#### roundup Upazila

#### MAULVI BAZAR

#### Excess bus fares being realised

#### From Our Correspondent

July 16: Excess bus fares are allegedly being collected from passengers in different routes of the district.

According to sources, passengers are to pay Taka five for a distance of only seven miles from Maulvi Bazar to Gobinda-Bati while travellers from Kulaura to Maulvi Bazar are charged Taka 12 for only 15 miles distance.

Some staff of the buses even behave very badly with the passengers to realise excess fare, passengers alleged.

Sufferers have urged the authorities to take necessary action in this regard.

#### 3 drown

Three persons with 34 goats drowned when a boat capsized in the Gupla river in Sadar upazila of the district recently.

The victims were identified as Siddeque Miah (68). Toraj Miah (60) and Nasim Miah

It is learnt from a source that the victims were inhabitant of village Kamala Kalash under Nazirabad union of Sadar upazila. They were returning home after marketing from Mirpur Bazar.

. There were 15 persons and 34 goats in the boat when it capsized.

#### **PABNA**

#### Child marriage From Our Correspondent.

July 16: A child-marriage was solemnised in Faridpur upazila under the district on July 8.

The marriage of Santose Das (8), son of Monjes Das of the village Koijury under Shahjadpur upazilla was solemnised with Dabina Das (6), daughter of Sree Polu Chandra Das of the village Nishipara under Faridpur upazila.

Many villagers were present on the occasion.

#### BRAHMANBARIA One killed, 2

# injured by lightning

#### From Our Correspondent

July 16: One person was killed and two others sustained serious injuries when lightning struck them near Fulbaria road in Sadar upazila on Sunday, hospital sources

The deceased was identified as Abdul Wahab (35) of Urshiura village.

The injured persons were rushed to the Sadar hospital with grievous injuries. The body was sent to the hospital for post morten.

Witnesses said thunderbolt struck them while they were returning home at night.

#### NARAIL

#### Fishermen pass agonising days

July 16: Bleak future looms large over the career of 20,000 fishermen in three upazilas of the district as prices of fishing appliances went beyond their purchasing capacity, reports

Fish production here plummeted since last year following price hikes of fishing nets and boats. A fishing boat is being sold at Taka 1.5 lakh which is beyond their reach.

They are also allegedly being deprived of government loans sanctioned to fishermen co-operative societies. Besides, absence of soft bank loan in this sector has aggravated the

situation, they say. Moreover, genuine fishermen do not get haors, beels and jalmahals on lease while non-fishermen in collusion with vested quarters are get-

ting lease of water bodies. Meanwhile, a large number of fishermen has already left their ancestral profession and has taken up other jobs for

#### their sustenance. C'NAWABGANJ

#### Video clubs screen obscene films

July 16: Rampant screening of obscene video films is going on unabated in the district eroding the moral values of the young generation, reports

Video clubs which sprang up like mushroom over the years in different places of the district, have been allegedly arranging shows of these obscene Hindi and English

movies on commercial basis. Dishonest video club owners in collusion with local in-

fluentials are engaged in this heinous trade. Law enforcing agencies also remain indiffer-

ent, it is alleged. Besides, anti-social activities have increased alarmingly jeopardising the social serenity of the town.

Residents say moral decadence caused by these films has been the factor behind the rise of such activities.

Moreover, selling of sedatives allegedly by some medicine shops without prescriptions have added fuel to

Local people have urged the authorities to increase police vigil in different areas and take stern action against the persons responsible for such crimes.

#### **PABNA**

#### Pregnant housewife killed for dowry

July 16: Even a pregnant housewife of Niamatpur village in Atghoria upazila could not escape the wrath of her husband for dowry, reports UNB.

