

YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA 30.2°C 25.8°C MYMENSINGH 28.0°C 25.5°C CHITTAGONG 31.0°C 25.0°C SYLHET 28.6°C 25.7°C RAJSHAHI 29.6°C 27.0°C KHULNA 31.3°C 26.2°C BARISAL 33.2°C 25.8°C RANGPUR 33.2°C 25.8°C COX'S BAZAR 29.4°C 25.0°C

Light to moderate rain/thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions with moderately heavy to very heavy falls at places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, the Met office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:48pm and rises tomorrow at 05:11am. The country's highest temperature 36.2 degrees Celsius was recorded on yesterday in Bholi and lowest 23.0 degrees Celsius in Rangamati. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:



A crowded New Market area in the capital yesterday. With Eid approaching and time for shopping running out fast, people are swarming the markets and footpath shops. The rush of shoppers multiplies on the weekends. The photo was taken from a footbridge in the area.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Eid shopping incomplete without silk in Rajshahi

Sylhet markets see huge rush of shoppers

CITY DESK

For people in Rajshahi, Eid is interlinked with silk. Since time immemorial, they have been using dresses made from this soft and luxurious fabric on special occasions.

And its demand increases during Eid festival as the products made out of Rajshahi silk, especially saris, become much coveted.

Famous for quality silk production, Rajshahi houses a number of silk factories. The region's sericulture accounts for almost the entire silk output of the country.

Weaved and designed by local artisans, the fabrics are in high demand now as people are thronging the markets to buy their favourites.

As a result, employees of the silk factories are passing their busiest times. Silk factories in the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) are also operating round the clock, reports BSS.

Varieties of silk clothes such as bolaka

karchupi, sui-suta katan, koti silk, joyashri, silk katan, water katan, jamdani katan, borkatan, dupiana and jhonna katan are on display in the showrooms to attract potential buyers.

During a recent visit to the city markets it was seen that the markets were abuzz with shoppers. Many were selecting and purchasing their favourite designs, while many were bargaining with the sellers seeking desired prices.

Eid shopping is never completed without silk dresses, said many of the shoppers.

Silk manufacturers like Sapura Silk, Usha Silk, Rajshahi Silk Fashion, Amena Silk and Mohananda Silk were crowded with potential buyers.

Saidur Rahman of Sapura Silk said silk saris were in high demand at the showroom, with prices ranging from Tk 3,500 to Tk 15,000.

On the other hand, panjabis at Usha Silk were being sold at Tk 1,900 to Tk 6,500 per piece, said Nur Alam Bulbul, the showroom in-charge.

But the local production of silk has to be boosted to elevate the sector, stressed Liakat Ali, president of

Bangladesh Silk Industry Owners' Association.

Proper use of plant varieties and modern technologies at the growers' level is essential, he said. Also, increased domestic production of yarn can help revitalise the sector.

"The sector is now going through a hard time due to an excessive price of foreign silk yarn and decline of local production," he added.

SHOPPING GAINS MOMENTUM IN SYLHET

With over a week left for Eid, markets in Sylhet are bustling with shoppers of all ages.

Shoppers are flocking to markets in droves right when the shutters of shops open, and continuing their shopping spree until the stores close, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

Visiting Kaniz Plaza, Blue Water Market, Sylhet City Market, Kazi Mansion and Supriya Market, it was seen that the younger crowds were more enthusiastic about buying dresses branded with names of Indian TV serials, movies and actresses.

Meanwhile, the roadside bazaars in the city are also abuzz with shoppers.

Petroleum Corporation most profitable

And PDB the biggest loser of state-owned enterprises, says Economic Survey 2017

UNB, Dhaka

State-owned enterprises (SOEs) made a net profit of Tk 6,616.68 crore in the 10 months of the outgoing fiscal, according to the Economic Survey, 2017.

Currently, the number of non-financial state-run institutions in the country is 45 and nine of them in the industrial and commerce sector, five in power, gas and water service sectors, seven in transportation and communications sector, two in agriculture sector, five in construction sector, and 17 in services sector.

Among those, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) made the highest profit and Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) counted the highest loss during the period.

According to the Economic Survey, BPC fetched Tk 7,334.13 crore as profit followed by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) with Tk 3,870.04 crore.

BPC in the 2015-16 fiscal managed to make a profit of Tk 9,040.07 crore.

BPDB counted a loss of Tk 5,141.27 crore as of April of the outgoing fiscal. The net loss

of this power company in the last fiscal was Tk 3,866.76 crore.

