

Poetry event halted in Ctg
Reciter ‘harassed’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A recitation program in Chattogram’s NandanKanan area was abruptly stopped yesterday after a poem mentioned Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Organisers and eyewitnesses said the event, arranged by the Chattogram Recitation Association to commemorate International Mother Language Day, was interrupted around 10:45am by activists of Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS), a cultural organisation.

The disruption took place during the recitation of a poem referencing Bangabandhu, the Liberation War, and the March 7 speech.

Mishfak Rasel, a co-organiser of the event, said upon hearing the recitation, JASAS members objected and allegedly forced the reciter to apologise.

Some organisers also claimed the reciter was harassed.

Mamunur Rashid, general secretary of JASAS Chattogram city, confirmed the incident. “The programme was carrying out ‘anti-state’ activities, so we protested. The administration intervened and stopped the event,” he said. He, however, denied any allegations of harassment.

Abdul Karim, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said they were informed about the incident, but the event had already ended before police arrived.

SHARSHA UPAZILA OF JASHORE

Snail collection a lifeline for 700 families

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Around 700 low-income families in Jashore’s Sharsha upazila make a living by collecting snails from local water bodies.

With a severe shortage of jobs in rural areas, these families, from Dihī, Laxmanpur, Bahadurpur, Sharsha Sadar, and Nizampur unions, rely on harvesting snails from rivers, canals, swamps, and ponds, they said.

Their work begins early in the morning and continues until noon.

Each person collects between 20 and 50 kilogrammes of snails daily, which they sell to traders at a rate of Tk 6 per kg. The snails are then processed and used as feed in fish farms.

Despite facing harsh conditions, including polluted waters, the collectors have little choice but to continue.

“The local water bodies have turned toxic due to pollution this year, causing a lot of irritation and itching to us. Despite this, we continue to collect snails from the waters as we have no other means to make a living,” said Asim Tarafdar of Potapara in Nizampur union.

Echoing him, Pawan Biswas, a snail collector in Nizampur union, said, “For us, snail collection remains one of the few viable sources of income. However, the increasing pollution

of local water bodies continues to pose serious health risks, making an already difficult livelihood even more challenging.”

Others, including Alo Biswas, Milan Rani, Nolita Rani, and Swarup, shared similar concerns.



Traders Sohag, Ibrahim, and Akram Hossain from Wapda Khalpara in Swarupdaha union purchase around 3,000 to 4,000 kilogrammes of snails daily from the collectors. These are then sold to fish farm owners, who process them using machines to produce fish feed, they said.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

A farmer tends to his newly planted watermelon field. After a seed is planted, regular watering can help the fruit grow quicker. The photo was taken in Debitala village of Khulna’s Batiaghata upazila yesterday.

Woman raped in Munshiganj, three held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A 22-year-old woman has been raped by her husband’s friend and associates on Domrakhali Char in the Padma River, Munshiganj, said police.

The incident occurred between 6:30pm and 9:00pm on February 16, said Zakir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Padma Bridge (North) Police Station.

On Thursday night, Munshiganj District Police said in a press briefing that the woman filed a written complaint the following day, naming four suspects.

Based on an initial investigation, police found evidence supporting her claims and filed a case on February 18.

Three accused – Md Jamal Molla, 23, Yamin Munshi, 19, and Jabbar Sheikh, 18 – were arrested and produced before a court, where they gave confessional statements under Section 164. The court then sent them to jail.

The other suspect, Abu Bakar Siddique, 22, remains at large.

According to police, the woman had been waiting for a boat at the old Mawa ferry ghat to travel to her husband’s home, when her husband’s friend Abu Bakar and Jamal offered her a ride in a trowler.

The two other suspects boarded the vessel on the way, and the four men allegedly raped her on the char. Police seized two smartphones from the arrestees, which have been sent to the CID forensic lab for examination.

The trawler used in the crime has also been seized.

The victim underwent medical examination, and efforts are ongoing to arrest Abu Bakar, the OC added.

KALIA UPAZILA HEALTH COMPLEX

Healthcare in a shambles

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY, Bagerhat

Patients at Kalia Upazila Health Complex in Narail are enduring severe hardships due to a shortage of doctors, an unhygienic environment, a lack of essential medicines, and insufficient staff.

Established in 1978 as a 31-bed facility and upgraded to 50 beds in 2009, the health complex currently has seven doctors against 21 sanctioned posts.

All 10 specialist doctor positions, including those for ENT, medicine, dermatology, gynaecology, orthopaedics, and cardiology, remain vacant.

Until December last year, two specialists were available in gynaecology and orthopaedics, but these positions are now unfilled.

Among 37 nursing positions, 25 are occupied. The hospital also faces

surgeries, which are now conducted only twice a month, requiring specialists to be brought in from Narail Sadar.

Jorina Begum from Bilbouch village, sitting outside the doctor’s chamber with her sick child, said she had been waiting for over half an hour with no sign of her turn approaching.

Mukti Khanam from Telidanga village, admitted for six days, said she has not received any medication from the hospital and had to purchase medicines worth Tk 5,500 from outside.

Komol Das, another patient, had to pay for blood tests outside the hospital after being admitted. Later, the doctor recommended an X-ray, which also had to be done elsewhere as the hospital lacks proper facilities.

