

DHAKA
TODAY

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of two books titled 'Bangladesh: State of Arsenic 2001' and 'Bangladesh Arsenic Chitra 2001' will be held with LGD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Both the books are published by the Forum of Environmental Journalists. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9.30am.

Meeting on dengue

DCC organises a meeting to exchange views on 'prevention of spread of dengue fever' with the political leaders, DCC ward commissioners, dengue experts, doctors, heads of educational institutions, and representatives of social organisations, NGOs and government agencies. Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka will preside while LGD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will be present as chief guest. Venue: Nagar Bhaban. Time: 3.30pm.

Installation ceremony

The installation ceremony of the

executive committee of Television Natyakar Sangha will be held with Mustafa Monwar as chief guest. It will be followed by a drama, 'Rakta Karabi' by Rabindranath Tagore. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.30pm.

BIDS workshop

The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organises a workshop on 'A National Strategy for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction: Bangladesh' with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: BIDS conference room, Agargaon. Time: 2.30pm.

Roundtable

The Health Consumers Rights Forum will hold a roundtable on 'the rights of health consumers and present perspective'. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 9.30am.

Uttaranga Samity

A meeting of the executive committee of Uttaranga Janakalyan Samity will be held. Venue: Samity office, 54 Dilkusha C/A. Time: 4.30pm.

5 SCF leaders assaulted by Shibir activists on CU campus

UNB, Chittagong

The activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir beat up five Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) leaders on the Chittagong University campus yesterday.

The SCF leaders came under attack when they took out a procession on the CU campus in protest against recent incident of Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University.

Witnesses said the Shibir activists led by Abul Kalam of Abdur Rob Hall picked up SCF activists Kanchan Das and Hasnat from the procession and beat them up at about 1pm.

SCF varsity unit president Abu Sayed Sohel and general secretary Saidul Haq Sabuj were also assaulted when they went to rescue their comrades.

Another leader of SCF was manhandled when he tried to rescue the president and GS. Later, Assistant Proctor Liakat Ali rescued all of them.

Witnesses said the Shibir activists charged the SCF leaders with bringing out procession as political activities were banned on the campus for last five months.

However, campus sources said, Shibir is regularly holding processions and rallies on the campus defying the ban. CU Syndicate in its last meeting condemned Shibir for it.

Japanese envoy meets FM

BSS, Dhaka

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Jiro Kobayashi called on the Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at his office here yesterday afternoon.

The Ambassador apprised the foreign minister of the embassy's plan to hold a reception in Dhaka in late October to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Japan.

He also told the minister about his government's intention to send a delegation of parliament members headed by a Special Envoy of the Japanese Prime Minister, Hiroshi Mitsuoka, MP, or Shin Sakurai, MP, the President and Vice-President of Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary League is the prospective Special Envoy, he added.

Welcoming the embassy's plan, Morshed Khan suggested for holding a cultural event jointly organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Japan in Dhaka.

He said the government of Bangladesh values the bilateral relations with Japan.



The Jatiya Samik League took out a procession in the city yesterday protesting price hike of essentials, closure of Adamjee Text Mills, police action on Dhaka University students and repression and torture on workers.

Eviction expands sex trade

BSS, Dhaka

The number of floating and hotel-based sex workers has increased in the capital following eviction of brothels.

The eviction has made it difficult for health organisers to launch any programme to protect them from AIDS.

A review report on Inter-sectoral Population Programme, funded by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), said the eviction of brothels had not reduced the number of sex workers. The report pointed out that the sex trade is dispersing in the country.

Prostitution areas and brothels are known, but estimates of the number of prostitutes who are in the high risk group vulnerable to HIV infection vary widely, the report said.

Prostitution is moving out from traditional red-light areas, which are ghettos in the cities, and dispersing through the suburbs.

There are, may be, up to 10,000 women involved in 'hotel prostitution'; with networks of mobile workers, pimps and clients operating in hotels, hostels, and guest-houses.

The report said a symbiotic relationship is developing between hotels and the sex trade. Freelance sex workers also operate out of hotels and private apartments. There is a significant number of sex workers providing services in parks and on side streets but their precise distribution and prevalence are not known well.

The report quoting a recent study said 36,000 prostitutes are in the sex service in the country. Another study, quoting police, said 25,000-30,000 sex workers are in Dhaka city alone.

Whatever might be the figure, there is a general consensus that the sex trade is expanding, with some sources claiming that there is a 'phenomenal growth' in the

number of sex workers.

Most sex workers in low-income brothels are the children of workers who have been forced into the trade under desperate economic circumstances. Many are children and a majority is debt-bonded. There is a significant client demand for young girls.

There are an estimated 700,000 clients of sex workers throughout this figure is based on the assumption that there are 36,000 sex workers. Principal client groups include rickshawpullers, transport sector workers, students, police, sailors and dock workers.

The report said the country in fact needs a harm reduction strategy. The behaviours that put people into the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS are in most cases illegal for a country like Bangladesh.

Ban on such sex trade makes the country lose opportunity to launch any effective strategy to reduce the HIV infection.

Dhaka WASA to market bottled water

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka WASA is likely to go for marketing bottled water within next three months to supply safe water as well as stabilise its blooming market.

Price of a 2-litre bottle would be Tk 10 against the existing rate of Tk 20 of the same amount of private companies' mineral water. Price of other sizes of bottled water will also be lower.

Talking to UNB yesterday, Dhaka WASA Managing Director Dr Azharul Haq said total cost of

the project would be approximately Tk 5 crore.

He said that in the first phase, the plant would be filling water into one lakh bottles daily.

The bottling plant, to be set up at the newly installed Saidabad Water Treatment Plant, would also manufacture bottles there.

