

CITY

CHATTOGRAM

Private clinics hiring unregistered nurses

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Many private clinics and diagnostic centres in Chattogram have been hiring unregistered nurses, disregarding The Medical Practice and Private Clinics and Laboratories (Regulation) Ordinance, 1982.

The Chattogram Civil Surgeon's Office revealed this finding following a series of drives conducted in January and February this year.

During the drives, some 15 private clinics and diagnostic centres were temporarily closed for violating the rule, while some 40 others were warned and directed for taking corrective measures, according to sources at the civil surgeon's office.

Of the 15 closed, four were in the port city, five in Banskhali and Raozan upazilas each, and one in Fatikchhari upazila.

During a drive on February 27, authorities of Innova Hospital and Metropolitan Hospital got warnings after unregistered nurses were found working there, said the sources.

On that drive, the civil surgeon fined Max Hospital Tk 1 lakh, National Hospital Tk 1 lakh, Surgiscope Hospital Tk 15,000, Delta Healthcare Tk 5,000 and Ekushey Hospital Tk 5,000 over different

irregularities.

In another drive on March 4, Central City Hospital was closed as the hospital did not have an adequate number of registered doctors and nurses.

On August 19, students of different nursing institutions in Chattogram lodged a complaint with the district civil surgeon against different private clinics that have been running with unregistered nurses. They also submitted a memorandum to the civil surgeon to conduct drives to the clinics.

Dr Ilias Chowdhury, the then civil surgeon of Chattogram, visited the port city's Metropolitan Hospital on the same day accompanied by students, and found unregistered nurses working there.

"I wrote to the Director General (Hospital and Clinic) of the Directorate General of Health Services on August 19 seeking permission to conduct drives in private clinics," Dr Ilias said.

Contacted, Dr Jahangir Alam, incumbent civil surgeon of Chattogram, said they are yet to get any response from DGHS.

"However, such drives are routine work to identify fake doctors and nurses, and clinics running without licenses. We are

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Sabita Rani Pal applies the final touches to these clay idols in preparation for Kartik Puja today. These clay idols are sold for anywhere between Tk 30-500 depending on the size. The photo was taken from the Charaicha village in Barishal Sadar upazila recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

JUBO UNION RALLY Star journo among 20 hurt in Jamalpur attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Jubo Union rally came under attack by a group of unidentified people in Jamalpur yesterday evening, injuring some 20 persons including a journalist of The Daily Star.

Sahidul Islam Nirab, Jamalpur correspondent of this newspaper, was admitted to Sarishabari Upazila Health Complex with head injuries.

Nirab, also convener of Sarishabari Upazila Press Club, was attacked while he along with some local journalists were covering the Jubo Union programme at Pogoldigha Degree College auditorium. Mahub Rahman Jewel, president of Jubo Union's Jamalpur district unit, said they organised the event titled "Pathchakra" to form a convening committee of Sarishabari upazila unit. Chhatra Union's senior leaders were also invited there, he said.

Jewel said, "After half an hour, a group entered the venue, confronted us about the meeting and attacked us with sticks during an altercation."

Some 20 persons, mostly students, were injured during the attack, alleged Jewel.

Mohammad Chand Miah, officer-in-charge of Sarishabari Police Station, said legal action will be taken when a complaint is filed.

Idle jute mills, rising costs

Workers demand state management as private leasing fails to deliver

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

In 2020, the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation announced the closure of 25 state-owned jute mills, promising upgrades and a restart within three months. Nearly four years later, these mills remain shuttered, with most now leased to private companies with little experience in the jute sector.

Jute workers and citizens are demanding the mills be reopened under government management, fuelling continuous street demonstrations in Khulna.

In April 2021, the government opted to lease the mills to private firms on contracts ranging from 5 to 30 years.

The closures on July 1, 2020 affected over 33,000 workers, excluding official staff.

In Khulna's jute-producing belt, nine mills were closed, occupying 516 acres, of which 288 acres have been leased or are in the leasing process.

Four of these nine mills have already been leased, and the BJMC recently invited international applications to lease six additional mills, including the Star and Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills in Khulna. Applications are due by November 11, 2024.

WAGE DISPARITIES
Fokran Hossain, who previously worked at Crescent Mill, recently joined a privately run facility in Khulna.

"There are 250 looms at Daulatpur Jute Mill, but only 10 are operational," he said.

"In my first month, I was paid Tk 7,400, despite the government

wage scale promising Tk 28,000. Machine operators earn Tk 8,000, while loom operators earn Tk 9,000; their pay should be Tk 32,000 to Tk 38,000," he said.

Workers who have been with the mill from the outset now earn Tk 11,000. Shoemakers, hired from Dhaka, are paid Tk 18,000 – a disparity adding to worker frustration, he said.

in Rajhat, Jashore. Other mills, including Eastern and Carpeting Mills, have been leased to India's Regal Group, while Radiant Group has put forward an advance payment for the Khalishpur Jute Mill lease.

Crescent Jute Mill remains in limbo and no decision has been finalised regarding the Alim Jute Mill lease.



"We want the mills reopened under government initiative and pay in line with the wage commission," Fokran added.

Habib, another worker at the leased Daulatpur Mill, said the shift to private management has driven most jute workers out of their field, with only 130 remaining as the focus has turned to the shoe sector.