On average, 30 to 35 patients are admitted daily, while around 400 to 450 patients visit the outpatient department.



a severe shortage of third- and fourth-class employees. While 28 positions are sanctioned for third-class employees, 18 are filled.

The situation is even worse for fourth-class employees, with six staff members managing 36 designated positions, including office assistants, cleaners, stretcher bearers, and lab attendants. As a result, the hospital premises often remain unclear.

Doctors are struggling to cope with the increasing patient load.

A doctor, speaking anonymously, said the shortage forces them to work extended hours even after official duty, making it extremely exhausting.

The shortage has also affected

The hospital has also been facing a severe medicine crisis since August due to a halt in new tenders. The situation has worsened over the past two months. Previously, the hospital provided 27 to 30 types of medicines, but now only six or seven varieties are available.

The hospital’s only X-ray machine has been out of order for two years, and the technician position remains vacant.

Dr Partha Pratim Biswas, acting residential medical officer and upazila health and family planning officer, said the hospital has been struggling with various issues for a long time.

He said they have reported the situation to the higher authorities, who are working towards a solution.

For us, snail collection remains one of the few viable sources of income. However, the increasing pollution of local water bodies continues to pose serious health risks, making an already difficult livelihood even more challenging.

PAWAN BISWAS, a snail collector in Nizampur union

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INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Tender no. SGFL/3WELLS/WO/LOGGING/FP1 Date:20-02-2025

1.	Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources division.
2.	Agency	:	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (A company of Petrobangla).
3.	Procuring Entity Name	:	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (SGFL)
4.	Procuring Entity District	:	Sylhet.
5.	Invitation for	:	Tender for procurement of Wireline Logging Services for Workover of Well no Kailashtilla-1, Rashidpur-3 & Beanibazar-2, Bangladesh
6.	Invitation Ref No	:	SGFL/3WELLS/WO/LOGGING/FP1
7.	Date	:	20-02-2025
KEY INFORMATION			
8.	Procurement method	:	Open Tendering Method Single Stage Two Envelope System.
FUNDING INFORMATION			
9.	Budget and Source of Funds	:	Company's own fund.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
10.	Project Name	:	Workover of Well no Kailashtilla-1, Rashidpur-3 & Beanibazar-2
11.	Tender Publication Date	:	20-02-2025
12.	Tender Last Selling Date	:	06-04-2025
13.	Tender Closing/Receiving Date & Time	:	07-04-2025 and 12:00 hrs (BST)
14.	Tender Opening Date & Time	:	07-04-2025 and 12:15 hrs (BST)
15.	Name and Address of the Office(s)	:	
	- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	:	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited Dhaka Liaison Office, Petrocentre (13 th Floor), 3 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
16.	- Receiving of Tender Document	:	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited Head Office, PO Chiknagool, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
	- Opening of Tender Document	:	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited Head Office, PO Chiknagool, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
17.	Date & Time of Selling of Tender Document.	:	The Tender document will be available for sale from 24-02-2025 to 06-04-2025 during office hours on all working days.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
18.	Eligibility of Tenderer	:	The Contractors from all countries except the countries those have no diplomatic relationship with Bangladesh are eligible to submit tender. A Contractor or a Subcontractor that is a national of, or registered in, the following countries are not eligible: Countries which have no business relations with the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Materials, Equipment, Plants and Supplies shall not have their origin in the following countries: Countries which have no business relations with the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
19.	Brief Description of Works	:	To provide Wireline Logging Services for Workover of Well no Kailashtilla-1, Rashidpur-3 & Beanibazar-2.
20.	Brief Description of Physical Services	:	Wireline Logging Services including all necessary equipment and professional experts/operators.
21.	Price of Tender document	:	Taka 10,000.00 or USD 82.00 (non-refundable).
22.	Name of the Official Inviting Tender	:	Engr. Md. Abdul Jalil Pramanik
23.	Designation of the Official Inviting Tender	:	Managing Director Sylhet Gas Fields Limited
24.	Address of the Official Inviting Tender	:	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited Dhaka Liaison Office, Petrocentre (13 th Floor), 3 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. Attention: Deputy General Manager (Procurement)
25.	Contact Details of the Official Inviting Tender	:	Telephone no. +88002996641481 Email: md@sgfl.org.bd
26.	Special Instruction	:	a) Tender must remain valid for one hundred and twenty (120) days from the date of closing of the Tender. b) Tenderer shall furnish with the Tender (Technical Tender) an acceptable Tender Security in the form of Demand Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh or in the form of an Bank Guarantee (as per format provided in the Tender Document) issued by a scheduled bank of Bangladesh or by any reputed foreign bank duly endorsed with full obligation and liability by a scheduled bank of Bangladesh in the amount as under: BDT 25,00,000.00 or USD 20,500.00 c) The Tender Security must remain valid for one hundred and forty-eight (148) days from the date of closing of the tender. d) Tender(s) submitted after the deadline for receiving of tenders will be rejected and returned unopened to the Tenderer. e) The Tender must not be submitted by fax or email. f) Exceptions (Technical or Commercial or of other nature) proposed by Tenderer (if any) shall be clearly expressed in a separate section of their technical offer. No exception will be accepted in the price bid. g) This tender notice will also be available at Petrobangla website: www.petrobangla.org.bd and SGFL website: www.sgfl.org.bd and CPTU website: www.cptu.gov.bd
27.	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.		

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20/02/2025

Deputy General Manager (Procurement)