# NATIONAL

# Hasina 'discovered' death from starvation, relief minister says

### Chhayan Ali died from prolonged intestinal disease, his widow tells minister

#### **OUR CORRESPONDENT,** Nilphamari

Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf categorically said there was no death from starvation in mongaaffected northern districts.

The government has provided enough food grains under vulnerable group feeding (VGF) programme and would continue to do so till the situation eases, he said addressing a public meeting at Kaligang Bazar under West Chatnai in Dimla upazila Thursday

Among others State Minister for 50, died from starvation. Education ANM Ehsanul Hag Milon.

district BNP president Shahrin Islam widow Noor Nahar Begum, 45, in presence of journalists and villagers. Tuhin spoke at the meeting.

The minister said Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina was trying to about the cause of her husband's tarnish the image of the government death, she said her husband had intestinal pain for long. by "discovering a so-called death from starvation"

He was attacked with diarrhoea and was admitted to Dimla upazila Before the meeting, the minister and the state minister drove from health complex on November 4. After Saidbur airport to the house of late his recovery from diarrhoea, his intes-Chhayan Ali, at Fulchari village under tinal pain became acute. East Chatnai union in Dimla upazila. He went to the hospital again. Sheikh Hasina at a public meeting Doctors then advised Chhayan Ali to

at Chatnai colony high school ground go to Rangpur Medical College on November 17 said that Chhayan Ali, Hospital for better treatment and released him on November 8. The minister talked to Chha Noor Nahar said she was preparing

to take him to Rangpur but he died on November 10.

However, sideway standing In reply to the minister's quarry Chhayan Ali's sister told the minister that her brother died from starvation. Noor Nahar alleged to the minister that they were very poor and passed days half-fed, but the local Union Parishad member did not give her rice under

> VGF programme. When the minister asked local UP member Emdadul Haq, he said Chhayan Ali's family was given 20 kgs of rice twice under VGF programme. The minister promised Chhaven Ali's family a cow, a tin-shed house and Tk10.000

The minister and the state minister then visited the house of Md Nizamuddin, whose 14-year-old son

Kazol was killed by Sheikh Hasina's motorcade on November 17. Kazol was a student of VIII a

Kaliganj Junior High School. They expressed sympathy with Kazol's father, a doctor and president of West Chatnai union Awami League.

State Minister Milon told Nijamuddin that every citizen has the right to take lawful action against such incidents and that police would held him if he wanted to file a case for the death of his son. Nijamuddin kept

## **BNP MP tells rally** Tougher programmes after Eid for BRTC service in Sylhet

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Ruling party lawmaker Dilder Hossain Selim has said people of Jainatapur, Gowainghat and Kanaighat upazilas will not accept closure of BRTC service on Sylhet-Tamabil-Jafflong road and others roads in the region.

"We would continue boycott of private bus- minibus service in the three upazilas and demand BRTC service ", he said at a rally at Jaintapur upazila headquarters on Wednesday evening. The Samannaya Committee, a forum of several bodies of the three upazilas, arranged the rally.

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal** 

A Division Bench of the High Court

comprising Justice Gour Gopal Shaha

and Justice Jubayer Rahman

Chowdhury on Wednesday granted

interim bail till December 7 to the four

sons and 15 'followers' of Charmonai

Pir, charged with snatching firearm

Granting the bail, the HC asked the

19 accused under Speedy Trial Act to

appear before the lower court on or

before December 7, sources here said

Salam Rari, local BNP leader and

and money from a local BNP leader.

Firearm snatching case

People of the three upazilas are boycotting private buses since October 13 as their owners compelled the government to withdraw BRTC service from the three upazilas.

The people will go for tougher agitation programmes after the Eid for reintroduction of BRTC service, he said.

