

CPB proposals to check price hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday put forward a 13-point proposal to the caretaker government to bring down the prices of essentials.

The proposals include curbing the power of market manipulators, establishing individual departments to ensure a fair distribution of commodities,

creating a buffer stock of essentials as well as food items, launching a rationing system for the poor and setting up fair-price-shops with the government assistance.

In a statement, CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said the relentless price hike of essentials has pushed the life of every citizen towards a precarious situation.

"This situation is getting worse and people are getting depressed, as they do not see any glimpse of hope to remedy the situation," Selim added.

Referring to the claims by the government that it identified price control as the number one challenge, CPB leader said "It is not only a challenge but the government should regard it as their emergency duty."

4 bodies win Environment Award 2007

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Environment Day was observed across the country yesterday as elsewhere in the world.

On the occasion, a three-day environment fair began at the city's Osmani Memorial Hall yesterday where four organisations received Environment Award 2007 for their outstanding contribution towards improving the environment.

Environment and Forest Adviser Dr CS Karim inaugurated the fair, organised by Ministry of Environment and Forests, and distributed the awards among Waste Concern, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela), Globeleq and Bara Dai Casto Ganga Jalmale Committee.

A total of 65 stalls have been installed at the second and third floors of Osmani Memorial Hall where different models of industrial waste water treatment plant, solar energy system and biomass gasifier stove for cooking application and environment-related books are displayed.

Adviser CS Karim said Bangladesh will be the most affected country due to green house effect because of its low lands.

"The issue of climate will have to be incorporated in our development policy. Otherwise, our next generation will not get fresh air, water and a pollution-free environment," he said while addressing the programme as the chief guest.

Dr Khandakar Rashedul Haque, director general of Department of Environment, said Bangladesh along with other least developed countries are the main victims of climate change while the developed nations are the main contributors to the green house effect.



PHOTO: STAR

Environment directorate takes out a colourful procession in the city yesterday to mark the World Environment Day.

Duta demands 50 pc DA for teachers

DU CORRESPONDENT

Against the backdrop of price hike of essentials, Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) has demanded 50 percent dearness allowance for teachers, says a press release.

Duta articulated its demand at an urgent general meeting on Monday evening with association President Prof Sadrul Amin in the chair.

The press release signed by Duta General Secretary Prof Anwar Hossain urged the caretaker government to grant 50 percent dearness allowance so that teachers can cope with the increasing price hike.



PHOTO: STAR

Visitors at an exhibition of antique mechanical watches that began at Zainul Gallery at the Fine Art Institute in the city yesterday. Ahmed Asif Ashraf, the collector of watches, organised the five-day exhibition.

WFP online quiz contest on food security issue

UNB, Dhaka

United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has initiated an 'Online Quiz Competition' to improve the general understanding of food security and hunger issues.

Announcing the competition, WFP Representative Douglas Broderick said the contest would encourage students and professionals to enrich their knowledge on food security and hunger issues.

"One child dies every five seconds in the world because of hunger. In Bangladesh, about 50 percent under-five children are underweight and stunted, reducing mental capacity and impeding physical growth," he added.

The contest is open to all living in Bangladesh. The participants can get details for the competition and clues for the answers by logging on to the WFP Bangladesh website (<http://bangla-desh.wfp.org>).

There are 11 questions. The answers will be accepted until June 30, 2007. Top three scorers will be awarded cash prizes, including certificates, said a press release.

The new WFP Bangladesh website will enable the users to read about food security and hunger, including major interventions in safety net programmes.

Special features such as food security in Bangladesh, global and country specific hunger statistics, latest food security information, early warning and disaster preparedness are available on the website.