

Goods worth Tk 3 lakh robbed

SAVAR, Dec 25: Dacoits looted goods worth about Tk three lakh including a gun from a house at Koltasutli village on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said, a gang of 20 dacoits swooped on the house of Nurul Islam by breaking open the door at about 8:00 pm and decamped with cash and valuables.

A case was filed with the police.

Another report adds: A 14-member district committee of Bangladesh Rural Journalists Association was constituted on Monday at a meeting at the local Press Club with Delwar Hossain in the chair. Central committee president Mahbubul Alam was present as chief guest.

The meeting elected Sham-suzzaman (UNB), Golam Mostafa (Bhorer Kagoj) and Delwar Hossain as president, general secretary and treasurer respectively of the committee.

'Govt to take step to utilise local technology'

JHENIDAH, Dec 25: Post and Telecommunication Minister Tarikul Islam said government will take all necessary steps to ensure proper utilisation of locally innovated appropriate technology to accelerate the pace of development, reports UNB.

It was addressing as chief guest at the opening ceremony of a two-day workshop on "Application and Extension of Appropriate Technology" here on Wednesday, an official handout said.

The minister stressed the need for ensuring application and proper utilisation of such technology through motivating the people.

Presided over by Divisional Commissioner of Khulna Abdul Muktid Chowdhury the ceremony was addressed, among others, by M A Wahab MP, Shahiduzzaman MP and Chairman of Jhenidah Municipality Anisur Rahman.

The workshop was organised by the Ministry of Science and Technology in collaboration with the district administration.

Country's noted scientists, agriculturists, technologists and concerned officials took part in the workshop.

An exhibition of locally innovative appropriate technology was also organised on the occasion.

Destitute women march against NGO in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Dec 25: About one hundred destitute women and their husbands brought out a procession against oppression of Non Government Organisations (NGOs) running in the district, reports UNB.

Carrying brooms the processionists paraded the main roads of the town chanting various slogans against the local NGOs. They also handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner to press home their 9-point charter of demand on December 10.

Later they held a meeting in front of the post office creating road blockade. Presided over by district Bittihin Mahila Samaj president Delu Begum, it was also addressed by Bilkis Banu, Rahela, Subrata Kumar and Azizur Rahman Salam.

The speakers alleged that the NGOs do not pay just wages to the poor women and take resort to oppressive measures to deprive them from their remunerations.

They also alleged that the managing committees of the NGOs random misappropriate the materials including wheat donated for the distressed people.

They urged the district administration to probe into the matter and take immediate steps in this regard.

Dispute over land leaves five hurt

SATKHIRA, Dec 25: At least five people were injured Sunday in a clash between two groups over the possession of a disputed land at Thalna in Kalliganj thana, reports UNB.

According to villagers, the quarrel ensued as one group led by Kartik tried to take possession of the land for shrimp cultivation while his rival group led by Sadhan of the same village tried to cultivate paddy in the same land.

On the fateful day Kartik along with his men attacked the rival group when the latter tried to prepare the land for paddy cultivation.

The injured were sent to Kalliganj Hospital. Two cases were filed with the police by the two rival groups.

In Natore Sadar Hospital

Large-scale allegation of corruption, misuse of power

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Dec 25: People of Natore are being deprived of medicare facilities due to mismanagement, corruption, misuse of power and lack of necessary doctors at Natore Sadar hospital, it is learnt.

About 13 lakh people live in Natore district. There are no other large hospital except sadar hospital and five thana health complexes in six thanas in Natore district. There are 15 union health complexes in 15 unions out of the total of 51 unions in the district.

According to official sources, there are 75 posts for doctors including specialist doctors in the sadar hospital, five thana health complexes and 15 union health complexes throughout the district.

It is also learnt that of the total, about 20 posts of doctors have been lying vacant for a long time. There is only one doctor for every 23.70 thousand people in Natore district at present.

According to a reliable source, the only ambulance of the sadar hospital has been remaining out of order for more than three years. There are about 10 Oxygen cylinders in the hospital. But six of them have no reading metres.

