

Arsenic contamination a 'modern day catastrophe'

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at an international workshop that opened in the city yesterday identified arsenic contamination as the single greatest threat that Bangladesh faces now.

Inaugurating the 3-day workshop, Deputy Minister for Local Government Saber Hossain Chowdhury said arsenic contamination is a "modern day catastrophe."

He called upon the experts to provide the people with an option that works and is sustainable against arsenic contamination.

Nearly 35 million people in 59 districts of the country use water from tubewells, which contain arsenic well above the permissible level.

More than 10,000 arsenic affected patients have so far been identified and many more might have been clinically affected.

The workshop on "Technologies for Arsenic Removal from Drinking Water," being held at the BUET, is jointly organised by Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and the Japan-based United Nations University (UNU).

Some 21 papers will be presented in four technical sessions of the workshop, with nearly 125 local and foreign experts from USA, UK, Japan, Australia, Netherlands, Canada, Nepal and India taking part.

The Deputy Minister for Local Government told the experts that the urgency is there to define the right technology for the arsenic

problem with which "we have to live because it is in nature."

He said: "Technology is the hardest aspect because we are looking for something easy, affordable and sustainable."

Asked all not to depend on government steps alone, Saber Chowdhury said: "We've to create an environment that encourages the private sector to come forward."

He informed that BUET and the UNU have started working on development of technologies for treatment of arsenic contaminated water and came up with two promising technologies.

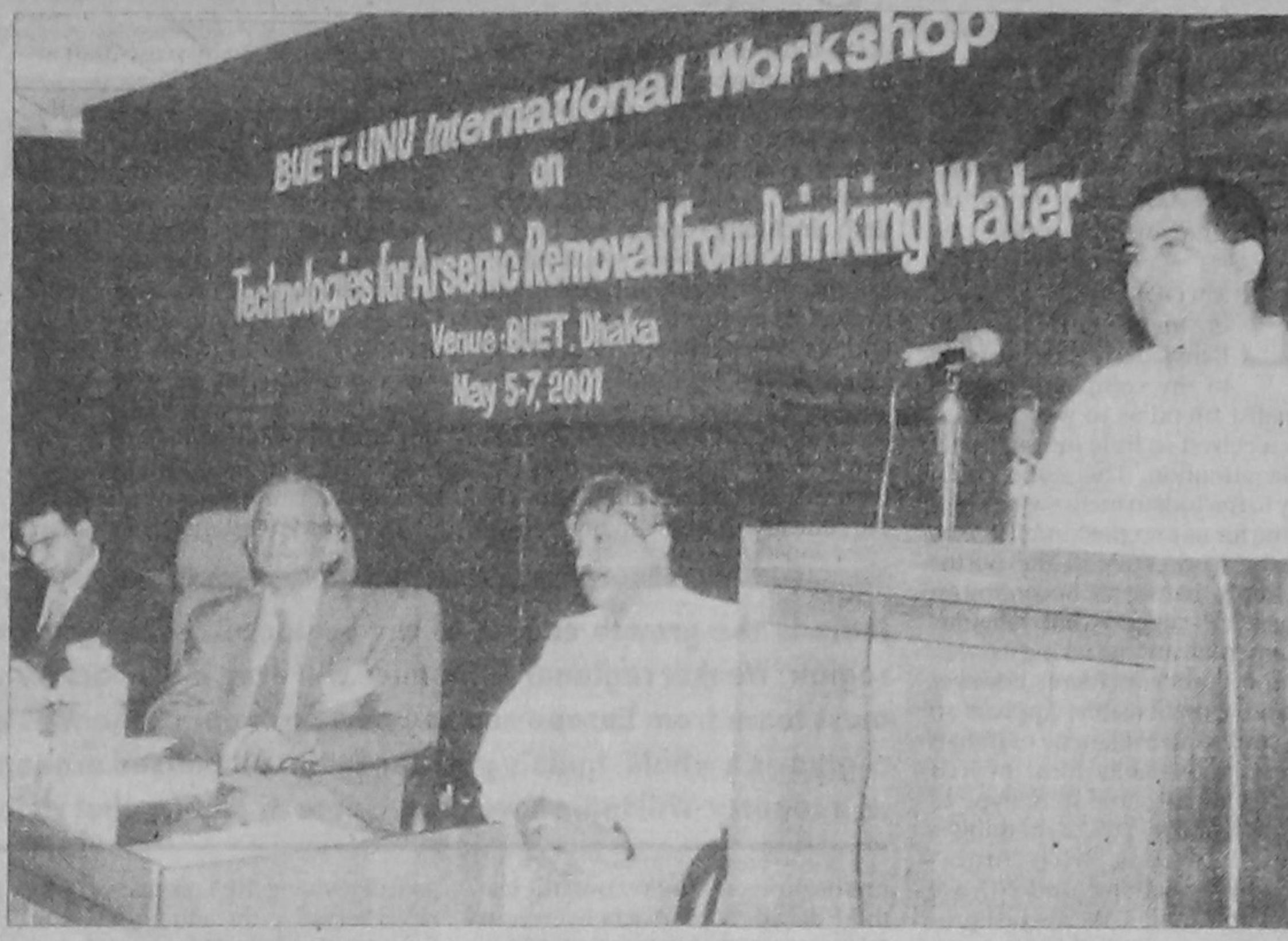
The workshop will deliberate and discuss the physical, physico-chemical and biological processes in arsenic removal from contaminated ground water.