Police said the victim, Momtaz Begum (24) was beaten to death by her husband Nabiruddin of the same village on Friday after she refused to bring dowry from her poor fa-

Her relatives said avaricious Nabiruddin had been demanding dowry for a long time from Momtaz who was his second

A case was filed in this con-

#### MAGURA

#### 381 culverts, bridges constructed

July 16: Construction of 381 culverts and bridges in 10 districts of Khulna division were completed during the last fiscal year at a cost of Taka 5.18 crore, reports UNB.

Of the total, 21 culverts were built in Magura, 20 in Narail, 37 in Jhenidah, 56 in Jessore, 58 in Khulna, 56 in Begerhat, 57 in Satkhira, 39 in Kushtia, 23 in Chuadanga and 14 in Meherpur districts.

Road communication and irrigation are said to have improved greatly on completion of the schemes.

#### **MAULVI BAZAR**

#### One gets lifeterm for murder

July 16: A man was sentenced to life term for killing his co-villager in Belaganj upazila, court sources here said, reports UNB.

The convict Julu Miah was also fined Taka 5,000 or would suffer one year's rigorous imprisonment in case of default.

Additional and Sessions judge Mahmud Hasan Siddiqui delivered the judgement recently.

According to the prosecution story, the accused killed Rahim Khan of Vorvubia village of the upazila on July 14, 1982. Police investigation and trial continued for the last eight and a half years.

#### PATUAKHALI

#### 7 sluice gates being built

July 16: At least seven sluice gates are being constructed in Kalapara upazila of the district to protect land from flash flood and salinity. reports UNB.

Water Development Board is executing the schemes at a cost of Taka 2.50 crore with financial Assistance of Asian Development Bank (ABD).

At least 3000 acres of land of the coastal areas will be saved from flash flood and salinity after the construction of the sluice gates, sources

#### Fish fry

Fish fry is being caught and sold indiscriminately in four upazilas of the district despite the government ban, reports

Sources said undersized fish (below 9 inches) are being caught and sold in different markets of Kalapara, Galachipa, Mirzaganj and Dashmina upazilas.

#### TONGIBARI

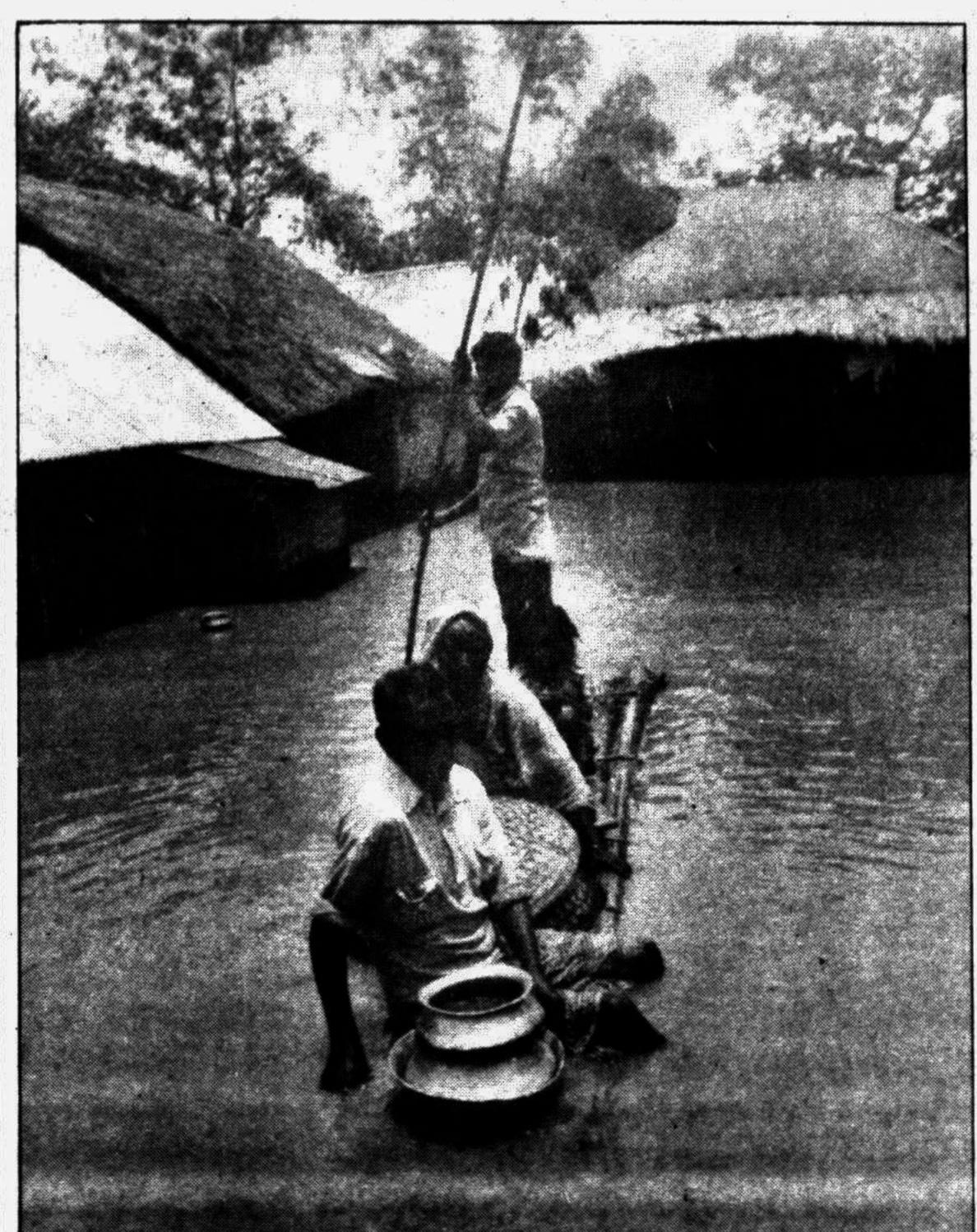
#### Reshma thanks Munshiganj PDB authority