Four sons, 15 'followers' of

former chairman of Charmonair

Union Parishad, had filed the case

with Barisal Kotwali thana against the

Barisal Kotwali police on Tuesday

filed charge sheet against the four

sons and 15 relatives and followers of

Charmonai Pir under the Speedy Trial

Act for snatching fire arms and money

from Salam Rari and desecrating a

Chairman Syed Rezaul Karim, Syed

Ziaul Karim, Syed Faizul Karim, Syed

Mosaddek, Billah Madani

The four sons are Charmonai UP

It has been alleged that the 19

**Charmonai Pir granted** 

case on November 11.

mosque

interim bail till Dec 7

students Unity) convenor Abul Kalam The MP expressed his support to Azad and Thana Juba Dal leader the on going boycott of private buses Abdur Rab. Dilder Selim also protested the by people of three upazilas and said all possible steps will be taken to attack on a BRTC double decker which reintroduce the BRTC service. was on its way to Tamabil from Sylhet

Upazila Parishad Sirajuddin Ahmed

presiding, the rally was addressed by,

among others, thana BNP's General

Secretary Abdul Malik Manik, UP

Chairman Kamal Ahmed, Jaintia

Janakalyan Federation Convenor

Abdul Ahad, Fayez Ahmed,

Sarbadaliva Chhatra Oikva (All Party

With former chairman of Jaintapur Wednesday afternoon.

(From left in circles) State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon and Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf talking to the widow of Chhayan Ali Noor Nahar (middle in circle) in front of her house on Thursday and (right in circle) Kazal's father Nizamuddin talking to the minister and the state minister. Kazal was killed by Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's motorcade on November 17.

Pneumonia takes alarming

67 dead, 116 medical teams working, special team

## SNAPS

#### **NU** decision protested

**CU CORRESPONDENT,** Ctg The Chittagong city unit of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) has strongly protested the National University (NU) authority's decision of holding the final examination of Degree (pass course) after three years

The Front leaders termed the decision of holding examination after two years for 1.100 marks and another examination for 300 marks in third year as unscientific 'which would put the students under mental and

from Dhaka due today **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna** Pneumonia claimed 67 lives and attacked over 21,000 in the district from January to November 15. preventive measures The district health department has formed 116 teams to combat the disease, which has turned alarming as winter is creeping in, according to

turn in Khulna

take blood samples from patients. A high-level team from the Health Directorate, Dhaka is expected here soon to assess the situation and take

The highest death toll has been reported from Dakop upazila where 20 out of 1324 patients died in last 10 months. Seven died in Phultala, six in

teams have started working in affected areas to prevent spread of the disease and give proper treatment to patients, said Khulna Civil Surgeon Jamal

The civil surgeon said there is enough stock of medicines for treatment of this disease. But guardians of many children

Sugar cane crushing at Joypurhat Sugar Mills will begin on November 30, mills sources said The mill has set a target to produce 12,000 metric tons (MTs) of sugar by

BSS, Joypurhat

crushing 160,000 MTs of sugarcane in the current crushing season. The crushing will begin with a

simple functions at the mill. Sugar recovery rate has been fixed at

7.50 per cent during the current season,

Gun battles with pirates in Monpura: 12 held, firearms recovered

#### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Bhola police arrested five pirates and detained seven suspects after gunfights in Monpura in the Meghna estuary in the early hours of Thursday.

injured.

Police said Monpura thana officerin-charge received a secret information

All of them are from Laxmipur Nizam. district. The O seized two Lalmohan thanas and a joint force abandoned by the pirates and recovchased the pirates. A fierce gunbattle ered two pipe guns with some ammunitook place at Vashanchar. tion. Faruk managed to flee in a trawler. Police arrested two of his associates in reply to about 100 shots from the Latka Jahangir, 30 and Shafiqul Islam, pirates.

custody.

tody.

Ershadul

by Kalam was crossing the area. As police challenged them, they fired. Police replied with shots. Police arrested three pirates there.

They are Shaheb Ali, 50, Hannan, 30 and Nazir Ahmed, 56. Police also detained seven others as suspects. They are Khalek, Malek, Gias, Nizam, Mofiz, Mazibul and injured fisherman Babul.

are: Vice President Dr Abu Bakar Siddique (F-5), Assistant General Secretary Dr Kohinur Begum, Finance Police said they fired about 50 shots Secretary Dr Ganesh Chandra Halder, Patient Welfare Secretary Dr Jamila Khatun and Sports, Culture, Publicity and Publication Secretary Dr Mohan Lal Roy.

attacked Salam Rari inside the

Biswaser Hat mosque and snatched

away his revolver and money on

attackers entered the mosque wear

ing shoes and also assaulted Rari.