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB) is the second in incurring losses among the SOEs. The power distribution company incurred a loss of Tk 975.03 crore during the 10 months of the outgoing fiscal while it was Tk 202.20 crore in the 2015-16 fiscal.

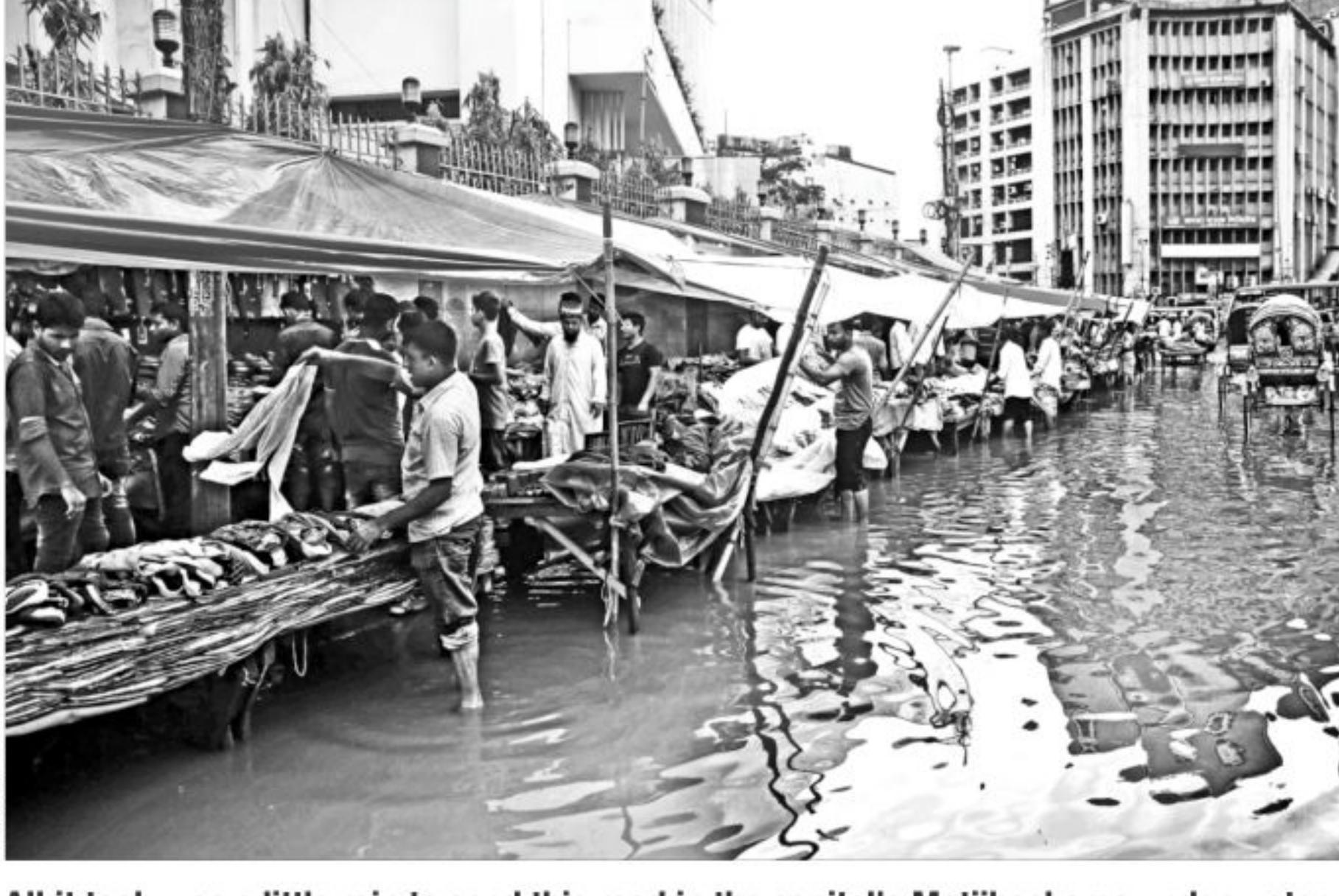
According to the Survey, Bangladesh Sugar Crop Research Institute made the lowest profit in the said period. It managed to earn only Tk 5 lakh as profit.

On the other hand, Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC) suffered the lowest amount of loss -- Tk 59 lakh -- till April.

The net profit of Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Resources stood at Tk 923.44 crore.

The profit of Chittagong Port Authority has come down as the profit of this organisation stood at Tk 539.84 crore during the period against Tk 556.25 crore in the last fiscal (2015-16).

