

Flash flood in M'bazar damages

Crops worth Tk 14.38 crore

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, July 28: The flood that hit Moulvibazar district during June following 27 breaches in Monu, Dhalai and Juri river embankments, inundated nearly 20 thousand hectares of land damaging Aus broadcasting Aman vegetables and seedbeds.

According to district Agriculture Extension Department (AED) in entire Moulvibazar district, 9,760 hectares land of Aus, 1853 hectares of broadcasting Aman, 219 hectares of vegetables and 65 hectares of seedbeds were totally damaged by the devastating floods. Beside this, 5,719 hectares land of Aus, 1,980 hectares of broadcasting Aman, 202 hectares of vegetables and 90 hectares land of seedbeds were partially damaged in the flood.

The total losses of agricultural produce is estimated at Tk 14.38 crore. Of this, Taka 3.43 crore in sadar thana, Taka 47 lakh in Sreemongal

thana, Taka 1.66 crore in Rajnagar thana Taka 2.34 crore in Kamalganj thana, Taka 2.94 crore in Kulaura thana and Taka 2.09 crore in Barakha thana.

A Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) of district AED office, Moulvibazar, told The-Daily Star that his department has already approached the government for allotting Taka 1.16 crore to rehabilitate the flood affected farmers. The scheme which was proposed by AED to the higher authorities still awaits for approval, the SMS added.

In order to rehabilitate the distressed farmers it was recommended to the government for allotting Taka 21.25 lakh grant for purchasing seeds and Taka 8,064 lakh for purchasing fertilizer. The proposed rehabilitation scheme included to cultivation of six thousand hectares of transplanted Aman, three thousand hectares of Boro and one thousand hectares of wheat.

According to the Civil Surgeon of Moulvibazar, a total of 2,270 persons have been attacked by diarrhoea and 1,958 persons were attacked by dysentery during January to July 15 of this year. The disease have claimed 34 lives in the district so far.

The Civil Surgeon added that anti epidemic drive started through-out the district. A total of 97 medical teams are working in flood affected areas of Kulaura and Kamalganj thanas. Two lakh 64 thousand water purifying tablets and 1.36 lakh thousand packets of oral-saline have already been distributed among flood affected people of the district, the Civil Surgeon said.

Meanwhile, Taka five lakh has been allotted by the government as house building grants for the flood affected people of Moulvibazar district. According to district Relief and Rehabilitation Office, of this grants, Taka

2.50 lakh will be distribute among 4,102 flood affected families of Kulaura and Kamalganj thanas. Rest of the amount will be distribute to four other thanas.

Another report says, the recent flood has badly affected the fisheries projects in the Moulvibazar district causing huge financial losses to the fish cultivators.

It is reported that, low-lying areas of sadar, Kamalganj and Kulaura thanas of the district went under four to five feet water due to recent flash flood. As a result, fish-fry from different ponds went out with the flood water.

It is estimated that fish cultivators have suffered a loss of Taka 30 lakh due to over-flow of ponds and tanks.

Owners of ponds and tanks who had taken loans from individual money lenders or banks for pisciculture are now in extreme hardship trying to overcome the damage.

News from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 28: A Royal Bengal tiger's skin worth about Taka one lakh seventy thousand was recovered by Satkhira sadar thana police on July 21.

Acting on a secret information, police led by officer in charge CA Halim arrested on Abdul Aziz, 28, of village Chhoygharia of the same thana from Satani village and recovered the tiger's skin from his possession.

Tiger, crocodile kill two people

One Mostem Ali, 28, of Abad Chandipur under Shyamnagar thana while cutting wood in the Sundarbans all of a Sudden a man eater tiger swooped on him and took him into the jungle. Later the body was recovered by the villagers.

Another report adds: One, Thakur Pada Bagdi, 26, of village Chunkuri under Shyam Nagar was catching fish in the river near the Sundarbans suddenly a crocodile caught him and took him away. The villagers could not recover the body.

Three commit suicide

Three persons including two house wives committed suicide by hanging themselves recently.

Police sources said that one Akbar Ali 45, of village Mellek Para and a former union parishad chairman of Brahma Rajpur, Malina Biswas, 26, wife of Bidhan Chandra Biswas of village Bajudanga and Swaraswati Rani 25, wife of Kartik Chandra Roy of Bakal all under sadar thana committed suicide by hanging themselves. Three separate cases were lodged with sadar thana in these regards.

