

## 'IUD can check population boom in country'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Intra Uterine Device (IUD) can make a significant contribution to check population boom in the country, said the speakers at a workshop in the city yesterday.

The IUD is a small device made of polyethylene that stops the process of fertilisation when inserted in the uterus of a woman.

"It is an excellent long-term method which is safe, comfortable and easily removable," explained Suneeta Mukharjee, UNFPA representative.

The South-South Centre, Bangladesh organised the workshop on 'IUD: A Case of Declining Trend and Possible Remedies' with the assistance of the UNFPA to analyse the causes for the slow pick-up, gradual rise and then decline in the prevalence of IUD.

The IUD remained largely a neglected method and its contribution was never substantial in Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) in Bangladesh since right kind of emphasis was not given to it, said Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, minister for Disaster Management and Relief while speaking as chief guest.

"The maximum contribution of IUD to contraceptive performance was 2.2 in 1993-94 which came

### 5 arms seized

BSS, Dhaka

Police recovered five firearms, 16 explosives and 25 bullets from across the country during the last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday.

down to 1.2 in 1999-2000," he added.

There were some side-effects found among a small number of women using IUD like hormonal side effects that caused changes of mood, acne, headache, nausea and altered menstrual pattern, said Dr Tahmina Sarker and Sukanta Sarker in their keynote presentation.

However, these are not very serious side-effects, they mentioned.

The presentation also showed that there is an increased risk of Reproductive Tract Infection (RTI) among the IUD users. Almost 22 per cent of rural women suffering from RTI are IUD users, it noted.

The paper suggested the women to receive the service from the skilled physicians only.

The IUD performance can be improved by commitment from higher management, proper training of service providers, treatment of side-effects, regular counseling and follow up for clients, the speakers noted.

The workshop was chaired by Md Lutfar Rahman, additional

secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and moderated by Mahbub Hossain Khan, editorial advisor to The Independent.

Jalaluddin Ahmed, director of the South-South Centre, Dr Yamin H. Ahmed, managing director, Marie Stopes Clinic Society, Dr Ahmed Al Sabir, director(research), NIPORT and Dr Jahir Uddin Ahmed, director, MCH also took part in the discussion.



The National Press Club organises a painting competition for children on its premises on the occasion of its founding anniversary yesterday.

## Foreign trees need test before plantation

BSS, Dhaka

The two imported fast-growing Australian trees would have to wait for two to three years to take root in the country as the authorities prefer to examine their sustainability to the local environment.

"We welcome the innovative

idea of importing quality trees from abroad, but we have to examine their suitability to our environment before plantation," Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj said at display programme of the trees at a local hotel here.

Chief Forest Conservator Anwar Faruq, Director General of the Department of Environment (DOE) Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury, Managing Director of the importing firm IPSSL, Haideruzzaman, and Shaikh Noor also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, some trees were imported and planted in the country, but finally those were found harmful to the environment and ecology, the minister said adding, "so the importer of Sharnali and Rupali has to wait for two to three years for marketing of the trees of Chinese and Australian origin."

He said the saplings of the trees would be planted at a selected place of the forestland and thus to see their impacts over the ecology and environment of the country. If successful, the government would allow them to go for marketing in the country.

The private IPSSL Group imported Sharnali and Rupali (Pau- lownia Fortunei and Elaeocarpus Grandis) and claimed that these trees usually take 10 to 15 years for maturity, while local variety of timber trees take 25 to 30 years.

## JPC Shishu Anandamela begins

BSS, Dhaka

A three-day Shishu Anandamela, organised by Jatiya Press Club (JPC) marking its 48<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary, began at the club yesterday.

A good number of children of the club members are taking part in different events of the Anandamela amidst fanfare. The events include painting, recitation, music, clay modeling, run, biscuit race, dress-as-you-like, shooting and ludo.

On the opening day, competitions in painting, recitation and clay-modeling were held. The remaining events will take place today and tomorrow.

The painting works of children have been kept on display at the auditorium. The exhibition will continue till today.

## BDR BSF border confce today

BSS, Rajshahi

A Sector Commander-level border conference between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) will be held at the Archaeological Rest House near Sona Masjid Land Port under Chapainawabganj district today.

## 'Puja festivity has proved their propaganda false'

17000 mandaps for the first time in history, claims Bhuiyan

BSS, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday congratulated the members of the Hindu community for smooth and peaceful celebration of Durga Puja throughout the country with festivity.

"It is for the first time in the history of Bangladesh that Durga puja was celebrated in 17 thousand Puja mandaps this year, he said in a statement here.

Mannan Bhuiyan said as the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia believes in communal harmony and freedom of all religious communities, all out cooperation was extended enabling the members of the Hindu community to celebrate the puja through festivity. Unprecedented security measures were also taken in this regard, he said.

He recalled the government's

allocation of rice and cash worth Tk 8.30 crore for celebration of the occasion. He said the members of the public were urged and the administration was instructed to extend all necessary cooperation.

Bhuiyan said members of other religious communities by extending their hands of cooperation to the members of the Hindu community helped uphold the ties of communal harmony in the country. Besides, he said, this time after 1973 puja was celebrated at Ramna Kali Mandir, which was stopped when Awami League was in power.

The members of the Hindu community, he said, through peaceful celebration of the Durga Puja with great festivity have proved wrong the propaganda spread against the country at home and abroad by those who were defeated in the last general elections that the country has

been turned into Taliban.

He said there is no place for communalism in Bangladesh and people of all religious communities are free to practise their respective religions. He said that none could foil the world recognition that the country has earned recognition as a liberal democratic country. It is the success of the present government, he said.

In this context, Bhuiyan said Bangladesh has long tradition as a country of communal harmony and people of all religions live here in peace and harmony. He said the attempt of conspiracy hatched by certain quarters have been failed as a result of adequate steps taken by the government as well as awareness of the people.

He hoped that the example set this year would continue also in future in celebration of the great religious festival of the Hindu community.

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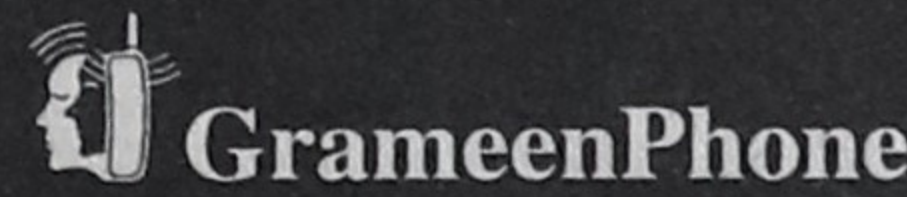
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