The loss of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) has also come down in the current fiscal. As of April, the amount was Tk 530.89 crore while it was Tk 656.30 crore in the 2015-16 fiscal.



All it took was a little rain to send this road in the capital's Motijheel area under water. Yesterday being the weekend, vendors were selling their products on the footpath as per the directives of the city corporation. But their business got hampered due to the waterlogging. The photo was taken near Sonali Bank.

Fourth Ctg flyover opens on test basis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong city's Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Flyover, stretching from Muradpur to Lalkhanbazar area, was opened for vehicular movement on an experimental basis yesterday afternoon.

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) is implementing the 5.2km flyover project, costing about Tk 698 crore, jointly funded by the government and CDA.

The flyover is the fourth in the port city. Aiming to reduce traffic congestion in the area ahead of Eid, two lanes, out of total four of the flyover, was opened to traffic, by CDA Chairman Abdus Salam. The remaining two lanes would be opened after Eid, said CDA sources.

There will be a total of five ramps and a loop in Gate No-2 and GEC areas of the flyover, said CDA sources, adding that after the construction of the loop and ramps, the flyover would formally be opened by the prime minister.

The construction work of the flyover began in February 2015, and it was supposed to be completed by June 2017, said CDA sources, adding, later the time was extended till June 2018, for the construction of the loop and ramps.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation stone of the flyover on October 12, 2013, and declared that it would be named after Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury, a former presidium member of the Awami League.

Pro-BNP activist hacked to death in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A pro-BNP activist was hacked to death near a bridge at Borobagha in Kamarkhand upazila of Sirajganj on Thursday night.

The deceased, Md Lal Chand Mondol, 40, of village Kornoshuti, developed enmity with Abdus Salam after the latter had lost the last union parishad poll to pro-BNP candidate Milton Hossain, for whom Chand had campaigned assiduously, said police.

Chand died at Kamarkhand Upazila Health Complex.

A case was filed accusing 16 people including Salam. Police arrested Salam and his one associate. But Salam's political affiliation could not be identified immediately.



The engine of a launch being examined at Sadarghat in Dhaka yesterday as part of preparations for Eid trips. The engine, however, is producing thick black smoke, suggesting that it is not in a good state. Waterway accidents are common on the occasions of Eid as many unfit vessels operate during the time.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Three workers die from toxic gas inhalation
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Three construction workers died allegedly by inhaling toxic gas while cleaning a septic tank at an under-construction building in Thanapara of Gopalganj Sadar upazila yesterday.

The dead were Jahadul Islam, 18, son of Ashad Munshi, and Nur Islam, 20, son of Harash Munshi, both of Arpara village, and Sumon Mollah, 35, son of Akram Mollah of Gopinathpur village.

Getting no response from the three, their co-workers called police.

Fire officials recovered the body from the septic tank. The bodies were sent to Gopalganj General Hospital morgue for autopsies.

A fruit fiesta

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such as fig, Lotkon and Cowa.

There is also a section where saplings of lemon, pomelo, bananas and jackfruits were being displayed.

During the inaugural of the exhibition, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said, "Everyone should have at least 120 grams of fruit [everyday]... to stay healthy."

"Also, we need to encourage people to have local fruits like Amlaki, Bel, bananas and Jaam that are high in minerals and vitamins." She also put the emphasis on growing fruits following age-old methods and at the same time adopting advance technologies in processing and preserving fruits to attain export quality. Speaking as the chief guest, Finance Minister AMA Muhiut said, "The country needs to have large-scale orchards and [more] farmers... to grow more local fruits. The horticulture centre and the research centre can take initiatives in this regard."

Four in 10 kids smoke

FROM PAGE 3

by a tobacco company representative and about 5 percent students usually smoke at home.

The researchers said the current tobacco control programmes need to be strengthened and emphasis needs to be put on enforcement of existing policies and expansion of additional programmes. In failure of which, illnesses and deaths caused by tobacco products will continue to rise.

To check tobacco use among children, there is a need to develop support programmes helping people quit smoking at health facilities and in community levels, they said.

