

Constable slashes his wrist

THRISSUR: A constable with the Kerala Police Academy was treated at the Government Medical College Hospital here on Thursday after he was found with his wrist slashed on Wednesday. According to preliminary reports, Ashraf, 32, of Idukki had slashed his wrist after he was allegedly scolded by a senior officer. —Staff Reporter

BSNL mela

ALAPPUZZHA: The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) Alappuzha, will organise a customer mela at the office of the General Manager here from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. According to General Manager T. Natarajan, the mela would offer various schemes apart from creating awareness on BSNL services. Among the offers would be the 'Women's Power' prepaid connection for Rs.110, new land phone connections without registration or installation charges and arrears clearance offers. One month's rent would be waived off for broadband connections taken at the mela or applied for via SMS during the mela, Mr. Natarajan added. —Staff Reporter

ENGAGEMENTS

THRISSUR

Alagappanagar Panchayat: Cultural festival, Panchayat community hall, 2 p.m.

Kidney Federation of India: Meeting, St. Marys College Jubilee Hall, 3 p.m.

KOTTAYAM

Kerala Council of Churches: Saphathy celebrations-day two. CSI Retreat Centre. 8 am. Panel discussion on Religion and

Canals cleared of plastic waste

Staff Reporter **HINDU**

ALAPPUZZHA: More than 100 students joined hands with houseboat owners and non-governmental organisations to clean the Punnamada Finishing Point and adjoining canals of the Vembanad Lake here on Thursday.

The aim was to clear the plastic that was dumped in the lake during the Nehru Trophy Boat Race held here on August 9. Led by the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), students from St. Joseph's College, St. Antony's High School, the S.D.V. Girls' High School, the Government Mohammedans' High School and the Thathampally St. Michael's High School joined the All Kerala Houseboat Owners' Association to clean the water body from the morning, going around in boats with nets to fish for plastic. The students, who



PLASTIC CATCH: The plastic that was collected from the Vembanad Lake in Alappuzha by students and houseboat owners on Thursday.

— PHOTO: BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

were also part of the "Jalapaadam" environmental awareness programme of ATREE, were not disappointed with the "catch", which was later more than enough for 35 gunny bags by evening. Joy Janardanan, assistant en-

gineer, Canals and Irrigation, inaugurated the programme. Latha Bhaskar, ATREE project coordinator and All Kerala Houseboat Owners' Association president V.C Zacharia and secretary Rajan Peter were also present.

Tree-top houses: a vanishing

Giji K. Raman

KANNAMPADY (IDUKKI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY): The tribal legacy of tree-top houses is fast vanishing from the landscape here due to various factors including shortage of experts who used to construct and maintain these houses annually. The lack of interest shown by the younger generations of the community is another reason.

"Tree-top houses not only protected us from wild elephants but also helped us look out for wild animals that entered our cultivated land," says Kesavan, a tribal elder in