#### From A Correspondent July 16: Kazi Rahimuddin

Smriti Sangsad has thanked the Munshiganj PDB authority for electrifying Dhamaron village under Tongibari upazila

In a statement the Sangsad President Kazi Ajmeri Zaman altas Reshma who also heads the Dhamaron village electrification materialisation committee, said electrification of the village met the long-cherished

demand of the villagers.



SHERPUR: Flood affected people leaving submerged house at a village in Sherpur. -Star photo

# Handloom industries need govt patronisation

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 16: The traditional handloom industries of seven upazilas of Satkhira district are facing crisis due to exorbitant prices of necessary inputs like yarn. weaving instruments, dyes and non-availability of bank loans.

Meanwhile, some handloom factories of the district have been closed rendering a large number of workers unemployed. The availability of Indian sarees, lungies at cheaper rates has considerably reduced the demand of local handloom products.

It may be mentioned here that in exchange of various local goods, Indian sarees, lun-

gies and clothes are beirig smuggled into Banglades h through different borders of the district. The handloom products like local sareres. lungies and napkins had a popular demand and the prices of these products were cheap earlier. But now the prices of handloom products have reached beyond the purchasing capacity of common people, price hike of raw material and other inputs consequently the demand of these products has also declinedi.

A spot survey reveals that there are 12,000 handlooms in the villages of Kalaroa, Tala, Kaliganj, Debhata, Assassuni,

# Diarrhoea claims 50 lives in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent Two weeks ago four people

CHUADANGA, July 16: Diarrhoea claimed 50 lives in including two children died of last one and a half months in different areas of Alamdanga and Sadar upazilas of the district and over 1000 people have been attacked during the period. Last week eight people died.

of diarrhoea in four villages of Harfari, Jagannathpur, Manakasha and Krishnapur under Alamdanga upazila of the district. Sixten other villages of the same upazila have been affected. The affected villages are Putimari, Zoragacha, Nagda, Kalidaspur, Paikpara, Sujail, Monakasha, Per-Alamdanga, Sreerampur, Jagannath pur, Bakshipur, Madhabpur, Bonodpur and Krishnapur.

the disease in Bolahorpur and two people in Jugirhuda under Alamdanga upazila besides, a large number of people has been attacked in different villages of Titudah Begumpur and Shanker Chandra unions of Sadar upazila. Civil Surgeon of Chuadanga

told this correspondent that diarrhoea had broken out in the areas in a scattered manner. But it did not broke out in an epidemic from, he added. At present there is no further outbreak of the disease in Chuadanga Sadar Upazila but in Alamdanga there are some cases, he admitted.

