

# Harmful acids found in 11 pond water in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 10: After detecting a dangerous bacteria in the WASA-supplied water in the port city, Department of Environment (DoE) has now found excessive level of harmful acids in 11 ponds, including the most used Bayezid Bostami Mazar pond, reports UNB.

The DoE, following laboratory tests in March, issued letters on April 6 to the owners of these water bodies cautioning them about the danger.

Sources said experts of the department had collected samples of water from six ponds, five *dighis* (big ponds) and one lake — the most-used water bodies in the city — in the second and third week of March. They found safe only the water of Foy's Lake.

The water of Bayezid Bostami pond is most dangerous, the DoE report mentioned apprehending that the cause for it might be giving different types of food by the devotees to the tortoises in the pond.

Other water bodies, from

where the DoE took water samples for test, were Bahaddar Hat Jam-e-Masjid pond, Katalganj Munshi pond, Bagmontram pond, Goalbari pond at OR Nizam road, Sholashahar Railway pond, the age-old Lal Dighi, Baluar Dighi at Korbaniganj, Askar Dighi, Bheluar Dighi at Pahartali and Agrabad Dighi.

Experts say chemical substance PH or acid as well as Dissolved Oxygen (DO) were found in the water of these ponds, which are below the tolerable level.

They said these acids cause severe harm to the skin and the digestive organ of the human body and might cause large-scale death of fish.

According to medical experts, water usually contains PH 7 that is neutral and tolerable. Above 7, the PH is alkaline and below 7 it is acidic.

The DoE tests showed that water of Bahaddar Hat Jam-e-Masjid (mosque) contains PH 6.1 and DO 6.2, of Sholashahar

Railway pond PH 6.0 and DO 5.8, Bagmontram pond PH 5.8 and DO 5.4, Goalbari pond PH 6.0 and DO 6.4, Katalganj Munshi pond PH 6.3 and DO 6.4, Agrabad Dighi PH 6.0 and DO 5.0, and Askar Dighi PH 6.1 and DO 6.5.

The level of PH at Lal Dighi is 6.0, but DO is normal. Earlier, during another test, the department found 78 per cent "coliform," a dangerous bacteria, in water supplied by the Chittagong WASA.

## President condoles death of Bourguiba

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday expressed his deep shock at the death of former Tunisian president and leader of Tunisia's struggle for independence Habib Bourguiba, reports BSS.

In a message to Tunisian President Zine Al-Abidine Ben Ali, Justice Shahabuddin, on behalf of the people of the country, conveyed the "deepest condolences" to the people of Tunisia.

The President prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and wished patience and courage to the people of Tunisia to bear this irreparable loss.

## Metropolitan



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is offering *Munajat* after inaugurating the Bangladesh Chancery Building in Washington, DC on Sunday. — PID photo

## Hasina opens chancery building in US

WASHINGTON, Apr 10: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina here Sunday unveiled the plaque of Bangladesh's first Embassy building, a symbol of sovereignty, pride and stability in US soil, reports UNB.

The new chancery, on a hillside in northwest Washington, was built in the diplomatic en-

clave. Earlier, on December 5, 1997, the Prime Minister laid the foundation of the building on 23,000 square feet area. The three-storey golden colour building with sleek architectural design is noted for its wing-shaped roof that symbolises a blossoming water lily, the country's national flower.

Since independence in 1971, the Bangladesh embassy here has been located in a rented office space at Wisconsin Avenue with an annual rent of 300,000 US dollars.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hoisted the national flag and unveiled the plaque of the new Embassy building as hundreds of Bangladeshi expatriates sang the national anthem with a deep sense of patriotism.

Present on the occasion were State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, PM's Principal Secretary Dr SA Samad, US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Karl F. Inderfurth, Deputy Secretary of Energy Department Calvin Humphrey, Bangladesh Ambassador in Washington KM Shehabuddin, PM's Press Secretary Jawadul Karim, diplomats of different countries, US State Department officials and Bangladeshi expatriates.

## PIB workshop on country page opens

Director General of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam yesterday said PIB would help develop newspaper country pages, reports BSS.

## City AL meet today

A special extended meeting of Dhaka City Awami League (AL) will be held today at 6 pm at the party's central office in the city, a press release said, reports BSS.

General Secretary and State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya has requested all city leaders of the party, parliament members elected from Dhaka city, presidents and general secretaries of all thanas, ward and union units and ward commissioners of the party to attend the meeting.

### Dear Patrons

You are aware of the tragic circumstances surrounding the demise of Bishal, youngest child of Abul Khair, Chairman, Bengal Foundation, that led to temporary suspension of all our activities. However, we are re-emerging with the unveiling of "Bengal Shilpalaya" and noted artist Mohammad Kibria's exhibition at the "Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts" at 6:00 pm, on Friday, 14 April 2000.

You are cordially invited to witness the inauguration of "Bengal Shilpalaya" by eminent educationist Dr. Anisuzzaman. Shilpalaya, repository of all the diverse activities of the Foundation, emanates with the "Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts" where veteran painter Safiuddin Ahmed will concurrently inaugurate Mohammad Kibria's solo art exhibition. The exhibition will remain open everyday from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm, from 14 to 30 April 2000.