It has also been alleged that the

The attackers demanded Tk 20,000

Among the accused, two were

arrested earlier. They are Abdul Barek

and Harun Bepari, followers of the Pir

and students of the Charmonal

toll from the Tk 50,000 grant from BCC

Mayor Majibur Rahman Sarwar to the

nosque committee fund.

November 11.

Madrasha.

Internee doctors assoc executives

#### STAR NATIONAL DESK

A seven-member executive committee of Faridpur Medical College Hospital

Internee Doctors' Association for the vear 2003-2004 was formed recently with Dr Abu Bakar Siddique (F-4) and Dr Muhammad Muneer Hussain as President and General Secretary. The other members of the committee

## Production in begins Nov 30

on Thursday.

Joypurhat Sugar Mill

PHOTO: STAR

A fisherman-- Babul, 26 -- was

on Wednesday night that the notorious pirate gang led by Faruk was at Char

Meanwhile another pirate gang led

physical pressure,'they said Among others, Saifuzzaman Khokon, Panna Das and Shafiuddin Kabir Abid spoke at the protest meeting held on the "Dosto" building premises here on Tuesday. Earlier, a procession was brought out in the city.

#### **3 PBCP cadres** given life term

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna A Special Tribunal here on Wednesday gave life term to three members of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) in an arms case in Tala upazila in Satkhira district.

The convicted are Shahidul Islam, 36 of Pabla under Daulatpur thana of Khulna city; Jamaluddin Sarder, 28 of Kulbaria village under Dumuria Thana of Khulna district and Abdur Rob, 32, of Hajrakati village under Tala thana.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested them on the night of April 2 in 2001 from the house of one Abul Kashem at Hairakati village in Tala upazila and recovered an SBL gun, an Indian short gun and three bullets.

#### Absconding convict held in Sylhet

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT,** Sylhet An absconding convict was nabbed by Kotwali police from the Akhalia area here on Wednesday night.

The arrested absconder, Mansur was a cadre of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) who was sentenced to life term imprisonment for possessing illegal arms.

The culprit is also an accused in the sensational murder case of Mokhlisur Rahman, a leading aviation businessman, who was gunned down on October 6.

#### **Notorious pirate** of Sundarbans

#### arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna The Joint Forces arrested a notorious pirate of the Sundarbans area from Khalishpur Industrial Area on Tuesday

He was identified as Ariful Alam Akkas, ring leader of 'Akkas Bahini'. The listed criminal possesses huge arms. He maintains three strong organised gangs in the Sundarbans, sources in the Joint forces said.

urces at the district health denartment.

A special team of physicians will reach Khulna today from Dhaka to

Ferokhada, 18 in Paikgacha, 14 at Koira upazilla and two in Khulna city. Each of the 116 medical teams comprise five members. The medical

and relatives of adult patients have alleged crisis of medicines and accommodation problem at hospi-

the sources said The mill produced 13,702 MTs of sugar against a production target of

12,000 MTs last year. Two snatchers

#### caught in Sylhet STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two snatchers were caught redhanded from Mirzajangal area in the city on Thursday morning.

were recovered from their possession. A group of four miscreants snatched away Tk 30.000 from a grocer named Abdul Matin of Bhatalia area at about 11 am.

he was on way to market and snatched away the amount at pistol point. When the victim cried for help, a

captured two of the snatchers with their motorbike while two others escaped

They arrested are Babul Hossain, 25, of Kalbakhani area, 25, and Abdus Samad of Ambarkhana area. Two cases, one under Speedy Trial Act and the other under Arms Act, started against the criminals.

#### Refusal to pay toll

## **Bagerhat BNP** in coma

A businessman, severely injured allegedly by some BNP activists for refusing to pay toll, is now in coma in Khulna General Hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

Businessman Harun-ar-Rashid Mridha of Icagati union in Rupsha upazila was seriously injured when he came under armed attack by the activists on Wednesday night for refusing to pay them Tk 20,000, sources said.

The ruling party men also attempted to abduct the teenaged daughter of the businessman. But the attempt was foiled as his wife and other members of the family raised a hue and cry

A case has been lodged. Sherpur Awami League organised a discussion meeting and an Iftar party at local town hall recently.

