

## Harness renewable energy

Experts suggest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Harnessing renewable energy sources can help the country face the development challenges of the new century and meet the growing

need for energy.

The experts said this at a seminar yesterday and called for promotion of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar energy.

The Renewable Energy Resource Assessment (SWERA), a project of UNEP under the Renewable Energy Research Centre of University of Dhaka, organised the seminar, with Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj as chief guest.

The minister said it is time to look for alternative sources of energy as the country's biomass resources and electricity generation are not enough to meet the growing need for energy.

The government should make renewable energy kits cheap and available to the people, he added.

Termining energy consumption an indicator of development, the experts said energy supply has to be increased many times to bolster economy and alleviate poverty.

But the natural gas and other biomass resources were limited and electricity supply was inadequate, they said, adding that the scant supply of electricity led to frequent power outages, causing a negative impact on the gross domestic product (GDP).

Besides, the shortfall of biomass fuels led to destruction of forest resources, the speakers said.

Professor Mulhsham Hussain, chief consultant of SWERA, and the Professor SMA Fayz, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, also spoke.

## 1616 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested a total of 1,616 people, including three identified criminals, during their country-wide drive in last 24 hours till 6am yesterday.

The law enforcers also recovered eight firearms and 19 bullets during the period. Seven cases were filed against 13 people under the Arms Act, a handout said.



Environment Minister Shajahan Siraj speaks at a seminar on 'Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment for Bangladesh' in the city yesterday.

## Botanical confce begins at JU today

JU CORRESPONDENT

The two-day Annual Botanical Conference begins at Jahangirnagar University (JU) today.

Organised by the botany department of the university, the conference will be inaugurated at the central auditorium at 10:00am, with Agriculture Minister MK Anwaras chief guest.

Vice-chancellor Prof. Jasim Uddin Ahmad will preside over the inaugural session.

Pro-VCs Prof. Md Imamuddin and Prof. Md Enamul Huq Khan, Treasurer Prof. ABM Enayet Hossain and Managing Director of Hamdard Laboratories Md Yousuf Harun Bhuiyan will be present as special guests.

## DU admission test

# 21 to vie for each seat

DU CORRESPONDENT

Around 21 students will vie for each seat of the first year honours courses of Dhaka University under different faculties in 2003-04 academic session.

A total of 97,154 admission forms were sold under five units this year.

Of them, 23,612 forms were sold for 'Ka' unit (science group), 17,208 forms for 'Kha' unit (arts group), 20,971 for 'Ga' unit (commerce group), 26,404 for 'Gha' unit (combined group) and 9,013

for new Umo (Law) unit till yesterday, the last date for distribution and submission of the forms.

The distribution of forms began on December 8.

In an average, 17 students would compete for each seat of 'Ka' unit, seven for each seat of 'Kha' unit, 30 for each seat of 'Ga' unit, 65 for each seat of 'Gha' unit and 82 for Umo unit.

Total seats in the university are 4,544. Of them, 1,398 seats for science group, 2,332 for arts group, 704 for commerce group, 404 for combined group and 110

for Umo group.

The university earned Tk 2,43,02,000 from the sale of 97,208 forms through four branches of different banks on the campus. Each form was sold at Tk 250.

The admission tests will begin on January 16 instead of January 2.

As per new schedule, admission test of Umo unit will be held on January 16, Gha unit on January 30, Ga unit on January 23, Kha unit on January 27 and Ka unit on February 13.