"The main objective of the initiative is to keep the market price of private companies' mineral water stable so that one can't raise price intentionally," Dr Haq said. This would act as an intervention.

Depending on the success of Dhaka WASA's operations, the Chittagong Water and Sewerage Authority would also follow suit.

8 arms seized

BSS, Dhaka

Police recovered eight firearms, one other weapon and 19 bullets from across the country during the last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday.

They also arrested 1,421 people, including three identified criminals, during the period, a police headquarters press release said.

Of the arrested, 725 were wanted by police and 686 accused in under-investigation cases.

Seven persons were arrested in connection with the arms recovery and police filed seven cases against them under the Arms Act.

Of the firearms, Dhaka Metropolitan Police recovered three and other districts police unit seized the rest.

The arrested identified criminals are Kamruzzaman of Narail, Shahidul Islam of Dhaka city and Khurshed Alam of Chittagong.

Seminar at CU today

CU CORRESPONDENT

A seminar on Environment, Youth Society, Al-Quran and Science will be held at the 'Library auditorium of the Chittagong University (CU) at 10 am today.

The seminar will be organised by Chittagong University Teachers Association (CUTA).

The two papers on 'Environment and Youth Society' and 'Quran and Science' will be presented by Prof AKM Abdul Matin of Marine Science Institute and Prof Mohammad Abu Saleh of Chemistry department of the university.

Vice-Chancellor Prof AZM Nooruddin Chowdhury and Prof VC Prof Mohammad Shamsuddin will be present at the seminar as chief guest and special guest respectively.

ATTENTION

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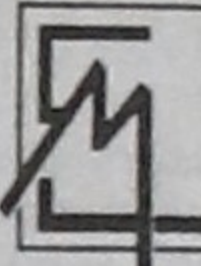
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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Please mark the position applied for on the top of the envelope.



A daylong national workshop on 'Water and Women Issues in Bangladesh' was held in the city yesterday with Chairman of Bangladesh Water Partnership Ol Siddique (2nd from left) in the chair. First Secretary of the Netherlands Embassy Margaret Verwijk (extreme left) was present as chief guest. From right are Dr Bilquis A Hoque of the Bangladesh Women and Water Network, Dr Vijaya Shreshtha, SASTAC member, and Hasna J Maudud, president of Coastal Area Resource Development and Management Association.



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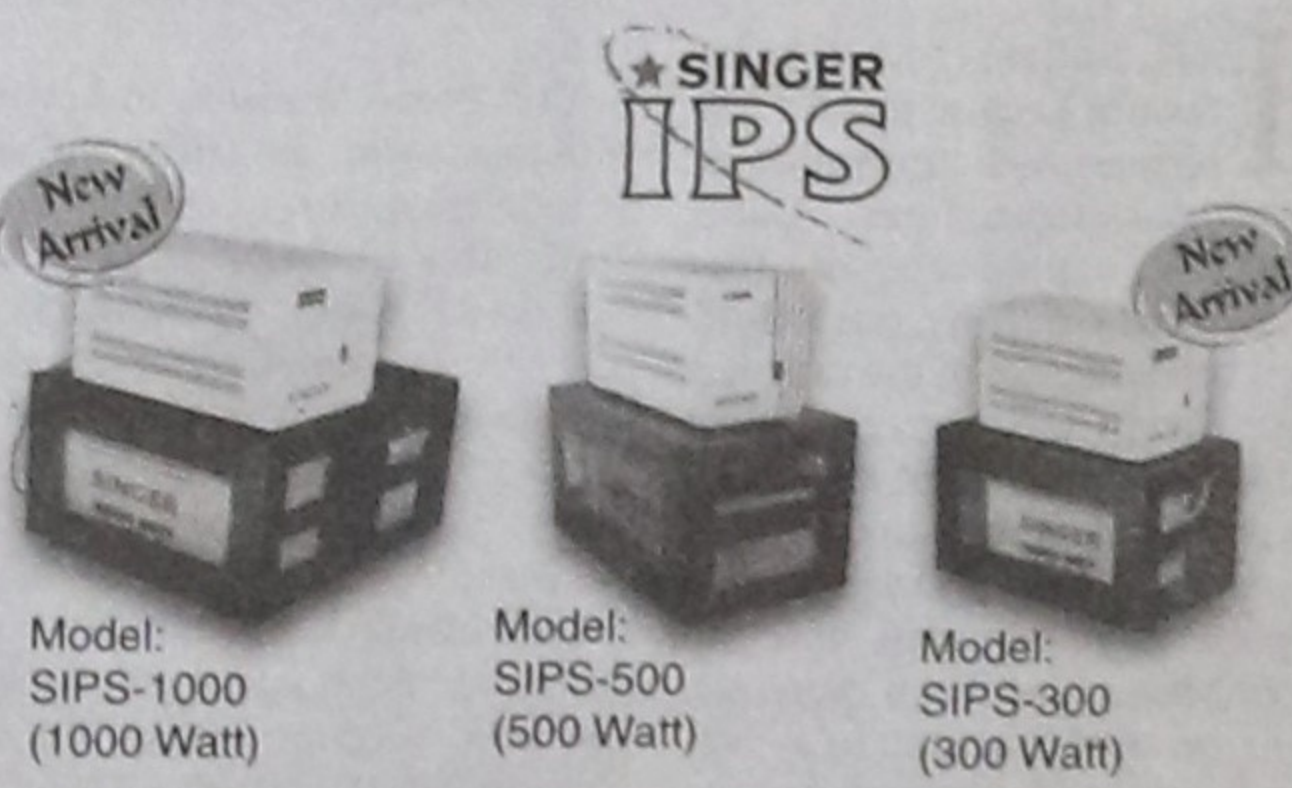
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