

HAJONG LEADER MURDER IN NETRAKONA

Adibasi Forum demands arrest of 'real' killers

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona**  
 Leaders of Adibasi Forum and some socio-political organisations on Monday held a rally in Durgapur demanding an impartial probe into the murder of local indigenous leader Sattyaban Hajong and arrest of the real killers.

They urged police not to harass any innocent people in connection with the incident.  
 Earlier on the day, they visited Laxmipur village in Durgapur upazila where Sattyaban was killed on April 23 by some hoodlums allegedly backed by a local lawmaker and talked to some villagers and eyewitnesses to the

incident.  
 The team included Bangladesh Adibasi (indigenous) Forum president Rabaka Soran, general secretary Sanjib Drong, Gonaforum presidium member Pankaj Bhattachariya, Hajong Unnayan Sangathan president Nuhus Hajong and Prof Mesbah Kamal of Dhaka University.

Some local people and eyewitnesses at Lakmipur told them that Sattyaban was killed allegedly by three known criminals as he declined to pay them toll, according to members of the visiting team.

The three are backed by some local influentials including a lawmaker, who are now trying to implicate two Hajong community men in the murder to save the killers, they said.

After the murder, Sattyaban's father filed a case accusing three persons Rahimuddin, Suruj Mia and Kajimuddin.

Names of two other persons-- Swapon Hajong, Sumon Hajong were included in the list of accused later at the behest of the influentials with a motive to save the real killers, the local people told the visiting team.

The rally held on local Shaheed Miner premises was addressed by Pankaj Bhatracharya and other members of the team.

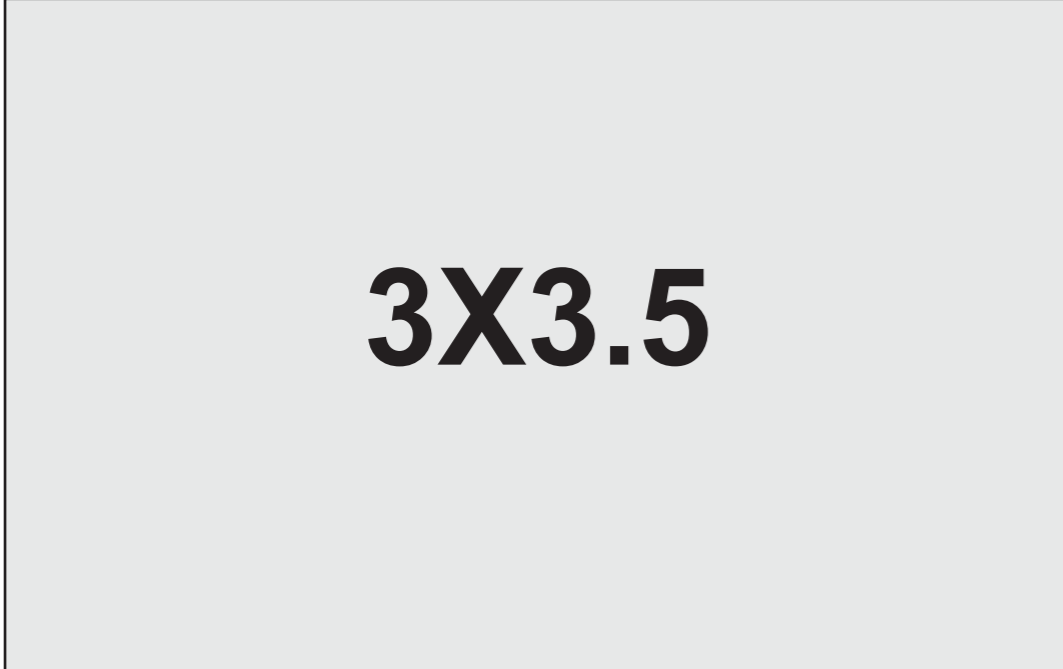


PHOTO: STAR  
 Labourers cutting earth from the bank of a branch canal of Teesta Irrigation Project (TIP) in Jaldhaka to repair an embankment.

Repairing one by damaging the other!

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

An embankment under Teesta Irrigation Project (TIP) is being repaired by using earth from the bank of a branch canal.

Labourers were engaged to repair about one kilometre embankment of Dinajpur canal, a major component of TIP. They were seen cutting and removing earth of the bank of a nearby irrigation branch canal (BC-3) at Deshibai village in Jaldhaka upazila, local people and BWDB sources said.

Jamaat lawmaker from Jaldhaka constituency diverted fund for the work under special allotment quota, they said.

