

## 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 Rijia Khatun as she refused his indecent proposal.

The Judge Tapan Kumar also sentenced the four culprits — Amir Chand, Mujibur, Shajahan, Solaiman — 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 Kumudpur in Pirganj thana on January 18, 1993.

Police after investigation chargesheeted 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 paddy, 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 G K Project Pump House at Bheramara devouring large portion of intake channel which link river Padma with the pump house. Ganges Kobadak Project the biggest irrigation project of the country was established in 1954 aiming to facilitate irrigation, flood protection and discharging excess water and bringing self sufficiency of food and thereby economic wellbeing of the people of greater Kushtia and Jessore districts. The first and second phase work of the project were completed in 1970 and 1983 respectively.

The main pump house has a provision for three pumps, each having capacity to discharge 1300 cusecs of water and 12 subsidiary pumps each having capacity to discharge 125 cusecs of water to provide irrigation facilities to 3.5 lakh acres of land in the command area of the project.

During construction of the pump house the length of intake channel in 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.

The river Ganges changed its course sine 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 the rainy seasons, the

rate of erosion increases alarmingly.

The river Ganges has also eroded many houses, offices, educational institutions, business establishments, culverts, roads and vast tract of arable land in Daulatpur thana.

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

On the other hand, the river Gorai has eroded vast tract of land too, in Kumarkhali including part of Pura 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 Pakistan 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 Pura 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.

## Two receive burn injury in Patuakhali

From Our Correspondent

PATUAHALI, Oct 24: Two persons received serious burn injuries when a person threw acid on them recently in the district.

The persons were identified as Nilufa, 20, and her two year-old son Rubel, of Nutan Bazar area of Patuakhali town.

It is learnt one Abul, 30, of the same area threw acid on the victims.

Nilufa, daughter of Abdul, a sweeper of Patuakhali Municipality, was divorced a year ago. Abul, a worker in Panza Bidi factory, who failed to marry Nilufa, became very desperate. On the night of occurrence he threw acid on them while they were sleeping and injured them seriously. Later the victims were admitted to the Patuakhali Sadar Hospital.

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

## Without tickets

JAMALPUR, Oct 24: Railway stations have no tickets for intercity passengers on the Jamalpur-Purbatpur route for the last four months resulting in a substantial loss in revenues, reports UNB.

Officials at the Jamalpur junction station said, they had already given requisition for supply of new tickets which were yet to arrive.

## Medicine scarcity in Madaripur health complexes

MADARIPUR, Oct 24: Scarcity of medicine in different health complexes in the districts has been causing inconvenience to the patients, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that ordinary medicines like dettol, paracetamol are not available in almost all the thana health complexes.

A huge number of patients coming from far flung areas to the thana health complexes every day are to go back disappointed due to lack of proper treatment and admission facilities.

Some of thana health complexes are without physicians and it is alleged that in the absence of physicians either compounder or staff members give prescription to the patients.

The doctors posted in the rural areas are reluctant to discharge their responsibilities as they are found busy to get transfer to elsewhere in urban areas.

It is also alleged that some doctors without attending the patients at the health complexes are found busy with their private practice.

The physicians of the thana and union health complexes are also said to be unwilling to attend the outdoor patients due to non-availability of medicines.

## Body recovered in Patuakhali

From Our Correspondent

PATUAHALI, October 24: Police have recovered a body of an unidentified young man, 20, from a pond near thana council auditorium of Mrizagaj thana.

It is suspected that the victim was kidnapped and later killed.

## Diarrhoea claims lives of 100 people in Gaibandha, Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Oct 24: Diarrhoea claimed twenty lives this month in different areas of the district.

About one thousand people were attacked by the disease. Most of the victims are children and women.

It is reported that the disease has broken out almost in an epidemic form in many places of the district. The badly affected thanas are Kachua, Matlab, Shaharati, Haimchar and Faridganj.

According to Chandpur civil surgeon office sources, fifty medical teams are working in the affected areas.

It is informed that scarcity of pure drinking water is one of the main causes in the affected areas. Oral saline, cholera vaccine and other drugs necessary to combat the disease are not always available in different health complexes of the district. The poor are not able to buy medicine from the markets. In open market these medicines are sold at very high price. Everyday about one hundred people are taken

to Matlab ICDDR,B hospital for treatment. The number of patients are increasing day by day.

UNB from Gaibandha adds: Diarrhoea has claimed 80 lives and attacked 6,071 people in the district since it broke out early this month, officials here said Wednesday.

Unofficial sources also put the death figure at 100, said another 15,000 people were attacked by the water and food-borne disease in all the seven thanas of the district during the period.

Ninety-four medical teams with only 25 doctors are working in the affected areas.

The worst affected thanas are Saghata, Polashbari and Gobindaganj, where a total of 68 people died of the disease, officials said. The thanawise break-up: Saghata — 33, Palashbari — 20 and Gobindaganj — 15.

The Civil Surgeon of the district attributed the outbreak of the disease to intake of adulterated food and impure water.

## Hoping for better life

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Oct 24: The inhabitants of "Sena Palli," a cluster village erected by the side of Gaibandha-Palashbari road in 1989 during the regime of former president Ershad government under the programme Thukana are fighting to survive.

Under this programme a cluster village called Sena Palli was erected on three acres of land at Tulshighat on Gaibandha-Palashbari highway where a total 28 landless destitute families were provided with shelter hoping to maintain somewhat better life. It was a commitment of the then government to extend all possible help including providing of tinshed house, arable land and financial grant for the rehabilitation of the said destitute families so they could stand on their own. But all went in vain, still holding them back.

At present there is no one to

look after them. With the change in government nothing was provided for these destitute families as yet. Local chairman of Shahapara union helped them occasionally but that was too little.

