

Prices of Sundarbans resources to be raised

UNB, Dhaka
The government yesterday decided to raise the price of Sundarbans resources - wood and timber, fish and others.

It was decided at a meeting of forest officials with Forest Minister Shahjahan Siraj in the chair.

While considering price hike, the meeting viewed that price of wood, timber fish and others remained unchanged during the last nine years.

Norway keen to provide more assistance

UNB, Dhaka

Norwegian Ambassador Gerd Wahlstrom called on Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at his office yesterday and discussed matters relating to bilateral relations and mutual interest.

The minister expressed his satisfaction over the existing relations between Bangladesh and Norway, which has developed significantly.

He, however, stated that there is scope for further strengthening the relations.

The ambassador told the minister that Norwegian government is keen to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bangladesh government on expanding further areas of assistance to Bangladesh.

The present areas assisted by Norway government are education, rural electrification, entrepreneurship development, and prevention of women and children trafficking.

The foreign minister told the envoy that there is a scope of further increasing trade between Bangladesh and Norway. At present, trade balance is in favour of Bangladesh, said an official hand-out.

The minister, however, assured that special attention would be taken so that price hike does not have an adverse impact on the ordinary consumers.

The existing nominal price of Sundarbans forest resources actually benefited the middlemen, he said.

The meeting also directed the officials to check burning of wood in brick-fields and smuggling at any cost.

He asked for immediate inquiry into reported burning of logs in brick-fields and taking proper action against the offenders.

The minister said forest resources are almost on the verge of extinction due to massive stealing and smuggling during last five years. The present government would not tolerate such practice, he added.

The meeting stressed on enforcing law against setting up saw mills, grabbing land of forests and illegal hunting of animals and birds.

2 new presidium members of BJP

BSS, Dhaka

Chairman of Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) Nazim Rahman has nominated two parliament members M M Amin Uddin and Kazi Alauddin as members of the presidium of the party, a party press release said yesterday.

The BJP chairman also approved the executive committee of Bangladesh Jatiya Chhatra Samaj with Fakrul Hasan Shahjada and Md. Helal Uddin as its president and general secretary respectively.

The chairman also nominated Alamgir Kabir as senior vice-president, Md. Jamaluddin as additional general secretary and Monir Uddin Rikan as organising secretary to strengthen the activities of the organisation, the release added.



Fulbaria area in the city during yesterday's countrywide six-hour hartal enforced by Awami League to protest price hike of fuel, gas, water and electricity.

Int'l confce on arsenic begins tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka

A two-day international conference on "Arsenic Contamination in Groundwater: Media Strategy" begins in the city tomorrow to formulate the future communication action plan for Bangladesh and other arsenic-affected countries.

The World Water Forum of Journalists (WWFJ) in collaboration with Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) organises the conference, which will be participated by over 100 experts and journalists from home and abroad.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandkar Mosharruf Hossain will open conference while Environment and, Forest Minister Shahjahan Siraj will be present as chief guest at the concluding session on January 12.

Secretaries, editors and senior journalists, officials, civil society representatives and development partners will join as resource persons.

WWFJ secretary general and FEJB chairman Quamrul Islam

Chowdhury said the conference will highlight the problem of arsenic contamination and devise an effective communication strategy to help mitigate the woes of millions of people across the world.

The conference will particularly focus on the massive arsenic poisoning across the rural areas of the country.

Woman found dead in city

UNB, Dhaka

Police recovered the body of a young woman from the railway line at Uttara yesterday.

Jahanara, 20, who used to work as a domestic help in the house of one Razia Khanam at Uttara Model Town, was missing since Tuesday evening, Razia said.

Local people found Jahanara dead on the rail line yesterday morning. Later police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

SAARC states urged to ratify conventions on children

UNICEF has welcomed the signing of two important conventions on the trafficking of women and children and child welfare by seven South Asian nations.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka signed the conventions this week at the SAARC summit in Kathmandu.

UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy congratulated the South Asian leaders for addressing children's and women's issues at a time when their nations are grappling with the dual threats of war and terrorism in the region, says a message received in the city yesterday.

She welcomed their commitment and said that lasting peace and stability could not be achieved without respect for human rights, including the full rights of children and women.

