letters

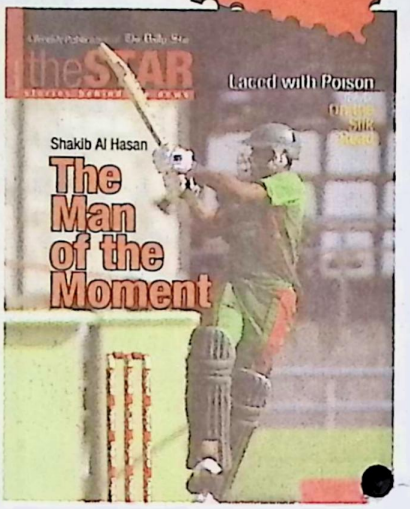
The Visit to Tipaimukh

The parliamentary team's visit to the Tipaimukh Dam site appears to have taken on a farcical quality. Questions are bound to arise over why the team was sent hastily at a time when monsoon rains are regularly lashing the Manipur region. Even if rain stopped helicopters landing, why didnt the delegation travel by road to the site, since they had the expectations of the nation resting on their shoulders! It is also strange that the team returned in two groups - with the politicians staying back for an extra day. The team members including team leader Abdur Razzak expressed "complete satisfaction" with India's handling of the Dam issue upon their return. These people are not experts on Dams or the environment and in any case it takes time to analyse any data. So on what basis were they satisfied that the Dam would not be harmful for Bangladesh? This implies a predetermined and biased mindset that bodes ill for the nation. At the very least they could have called for a joint impact assessment on the downstream ecology. The outcome of this ill-timed and under prepared visit reminds us of what its critics had been saying all along - such a visit would not serve the interests of Bangladesh.

Abdur Razzak has said that India has handed over "all necessary data" regarding the Dam. If so, that data should be made public immediately. But one wonders why the data could not have been handed over to Bangladesh before through diplomatic channels, or even when Foreign Minister Dipu Moni visited Delhi? What was the need for the elaborate drama? India does not do anything without a reason, and many groups opposed to the dam have said India is making a show of "consultation" to appease international donors. If so, Abdur Razzak & Co. have certainly weakened Bangladesh's case by expressing their wholehearted satisfaction with the dam plan.

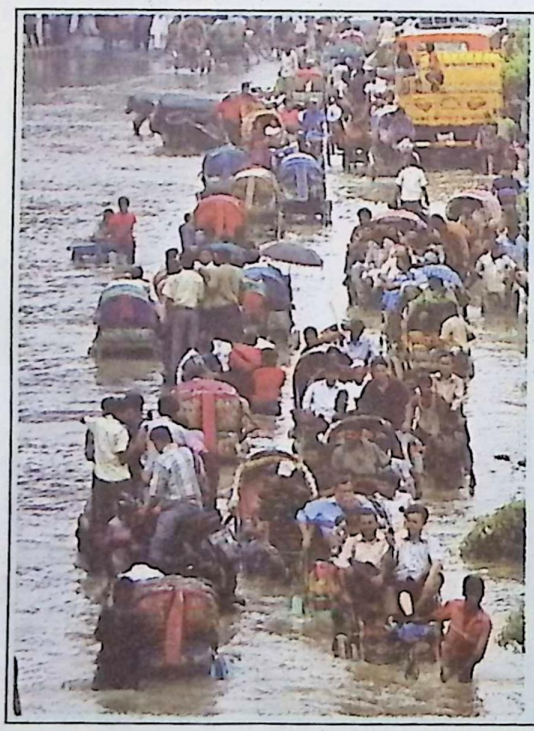
The Prime Minister has ordered an expert panel to analyse the data given by India. We hope the experts' panel will be constituted with renowned experts, and will work in a transparent way upholding the interests of the nation.

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Corrigendum

In last week's cover story 'The Man of the Moment' by **Nader Rahman**, the writer's name was inadvertently omitted.



Waterlogged in Rainy Season

Water logging is now a regular phenomenon for most of the city in Bangladesh. But it is unbearable for the people of Dhaka city. Only a few hours of torrential rain are enough to create a flood like situation. So after a long drought, torrential rain is not a blessing for the people of this city but a curse.

But it is a matter of regret that there is a general apathy among our policy maker to address this situation. We don't see any fruitful effort to rescue the 43 canals occupied by the land grabbers. But I think it is the high time for the government to take some stern action to restore the water channels before our cities become uninhabitable.

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Letters to the Editor, Star Diary and Write to Mita, with the writer's name and address, should be within 200 words. All articles should be within 1,200 words. A cover letter is not necessary, but every write-up should include the writer's name, phone number and email address (if any). While The Star welcomes unsolicited articles and photographs, it cannot accept the responsibility of their loss or damage. The Star does not return unsolicited articles and photos. Response time for unsolicited write-ups ranges from three weeks to two months. All articles submitted are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity.

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