Roundtable on press freedom May 10

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will hold a roundtable on 'Press Freedom and Security of Journalists' at the VIP lounge of the Jatiya Press Club on May 10 to mark the World Press Freedom Day.

Leaders of different professional groups, editors and officials of the law enforcing agencies will take part in the roundtable.



Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in association with UNU organised an international workshop on "Technologies for Arsenic Removal from Drinking Water" in the city yesterday.

Nirmul committee demands trial of war criminals

UNB, Dhaka

Leaders of the Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee urged the political activists yesterday to put pressure on their party leadership to build up a fresh movement for trial of the war criminals of 1971.

Observing that political parties virtually withdrew themselves from the movement against war criminals, the Nirmul Committee made the appeal while celebrating the 27th birth anniversary of its founder late Jahanara Imam.

Addressing a discussion on "Campaign of Jahanara Imam and trial of the war criminals," Nirmul leaders and advisors came up with an observation that the left-leaning parties were not active in the movement while Awami League shifted from its earlier position.

"The key responsibility of holding the trial lies with the government," said Justice K M Sobhan, adding that the military or quasi-military governments didn't go for such a trial as they were influenced by the war criminals themselves.

Asking the government to

CPB leader Robi Neogi hospitalised

BSS, Dhaka

Eminent communist leader Robi Neogi was admitted to BIRDEM hospital yesterday with serious diabetic problems in an unconscious state.

He is under treatment of Prof Nurul Islam at the Nephrology Medicine Unit Three, hospital sources said.

A central committee member of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and life member of Sherpur Press Club, Neogi was earlier admitted to a private clinic.

Lightning kills two boys in Narayanganj

BSS, Narayanganj

Two brothers were killed on the spot after being struck by lightning at Yandu, a village under Rupganj police station yesterday morning.

According to police sources, they were identified as Ramzan Ali, 9, and Yabuk, 11, son of Omar Ali of the village.

They were playing in the field when lightning hit them.

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Zoha Leaves for France

Mr. Shamsuzzoha Khan, Managing Director of Zoha Properties Ltd left for Paris yesterday to attend 18th World Quality International Star Award Convention 2001 to be held on 7th May 2001 to receive Gold Trophy Award for their quality commitment and management in Real Estate Sector from Bangladesh. He will accompany Chairperson and Director Marketing.

'IT one of the shortest way to strengthen economy'

BSS, Dhaka

Information Technology (IT) is one of the shortest ways to strengthen the country's national economy and it is an alternative route to transform the huge unskilled manpower into skilled one within the shortest possible time, Political Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr. S A Malek said yesterday.

He said in a country like Bangladesh where millions of educated youths are without any job and the manpower is regarded as a curse. The IT sector could transform this manpower into skilled one within the shortest possible time and with minimum investment.

IT could also play a unique role in earning foreign exchange by exporting software as well skilled manpower, Dr. Malek said.

He was speaking at a seminar jointly organised by Transworld Infotech Limited and Mega Cyber-tech Limited, Hyderabad on Medical Transcription and Software Development at National Museum here.

Presided over by Rumi Shahrum Chowdhury, the func-

tion was addressed, among others, by noted economist Dr. Atiur Rahman, IT experts Mostafa Albari, engineer Sharif Nurul Arbia and IT experts of India Girija Prashad and Anand Moses.

Transworld Infotech Limited in collaboration with Mega Cyber-tech Limited, Hyderabad, was formally launched today.

Dr. Malek said the government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has undertaken various steps for the flourishing of the IT sector. The government has already announced the IT as a thrust sector. A taskforce has been formed and a substantial amount of fund has been allocated for the development of this sector, he added.

Dr. Atiur Rahman urged the authorities to set up an IT university in the Dhaka University campus and IT laboratory in all the universities aimed at transforming the educated youths into skilled manpower.

Dr Atiur called upon all to get involved in IT business and to seek funds and other facilities for the flourishing of the sector.

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The Managing Director, TSP Complex Ltd, Patenga, Chittagong invites sealed quotations from the bona fide suppliers/manufacturers/agents against the following tender enquiries:

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2.	TSP/PUR/FIRE EQUIP/ 11/2000-2001/2570 dated 4-4-2001	Nylon Canvas Fire Hose Pipe	-do-	20-5-2001	Tk 25/-

Tender documents will be available from (i) The Controller of Accounts, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, (ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong & (iii) TSP Complex Ltd, Patenga, Chittagong. Tender will be received at (i) TSP Complex Ltd, Patenga, Chittagong up to 11:30 AM on the date mentioned above and will be opened immediately thereafter in presence of bidders, if any. No tender documents will be sold on the opening date. Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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