Five pipe guns recovered

Shyamnagar thana police launching drive against the dacoits in the Sundarbans, were able to recover five country made pipe guns and seven rounds of ammunitions from different places from near and inside the Sundarbans recently. None was arrested in these connections.

One person held with musket

Satkhira sadar thana police arrested one notorious dacoit, Mahidul Islam, 30, from Baikari village under sadar thana and recovered one musket including three rounds of cartridges from his possession. A case was lodged with Satkhira PS in this connection.

Smuggled goods recovered

The jawans of 21 Rifles Battalion posted here at Satkhira recovered huge smuggled goods worth Taka about 25 lakh from different border areas of the district during the last one week. Seven alleged smugglers were also arrested in this connection.

The smuggled goods include: Cows, salt, sugar, sa-rees, Indian cycle, pulses, machineries, phensedyl syrup bottles, medicines, imitation ornament, polyester clothes, etc.

ASA's poverty alleviation scheme praised

July 28: The Association for Social Advancement (ASA) a NGO, has cited an example of cost effectiveness and profound credit delivery system to the rural poor women said Shamsul Islam, Commerce and Information Minister while he was addressing in an inaugural ceremony of a new unit of ASA at Shukhabashpur of Tungl Bari thana under Munshiganj district recently. He also asked the rural women to invest their borrowed money to effective schemes for better livelihood, says a press release.

Nazrul Islam, Director of PKSP as the special guest praised the active role of ASA in the field of poverty alleviation.

The Deputy Commissioner and Police Supper of Munshiganj district also addressed in the meeting. The Chairman of the meeting Shaiful Haque Choudhury, Chief Executive of ASA said in his concluding speech that the strong dedication and sacrifice of the staff of ASA has created an opportunity to develop a cost-effective and self-reliant model. The model claims to reduce the dependency on foreign donation.

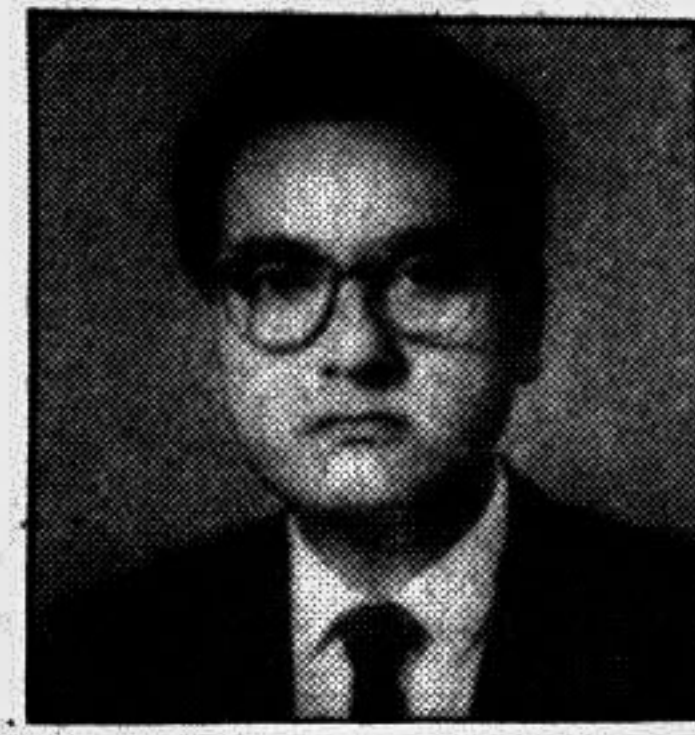
He confidently uttered that allocation of more non-grant fund for ASA which will provide greater opportunity to reach greater benefit to the rural poor.

The DVL also shows, 1,27060 were registered in Moulvibazar Sadar thana, 1,07248 in Barakha thana, 1,76502 in Kulaura thana

Interview with RU VC

'It is the politicians who should be blamed for campus violence'

From Tareq Chowdhury



Prof Eusuf Ali, Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, July 28: The Rajshahi University (RU), authorities will take initiatives to re-open the varsity very soon.

Prof M Eusuf Ali, the Vice Chancellor of the university said this on Sunday in an interview with The Daily Star.

"We will sit with the students organisations and the teachers' body this week in an effort to bring back a congenial atmosphere in the campus," said the VC.