It is learnt that though there is no ambulance serving at present, there are two appointed drivers who have been drawing their monthly salaries regularly since the inception of the hospital. The amount of their salary is Taka 7,000 every month.

Mismanagement and negligence of duty are the common feature at the outdoor department of the hospital, it is alleged.

It is stated that among the 13 affiliated posts in Natore sadar hospital, two posts are lying vacant. Treatment in the eye and dental departments are remaining totally off as there are no posts of ophthalmologist and dentist in this

important hospital of the town.

According to another allegation, some dishonest doctors advise the patients to go to their private chambers, outside the hospital, where the doctors give proper treatment in exchange of a large amount of fees. A reliable source said, a huge amount of valuable medicines are being illegally sold from the hospital by some 'dalals' (middlemen) who are often found in the hospital complex.

Taka 22 is allocated for the daily meals of the patients who take admission in the hospital. But, some patients informed, meals are not served according to the allocation and the standard of served-meals is not so good.

According to Health Department, about Taka 32 lakh 2 thousand 500 has been sanctioned for expanding the medicare services in Natore district during the '94-'95 fiscal year. However, the amount is too little compared to the need.

Of the total, Taka nine lakh for sadar hospital, Taka 3.25 lakh for per health complexes at five thanas, Taka 40 thousand for per union health complexes in 15 unions and Taka 75 thousand for the only TB hospital in the district has been sanctioned.

But the standard of treatment in the hospitals and health complexes have not improved.

On November 29, '94, the district unit of Medicare Facility Development Committee held a meeting. A hot discussion took place there following the mentioned above allegations.

Two members of the Parliament from the district, DC Natore, SP Natore, Chairman of Natore Pourashava and local political and social leaders were present at the meeting.

Bright prospect for recycling of sugar mills by-products

NATORE, Dec 25: Country has bright prospect for utilising the bi-products of sugar-mills as raw materials in the paper-mills and distillery industries which may help overcome the financial hardship of sugar-mills as well, reports five

Six punished for killing a woman

GAIBANDHA, Dec 25: Six people were awarded various prison terms for killing a woman, court sources said here recently, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution story, one Nurunnesa and three other people were attacked by the accused on May 12, 1992. Of them, Nurunnesa succumbed to her injuries was at the Rangpur Medical College Hospital on May 25.

A case was filed and after investigation, police submitted chargesheet against 25 people.

The District and Sessions Judge after examining the evidences and records sentenced Shamsul to 10 years imprisonment and fined him Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer two years more. Mahbubur Rahman to 5 years, Abul Kashem, Islam and Sadek to two years and Abul Hossain to six months.

The sources said, molasses which could fulfil the demand of alcohol and spirit in the country of about 11,000 barrels has also great opportunity to export abroad.

Earlier, with a view to exporting alcohol and spirit, five

distilleries were set up in the country which could produce 50,000 barrels of alcohol consuming about 52,000 tons of molasses.

But of the total, four distilleries could not produce materials in full capacity. At present, they produce 40 per cent of their total capacity as they could not export their products abroad due to lack of initiative.

As a result, huge quantity of molasses are lying unsold in different mills incurring a huge loss. The mill authorities are forced to sell the molasses to brokers, local agents and touts at throw away prices under pressure from influential quarters.

Meanwhile, considering the deadlock prevailing in the distillery industries, two organisations placed a proposal with the ministry concerned for exporting their products to Nepal and Bhutan. But due to mysterious reasons the proposal is yet to be finalised.

Local elites stressed the need for taking steps to set up subsidiary units of existing sugar-mills like paper mills and distillery industries to overcome its present financial crisis and explore the new avenues to earn huge foreign exchange.

An estimate shows that every year existing sugar-mills produce about 8 to 10 lakh tons of cane coir of which only 80,000 tons are used in North Bengal paper mills at Paksey.

Another bi-product, soupmolasses which is used as raw materials for distillery to produce spirit and alcohol is produced about one lakh tons.

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