

A 20-metre portion of the embankment of Rangpur branch of Teesta Irrigation Project at Dakkhin Borobhita village in Kishoreganj upazila under Nilphamari district breached on Tuesday night, causing inundation of a hundred hectares of boro fields.

Teesta canal embankment collapses in Lalmonirhat

100 hectares of boro field inundated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A 20-metre-long breach developed on the embankment of Rangpur branch canal under Teesta irrigation project at Dakkhin Borobhita village in Kishoreganj upazila under the district on Tuesday night, causing damage to vast boro fields due to onrush of water through the breach.

The incident coincided with the unusual rise in the time. flow of water in the Teesta

on Tuesday night, which is unlikely in this season as only 300-400 cusec of water is discharged from the upstream in India to the

Moinuddin Mondol, sub-Bangladesh Water Development Board (WDB) at Dalia.

onrush of water from the canal at about 8:00pm on Tuesday, locals ran towards the direction with lights and saw that a small breach had developed. Due to onrush of water the breach got wider and became about 20metre-wide within a short

Further damage to the embankment could be The flow was 3000 cusec averted as local schoolteacher Moshiur Rahman immediately made a cell phone call to WDB officials in Nilphamari who immediately opened all the gates Bangladesh portion of the of the regulators in the

river this time, said canal mouth to reduce pressure in the breached assistant engineer of area, said Fazlar Rahman, chairman of Borobhita union parishad.

Farmers in the village Hearing sound of heavy said that their boro plants on about 100 hectares of land beside the canal had been submerged in water.

Eight to ten trees on the canal embankment were also uprooted and swept away due to heavy rush of water, said Karimul Islam, 35, a farmer of Dakkhin able. Borobhita village.

of the village, alleged that farmers but the malpractice the WDB authorities did not repair the part of the added. embankment that had become vulnerable due to appearance of a number of rat holes.

Consequently, the

earthen embankment could not tackle the increased water pressure and the breach developed, he added. Contacted, Nurul Islam,

executive engineer of WDB Nilphamari Division, informed that the damage occurred as some farmers illegally inserted plastic pipes through the embankment to take out canal water to their land and it made the canal embankments vulner-

For such offence, WDB Jahidul Islam, a resident filed cases against many could not be stopped, he

> "We shall start work to repair the embankment breach by tomorrow [Thursday]," said the official.

Rival AL men clash over tender, 20 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two factions of Awami League over dropping a tender in Sadar upazila of Meherpur district yesterday.

Upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Naznin Sultana said the upazila parishad floated the tender for 18 development projects at the cost of Tk 1.15 crore last month. Yesterday was last day for submitting tender sched-

Men belonging to AL Meherpur Sadar upazila unit Golam Rasul took their position after dropping the tender documents at the parishad.

The clash took place when other group belonging to Meherpur Zilla Parishad administrator Advocate Miazan Ali tried to drop tender papers in the box at 2:30pm, said Atiar Rahman, officer in-charge of Sadar police station.

Five get life, 9 jailed for 10 yrs for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Fourteen people were jailed yesterday for killing a man in Durgapur upazila of the district in 2008.

Of them, five were sentenced to life imprisonment while the rest awarded 10 years' jail each.

Netrakona Additional District and Sessions Judge Abdul Hamid fined the lifers Ratan Mia, Manik Mia, Nayan Mia, Sujon Mia and Ripon Mia of Shankerpur village in the upazila Tk 50,000 each. In default, they are to suffer another five years in jail.

Those jailed for 10 years are Milon Mia, Parosh Mia, Renu Mia, Rafik Mia, Babul Mia, Fazlu Mia, Shafiqul Islam, Abdul Gani and Kajal Mia of the village.

The court also fined the nine 30,000, in default they have to suffer three years more in prison.

According to the prosecution, the convicts attacked Nurul Islam of neighbouring Dalurkanda village with sharp weapons, leaving him dead on the spot over previous enmity on March 21, 2008.

Shahjahan, son of the deceased, later filed a murder case with Durgapur Police Station accusing 14 people. Police then submitted charge sheet to the cour against the 14 after inves tigation.