The situation in troubled Rajshahi University once again became volatile on Saturday following a gun battle between two rival of students fronts and was subsequently closed for an indefinite period.

Earlier, the varsity was opened on May 30 after an unscheduled closure for 106 days following the killing of a student on February 12. The VC said that he tried his level

hour for them to bring the terrorists into book. Then, why they don't do so, the VC asked.

The Vice Chancellor stepped aside the allegations of non-cooperation from the varsity administrations raised by the police and said, recently police and BDR in a joint exercise raided various halls of the varsity but, could not find anything.

"I had requested the Rajshahi Police Commissioner back in January to raid the halls. But, he didn't. If a raid could be made then the fighting might not have erupted in February, in which incident one student was gunned down," said Prof Ali.

He also said that, the admission process of the students in first year honors courses would remain suspended till opening of the normal activities in the university.

Mohini Textile Mills closed down

3000 retrenched workers leading miserable lives

From Our Correspondent

Makdum Textile Mills Limited under new ownership.

KUSHTIA, July 28: As many as 3,000 retrenched workers of former Mohini Textile Mills have been passing days in severe hardship. They became unemployed since the mills has been closed down for want of government initiative to keep the mills running.

About 3,000 workers were engaged in this mills which was regarded as the economic backbone of Kushtia and its surrounding districts. The fate of the surviving workers are now hanging in balance for want of job opportunities. Many of them have resorted to begging and many have resorted to criminal activities giving rise to lawlessness.

It may be mentioned here that Mohini Mills Limited was established in 1908, on an area of 33 acres of land in Kushtia town under the then Nadia district by the side of the river Goral. Once the lone textile mills of the region the mill was renamed as 'Shah

the mill was handed over to its owner on September 24, 1984.

Meanwhile, a labour movement demanded immediate reopening of the mill and reappointment of the old workers.

On January 27, 1985 the then President while delivering a speech at Government College ground ordered reopening of the mill and reappointment of the workers. Afterwards the mill authority started operating 260 looms out of 537 on as a trial basis from January 1985 engaging 400 workers in one shift.

Gradually they started operation of the BMR unit engaging more workers, but that too could not solve the labour problem.

Ultimately, the new management failed to pay off the price of the mill to the government and tried to sell off the movable properties of the mill. The government finding no other alternative sealed off the mill.

Tk 7.6 crore smuggled goods recovered from Satkhira dist

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 28: Anti-smuggling drive has been geared up throughout the border regions of Satkhira district recently. As a result huge amount of smuggled goods worth more than Taka 7.6 crore were recovered by the BDR jawans of 21 Rifles Battalion during the last six months.

According to a local BDR source, during the period between January and June this year the BDR jawans of different border out posts seized smuggled goods amounting to Taka 7.67 crore. Smuggled goods amounting to Taka 7.46 crore were recovered while being smuggled in from India and smuggled goods amounting to Taka 21.51 lakh were recovered while being smuggled out of Bangladesh.

A total of 91 alleged smugglers were also arrested in this period and 98 cases were registered in different police stations.

The source further disclosed that smuggled goods

worth Taka 1.22 crore were recovered in January, Taka 1.23 crore in February, Taka 1.42 crore in March, Taka 1.50 crore in April, Taka 1.15 crore in May and Taka 1.12 crore in June.

The smuggled goods include Indian cycle, cycle parts, jute seeds, machineries, phensedyl syrup bottles, cosmetics, cows, hide and skin, sarees, utensils, pulses, sugar, salt and spices.



SATKHIRA: A partial view of smuggled goods recovered by the BDR personnel during last six months. — Star photo

Shrimp worth Tk 1700cr exported in 5 yrs through Mongla Port

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 28: A total of over five crore kg of frozen shrimp have been exported through Mongla Port from Khulna zone during the last five financial years.

The country has earned foreign currency worth about Taka 1,700 crore. Of them in 1994-95 financial year, the country earned the highest amount, Tk 546 crore.

The volume of export of frozen shrimps has increased manifold in Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat districts during the last five years. The production and sale of frozen shrimp however, face obstacles in shape of shortage of shrimp fry and fish meal, delay in disbursement of bank loans, and above all, deterioration of law and order situation in the shrim

mp bed areas.

According to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) sources, frozen shrimp worth more than Taka 1,689 crore were exported from Khulna zone during the period from 1990-91 to 1994-95 financial years.

