

Govt warning against vehicles carrying excess goods, passengers

The government warned all concerned that punitive action, including confiscation of vehicles, would be taken for carrying excess passengers and goods, which often leads to fatal accidents, reports UNB.

The government warning came in the wake of often some deadly road accidents that sent a shockwave across the country. The worst one, that killed some 65 people, occurred at Kalihati in Tangail district on October 14.

An official announcement yesterday said the government had already investigated the Kalihati road accident and identified the overloading of the bus with passengers as the main cause.

Meanwhile, police have filed a case in this connection, can- See Page 12 Col 7

Afghanistan now an Islamic Emirate

ISLAMABAD, Oct 27: The purist Islamic Taleban have changed the name of Afghanistan from the Islamic State of Afghanistan to the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, a broadcast on Taleban-controlled radio said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The change in name formalises the position as head of state in Taleban-ruled Afghanistan of Mullah Mohammed Omar, leader of the Taleban, who is known as Emir al-Momineen (leader of the faithful).

"In an order issued by the Emir al-Momineen, Mullah Mohammed Omar said that henceforth the Islamic State of Afghanistan has been changed to the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan," said the report on Taleban Voice of Shariat radio, monitored in Islamabad. See Page 12 Col 7

Demonstration at Rangamati against proposed CHT treaty

RANGAMATI, Oct 27: Sarbadalio Parbatya Oikya Parishad today demonstrated in the town, protesting the proposed peace treaty between the government and the PCJSS, reports UNB.

Local and central leaders of opposition BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party (Z-M), also joined the rally held in front of Old Court Building in the town this evening.

Jamaat secretary general Maulana Mattur Rahman Nizami attended the rally as chief guest while Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury of BNP and Shamim Al Mamun of Jatiya Party (Z-M) were present as special guests.

Addressing the rally, they said the proposed peace treaty is contrary to the Constitution and demanded disclosure of its See Page 12 Col 1

BNPPP meets Oct 30

Opposition BNP's Parliamentary Party will meet at 11 am at Sangsad Bhaban on October 30, reports UNB.

Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain has requested BNP MPs to attend the meeting.

The Daily Star on the Internet

http://www.dailystarnews.com

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CHOGM adopts 29-pt declaration Pledge to support free trade, democracy

EDINBURGH, Oct 27: Commonwealth heads of government concluded a four-day summit here today adopting a 29-point declaration pledging support to free trade and democracy, reports UNB.

The conference in the communique expressed concern about the special problems of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the context of globalisation of economy.

To enable them to share the benefits of globalisation, the Commonwealth leaders invited the donors to work for the target of channelling 0.15 per cent of their GNP for the LDCs.

They also resolved to promote the role of micro-credit, proposed by Bangladesh Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina. Two proposals of Hasina on expansion of trade and development of micro-credit were incorporated in the Edinburgh declaration.

In Edinburgh, the Commonwealth adopted its first economic communique, making a formal commitment to encouraging free trade and environmental good behaviour.

The heads of government received with satisfaction the attached report of the Chairman of the ministerial group on small states.

They also welcomed the report of an advisory group, A Future Small State: Overcoming Vulnerability, as an important Commonwealth contribution

towards addressing particular concern of small states and agreed on a package of measures to alleviate those concerns.

The leaders in the communique reaffirmed their commitment to the fundamental values of Commonwealth and emphasised that democracy, good governance, sustainable development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

They commended the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for its work in strengthening the democratic culture and effective parliamentary practices, and its effort to enhance the participa- See Page 12 Col 8



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart IK Gujral had a meeting in Edinburgh on Sunday. — PID photo

Hasina briefs Gujral about forthcoming Dhaka summit

EDINBURGH, Oct 27: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held a meeting with Indian Prime Minister I K Gujral here last evening, reports BSS.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister briefed her Indian counterpart about the forthcoming three-nation business summit scheduled to be held in Dhaka next month. She also thanked Gujral for accepting the invitation to attend the summit.

