety standards of agricultural products. SGI India Private Limited begins the multi-step process by auditing. After completing all the tests, Shwapno received the certificate on 16th February 2022.

The Executive Director of Shwapno, Sabbir Hasan Nasir said, 'Shwapno is the first GLOBALG.A.P. Certified retailer in South-East Asia. This is a matter of great pride and relief for us. I would like to thank our farmers, USAID, and GLOBALG.A.P. for helping us gain this achievement. The standard of seven certified products ensures how serious Shwapno is

about maintaining food safety. We always identify the most impactful dreams and we try to make these dreams come true.

We would also like to express our gratitude to our customers for putting their trust in us.'

Mahadi Faisal, the head of marketing for Shwapno, explained 'We have the wrong notion about pesticides or herbicides. Farmers here refer to them as poison. In fact, a lot of people use this notion to do business claiming that they sell poison-free fruits and vegetables. However, in reality, these pesticides or herbicides are medicines for plants. Research has shown that almost 75% of our farmers are not familiar with the correct use of these medicines. This is where the problem lies. Correctly using plant medicines and maintaining the PHI (pre-harvest interval) fall within the regulations and that is what we do. Shwapno is very dedicated to ensuring food safety for its customers. The GLOBALG.A.P. Certificate is the result of that effort. This is a great source of joy for us.'

It must be noted that Shwapno first began working with GLOBALG.A.P. with the help of the AVC (Agricultural

Go Safe!



Value Chains) project run by the international development agency USAID in 2017. GLOBALG.A.P. is an international organization that follows a strict set of rules and criteria to give recognition to companies that produce and sell agricultural products. Retail stores in Europe and the US maintain the GLOBALG.A.P. Standards. Shwapno can now export of produce to Australia, the UAE, the US, and the UK as mentioned in the GLOBALG.A.P. Certificate. Shwapno has been buying agricultural products from its own trained farmers for many years. As a result, this has benefitted the farmers, buyers as well as customers.