Man dies from electrocution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

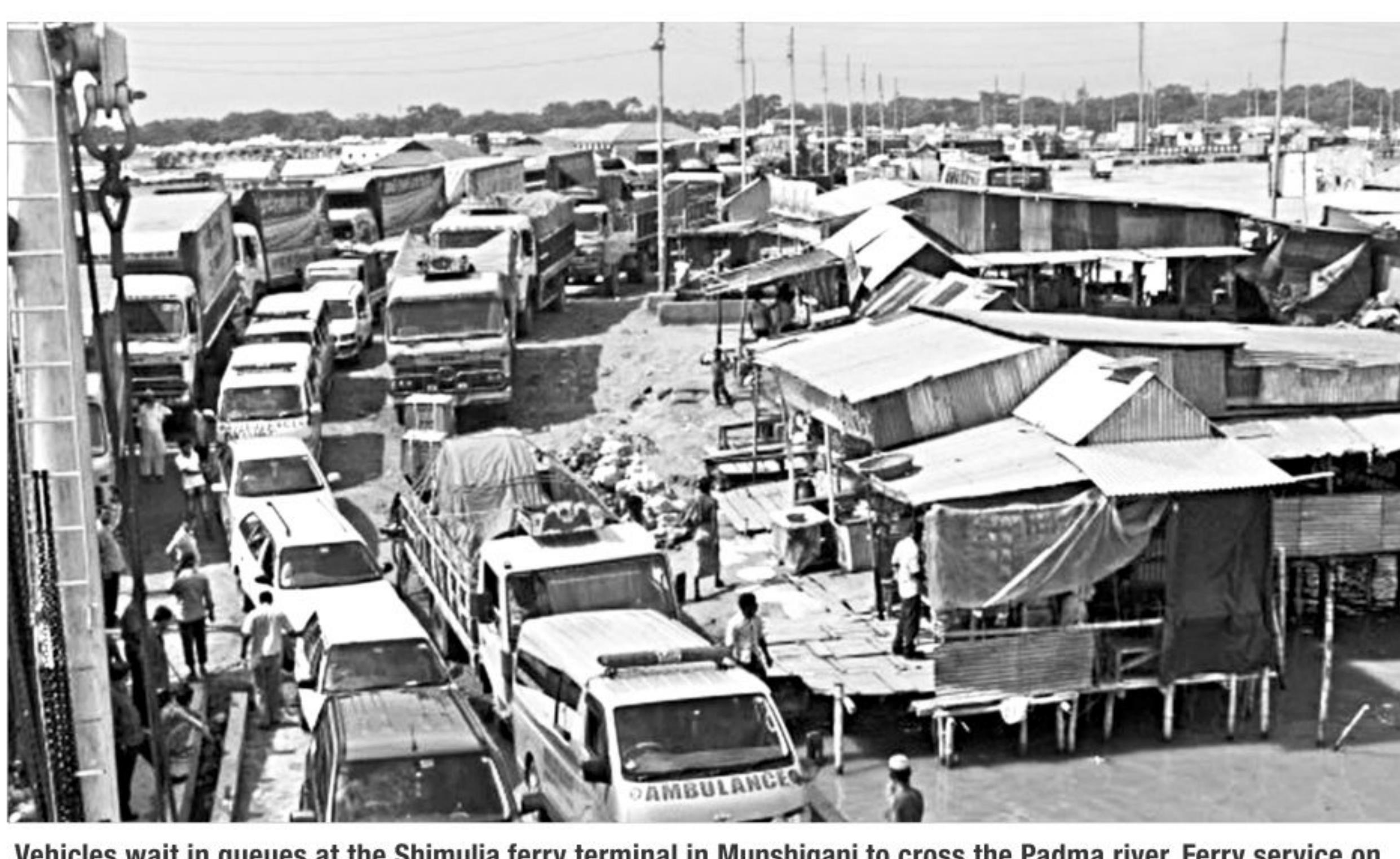
A fish trader died from electrocution at Khaledabad area of Barisal City Corporation yesterday. Anowar Hossain, 42, son of Shamsul Haque of the capital's Demra, was fishing in a pond using electricity, but he suddenly fell into it and got electrocuted, said locals.

Jessore man 'kills' nephew

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Police yesterday arrested a man for allegedly killing his nephew at Shahapur village in Keshobpur upazila.

Abul Kalam stabbed Mukul Hossain, 25, son of Abul Kashem, to death on Thursday evening as he went to settle a dispute between his father and uncle, said police.



Vehicles wait in queues at the Shimulia ferry terminal in Munshiganj to cross the Padma river. Ferry service on Shimulia-Kathalbari route was suspended for three hours yesterday morning due to inclement weather. Besides, a goods-laden truck flipped over in Ro-Ro Ferry Ghat-3 area. The incident also disrupted vehicular movement. The ferry movement became normal after 9:00am, reports our Munshiganj correspondent, quoting Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority officials.

PHOTO: STAR