The Indian Prime Minister said, he was looking forward with great interest to attending the summit.

Gujral informed Hasina that he has already urged the Indian businessmen to take part in the summit and held discussions with the business community there.

Sheikh Hasina observed that the businessmen of both the See Page 12 Col 7

Govt invites Shell to 'sort out differences'

By Sharier Khan

The Energy Ministry has invited Shell Oil for a discussion on November 3 to 'sort out differences' over the second round block bidding for oil and gas exploration, sources said.

The Shell last week warned the government that it would withdraw from bidding if the government stuck to the formula of 'one block, one company' in the negotiation process instead of a 'standard competitive formula.'

The government began negotiations on October 22 for exploration of oil and gas in 12 exploration blocks in the country. Twenty foreign oil compa-

nies are bidding for the blocks.

On October 13, the Energy Ministry, shelving a report by the bidding evaluation committee, announced the 'one block, one company' formula to select companies.

The announcement, took the participating international oil companies (IOCs) by surprise as they had earlier been told that it would be a competitive bidding.

Some five IOCs including Shell registered written protests with the government for 'such an unfair' change in the terms and conditions of the bidding, the sources said.

Shell and a British company, Cairn had jointly submitted six proposals for six blocks outlining an initial investment of 200 million US dollars.

The sources said that Shell representatives walked out of a meeting with officials of the Energy Ministry on October 23 when they were offered Block No 10 instead of the six blocks. Later, the Ministry's Negotiation Committee called the representatives to discuss it again. At this stage, Shell submitted a protest letter to the Ministry.

Following these incidents, the Ministry sent a letter to See Page 12 Col 3

Next CHOGM in S Africa

EDINBURGH, Oct 27: South African President Nelson Mandela said today he was proud his country would host the next Commonwealth heads of government meeting in 1999 but expressed the fear he might not be in power to see it, reports Reuter.

Officials announced on the final day of a four-day summit that the next biennial summit would be held in South Africa in late 1999.

"I welcome the fact that South Africa will have the honour and the opportunity to host the 1999 meeting although I may be standing on the roadside with a placard which will say 'Please help me. I am unemployed', he said to loud laughter from fellow leaders.

South Africa will hold presidential elections in 1999.

Khaleda asks govt Give up anti-people acts or face ouster

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia has asked the government to give up 'anti-people and anti-state' activities or face ouster from power.

"We'll be left with no option but to topple the government through street agitation unless it changes its wrong course," the BNP chief said.

Begum Zia was addressing the 19th founding anniversary function of Jatiyatibadi Juba Dal, BNP's youth front, at the auditorium of Engineers' Institution in the city yesterday evening.

Criticising the government for 'obstructing' street rallies and processions of her party the former prime minister asserted, "We'll have to continue taking to the streets braving all hindrances... Street agitation has no alternative to bring an end to the government's repression."

She instructed all leaders and workers of BNP and its wings to prepare for the planned agitation and hoped that all sections of the people who are also victims of misrule will join it.

See Page 12 Col 7

Two dacoits killed in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Oct 27: Two dacoits were killed and two others caught in separate dacoity incidents committed in Hathajari thana in the early hours of today, reports BSS.

According to police, local people caught two dacoits when they were fleeing after committing dacoity in a house of one Nurun Nabi at village Rahullapur.

On receipt of the information police rushed to the spot and rescued the severely injured dacoits beaten by mob.

One of them died after admission to Chittagong Medical College Hospital while the other is being treated with critical condition.

On the basis of statement of the arrested dacoits local people also caught another dacoit Bashir Ahmed from the same village. Later he was handed over to the police, the sources said.

Police also recovered the body of another dacoit from nearby Mekhal village who was reportedly shot dead by his feuding accomplices.

Two cases were filed in this connection.

BCL activist killed in Feni

FENI, Oct 27: An activist of pro-Awami League Chhatra League was killed by miscreants in Fulgazi thana today, reports UNB.

