

The Daily Star
PUBLIC
DEBATE



Today, on Page 4, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Member, Standing Committee, BNP, and Minister for Housing and Works argues why there is no need for a caretaker government to lead the next general elections.

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UN hopeful of implementing new peace plan for Bosnia

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NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda greets Brundtland

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday felicitated Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland on the occasion of the Constitution Day of the Kingdom of Norway today. In a message Begum Zia said: Bangladesh is looking forward to the development of relations between the two countries, reports BSS.

15 missing as boat capsizes in Padma

PABNA, May 16: Fifteen people were reported missing after a passenger boat capsized in the river Padma in Shujanagar thana of the district today, reports UNB.

5-day work week in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, May 16: Pakistan will move to a five-day work week starting on June 3, the government announced today. Friday will continue to be a holiday in overwhelmingly Muslim Pakistan, but now Saturday will also be a weekend day, Information Minister Khalid Ahmed Kharai said. During the five-day work week, all federal and provincial government offices will function eight hours a day, increasing the workweek from the current 36 hours to 40 hours, reports AFP.

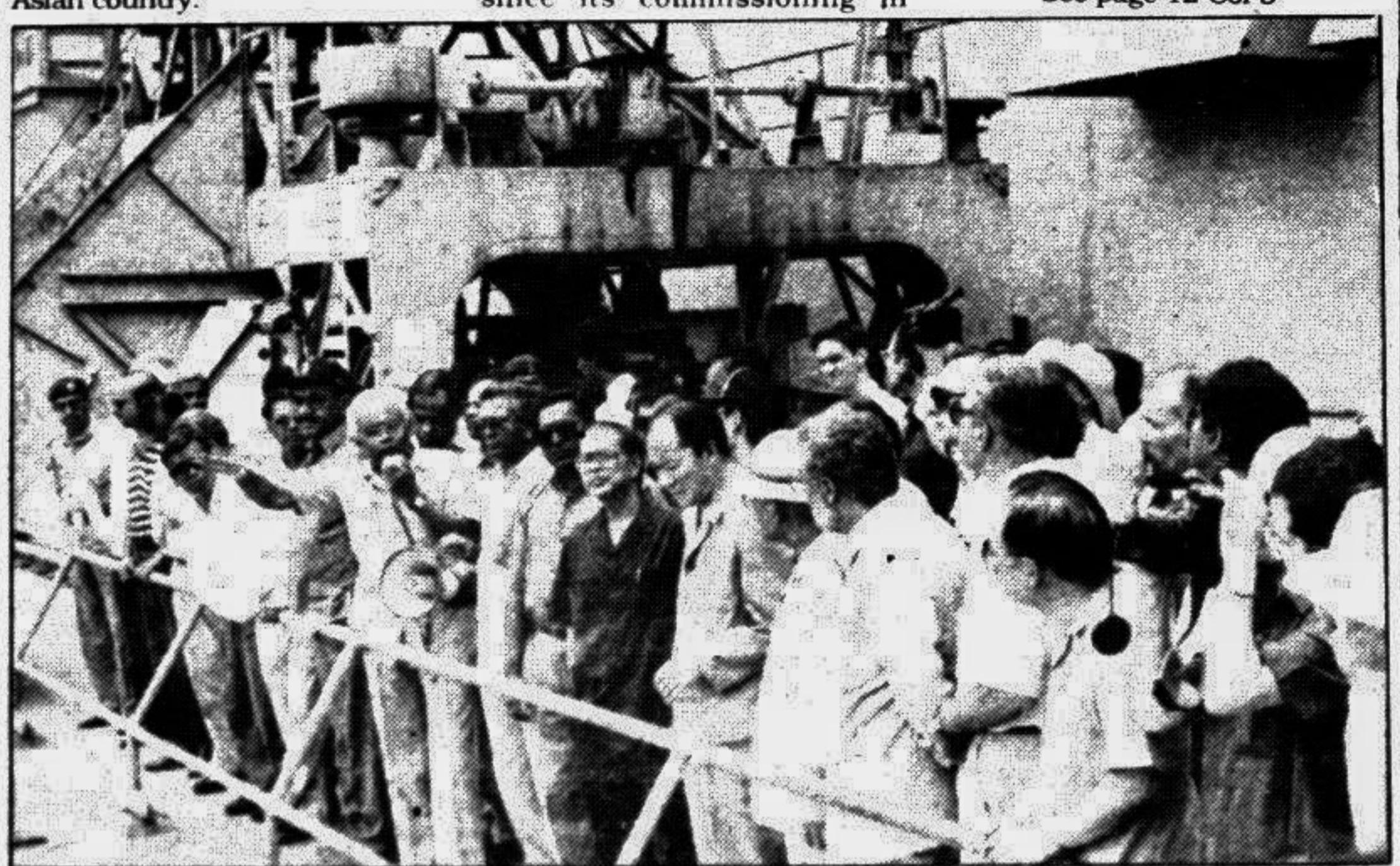
Diplomats see havoc wrought by Farakka

BHERAMARA (Kushtia), May 16: Heads of several diplomatic missions based in Dhaka flew to Bheramara this morning to see the adverse effect on Bangladesh of the unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water at Farakka by India, report agencies.

The diplomats visited the Ganges-Kobadak Irrigation Project, covering a command area of 3.5 lakh acres, and got an on-the-spot idea of how the withdrawal of water at Farakka Barrage had seriously affected the life patterns of the people and agriculture, forestry, livestock, industry, navigation and ecology.

"It's awful and unfortunate," observed a diplomat from an Asian country.

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Heads of different diplomatic missions and representatives of international organisations in Dhaka, accompanied by Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid Ul Huq, visited the G-K Project in Bheramara yesterday to see the impact of India's Farakka Barrage on the north-western region of Bangladesh. — PID photo

Dhaka, Yangon for border trade from next month

Bangladesh and Myanmar yesterday agreed that the border trade accord, due to be signed tomorrow, would come into effect from June 1994, reports BSS.

The decision came up at an official talks between the two countries at the state guest house Padma in the city.

Bangladesh Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam and the

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Minister for Trade of Myanmar Lt General Tun Kyi led the delegations in the discussion on behalf of their respective countries.

Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam remarked that the border trade agreement would be beneficial to Bangladesh and Myanmar and provide an impetus to economic activity in the region.

Tun Kyi expressed the same views and stressed the need

for encouraging the private sector in order to strengthen the bilateral trade and economic relationship between the two countries.

The meeting also discussed elaborately on possibilities of setting up industries in joint collaboration in two friendly countries.

Myanmar side expressed their interest to use the sea port of Bangladesh as a part of bilateral economic cooperation.

The Commerce Secretary A H Mofazzal Karim, Home Secretary Azimuddin Ahmed, Shipping Secretary Wajid Islam and high officials concerned attended the meeting as members of Bangladesh delegation.

On the other hand, Director General of Trade Lt Colonel Kyaw Myint attended the meeting as a member of Myanmar delegation.

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