While visiting the areas an inhabitant of cluster village, Sabura Khatun, 40, told this correspondent that before settling in the village, she lived in Urier Char in Fulchari thana on three bighas of arable land. She was happy then with her husband, Shayeruddin and children but the happiness did not continue any longer. The mighty river Brahmaputra eroded away all her belongings driving them completely landless and assetless.

The husband of Sabura was a day labourer now he begs on streets. None has extended any helping hand to help them become self reliant.



CHANDPUR: A blood donation campaign was organised by Chandpur Rotary Club Central. The campaign was inaugurated by district Governor Md Mosharraf Hossain.

— Star photo

## Gopalganj poura area needs development

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Oct 24: Gopalganj pourasava has long been gripped with numerous problems, depriving the dwellers of the basic amenities — which included dilapidated condition of roads, inadequate street lights and lack of conservancy service. Established in 1972 the pourasava stretches over about six square miles. According to records of 1981 its population was 50,000 and now it reached 75,000.

The pourasava has 175.37 kilometres of road, of which 35.42 kilometres are metalled and the rest 139.95 kilometres are kutcha. Most of the roads in the pourasava have developed potholes owing to lack of maintenance and repair. The situation turns worse during rainy season. A total of 17 kilometres long drains are there of which 12 kilometres are pucca.

The pourasava authority is said to be least concerned about improving the condition of the drains. Most of the drains are filled with garbage due to which in rainy seasons the drains overflow the banks and cause stagnation of water on the roads.

As most of the dustbins are damaged the pourasava dwellers throw their garbage into the drains which block the passage. Within the pourasava area about 10 latrines of various categories have been set up.

There are 850 lamp posts within the pourasava area but most of them have no bulbs. Even the busiest pourasava roads and residential areas plunge into darkness after dusk for inadequate lighting arrangements. Besides, 300 rickshaws ply in Gopalganj of

them only 200 have valid licences.

There are three markets in the pourasava area — Gopalganj Pura Bazar, New Bazar and Munshi market.

These markets remain dirty in the absence of conservancy services though the poura authority regularly realises a huge amount of revenue from these markets. When contacted, the chairman of pourasava Hasmat Ali Sikdar said that pourasava has been burdened with about Taka one crore unrealised tax money.

## Sanitation week-94 observed in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Oct 24: The National Sanitation Week — 1994 is being observed in Moulvibazar district.

The inaugural function was held at the conference room of the deputy commissioner with Abu Sayeed, DC, Moulvibazar in the chair. The inaugural function was addressed among others by Syed Mahsin Ali, chairman of local pourasava, Radhika Goswami, president of Journalists Association, Md Alamgeer, representative of the UNICEF, Dr Deoguty of Health Department, Birendra De, Head-Master and Aklu Miah, executive engineer of Public Health Engineering Department, PHED.

The programme is being observed under the joint auspices of PHED and UNICEF.

## 4 NDP activists arrested, ammunition seized

CHITTAGONG, Oct 24: Razuan police nabbed four activists of a political party and seized a light machinegun and two 303 rifles from them in a pre-dawn encounter, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip that armed miscreants were hiding in the residence of Fazal Huq in Purbu Guzra area, police raided the house and faced resistance.

Police said, the miscreants opened fire which was retaliated. During exchange of fire for quite sometime, about a dozen of the group, including the owner of the house, managed to sneak out.

Deedar, Nurul Afsar, Ali Akbar and Abdul Huq were captured in the encounter. Police identified them as NDP activists.

Sixteen rounds of LMG ammunition and seven rounds of 303 bullet were also recovered.

## Massive schemes to cultivate winter crops in M'bazar, MAZ

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 24: A total of 12,400 hectares of land will be brought under potato cultivation in five districts under Mymensingh Agriculture Zone (MAZ) in the current rabi season, official sources here said.

The districts are: Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrakona and Kishoreganj. According to an official, Agriculture Department production target of potato has been fixed at 1,36,400 metric tons in these districts.

Of the total, 3200 hectares will be cultivated in Mymensingh district, 3000 hectares in Jamalpur, 1200 hectares in Sherpur, 1500 hectares in Netrakona and 3500 hectares in Kishoreganj districts.

For successful implementation of the programme, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) branch in the districts will supply High Yielding Variety

(HYV) seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other necessary inputs to the growers of these districts.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks will also provide necessary loans for the successful implementation of the programme, it is learnt.

Our Correspondent from Moulvi Bazar adds: Over three lakh 14 thousand 642 hectares of land will be brought under boro cultivation programme in four districts of greater Sylhet region during the coming rabi season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED), of the total area, over one lakh 89 thousand 427 hectares will be brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) and rest of one lakh 25 thousand 115 hectares under local variety.

The source said, 54 thousand 417 hectares will be brought under boro farming in Sylhet district. 34 thousand

368 hectares in Moulvibazar district, 75 thousand 926 hectares in Habiganj district and one lakh 59 thousand 131 hectares will be brought in Sunamganj district.

About seven lakh 96 thousand 403 metric tons of boro paddy is expected to be produced under this programme. The district wise production targets are — Sylhet district — one lakh 21 thousand 443 metric tons, Moulvibazar district — 95 thousand 45 metric tons, Habiganj district — two lakh 28 thousand 49 metric tons and in Sunamganj district — three lakh 49 thousand 866 metric tons of boro paddy.

Meanwhile, 24 thousand 220 hectares of land will be brought under intensive potato and mustard seed cultivation in the four districts of the region. Of the total area, 7100 hectares have been brought under potato and rest of 17120 hectares under mustard seed cultivation.



Colourful rallies were brought out in Barisal (L) and Chandpur (R) to mark the National Sanitation Week 94 — Star photos