

## 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 Sabur 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."

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

Pointing out at the success of the 70s and 80s, during which period the people started using surface water, he lamented that "very success had now become a catastrophe."

He, however, said that this is now the time to face the whole gamut of water crisis in the country while resolving the challenge of arsenic.

Chairman of the inaugural session, Vice Chancellor of BUET Professor Dr M Feroze Ahmed warned that arsenic in drinking water was not desirable at any concentration.

He said BUET has teamed up with reputed universities of the world to identify the cases of arsenic contamination, assess the magnitude of the problem and find remedial measures.

The UNU Representative Dr Zafar Adeel, in his deliberation, said the arsenic contamination in Bangladesh was in "quite an unprecedented scale."

He hoped that researchers, government departments, NGOs and donor agencies would work together to draw long term strategies in resolving the arsenic crisis in the country.

In an introductory speech, Professor Dr M Feroze Ahmed of BUET said 1.3 million tubewells out of the estimated 4.8 million in the country are marked or in the process of being marked red indicating their water to be unsafe for drinking and cooking purposes.

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.

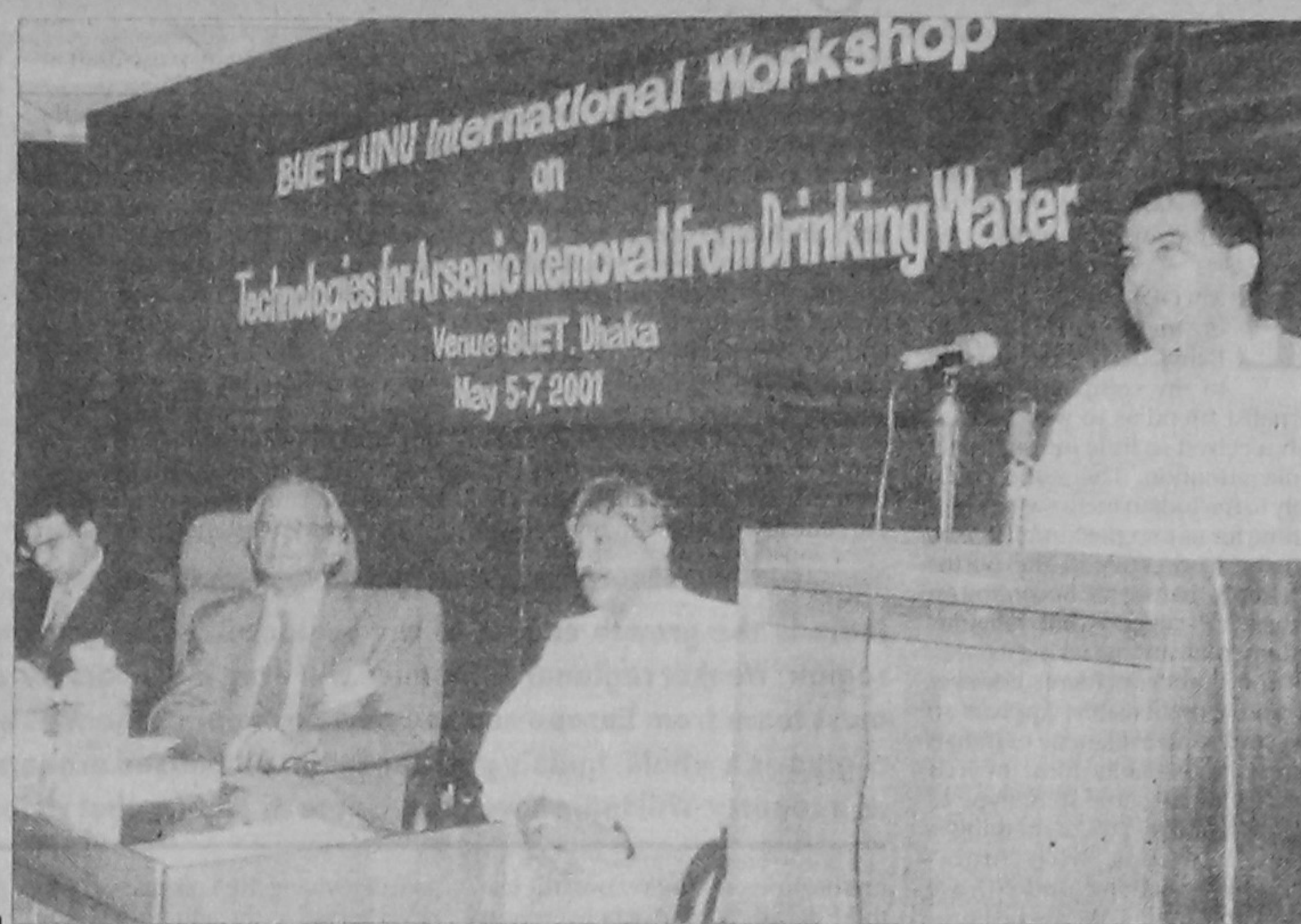
The workshop will deliberate and discuss the physical, physico-chemical and biological processes in arsenic removal from contaminated ground water.

## 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 Ghatik Dal 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 72nd 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

make arrangement for the trial, he said the country's civil society has all-out support to the demand. "It is a demand of every pro-liberation individual."

Justice Sobhan said Bangladesh is the only country where war criminals were not tried and referred to the trial of war criminals of second world war, Bosnia and Burundi.