Instead of procuring earth, the project chairman who is also a Union Parishad (UP) chairman of Kathali union under Jaldhaka allegedly managed the BWDB officials for an order to

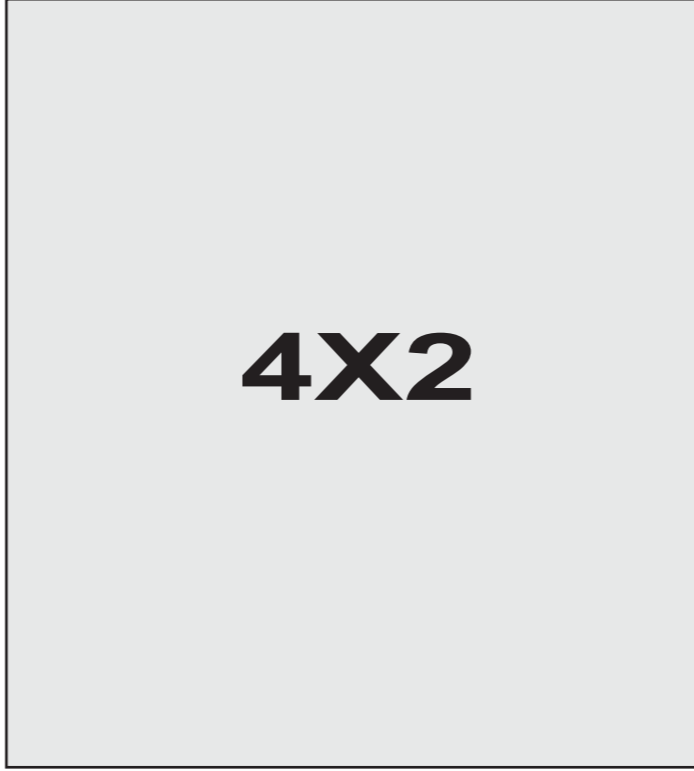
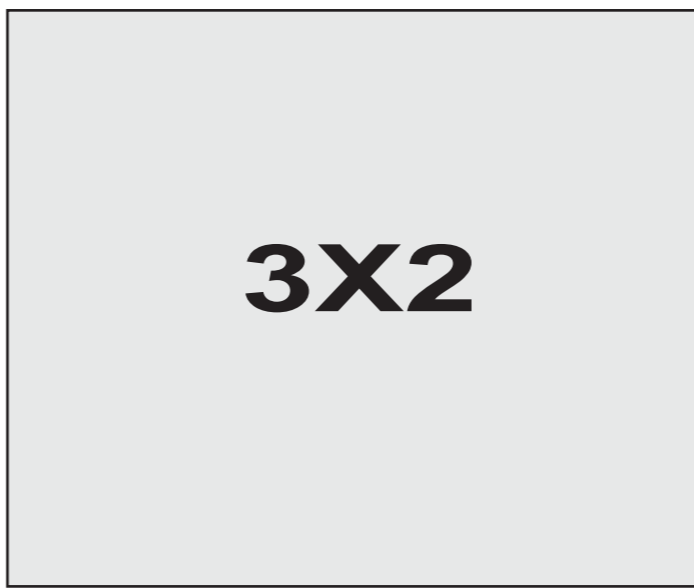
cut the bank of the canal. The branch of Dinajpur canal is meant for irrigation in the area.

Dhirendro Nath Roy, a labour leader told newsmen recently that his labourers are working at the directive of a BWDB section officer for the last few days. He also said the project chairman engaged 13 labourers for the purpose.

Farmers Yusuf Ali, Prokash Roy, Suresh Roy and Porimal Chandra said they lodged protest with the SO and the project chairman but to no effect.

On contact, BWDB executive engineer Abdur Razzak said that it is absolutely his discretion from where earth should be removed to repair the dam.

'I am not bound to explain to newsmen as I do not work under their authority,' he said.



Uplift work stalled

2 hold post of project officer in Saidpur

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

Work on about 100 rural development projects is stalled for about a month in Saidpur due to official complexities as two persons are holding the post of Project Implementation Officer (PIO) in the upazila.

This has created resentment among the ultra poor women who did not get their wages after working in different projects under food for work and test relief.

Sources said the ministry concerned in an order transferred Saidpur PIO Nagendra Nath Roy to Kaharol upazila in Dinajpur and ordered PIO Motiur Rahman of Hakimpur upazila in Dinajpur to replace him.

The new PIO joined his new workplace at Saidpur on March 27.

But Nagendra Nath Roy managed to get his transfer order cancelled and refrained from handing over charge to Motiur Rahman.

Now, as two persons are holding the same post in Saidpur, official formalities are stopped and all development works and payments to labourers are stalled, the sources said.

New PIO Motiur Rahman told newsmen that he can not sign any paper as his predecessor has not yet handed over charge.

District Relief Officer Abdul Majid, when contacted, said he has nothing to do as the order for transfer of Nagendra Nath Roy has been cancelled by the DG office in Dhaka.

JMB kingpins to be produced in Satkhira court today

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Abdur Rahman and its leaders Siddiqui Islam Bangla Bhai and Ataur Rahman sunny will be produced before the court of Satkhira Additional District Judge Osman Haider today.

They are charge-sheeted accused in five cases filed against them in connection with the August 17 bomb blasts in the town last year.

Hearing of two of the five cases will be held today, court sources said.