Shyamnagar and Satkhira Sadar upazilas of the district.

It is learnt that the weavers procure raw materials from black markets at high prices which made them unable to cope with the present situa-

Some handloom industry owners of the district alleged that fake yarn traders holding permits have taken the control of yarn market and making windfall profit by illegal means.

They also alleged that these fake yarn traders receive yarn regularly from the Sunderban Textile Mills and Bengal Mills to help sneak the yarn in black markets ignoring the necessity of the actual weavers. The yarn distribution system itself is defective, they said. As a result, the genuine yarn traders are not getting their due quota of yarn. If positive and practical steps are not taken by the authority concerned to supply cotton yarn directly form textile mills to the weavers the present condition will not improve, it is felt.

The weavers of the district have urged the authority concerned to take positive measures for supply of cotton yarn at fair price to them to save the age old profession from destruction.

## World Population Day observed

FARIDPUR, July 16: World Population Day was observed her and other upazilas of the district in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

On this occasion district family planning department chalked out a daylong programme. The programme of the day included rally, discussion meeting and exhibition on population control. A colourful rally of men women and children carrying festoons and placards paraded the main thoroughfares of the town. discussion

environment, development and population of Bangladesh" was held at local Kabi Jasimuddin Hall. Presided over by Abdur Rahim, Deputy-Commissioner of Faridpur, the discusion was addressed among others by Rafael Gomex. Deputy-Director, Family Planning Department, Dr Kazi Syed Ahmed, civil Surgeon of Faridpur, SM Shahjahan, ADC (General) and Professor Md Shahjahan.

#### 2 trucks with garment goods seized

It is learnt that the goods

## Flood situation in 4 districts worsens From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, July 16: The flood situation in Sherpur took a serious turn and the water level of the Brahmaputra rose to 92 cm during the last three

Water from across the border accompanied by heavy rain engulfed vast tract of land and the 25-km-long flood protection embankment has developed\_several cracks. Thousands of people have been rendered homeless after the Brahmaputra eroded village Baglegor under Charpakhimari union of Sadar upazila during the last few days. About 400 dwellings and other household belongings have already been devoured by the Brahmaputra. Standing crops on vast acres of land have also been totally de-

Ex-chairman of Sherpur Sadar upazila Abdur Rahim Chowdhury and Chairman of Charpakhimari union Iliasuddin said that about 600 people have taken shelter in different schools and others are living under the open sky People of the western side and low-lying areas of the district are worst affected.

Rezuanuzzaman, member, Kamarer Char union, told that the authorities should take initiative without loss of time to save the embankment. It is

now seriously threatened and villages Golenpara, Sytnumberchar Pouestirchar of Kamarchee union have gone under water. Tankasar, Munshirchar, Horindara of Charmuchia union and Kul-urpara Takimmari of Charpakhimari union and part of Balyerchar union are also affected.

#### Jamalpur

Our Jamalpur Correspondent adds: At least 41 unions of Jamalpur district have been submerged and about 50,000 thatched houses damaged due to onrush of flood water in last three days.

Bahadurabad Ghat has been the danger mark. threatened as the Jamuna eroded 500 feet long flood control embankment. During the last 12 hours the river registered a rise of 30 cm and about five lakh people have been affected. About two lakh acres of sugarcane, jute and Aman seed beds have gone under deep water. More than 50.000 people have taken shelter on flood control embankment and railway station.