Police said some miscreants picked up Bimal Chandra Roy, 21, son of Nikunja Roy of Srichandrapur village, from Chhatra and took him to GM Hat in the morning.

They left him at the bazar after beating severely. He was rushed to Cosmopolitan Hospital in the town, where he succumbed to injuries at 4 pm.

13 get life-term for killing one in mosque in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Oct 27: The District and Session Judge Court today sentenced 13 people to life term in jail for killing a man in a mosque.

The Second Additional District Sessions Judge Abdul Kudus Mia pronounced the judgement and also fined the accused with Tk 5000 each, in default, to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment (RI).

The convicts are Abdus Sukkur, Sikandar Ali, Azmal Sikder, Abdur Rahman, Abdul Haq, Mizan Sharif, Moslemuddin, Selim Sarder, Abdus Subhan, Lalima, Md Hossain, Badsha and Sentu. Badsha and Sentu are still large.

The case history in brief: See Page 12 Col 2

Charges against 3 framed for killing maid at Concord Tower

By Court Correspondent
The First Additional District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, Mohammad Sharif Hossain yesterday framed charges against Rokshana Choudhury, her daughter Farah and Jasimuddin, for allegedly murdering their maid Monowara at Concord Tower on May 5, 1995.

The Judge observed that the accused were allegedly involved in a prostitution racket, renting houses in different parts of Dhaka city. When the maid came to know about their racket, they allegedly tortured her.

On May 5, 1995, the accused allegedly killed Monowara at flat No 504 of the Concord Tower and tried to suppress the killing. In the court the accused pleaded that they were innocent, they are now on bail. The next date of hearing in November 24 when testimony of witnesses will be later. They are 33 witnesses in the case.



Government employees held a rally inside the Secretariat yesterday demanding revision of the new pay scale. — Star photo

Govt employees clash at Sectt: 7 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

At least seven people were injured when rival groups of government employees clashed at the Agriculture and Land ministries in the second nine-story building of the Secretariat yesterday.

They fought with broken chairs and paper weights, witnesses said.

Abdur Razzak, a messenger of the Ministry of Science and Technology, was hospitalised with injuries.

Trouble broke out when the group led by Habibur Rahman, Zafar Ahmed and Arif Ali went to the nine storied building and were attacked allegedly by supporters of the rival group led by Syed Mohiuddin and Shah Alam.

Zafar Ahmed, who is president of the Sachibabaya Karmachari Samity, said they were visiting different ministries as See Page 12 Col 8

PW-32 tells court Officers bluffed troops into backing killing

An army sepoy posted only 300 yards of the Dhaka Cantonment main gate during the August 15 carnage recounted how officers bluffed the troops into backing the killing of Bangabandhu in the name of night parade, reports UNB.

Hearing about the killing of President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman "we realised that the officers bluffed us," said A K M Sajedul Haq, who later retired as Havildar, making his deposition as 32nd prosecution witness in the Bangabandhu murder case.

Earlier, PW-31 Mostafizur Rahman said in his deposition that his father Siddiqui Rahman, while on duty at Bangabandhu's residence as an ASI of Special Branch, was also killed in the unruly army officers' murderous swoop on the Bangabandhu house.

Sajedul said he heard firing from southwesterly direction of his point where he was posted to stop any civil vehicle or person. "Later in the morning, I came to know that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and others have been killed," he told the trial court.

The witness named eight army officers as killers of Bangabandhu of whom, he said, Major Dalim used to come to his Commanding Officer Major Khandaker Abdur Rashid. He also identified one of them, Lt Col (LPR) Muhiuddin, in the dock.

Sajedul said the 3rd gate of the Cantonment that is guarded by military police was visible See Page 12 Col 4

PW-32 tells court

Officers bluffed troops into backing killing

The developed countries and the poorest nations kicked off a two-day meeting in Geneva yesterday to discuss duty-free entry of products of LDCs, a crucial issue for them to survive in the globalised trade regime, reports UNB.

At the beginning, many developed and developing nations made a fresh commitment to allow zero tariff entry for the products of the least developed countries (LDCs) to their markets under the generalised system of preference (GSP).