Your presence is solicited.

Venue : Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts  
Bengal Shilpalaya  
House 275/F, Road 27 (old)  
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka

Time : 6:00 pm, Friday, 14 April 2000

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Representatives including Ms. Janet Mountseer and Mr. Simon Hoy from the University of Canberra will be available on **11 & 12 April 2000 (10:00 a.m. to 17:00 p.m.)** at the following venue to take interview:

**"Surma Room"**  
**Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka**

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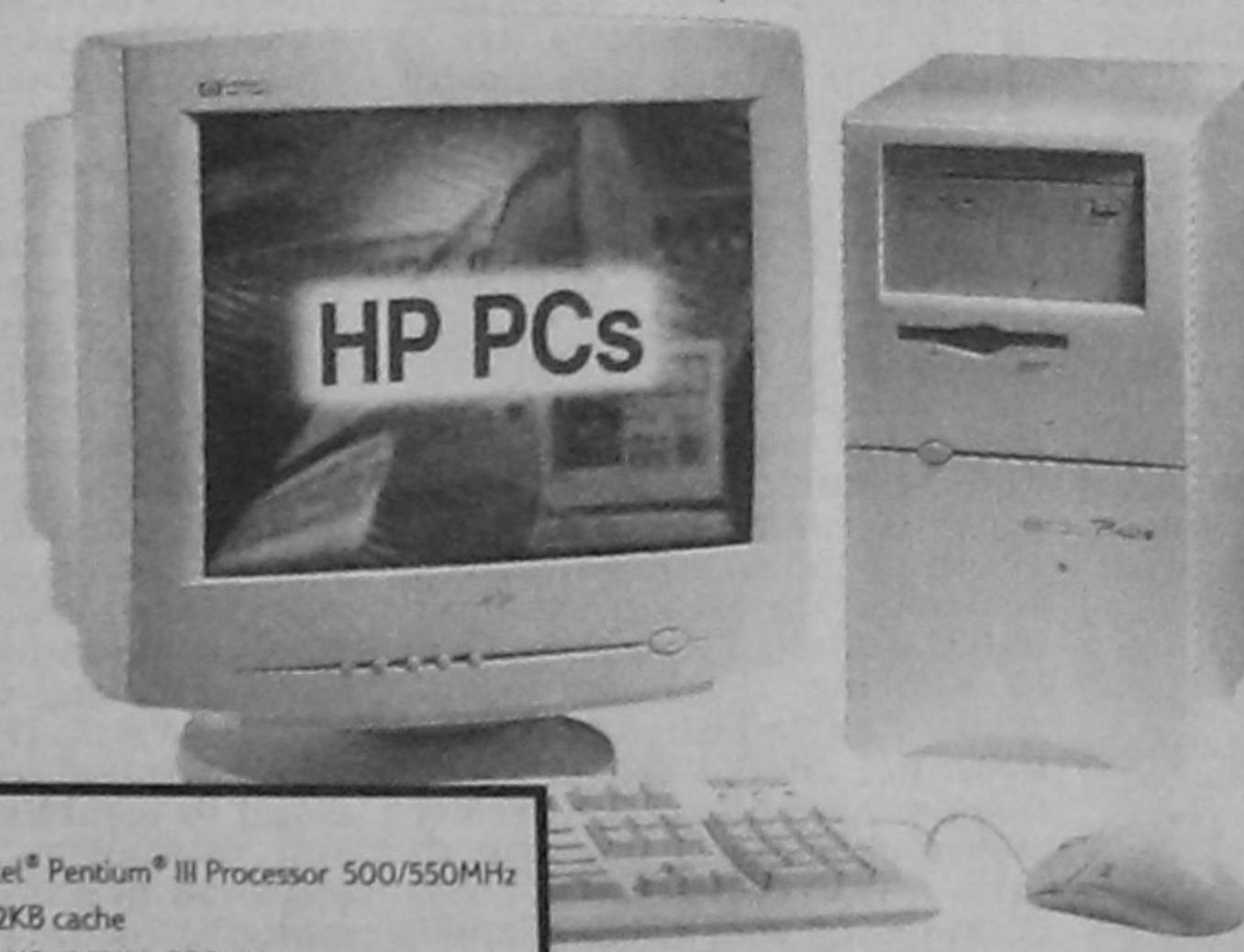
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Graduate in Computer Science or similar major with excellent grades. 3 years experience in application development using Visual C++ or Java.  
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Graduate in computer Science or similar major with excellent grades. 3 years experience in designing RDBMS using Visual Basic, SQL Server, Oracle.  
Salary Tk.15000/= plus benefits.

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Graduate in Architecture, Fine Arts or similar major with excellent grades. 3 years experience in designing Web Sites using Java, Java Script and FrontPage.  
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If you are the best in your area then mail or bring your CV with Photo and academic and experience credentials by **Thursday, April 20** to: 103 Park Road, New DOHS, Dhaka. Phone 9883627-28 Email: microcel@bol-online.com