#### Truckload of smuggled Indian sugar seized A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Laxam police seized a truckload of Indian smuggled sugar worth about Tk

Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by SI Rafigul Islam kept waiting at Sonaimuri on the Laxam- Sonaimuri

The driver and another person have been arrested. The sugar and the truck were deposited with Comilla customs. A case has been filed with Laxam thana

Decomposed body of a young man was recovered from the safety tank of Fazlul Hug Hall at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) on Wednesday night.

A mobile phone, a gold ring and a purse containing Tk 5,000 were also recovered from beside the body.

According to residents students, the body was found when it was being dragged by a dog from the safety tank. The body is yet to be identified, police said.

The incident has created sensation among students of KUET and residents of all the four halls. They have demanded an immediate investigation jointly by police and KUET authorities. When asked, OC of Khanjahan Ali

thana said that investigation is going on to identity the young man.

PHOTO: STAR

leader missing STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna A front-ranking leader of Bagerhat

district unit of BNP and President of Bagerhat district unit of Hindu-Bouddho-Christian Oikkya Parishad has been missing from the city since Tuesday afternoon.

According to family sources, Dr Anup Kumar Biswas went to Upasham Clinic on Ahsan Ahmed Road under Khulna thana to see the ailing chairman of Baroipara Union Parishad Akbar Azad.

Dr Anup, owner of two shrimp enclosures, could not be traced till Wednesday afternoon despite frantic search by police, his relatives and party workers.

Accused snatched Four Lankan fishermen released

Police arrested eight persons from Amtali and Arpangashia area on charge of snatching an under-trial accused on Wednesday

nephew of a local member of parlia-

incident.

Barguna on Monday night. Prevention of Torture on Women and Children Act.

The arrested are Bashir, Omar Faruk, Latif, Mizanur, Delwar, Ibrahim, Sobahan and Mamun. Mamun is a

ment (MP) Matiur Rahman. He lead a gang of 20 in the snatching

Barguna and Amtali Police said, miscreants snatched away the accused named Anis khan from a police van at Arpangashia Bazaar of Amtali in He was being tried under

### from police van: 8 arrested **OUR CORRESPONDENT,** Barisal

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

#### Four Sri Lankan fisherman were released on Tuesday from Bagerhat District Jail.

The released fishermen are Mariel,40, Shyam,32, Lalit,38, and

Eighteen successful students of Manikganj SK Girls' High School got Junior Scholarship this year .

Monga,34 After their release they were handed over to Tracis de'silva, Counsellor of Sri

Lankan Embassy in Bangladesh. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Bagerhat, Peus Costa was also present. They were detained by a patrol

party of Bangladesh Navy on December 21 in 1999 for fishing in the Bay of Bengal illegally.

A case was recorded against them with Mongla thana.

Former communications minister

and Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman Anwar Hossain Monju has said the proposed Padma Bridge should be constructed at Mawa point because it will benefit five crore of the south and southwestern districts

A bridge at Mawa will reduce the road links of southern districts with the capital by at least 100 kilometres, hesaid

Monju was addressing at a pre-Iftar gathering on the premises of the JP office on Sadar Road here on Wednesday.

Presided over by joint-secretary general of JP Advocate Shamsul Alam Salim, the function was also addressed by, among others, JP divisional secretary Ali Ahmed Khan and Barisal district JP secretary Anisur Rahman Chowdhury

Monju hosted the Iftar party for the bail when Ershadul appeared party leaders, workers and journalists. before the court on Thursday.

Monju for Padma Bridge at Mawa BSS, Barisal

#### Former OC gets bail in death in custody case **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

Biswa Nath Mondal of Ghona

village was arrested on July 30, 2001.

He was found dead in police cus-

Bari Chowdhury alleging that his

tody on the following moving.

A court here granted bail to former officer-in-charge (OC) of Kaligonj 8.5 lakh at Lamai Thursday night. thana in a case for alleged death in

road and seized the truck with 243 bags of Indian smuggled sugar.

His father Judhistir Mondal filed a case with a magistrate court on August 5, 2001, against OC Ershadul

#### son was tortured to death in cus-Young man's On September 18, the court body recovered issued arrest warrant against Magistrate MI Siddiue granted from KUET hall safety tank STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Trader injured by BNP men is

tals

A foreign made pistol and a dagger Miscreants intercepted him when

police patrol passing through the area