MEDICINE WITH ADVANCED MANUFACTURING DATE: Melovit, a claimed multivitamin manufactured by GS Laboratories (Ayurvedic) Bangladesh, became available in Lalmonirhat markets a couple of weeks ago although the marked manufacturing date of May 5 is still a few days away.

Abducted girl remains untraced for 3 weeks

OUR CORRESPONDENT. Lalmonirhat

Parents of a teenage daughter are passing days amid despair as the girl has remained traceless since her abduction from Durakuti village of Mogholhat union in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila over three weeks

The victim, Maloti Rani 13, daughter of Jagodish Chandra Ram and Jayanti Rani of Durakuti village in Lalmonirhat Sadar, is a Class VII student of local Ebatunnesa Girls' High School.

Police said Ismail Hossain, 38, son of Abdul Hamid, and his gang abducted the girl when she along with her younger sister was going to Astami Snan, a religious fair of Hindus, at the village on April 7 morning and the victim's father lodged a case in this connection on April 9.

"Culprit Ismail Hossain disturbed my daughter on her way to school and home for the last one year. We want our daughter back, we want exemplary punishment to Ismail and his gang," said the victim's mother Jayanti Rani, wail-

The alleged abductor, Ismail Hossain earlier got punishment on several occasions for his involvement with 'women related' offences at the village, said Nur Islam, member of the local

union parishad. Sub-Inspector Oliur Rahman, investigation officer of the case, said "We are trying to locate Ismail and the victim girl through tracking mobile phones. We hope to rescue the victim and arrest the culprit soon."

Specially designed vehicle benefits char people

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

The people of Tengrakandi village in Fulchhari upazila under the district are now lucky to have a specially designed three-wheeler meant for carrying passengers and agricultural products across bumpy char lands to the river terminal market five kilometres away.

In the dry season, when the Jamuna loses its usual flow, people in the char areas have to walk kilometres to reach the upazila headquar-

going to the upazila health complex or other treatment sufferers.

they were being carried month. on shoulders by relatives, said Abdus Sabur parishad.

agency Practical Action, Patients who require which works in Jamuna and help people grow boro, area.

centres become the worst maize, chili, onion, groundnut and pumpkin on sandy Last year seven expec- char lands, a man started tant mothers from the running the three-wheeler remote char area died on to carry passengers and the way to the upazila goods from Tengrakandi to health complex when Fulchhari in middle of last

"The specially designed three-wheeler Sarker, chairman of costs Tk 2.5 lakh and our Fulchhari union organisation provided loan of Tk 1.50 lakh for Recently two horse carts introducing it to transstarted carrying goods and port goods and passenpassengers between gers between Tengrakandi and Fulchhari Tengrakandi to river terminal but most Fulchhari. We will extend people cannot afford the the programme to other char areas gradually," With the help of donor said AKM Zakaria Khan, director of M4C, development programme of Teesta river basin areas to Practical Action in the



PHOTO: STAR

This specially designed three-wheeler, suitable for bumpy land in the char (landmass emerging from riverbed) area, appears as boon for people of Tengrakandi in Phulchhari upazila under Gaibandha district.



PHOTO: STAR

Land grabbers have continued illegal construction after occupying a canal at Nachnapara in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district, thanks to the indifference of the authorities concerned.

Structures being built on grabbed Patuakhali canal

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Some land grabbers are constructing permanent structures, encroaching upon a canal in Nachnapara area under Kalapara upazila of the district.

Local people said the land grabbers led by Mostafa Matabbar and Mamun of the area have filled up a large portion of Nachnapara canal under Khepupara mouja, but local administration are yet to take any steps in this regard.

They have developed 334 plots on around 90 decimals of khas land for sale, locals added.

While visiting the spot on Monday, a team of local journalists found that a boundary wall has been erected on the grabbed

Contacted, both Mostafa Matabbar and Mamun claimed the ownership of the land, but they could not show valid documents in support of their claim.

Local land office sources said they were not aware of the matter. "We will visit the area soon and take necessary steps in this regards," said Tahshilder Jahirul Haque.

When the matter was brought to Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Jahangir Hossain, also the acting assistant commissioner for land, he said none can build any structure on khas land without taking permission from the authorities concerned.

"We will soon investigate the matter and take legal steps against the land grabbers, the UNO said.



