



PHOTO: COURTESY

A seminar on 'Safe Water in Bangladesh' was held at Dhaka Community Hospital and Medical College in the city yesterday.

'Arsenic-induced cancer affects 2 lakh a year'

METRO DESK

Speakers at a seminar yesterday identified arsenic contamination in underground water as the major problem.

Quoting a study of the World Bank, they said arsenic-induced cancer affects over two lakh people in the country a year, but the government is doing nothing to mitigate the crisis.

Four local and foreign health and water resources experts took part in the seminar on 'Safe Water in Bangladesh' at Dhaka Community Hospital and Medical College. Prof Mahmud Rahman, coordinator of Dhaka Community Hospital Trust, presided over the seminar.

The speakers criticised the government for not following the recommendations of the National Policy for Arsenic Mitigation and Implementation Plan and for giving attention to the donor-driven projects, which are not effective in Bangladesh.

Recommending a comprehensive approach to mitigate water crisis, Prof Richard Wilson of Harvard University said that no government should totally

depend on one option.

"For a sustainable water crisis mitigation plan, all possible options should be taken. If just one option is taken, it may appear ineffective after a decade later," he said.

Prof Quazi Quamruzzaman, chairman of Dhaka Community Hospital, presented a study on arsenic contamination, carried out by the hospital in remote areas for the last ten years.

"Nothing has improved during the last ten years, although millions of dollars have been used for mitigation of arsenic contamination," said Prof Zaman.

He also introduced the Wilson Arsenic Mitigation Project, initiated by Dhaka Community Hospital at the seminar.

Prof Mahmud Rahman expressed concern that the multi-layered problem like arsenic has not been introduced even in the medical syllabus.

Mohammad Inamul Haque, former managing director of Water Resources Planning Organisation, and Prof Wadud Khan, principal of Dhaka Community Medical College and Hospital, also spoke.

CPB member collection begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will start its member collection campaign today, says a press release.

The campaign will be contin-

ued till February 28 and it will mainly hunt for volunteers.

Women, workers and youths will be preferred as the volunteers. Besides, new groups will be formed across the country and members will also be looked for

as the group members.

CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim in a statement urged the people and party members to give support to make the campaign successful.



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PHOTO: BANK ASIA

Winners of scholarships pose for photo with the guests at the scholarship award ceremony at the Chatkhil branch of Bank Asia on Saturday. Bank Asia awarded the scholarships for higher studies as part of its corporate social responsibility. Rumea A Hossain, director of the bank, handed over the scholarship money to the students. Shyma Pada Das, additional divisional commissioner, Chittagong, SM Shaheen Parvez, UNO, Chatkhil, Sazzad Hossain Chowdhury, vice chairman of Chatkhil Upazila and Mostafa Kamal, mayor of Chatkhil Municipality were present.

Workshop on 'Ticket to Life' ends

METRO DESK

The closing ceremony of an international workshop titled 'Ticket to Life' organised by Bangladesh Scouts with the help of Asia Pacific Regional Scouts was held at Mouchak in Gazipur yesterday, says a press release.

Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, state minister for women and children affairs, was the chief guest at the concluding ceremony. Md Mozammel Haque Khan, National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts, chaired the event.

The workshop made a plan and formulate recommendations for the street children those who are in scouting.



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