According to a message received in the city, many other countries showed willingness to

extend technical assistance, including training and human resources development programmes, to the LDCs.

They are USA, Japan, Korea, Canada, Singapore, Switzerland, Malaysia, the European Union countries and Hungary.

The Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a grouping of the world's most developed nations, also showed similar interest.

In the high-level meeting, titled "Integrated Initiatives for LDCs' Trade Development," Commerce Minister Tofael See Page 12 Col 4

Suspension of 7 BAC officials: HC issues show cause on govt

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday directed the government to show cause as to why suspension of seven deputy directors of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) should not be declared to have been made without lawful authority and are of no legal effect.

It was alleged in the suspension order that the seven deputy directors got into service as district anti-corruption officers upon suppressing their previous service positions by adopting unfair means and were continuing their service since 1984.

See Page 12 Col 1

CPD economic review FDI crucial to maintain balance of payments

By Inam Ahmed

Renowned economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud prepared the chapter on macro-economic management for the Centre for Policy Dialogue, a local think tank, that undertakes a stock taking of the economy every year.

Most of the FDI that are currently under negotiations will go to the power and gas sectors and will not directly generate export earnings and will not also help the foreign reserve position because of their very high import content. Unless the flow FDI can be See Page 12 Col 1

JSD factions to reunite Oct 31

Two factions of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal will emerge as a united JSD after 13 years of its split, reports UNB.

The merger will be announced on October 31, when the breakaway groups will observe silver jubilee of the founding of JSD.

The central committees of both JSD (Rob) and JSD (Imu) have finalised their decision of merger. They separated in 1984 following a political debate on the issue of supporting General Ershad.

Meanwhile, a press release of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob) said the standing committee of the party at a meeting yesterday finalised its decision of merger with the breakaway faction of the party. See Page 12 Col 1

Geneva meet on allowing duty-free entry of LDC products

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1.5 lakh marooned by waterlogging in 2 Jessore thanas

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Oct 27: Over one lakh 50 thousand people of 200 villages under 15 unions of Keshabpur and Monirampur thanas in the district have been marooned for the last few months due to waterlogging caused by Bhabadah sluice gate.

The area remains under water for most of the year and the problem has been persisting for over 15 years, according to local people and sources in the Water Development Board (WDB).

As a result, a large number of people have shifted to other places and many others have taken shelter in schools, madrasahs and embankments. During a visit to the area this correspondent found five schools — Poura High School, Sufalokati High School, Kathavanga Primary School, Pajia Girls' School and Katakhal Public School — housing the displaced people. People have also taken shelter on Moyanpur

embankment and WAPDA embankment. These people now survive on meagre relief given by the government and some local NGOs.