The trafficking of children and women for sexual exploitation is on the increase in South Asia - a result of poverty, deeply rooted

social and gender discrimination, weak legislation and spotty enforcement.

The conventions signed this week by South Asian Heads of State and Government deplore the "evil of trafficking in women and children" as a "violation of basic human rights."

UNICEF urged the governments of South Asia to ratify the conventions, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, which so far has been signed only by Nepal and Bangladesh, and ratified by Bangladesh alone.

Each country must also take immediate steps to strengthen regional co-operation to effectively implement both conventions, UNICEF said.

Most South Asian countries already have detailed national plans of action to combat sexual trafficking, but follow-through has been less thorough.

"It is now time to act," said UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Kul Gautam, who attended the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation) Summit.

"Now that every leader has signed these conventions, community groups and the media must be vigilant in holding governments accountable. Perpetrators must be challenged and their impunity stopped."

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NOTICE OF TIME EXTENSION
Extension of Closing Date for Submission of Bid for

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(Contract No. PGCB/SC/01, Lot-2 & Lot-3)

Ref. Nos : 01-PGCB/Sec/2001/115 dated February 08, 2001,
01-PGCB/Sec/2001/808 dated October 11, 2001
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01-PGCB/Sec/2001/1034 dated November 29, 2001

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National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons
UAE Matri Complex, Banani, Dhaka

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National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons has undertaken an initiative to provide some financial assistance in this financial year to the organisations working in the field of disability in Bangladesh. Concerned interested organisations/agencies are requested to collect prescribed application form along with other terms and conditions from the office of the Foundation or the District Social Welfare offices. Application form will be available on submission of necessary registration documents and introductory papers of the organisation concerned on payment of Tk. 200/- (two hundred) as fee.

The requisite criteria for eligibility of financial assistance are as follows:

- (a) The organisations/agencies must be registered by Department of Social Service, NGO Bureau or other government affiliated body and their activities must be concerned with disability issues.
- (b) The interested organisations/agencies must have some specific activities for the development and welfare of the disabled persons.
- (c) Concerned organisations/agencies must have three years practical experience in this area.
- (d) Concerned organisations/agencies must have enough trained manpower and logistic supports for implementation of the programme.

The application must be reached within 10.02.2002 in the office of the Managing Director, National Foundation for the Development of the Disabled Persons, Bangladesh UAE Matri Complex, House # 2, Road # 17, Block # C, Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka. The applicants must be followed the prescribed terms and conditions laid down by the Foundation which is attached with the application form.

Md. Shamsur Rahman Khan)
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- (a) **Joint Secretary**: For its Secretariat, reporting directly to the Secretary General. Intending candidates should be MBA [IBA/reputed foreign business school], post-graduate degree holder in Engineering Management or Science with at least 10 years experience in mid-level management position involving commercial activities in public /private sector. Ability in formulation of policy suggestions, co-ordinating with member-mills, liaison with various government departments/agencies, foreign organisation is required. Fluency in both written & spoken English & Bengali is essential. Good inter-personal skill and computer knowledge will get preference. Maximum age 45 years. Persons drawing monthly salary less than Tk. 20,000 need not apply.
- (b) **Assistant Secretary**: Graduate in Management/English/Science/Public Administration with at least 3 years experience as a Junior Officer. Job description will mainly include administration and public relations with media, amongst other functions. Excellent ability in drafting both in English and Bengali and a flair for developing contacts with government agencies and the media personnel is essential. Previous experience in public relation functions will be given preference. Excellent remuneration package will be given to the deserving candidate.
- (c) **Data Entry Operator**: At least a Bachelor Degree holder with minimum three years experience as a Data Entry Operator in any large commercial/ industrial organization. Adequate knowledge in Windows 2000, Excel, Foxpro and MS Word and excellent speed in both English & Bengali computer composing is essential. Certificate-holder in Secretarial Science Course will be given preference. Attractive remuneration package will be given to selected candidate.

Intending candidates are to apply to Secretary General BTMA, Moon Mansion, 12, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, in sealed envelopes alongwith full bio-data and two copies of passport size coloured photographs and copies of experience & educational certificates, so as to reach latest by 27th January, 2002.