According to sources, the country earned more than Taka 202 crore by exporting shrimp weighing more than 85 lakh kg in 1990-91 financial year Taka 212 crore was earned by exporting shrimp weighing 80.5 lakh kg in 1991-92 and Taka 315 crore by exporting shrimp weighing 1.03 crore kg in 1992-93. Taka 414 crore was earned by exporting shrimp weighing 1.20 crore kg in 1993-94, and Taka 546 crore

by exporting shrimp weighing 1.27 crore kg in 1994-95.

Export Promotion Bureau sources further informed, these frozen shrimp were exported to the USA, Germany, Belgium, Singapore, Hong Kong, UK, The Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and The UAE.

About 55 thousand hectares of land were brought under shrimp cultivation in these three districts during 1990-91 financial year while 1,08,000 hectares of land were brought in the '94-95 financial year.

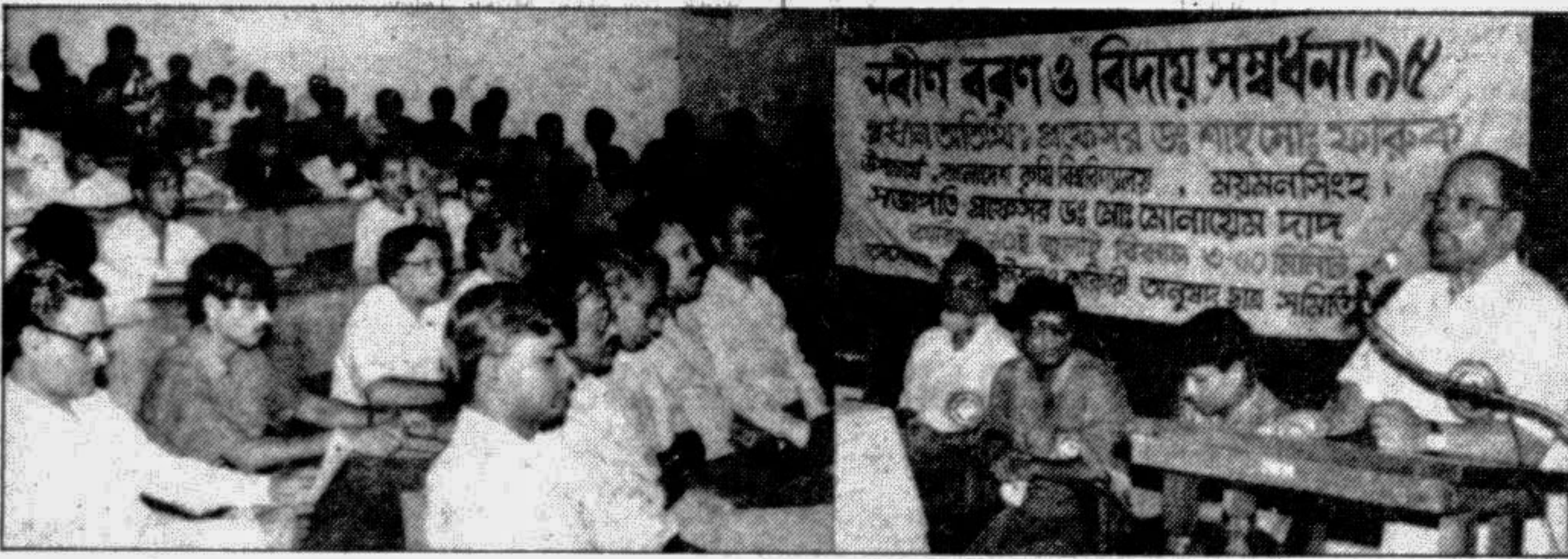
More than 330 crore shrimp fry are needed in this region to make the programme a success. But the

shrimp cultivators have to depend on the rivers and the sea for shrimp fry.

Though a few years back, a lobster hatchery was set up at Kalgong of Satkhira district and about 8 lakh shrimp fry were produced in the hatchery, most of them could not survive for lack of proper scientific treatment.

The government has taken up initiatives to set up a tiger shrimp hatchery. A committee has been working to select a site for this purpose but the committee is yet to submit its report, it is learnt.

Local shrimp cultivators believe that immediate government step is essential for exploiting the bright prospects of shrimp culture in this region.