The most affected upazilas are Dewanganj, Islampur, Melandah, Madarganj and Sadar upazilas. Flood water has entered in Poura area. Over three lakh people of these upazilas have been marooned

The river at Jagannathgan Ghat is flowing at 58 cm while Brahmaputra is flowing at 73 cm above danger mark in Jamalpur. Kurigram

Our Kurigram Correspondent says: The flood situation in Kurigram district has been aggravated further due to onrush of water from the hilly region of India during the last 24 hours. The rivers Dharla and Brahmaputra are flowing 28 centimetres above the danger mark while the water level of the river Teesta is flowing 20 centimetres below

affected by flood. The worst affected upazilas are Bhurungamari, Nageswari. Chilmari, Rowmari, Ulipur, Kurigram Sadar and Rajibpur. Fresh areas are being inun dated due to the onrush of flood water through the

Seven out of nine upazilas of

the district have been badly

and embankments. The embankment starting from Sankos bridge to Baraitari in Bhurungamari upazila has been washed away. Out of the seven unions of Bhurungamari upazila Bongasonahat and Andartrihar have been badly af-

fected. Standing crops and

breaches created on the roads

About 500 families have taken shelter on the flood control embankment. Shamsul Haque Chowdhury,

Aman seed beds on over 5000

acres of land in Bhurungamari

upazila went under the flood

Bhurungamari upazila Chairman told this correspondent that only 500 kgs' of rice have been distributed among the

Three-mile long WDB embankment stretching from Noonkhawa to Jatrapur in Nageswari upazila have already been grabbed by the river. Noonkhawa, Ballaverkhash Kachakata, Kedar, Narayanpur and Berubari unions o Nageswari upazila have gone under the flood water. One regulator has been washed away. About 2000 people in Nageswari upazila have been affected.

Fifty feet long Chachla WDB barrage in Chilmari upazila has been washed away. Ashtamirchar cluster village in Chilmari upazila have totally been vanished. Nayarhat, Ash tamirchar and Zorgach unions of Chilmari upazila have been badly affected. While Saheberalga, Begamgonj, Anantapur, Burabari and Hatia unions of Ulipur upazila have been badly affected. More than have taken shelter on the embankment. Four out of five unions of Rowmari upazila namely Bondaber, Gadurchar, Show-

3000 affected people of

Chilmari and Ulipur upazilas

lmari and Rowmari have badly been affected. Rangpur

Our Rangpur Correspondent

adds: Although flood situation in Kurigram has shown slight improvement, it took a serious turn in Gaibandha district. According to information due to recession of water level in the river Dharla which is now flowing below danger mark, flood situation in parts of Kurigram improved but the river Brahmaputra is flowing much above the danger mark resulting flood situation in two upazilas in Kurigram and four

upazilas in Gaibandha aggravated. About three lakh people in these upazilas have been trapped by flood water. Vast char areas along the Brahmaputra river banks totally went under flood water. Flood control embankments at Kamarjani and Anarelchara breached threatening Gaibandha town. On rush of flood water so far washed away many kutcha houses and damaged huge standing crops and disrupted road links in affected areas. Relief and evac-

uation measures are inade-

NARAYANGANJ, July 16: Police seized two Chittagong bound trucks loaded with garment goods worth about Taka 50 lakh and arrested 10 people in this connection from Simrail area of the district early Sunday morning, reports

Acting on a tip, police raided both trucks (Dhaka TA-7218 and Dhaka NA-4616) near an abandoned steel and re-rolling mills at 2:30 am in Simrail area.

belong to Riz garments and Immaculate garments of Elephant road, Dhaka.

# Sharp rise in prices of essentials

#### From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, July 16: Prices of essentials have registered a sharp rise in different markets of the town and its adjoining areas following the imposition of Value Added Tax (VAT) on different commodities.

