

Breach in Teesta canal dyke floods croplands

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Nilphamari

Water Development Board's (WDB) work to repair the breached portion of the embankment on the Nilphamari-Dinajpur main branch irrigation canal under Teesta Irrigation Project sees little progress in three days till yesterday.

Farmers are worried due to the situation as the onrush of water through the 50-foot breach on the canal embankment at Dangapara village of Itakhola union under Sadar upazila on Thursday morning inundated aman paddy on about 70 acres of land.

"A small damage appeared on the slope of the right embankment 15-20

days ago. As the WDB officials did not take immediate step for its repair, finally a major breach developed, damaging vast crop fields in the area," said Hafizur Rashid Monju, chairman of Itakhola union parishad.

Ananta Kumar Singh, sub assistant engineer of WDB Nilphamari division, said, "The 50-foot breach

developed from a number of rat holes on the embankment. Sustainable repair started on an emergency basis on Thursday."

Visiting the site on Saturday afternoon, this correspondent found 6-7 labourers working to set a pair of bamboo piling and some sandbags were kept nearby for throwing there to stop onrush of water.

Some trolleys had just started carrying earth from distant places while almost the entire breach was still open and at vulnerable stage.

Milon Ahmed, contractor of the work, said it was difficult to carry earth by trolleys as there was not enough space on the embankment to turn the vehicles and there was scarcity of earth during the rainy season.

If the work progresses at the present rate, it will take at least 10-12 days more to complete the task and the submerged crops would be destroyed by the time, local said.

Keramot Ali, Sadar upazila agriculture officer, said the water flow should be stopped within 3-4 days to save the aman paddy on about 70 acres of inundated fields.



PHOTO: STAR

Water Development Board on Thursday started work to repair the breached portion of Nilphamari-Dinajpur branch canal under Teesta Irrigation Project at Dangapara village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila. But aman paddy of around 70 acres of land, flooded due to the onrush of water through the breach, is likely to be fully damaged as the work progresses at a snail's pace.

11 hurt as rival AL men lock in fierce clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Chuadanga

At least 11 people, including a policeman, were injured in a clash between two factions of ruling Awami League in Jibannagar upazila on Saturday.

Local administration imposed Section 144 for an indefinite period from 7:45 pm apprehending further violence in the town.

Locals said, Solaiman Haque Joardar Selun, lawmaker of Chuadanga-1 constituency and Hazi Ali Asgar Tagor, MP of Chuadanga-2 constituency had been at loggerheads over establishing supremacy in the area.

As a sequel to the rivalry, the supporters of Tagor assaulted a man of Solaiman

on Jibannagar Degree College campus in the afternoon, witness said.

As the news spread, the supporters of Solaiman brought out a protest procession in the evening.

When the procession reached KB Market area, a fierce clash took place between the supporters of the two MPs, leaving 11 people injured. Both groups used lethal weapons and blasted cocktails.

Police fired at least 20 blank shots to disperse them.

An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Jibannagar PS, Mohammad Sirajul Haque, was also injured during the clash and taken to a local hospital.

BNP demo

FROM PAGE 16
workers," BNP acting secretary general Fakhru Islam Alamgir told reporters. The meeting called upon the journalist community and civil society members to raise their voices against the broadcast policy.

Meanwhile, the newly formed convening body of Dhaka city BNP yesterday constituted 15 committees which will later form the party's 100 ward units across the capital.

The committees were formed at a meeting of the convening body held at the party's headquarters in Naya Paltan.

"Each of the 15 committees was given maximum 15 days to form units in the respective wards," Bazlul Basit Anju, a member of the new convening body, told The Daily Star after the meeting yesterday.

Each of those committees has been asked to work for the formation of party units in more than one ward, said the BNP leader.

The ward committees would be formed on the basis of the opinions of local leaders and activists, added Bazlul Mirza Abbas, who presided over yesterday's meeting, urged all party leaders and activists to remain united for initiating an 'all-out' movement against the government. It is widely believed that the then BNP-led 18-party alliance's movement for holding a national election under a non-party administration did not succeed as it had failed to wage a strong movement in the capital.

The immediate past Dhaka city committee led by Sadeque Hossain Khoka was disbanded on July 18 due to its failure to wage the anti-government movement, especially from October to December. Khoka had led the unit for nearly 17 years.

Khaleda Zia's plan, how-

Mannan killed for his bid to resist crimes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, JESSORE

Attempts to prevent crimes like snatching, robbery and drug dealing in the area might be the reason behind the murder of Jessor town

unit A w a m i

Swecchhasebak League

president Abdul Mannan.

Three masked criminals shot and stabbed to death Mannan, 50, at his business establishment at Bejpara in the town on Saturday. He had formed a team to resist snatching, robbery and drug dealing by some youths of Bihari Colony, TB Clinic and adjacent areas, and it might be the reason behind the murder.

ever suffered a major blow as Abbas had reportedly been declining to work with Habib-un-Nabi Sohel, the member secretary, since the formation of the convening body.

However, Abbas recently denied any internal conflict in the new committee. But when asked about his reported discontent over making Sohel his deputy, he did not make any comment and asked Sohel to talk about it. Sohel had said, "Abbas is my elder brother...There's no rift between us."

Locals rescued him and took to Tangail Medical College

Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

In Pabna, a leader of an outlawed party was stabbed to death at a char village in Sadar upazila of Tangail yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Haque alias Haque Sab, 45, of Duminibari village of the upazila and a regional leader of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party, Lal Pataka, reports our correspondent.

Police said, a rival gang

stabbed Haque at Malotipara when he was going to a market in the town from the village at about 10:30 am, leaving him seriously injured.

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