AGRI-VARSITY (MYMENSINGH): Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Shah Muhammad Faruk speaking as chief guest at the freshers' reception and fare-well of Agri-Engineering Faculty students recently. — Star photo

LGED implements char development & settlement project in Noakhali

From M S Faruque

NOAKHALI, July 28: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), in Noakhali has implemented parts of infrastructural components of Char Development and Settlement Project (CDSP) in Shudharam and Companyganj thanas at a cost of more than Taka 15 crores.

It is learnt that CDSP programme was taken by Bangladesh government with the financial assistance of the Netherlands government to rehabilitate 5,000 families of char areas of Shudharam and Companyganj thanas of the

district. Also 4,750 hectares of crop land will be benefited. The project area is divided into three polders: Char Majid polder, Char Vatirtek polder and Char Baggardona polder. At Char Majid polder 1800 families will be rehabilitated and 1400 hectares of land will be

facilitated. LGED will construct 12 roads, and 10 km long feeder road at a cost of Tk 2.7 crore. Two bridges and eight culvert will also be built at a cost of Tk 58.5 lakh. One site office and seven cyclone shelters will be built at a cost of Tk-1.63 crore.

The total cost of the infrastructural components at Char Majid Polder stands at Tk 6.5 crore.

So far, LGED has completed among other, nearly 17 kms of roads and feeder roads. The total cost of the completed works stand at Tk 1.06 crore. About 50 per cent of the works have been completed.

At Char Vatirtek polder 2000 families will be rehabilitated and 1530 hectors land will be benefited. LGED will implement works on 18 km roads, one bridge, 10 culverts, five cyclone centres and other infrastructural components. The project will cost Tk 5.54 crore. So far, about 60 per cent of the work has been completed at a cost of Tk 35.7 lakh.

At Char Baggardona polder 1200 families will be rehabilitated and 1820 hectares of land will be benefited. LGED will implement infrastructural component including 4.5 km roads, one bridge and cyclone shelters. The total cost of infrastructural components of Char Baggardona polder is Tk 3.04 crore.

So far LGED has completed about 50 per cent of the works at a cost of Tk 39.5 lakh.

The Executive Engineer, LGED, Noakhali Md Golam Mostafa Patwary informed The Daily Star that the cyclone shelters will be used an educational centers in the normal times.

He said after completion of the project government will rehabilitate 5,000 land less families in khash lands of char areas.

Scouts launch PORT project in Khulna Div

JESSORE, July 28: Promotion of oral rehydration therapy (PORT), a project of the Bangladesh Scouts, was launched at a function at the Bangladesh auditorium on Sunday, reports BSS.

Under the PORT, about 62 thousand scouts will take part to motivate some one lakh twenty thousand families in 4,435 villages of the ten districts of Khulna division regarding oral rehydration therapy for prevention of diarrhoea.

Minister for Post and Telecommunications Tariqul Islam presided over the ceremony while State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan addressed the function as the chief guest.

A large number of district commissioners, scouts and rovers attended the function.



Poverty compelled this teen-aged boy, from a neighbouring village, to pull rickshaw in Brahmanbaria town. — Star photo by Sk Md Shahidul Islam

Number of voters drop by 68 thousand in M'bazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, July 28: Number of female voters have exceeded the number of male voters by one thousand in Moulvibazar district in the new voter's list prepared this year. Not only that number of total voters in the district has decreased by 68120 in comparison with the number of voters registered in 1990.

According to the Draft Voter List (DVL) published here recently, a total of 807748 voters were registered in 1990. But, this year only 7,39,658 voters were registered in six thanas of the district.

The DVL shows that number of male voters in the district are 3,69,829 while, number of female voters are 3,70,849.

The DVL also shows, 1,27060 were registered in Moulvibazar Sadar thana, 1,07248 in Barakha thana, 1,76502 in Kulaura thana

277 illegal arms recovered from Khulna Division in six months

KHULNA, July 28: Police recovered some 277 illegal arms and 876 rounds of bullets in different raids from 10 districts of Khulna Division in the first six months of this year, reports UNB.

The arms included 12 rifles, 40 single barrel guns, one double barrel gun, 12 country-made pistols, three foreign-made pistols, 27 country-made revolvers, one foreign-made revolver, 42 shutter guns and 139 pipe-guns.

Official sources said, the highest number of arms and ammunition was recovered from Satkhira district.

Police in the same corresponding period of last year, recovered a total of 271 arms and 1641 ammunition from the districts, officials sources said.