## 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 Yandi, a village under Rugganj police station yesterday morning.

According to police sources, they were identified as Ramzan Ali, 9, and Yakub, 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 Shamsul Zoha 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.

**STUDY AT COVENTRY UNIVERSITY, UK**  
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**BCIC Tender Notice**

বিস্বাসী পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

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

Sl No	Tender enquiry No & date	Description of goods	Terms of delivery	Due date of opening	Price of tender document (non-refundable)
1.	TSP/PUR/FURNITURE /05/2000-2001/2632 dated 15-4-2001	Furniture	Free delivery up to TSP stores	20-5-2001	Tk 25/-
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.

BCIC-1498-24/4/2001  
DFP-11256-26/4

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**Tender Notice for Purchase of Ambulance**

- Tenders are invited from bona fide importers/sole distributors for purchase of a new ambulance for this company.
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- Price of tender document: Tk 1,000/= (one thousand) only (non-refundable).
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- Sale of tender document on all working days from 3-5-2001 to 20-5-2001 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
- Place of selling & receiving tender:
  - Accounts Department, GTCL, House No 1, Road No 12, Sector-3, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka.
  - Accounts Department, Petrobangla, Patrocentre, 3, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
  - Accounts Department, Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited, Head Office Complex, Chanpapur, Comilla.
  - Accounts Department, BAPEX, Ibrahim Mansion (4th floor), Parana Paltan, Dhaka.
  - Accounts Department, Titas Gas T&D Company Ltd, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
  - Accounts Department, Liquefied Natural Gas Company Ltd, Steel House, 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
  - Accounts Department, Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd, Court Road, B'baria.
  - Accounts Department, Jalalabad Gas T&D System Ltd, Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100.
  - Accounts Department, Sylhet Gas Fields Ltd, Chiknagul, Sylhet.
- Last date & time of receiving tender: 21-5-2001 up to 12:00 noon.
- Date & time of opening tender: 21-5-2001 up to 12:15 pm.
- Under no circumstance any tender will be received after the prescribed date & time.
- The authority reserves the right to accept/reject any tender without assigning any reason.

GTPR-12/2001  
DFP-10862-24/4  
G-819

**(সওজ) সংক্ষিপ্ত দরপত্র আহবানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

১। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	: ১২/সসবি/২০০০-২০০১ ইং।
২। কাজের নাম	: ২০০০-২০০১ ইং অর্থ বৎসরে সুনামগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগীয় সিলেট-সুনামগঞ্জ সড়কের ২৩তম কিঃ মিঃ-এ সড়ক প্রশস্তকরণসহ ফ্রেমব্রিক পেমেন্ট নির্মাণ কাজ। (খাতঃ ১৬৮-মেরামত)।
৩। প্রাক্কলিত মূল্য	: টাঃ ৩৩,৬৭,৪১৯/=
৪। বায়নার টাকা	: টাঃ ৬৭,০৪৮/=
৫। কার্যসম্পাদনের সময়	: কার্যাদেশের তারিখ হইতে ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিন।
৬। ঠিকাদারের যোগ্যতা	: সড়ক ও জনপথ দপ্তরের 'এ' হইতে 'সি' সাধারণ শ্রেণীর ঠিকাদার।
৭। দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির কার্যালয়সমূহের নাম	: নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী/বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, সিলেট/নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (সওজ), সড়ক বিভাগ, সিলেট/মৌঃ বাজার/হবিগঞ্জ/পরিকল্পনা ও নকসা বিভাগ, কুমিল্লা/প্লানিং বিভাগ-১ (পি এন্ড ডি) ঢাকা/ উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী (সওজ), সুনামগঞ্জ/ ছাতক/ যাত্রিক।
৮। দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী কার্যালয়ের নাম	: নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী/অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (সওজ), কুমিল্লা জেলা, কুমিল্লা/বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, সিলেট/ তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী (সওজ), সিলেট সড়ক সার্কেল, সিলেট/প্রকিউরমেন্ট ও মনিটরিং সার্কেল, ঢাকা।
৯। যে কার্যালয়ে দরপত্র খোলা হইবে	: নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়ে।
১০। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ১৪-৫-২০০১ ইং বিকাল ৫.০০ টা পর্যন্ত।
১১। দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ১৫-৫-২০০১ ইং বেলা ১২-৩০ মিঃ পর্যন্ত।
১২। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	: ১৭-৫-২০০১ ইং বেলা ১২-৩০-মিঃ সময়।
১৩। লটারীর তারিখ ও সময় (যদি প্রয়োজন হয়)	: ২১-৫-২০০১ ইং দুপুর ১২-০০ মিঃ সময়।

বিঃ দ্রঃ শর্তঃ ১) সময় সাশ্রয়ের জন্য এই দরপত্র আহবান করা হইল। তাহিল প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে সিডিউল অনুযায়ী বাস্তব কাজ হাতে নেওয়া হইবে। তাহিলের অভাবে কাজ হাতে নিতে ব্যর্থ হইলে বিজয়ী দরপত্রদাতা কোথাও কোনরূপ ক্রেইম করিতে পারিবেন না।  
২) অগ্রহী ঠিকাদারগণকে দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্বে কাজের স্থান পরিদর্শন করিয়া দরপত্র দেওয়ার জন্য দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা যাইতেছে।

মোঃ গোলাম রহমান  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (সওজ)  
সুনামগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগ

জিডি-৪১৯