According to BJMC sources, Daulatpur Jute Mill was leased to Fortune Group in September 2023, whose subsidiary, Uni World Footwear Technology, now produces footwear at the site.

In November, Akiz Group started production at the JJI Jute Mill

recently, this correspondent came across a desolate atmosphere.

Shrubs have taken over along dilapidated buildings, and silence pervades the once-bustling labour quarters.

When approached, three BJMC employees declined to comment, though security guard Miraj Ali said, "Sometimes, officials visit for lease purposes, but no progress has been made yet."

CONCERNS OVER LEASING PROCESS, PRODUCTION GAPS

On May 18, the former Minister of Textiles and Jute, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, criticised the four leased mills in Khulna for failing to meet production expectations.

He warned that the ministry

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Power supply from Nepal via India begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Electricity supply from Nepal to Bangladesh via India began yesterday in a trilateral transaction, aimed at boosting sub-regional connectivity in the power sector.

The power flow was jointly inaugurated by Bangladesh's Energy Adviser Md Fouzul Kabir Khan, India's Minister for Power and Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal, and Nepal's Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Dipak Khadka through a virtual event hosted by the government of Nepal.

The occasion marks

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'Salma was killed by tenant, not her son' Say police contradicting Rab's claim

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Salma was killed by her "drug peddler" tenant, not by her 19-year-old son, said police yesterday contradicting Rab's claim.

Police said this after arresting three persons on Thursday night. The arrestees are Mabiya Begum, 40, and her associates Moslem Uddin, 26, and van driver Sumon Rabi Das, 28.

Umme Salma Khatun, 50, wife of Azizur Rahman, was killed in her house in Joppirpara area of Dupachachia upazila in Bogura around 12:30pm on November 10.

On November 11, Bogura Rab-12 claimed in a press briefing that the deceased's younger son Saad Bin-Azizur Rahman, a 12th grader at a local madrasa, killed her and kept the body in a freezer. Rab arrested Saad on November 11.

At a press briefing on November 12, Rab-12 company commander Maj Ehteshamul Haque Khan told journalists after the murder, Rab interrogated the victim's husband Azizur Rahman and Saad. "During interrogation, Saad confessed

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Tea workers demo for arrears

UNB, Sylhet

Hundreds of tea workers took to the streets in Sylhet yesterday, demanding immediate payment of unpaid wages and rations.

Organised by the Sylhet District branch of the Bangladesh Trade Union Centre, the protest march highlighted the dire financial and humanitarian crisis faced by thousands of workers from tea estates across the region.

Abul Kalam Azad, acting president of the Sylhet District Trade Union Centre, presided over the rally.

Speakers urged the government and tea estate authorities to swiftly address the crisis and ensure the basic rights of tea workers. "Our struggle is not merely for wages; it's for survival and dignity," a labour leader declared.

The march, which began at 2:00pm from Keane Bridge premises and proceeded through Zindabazar, called for urgent government intervention to alleviate the plight of approximately 12,000 workers from 12 tea estates managed by the National Tea Company (NTC).

Workers alleged that they have been deprived of wages and rations for nearly three months, pushing their families to the brink of desperation.



Despite submitting memorandums to the government and staging a 26-day continuous strike, they claim no action has been taken, they added.

Protesters warned that over 40,000-50,000 individuals, including tea workers and their families, are now facing starvation.

"At a time when living costs are soaring, we are denied even the meager daily wage of Tk 178.50. How can we survive?" one protester questioned.

The workers demanded immediate implementation of a fair minimum wage structure for 2023-24, aligned

with current market conditions, as well as regular payment of wages and rations. Other demands included full rations for families, land rights, democratic labour laws, and the resolution of disparities in casual and earned leave entitlements.

Key labour leaders, including Harinarayan Hazra, general secretary of the Moulvibazar Tea Workers Union, and other union representatives, also addressed the rally.

The protest concluded with a call for unity among workers and a pledge to continue their movement until their demands are met.



Office of the Benapole Pourashava
District : Jashore.

Memo No. Bena/Poura/Prokou/001/2024-406

Date : 14.11.2024

e-Tender Notice (OTM) No-06/2024-25

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as mentioned in the following table:

| Tender ID No. | Package No. | Description of Works | On-line(e-GP System) tender publication date & time | On-line(e-GP System) tender closing date & time |
|---------------|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1036936 | BENA/ADP/Damage/20 23-24/W-01 | (a) Construction of RCC Box Culvert on Deghirpar-Bhabarbar Eidgah road at Deghirpar under Benapole Pourashava. b)Construction of BFS road from Jashore-Kolikata road (Tarikul) house to Master Abdul Mannan's house at ch. 0.00-54.00m, under Benapole Pourashava | 17-Nov-2024 18:10:00:00 | 03-Dec-2024 13:00:00 |
| 1036950 | BENA/ADP/Damage/20 23-24/W-02 | Construction of Retaining wall at Benapole Koborstan Road at the side of pond Near Mosque at ch.0.00-30.00m under Benapole Pourashava. | 17-Nov-2024 10:00:00 | 03-Dec-2024 13:00:00 |

There are an online tender, where only, e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no off line/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-tendering documents from the national e-GP Portal have to be deposited on line through any registered banks branches up to 03-12-2024 at 12.00 AM. Further information and guideline in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Mosharaf Hossain)
Executive Engineer
Benapole Pourashava

GD-963