#### Action programme to facilitate safe drinking water suggested

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday recommended immediate action programme to facilitate safe drinking water to the arsenic-hit people with a

call to identify the patients. The seminar on arsenic contamination in ground water in Bangladesh: Strategies for social action programme and creation of public awareness, organised by the University of Asia Pacific was held at the National Economic Council auditorium of Planning Commis-

The speakers in their recommendations said, "We can not let the people drink the contaminated water any more knowing well that it is a serious problem. We should immediately look for alternative

sources of safe water." The extent of damage already done to human life is, as estimated, quite large and we should now focus on clinical problem and its awareness."

they said A number of options for alternative sources of 'safe' drinking water were put forward as recommendations at the daylong seminar. Some of them include, identification of the 'safe' tubewells, use of treated surface water, all new hand-pump tubewells should be installed at least beyond 350 feet layer.

For creating public awareness the speakers recommended that village level policy makers should be motivated first to accomplish public consciousness about the severity of the prob-

reports UNB.

next 12 hours.

Srimongal.

City/Town

Chittagong

Rajshahi

Khulna

Dhaka

changed over the country.

Weather

Thundershower likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary Kalbaishakhi gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many

places over Rajshahi division and at a few places over Khulna, Bar-ishal, Comilla and Sylhet during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today,

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country during the period, the Met Office said.

Temporary west or north westerly Kalbaishakhi squally wind with a speed of about 65 to 85 km per hour is likely to occur over

the regions of Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur, Khulna, Jessore, Kushtia, Faridpur, Dhaka, Tangail, Mymensingh and Sylhet during the

The country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishurdi and the lowest 15.8 degree Celsius at

The sun sets today at 6:13 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.52 am.

Temperature

in Celsius

in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

33.5

34.8

33.0

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded

Min

19.3

20.3

20.0

22.0

It predicted that day temperature may remain mainly un-

lem without creating 'panic' in the community. The speakers also suggested that the village level local government should be involved to disseminate the options and other informa-

Dr Quazi Quamruzzaman, Chairman of Dhaka Community Hospital (DCH) Trust, the pioneer body to first identify patients in the country having severe melanosis and keratosis - some of the visible symptoms of arsenic poisoning, in his key note speech said, "DCH's involvement with the problem came not through choice but

from necessity." Dr Tanvir Ahsan of the World Bank in his paper on management of arsenic problem in Bangladesh said, "arsenic poisoning that eventually leads to death has affected a large number of people including children."

The Vice Chancellor of the university. Hedayet Ahmed in his address said, "It took us almost 18 years to realise that arsenic contamination is quite a serious one. We are in the right track. We now need to educate the people and the university would like to offer any service needed to tackle the problem."

State Minister for Planning, Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir addressed the participants as chief guest while State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Professor M Amanullah gave

his speech at the concluding session.

Humidity

Evening

43

in Percentage

Morning

#### Cultural contest for children begins

A two-day cultural competi-tion for the children began at Shishu Academy in the city yes-

terday, reports UNB. A cultural organisation Amra Kuri organised the competition, inaugurated by Chairman of UNB Amanullah Khan.

Among others, Director of Amra Kuri Mushtaq Ahmed Liton, Advisor Shafful Alam Babu and Organisation Committee convenor Shakila Nasrin Lupin spoke on the occa-

Khan said Amra Kuri has been making significant contributions in flourishing the latent talents of the children. It has established itself as an institution in this field, he added.

Some 1000 children are taking part in the competition on drawing, music, dance, recitation of poetry, handwriting and general knowledge.



Prof Rangalal Sen seen addressing a seminar at the National Museum auditorium yesterday entitled 'Shaheed Dhirendranath Dutta: Fifty years of Language Movement' organised by the Shaheed Dhirendranath Dutta Memorial Parishad.

#### Bangladesh to donate Tk 50 lakh for tornado-hit people in India

Bangladesh will donate Taka fifty lakh for the people of India who were affected by last week's tornado, it was learnt yesterday from a reliable source, reports BSS.

The decision was taken in view of the widespread destruction caused by the storm in eastern India, the source added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina earlier on Friday expressed her deep shock and sorrow at the loss of lives and destruction of property by the tornado, in a message to her India counterpart, Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Bangladesh Prime Minister said that the people of Bangladesh "will stand by our friends in India at — Star photo | the time of their distress."

