



Gone are the days when boats used to ply Chaktai Canal in Chittagong city. The mindless dumping of garbage has almost clogged the once-flowing canal and left it in such an appalling state these days. As a result, storm water cannot recede smoothly, causing acute waterlogging in the port city. The photo was taken from Master Pol area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## Arrest of Romel Chakma's 'killers' demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demonstrators in the capital yesterday demanded immediate arrest and punishment of individuals involved in the death of Romel Chakma, an HSC examinee from Rangamati.

A platform of left-leaning organisations, "Citizens against Repression", made the demand at a rally in front of the National Museum, alleging that Romel, aged 20, died "in the hands of the army".

Romel, a leader of Pahari Chhatra Parishad, was picked up from a village market in Naniarchar upazila of Rangamati.

It remains unclear how the visually impaired youth died. His death sparked protests in the hill tracts as well as in Dhaka.

On April 22, Lt Col Mohammad Rashidul Hasan, Director of ISPR (Inter Services Public Relations), said Romel was picked up in connection with two cases filed over torching a truck and looting two buses. They had handed



Romel over to Naniarchar police the same day, the ISPR official told The DailyStar over the phone.

Denying the allegation of torture on Romel by the army, he added that the young man had died on April 19 at Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he was being treated in police custody.

The National Human Rights Commission recently formed a three-member fact-finding committee over the death of the student of Naniarchar College.

Rights body Manusher Jonno Foundation and Ain o Salish Kendra demanded a judicial investigation into Romel's death.

Addressing the rally, Anu Muhammad -- a professor of Jahangirnagar University and member secretary of National Committee to Save Oil, Gas, Power and Port -- demanded investigation of all killings in the hill districts. He also demanded that the

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## OPERATION 'EAGLE HUNT' IN C'NAWABGANJ Jhenidah 'militant might have died during action'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The militant, who set up a bomb-making factory and stored a huge cache of explosives in a Jhenidah house, was suspected to have been among the four militants killed in Chapainawabganj den in a mango orchard at Shibnagar of Shibganj upazila.

The photo of Abdullah, a Muslim convert who escaped the April 21 Jhenidah raid, had a similarity with that of a militant killed in the northern bordering district on Thursday in the operation codenamed "Eagle Hunt", said Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit yesterday.

Briefing reporters at DMP media centre, the CTTC chief, however, said they would be able to ascertain his identity after conducting DNA test with samples collected from his family members.

One of them was identified as Rafiqul Islam Abu, who

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## Cruelty, thy name is husband!

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, from Barisal

She was first chained to the bed. Then she was beaten up with a stick and an iron rod all over the body.

The husband did not stop there. He then lit up a fire beside the bed and heated up the rod and a silver spoon, and pressed the hot objects on her body, burning her from neck to chest including the breasts.

This is enough to make anyone's heart bleed, but not her husband's.

The husband then applied chili powder and salt on her burnt wounds to inflict more pain on her.

She cried her heart out for help. But nobody came to her rescue in the dead of night.

The husband was even trying to pour some liquid into her mouth, but she refused to drink it fearing it might be poison.

All this happened as her parents failed to pay dowry as demanded by her husband -- Badal Mridha, son of Ohab Ali Mridha of Sharifabad village at Gouranadi in Barisal.

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