Though the VAT only repalced sales tax at import stage and excise duty on some productive sectors, unscrupulous traders both whole sale and retailers are taking advan tage of the situation demanding exorbitant prices from the customers on the plea of VAT. But on enquiry none is able to expalin VAT to the customers.

Particularly the prices of Soyabeen oil, palm oil, mustard oil, and coconut oil have shown abnormal rise in the markets. Soyabeen sells at Taka 44-46 per kg, palm oil at Taka 36-38,mustard oil at Taka 60 to 65, butter oil at Taka 74 per

two pounds and coconut oil at 75 to 80 per kg. Prices of pulses remained

almost static. Onion at now sells 16 Taka per kg which sold at Taka 13 last week, ginger at 26 per kg. chillies at Taka 80-90, salt at Taka 10 per packet.

Suprisingly prices of pow dered milk and baby food also marked a rise in different markets though taxes have been reduced from this item. Redcow (5 kg tin) sells at Taka 268, Frisiana at Taka 256, Anchor at Taka 258, Dano at Taka 265, Diploma at Taka 254 and Lida at Taka 248.

## **Building materials**

Imposition of VAT has also created an impact on prices of construction materials. Prices of these goods have gone up abnormally.

Construction materials both of building and thatched houses in the district have increased abnormally following the recent cyclone and imposition of VAT in the southern districts.

Prices of cenent, rods and bricks have triggered a sharp rise. Prices of nails an essential item for building houses in rural areas rose 15 to 20 per cent in last one month. One kg of one inch nails sells at Taka 45 per kg against Taka 38-40 earlier, 24 gauge wire sells at Taka 55 per kg against Taka 45 per kg. Prices of other construction materials produced locally or imported also marked an abnormal rise in different markets of the dis-

trict. MS rods sells at Taka 20,000 per ton against Taka 18,500 per ton some days before. A dozen of two and a half

inch Chinese made hinges are being sold at Taka 35 against 25 while three inches hinges at Taka 45 against Taka 35 be

the most essential building material is being sold at Taka 225 per bag. According to different traders, prices of these con-

On the other hand cement,

struction materials have in creased in the markets as most of the consingments from abroad have been badly damaged or delayed to reach due to recent cyclone.

## Drinking water scarce in Borguna

BORGUNA, July 16: Acute scarcity of drinking water persists in the district as most of the tubewells have either been rendered inoperative or cho-

ked up, reports UNB. According to sources, most of the tubewells have gone out of order due to poor maintenance and shortage of spare

pipes used in many tubewells often choke up shortly after installation. Public Health Engineering Department sank 2,000 tubewells in different parts of the

Villagers allege plastic

them. Besides, the number of tubewells is inadequate to cope with the rising need.

KISHOREGANJ: Police with seized ganja and ganja plants at village Manikdi Nayhati under Bhair ab up azila

# Ganja seized: 3 held

From Our Correspondent cultivated on his own land. He KISHOREGANJ, July 16 had been engaged in cultivat-CID police seized six kgs of ganja and nine ganja plants and ing and selling the same for

ing one housewife in two separate raids in Bhairab upazila of the district recently. Acting on a tip Mr. Khondakar Fazle Rahim, CID Inspector of Kishoreganj with

arrested three persons includ-

a police constable raided the house of one Akshu Mia of village Manikdi Nayahati and recovered six kgs of ganja which was kept in a gunny bag inside a drum. Police took wife of the house owner Golapnesa and their son Zojher Zaher Miah into custody.

In another raid the Inspector seized nine ganja plants and arrested one Golap Fakir. These ganja plants were long, the sources as ided. 2 drow n

Suman (3) dr swned in a pond at village Maithati in Niklai upazila of the district recently. Suman went out of the house with our the knowledge of his parents and drowned in the pond behind the house.

In another incident Suman Ali (9), son of Ab dul Hamid of village Moharkoi ia under the same upazila dr owned in the Sowaljani river recently. The boy was playing on a boat and suddenly fell trato the river. Later both the b odies were recovered.