#### Treasury bill auction results

The 87th auction of the 90day treasury bill, the 78th auction of the 30-day and 180-day treasury bills and the 52nd auction of the one-year treasury bill were held yesterday, says

Some 45 bids for a total of Tk 446.50 crore of 30-day bill, two bids for Tk 5.50 crore of 90day bill and 20 bids for a total of Tk 105.60 crore of one-year bill were offered.

Of these, 17 bids for a total of Tk 236.50 crore of 30-day bill and six bids for Tk 44.60 crore of one-year bill were accepted.

No bid was accepted against the 90-day bill and no bid was offered for 180-day bill. The weighted average prices of the accepted bids against the 30-day and one-year bills were Tk 99.29 and Tk 90.50 per 100 taka respectively.

#### State Ministers listen to people's problems

By Staff Correspondent

On the second day of the ministers' "meet-the-people" programme yesterday, two state ministers visited Awami League central office.

Minister of State for Fisheries and Livestock Satish Chandra Roy and Minister of State for Education Prof Zinatunnesa Talukdar took part in the programme last night. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, who was also scheduled to attend the programme, however, is now out of the country.

People from various areas came to AL office at Bangabandhu Avenue to seek recommendations from the ministersin getting jobs and admission to educational institutions.

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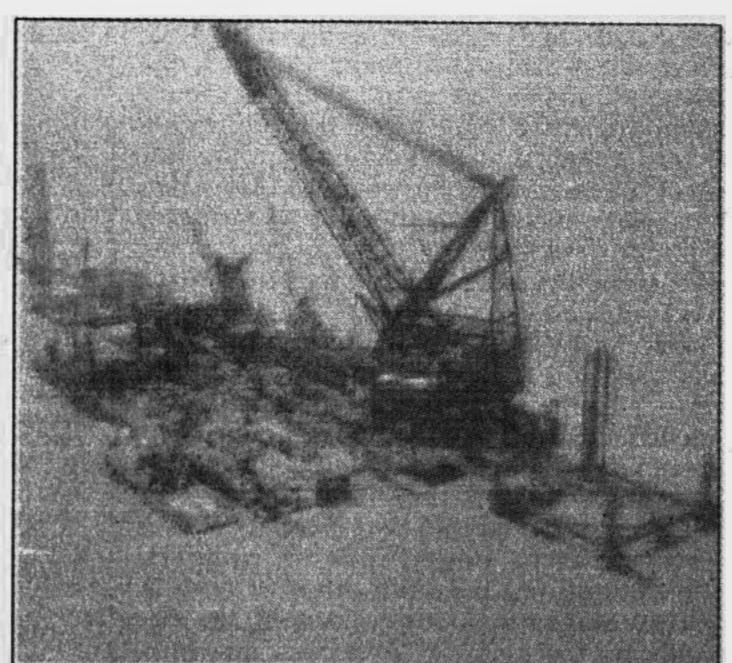
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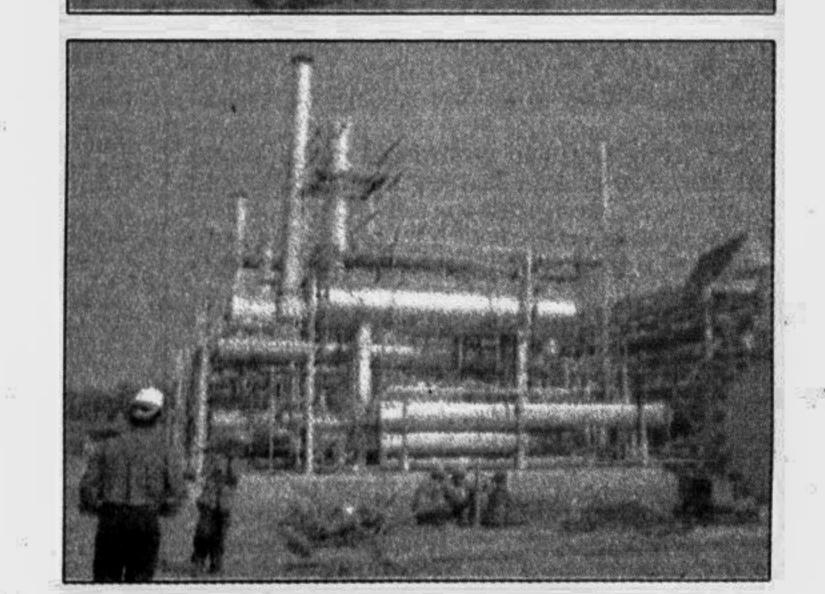
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