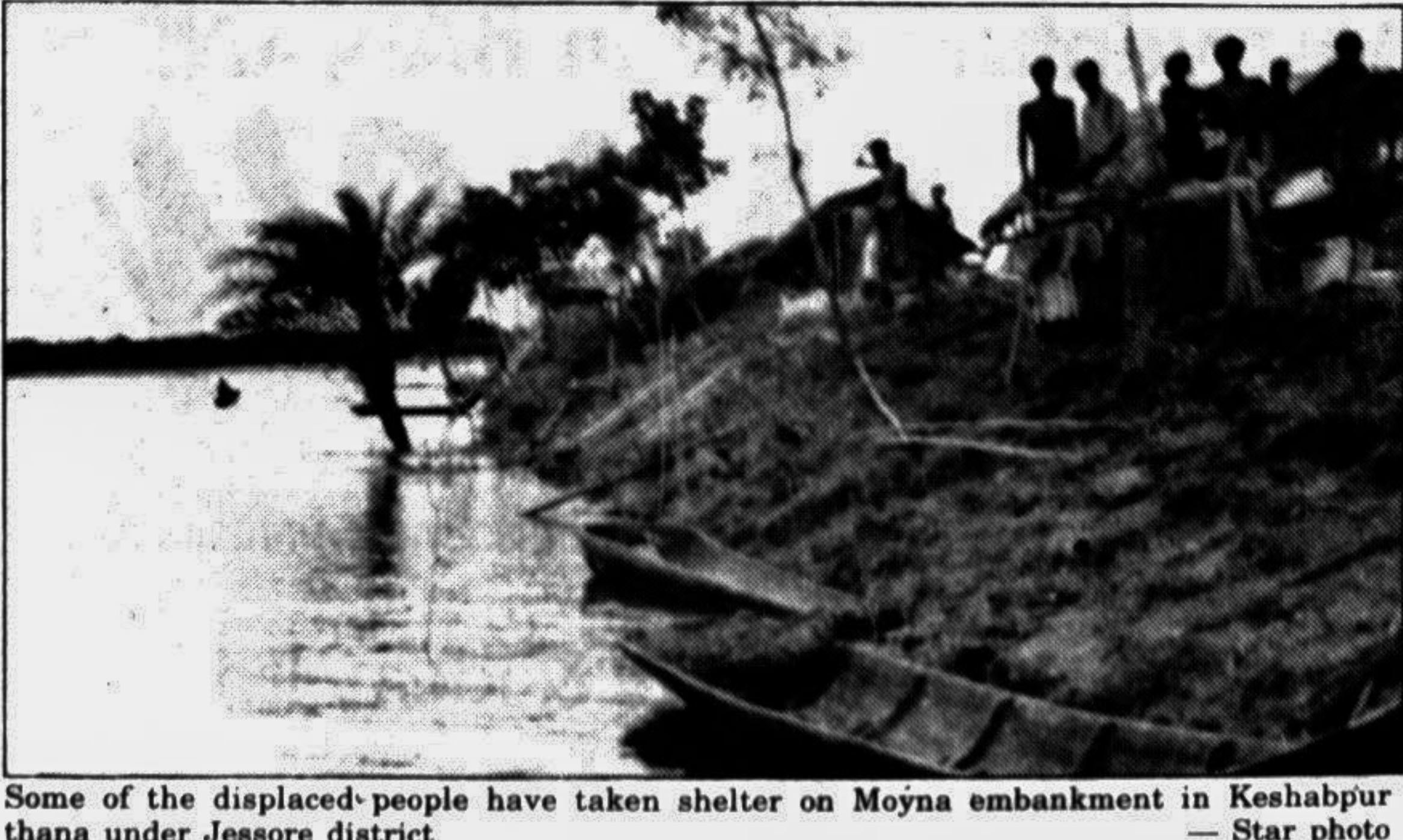
Nearly two lakh hectares of land in the area remains uncultivable for most of the year. The waterlogging problem has made people live on makeshift bamboo structures erected on water, making life risky. Two minor boys drowned, one in Gourighona union and the other in Pajia union, last month, local people claimed.

The worst hit unions are Sufalokati, Pajia, Gourighona, Mongolkot, Keshabpur and Biddanandakati under Keshabpur thana and Kulatia, Haridashkati, Nehalpur, Monohorpur, Durbadanga Khanpur, Shamkur Dhakuria and Chaluhati under Monirampur union. When contacted District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer Moslem Uddin Howlader told

The Daily Star that district administration was trying hard with its limited resources to give them adequate relief.

When contacted, some local people including M A Kabir, chairman of Sufalokati union, said that the waterlogging problem can be solved if all the sluice gates are opened at a time and an outlet is made in the embankment at Dianer Beel.

When contacted, Executive Engineer of WDB Abul Kashem said the waterlogging has been caused by siltation of the tributaries and channels in the area. He said a Tk 229 crore project with financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank has been taken up for reexcavation of tributaries and channels including Vadra, Buriwadra, Sreenadi and Hariharnadi. Survey work is now going on. The problem will be solved when the project work will be completed, he said.



Some of the displaced people have taken shelter on Moyna embankment in Keshabpur thana under Jessore district. — Star photo