

## National

**One awarded life-term for murdering his daughter-in-law**

SATKHIRA, Oct 24: A court on Saturday sentenced an old man to life term imprisonment for murdering his daughter-in-law, reports UNB.

The District and Sessions Judge also fined the accused, Mullik Chand of Atulia in Shyamnagar thana Tk 2,000, in default to suffer six months more RI.

According to prosecution, Mullik Chand with the help of his four accomplices killed his daughter-in-law Rijli Khatun as she refused his indecent proposal.

The Judge Tapan Kumar also sentenced the four culprits — Amir Chand, Mujibur, Shahjahan, Salaiman — to two years rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 1,000 each, in default to suffer three months more RI.

The Judge after examining the witnesses and evidences delivered the judgement on Saturday.

**Five convicted for murder in Rangpur**

RANGPUR, Oct 24: Five persons were sentenced to life imprisonment by the court of District and Sessions Judge for killing a person last year, reports UNB.

The court also fined the convicts — Hasan Ali, Ibrahim, Golapi, Bhola and Monowar, Tk 5,000 each and in default to suffer six months more RI.

The accused were found guilty of murdering Abdul Kader of village Kumodpur in Pirganj thana on January 18, 1993.

Police after investigation charged sheet against the accused.

After examining the records and witnesses the court delivered the judgement on Monday last.

**Brojomohun University College gets Tk 2.36 cr for development**

BARISAL, Oct 24: Government has sanctioned about Tk 2.36 crore for the implementation of five education projects in government Brojomohun University College of Barisal under the development programme of five university college, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects included the construction of a commerce building, a 3-storey science building, extension of present chemistry building, repair and renovation of degree hostel and construction of a 100-bed ladies hostel in the Banamali Ganguly ladies hostel premises.

Meanwhile, the construction of commerce building has already been completed.

The construction of ladies hostel will start soon, the source said.

**Sonali Bank gives Tk 9.73 cr agri loan in Sylhet Div**

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 24: Disbursement of loans worth Taka nine crore 73 lakh has begun in the four districts of greater Sylhet region during the current financial year by the Sonali Bank.

When contacted, an official source of the bank informed this correspondent that the loans would be given for cultivating different crops like irrigated, wheat, potato, and other winter and summer crops.

Farmers will get the loan through the branches of the bank in the rural areas. Loans for cultivating transplanted aman paddy had already been completed this year.

The source also informed that of the total amount, Taka one crore 27 lakh will be given among the farmers of different thanas under Sylhet. Taka two crore 87 lakh in Moulvibazar, Taka two crore 62 lakh in Sunamganj and Taka two crore 37 lakh in Habiganj district.

The source further informed that during the last financial year, the bank disbursed a total Taka eight crore 73 lakh 41 thousand in the region. The amount was Taka 20 lakh more than the amount sanctioned earlier.

It may be stated here that the amount sanctioned for the greater Sylhet region is quite scanty to meet the demand of the farmers in this north-eastern region of the country. Besides it is also observed that a section of bank officials do not give proper attention in providing loans to the farmers in general, especially in the rural areas. Whereas, some influential quarters in cooperation with touts grab a huge amount of loans in the name of agricultural loans, almost every year, it is alleged.



HAVE NO FEAR: They still wish to face the risk. More than 50 people are seen crossing a tributary of river Jamuna in Pathail Kandi of Tangail district.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

**Padma, Gorai erosions cause untold sufferings in GK Project areas**

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Oct 24: Large scale erosion of the river Ganges (Padma) has left a tremendous impact on GK Project Pump House at Bheramara devouring large portion of intake channel which link river Padma with the pump house.

This situation has caused a serious concern for the GK Project authority. Meanwhile, the state minister for water resources visited pump house on May this year and directed the authority to take adequate precautionary measures to save the pump house threatened by erosion.

The river Ganges changed its course since last 20 years and flowing on the right side resulting in severe erosion on Bheramara side. It has already eroded the approach road towards Bheramara Paksey Ferry ghat compelling Roads and Highway Department to construct alternate road to maintain uninterrupted communication from southern to northern part of the country.

Long ago, the river Ganges and Gorai were deep and wide enough to carry much water. But due to heavy siltation the rivers gradually lost their depth and changed their courses.

The heavy siltation has been caused by low flow of water from the upper stream due to the unilateral withdrawal of water by India through controversial Farakka Barrage constructed on the other side of the border. The surging tide and wave directly hit the banks of the rivers round the year.

During construction of the pump house the length of intake channel between river Padma and pump house was 1325 metre as the mainflow of the river was found in the mid river. Subsequently, in 1972-73 the right side of the river developed vast tract of char areas as the main flow of the river inclined on the left side and the length in between river and pump house was 2190 metre. But after 1973 the river continued its flow on

the right side eroding its bank and closing the gap between the original intake channel and the river from 1325 metre to 665 metres.

This situation has caused a serious concern for the GK Project authority. Meanwhile, the state minister for water resources visited pump house on May this year and directed the authority to take adequate precautionary measures to save the pump house threatened by erosion.

Erosion, being a continuous process in last 15 years, has forced about 30 thousand people to leave their home.

The erosion of the river Ganges has devoured 13 village in eight unions covering an area of 5,000 acres of land in Daulatpur thana where 12 mile long Raita Mohiskundi flood protection embankment, constructed in 1972, have been threatened.

The Unions affected are :

Adabaria, Pragpur, Boalia and Aria while the devoured unions are : Philipnagar, Ramkrishnapur, Maricha and Chilmari.

Erosion has engulfed a portion of Raita Mohiskundi Flood Protection Embankment apart from six primary schools, one madrasa, nine mosques, six high schools and 18 culverts which have already been washed away by the fury of erosion.

The Ganges was flowing

eight miles away from the present course in 1972 and as a precautionary measure 12-mile long Raita Mohiskundi Flood Protection Embankment was constructed in 1972.

The erosion-hit people of Daulatpur thana have no land to live or to cultivate. They have got no money and source of income to maintain their

families. The Thana administration has been facing serious problem to rehabilitate those unfortunate people. The relief materials so far distributed among them were too inadequate to meet the demand.

The other hand, the river Gorai has eroded vast tract of land too, in Kumarkhali including part of Poura Bazar, Old M N High School, Kumarkhali Degree College and also threatened a number of handloom industries and other institutions.

The irrigation department of the then Pakistani government constructed two earthen groynes to protect Kumarkhali town from erosion. But due to wrong site selection according to experts, the groynes did not work properly and institutions like M N High School, Kumarkhali Degree College and Poura Bazar were eroded by the river.

The erosion also affected main canal of Ganges Kobadak Project, seven miles away from Kushtia town. The project authority has been spending huge amount of money every year to protect the project.

Large number of houses on the bank of the river have been devoured by the erosion where 5000 people were dislocated.

The G K Project authority placed many percupines at a cost of Taka 20 lakh to save the main canal. The authority also spent a considerable amount of money to save Kumarkhali town.

A case was filed at the Patuakhali Sadar Thana in this connection. Later police arrested Abul and placed him before the court.

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