

2 lakh tonnes of fertiliser to be imported

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday decided to import two lakh tons of fertiliser on an emergency basis to ensure smooth supply during the next Boro season.

"The local factories failed to produce fertiliser as per capacity and a huge production deficit is looming this year due to disruption of gas and power supplies," said Adviser Justice Fazlul Haque, also chairman of the cabinet committee on purchase that took the decision.

The adviser said the decision was taken so that the farmers do not face fertiliser crisis in the upcoming Boro season.

The cabinet purchase committee also approved a total of Tk 517 crore for six different projects, of which Tk 463 crore is for fertiliser import.

Meeting sources said this time the government will have to spend US\$60 more to import each ton of fertiliser.

The price of a ton of fertiliser was \$267 during January-February period of 2006 while the government will now have to spend \$327 for per ton at the current rate.

The allocations of Tk 47 crore for import of 25,000 metric tons of wheat and another Tk 7 crore for recruitment of consultants in Bangladesh Water Supply Programme were also approved at the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

Prof Rehman Sobhan, chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), receives Nobel laureate Prof Amartya Sen at Zia International Airport in the city yesterday.

Three killed in road accidents

UNB, Dhaka

Three unidentified people were killed in separate road accidents in Dhaka city and Comilla yesterday.

In the first accident, the man, aged about 40, was crushed under the wheels of a minibus near Khaled Petrol Pump in Darus Salam Road in the city at about 7:30am while he was crossing the road.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

A human hauler ran over an unidentified man, aged about 40, near Dhaka City College at about 8:30am, leaving him seriously injured.

He was rushed to the DMCH where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Another report from Comilla adds: Aman was killed and two others were injured in a road accident at Kamalapur in Sadar Dakkhin upazila yesterday morning.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at about 8:30am, when a Dhaka-bound speeding covered van collided head-on with a Chittagong-bound speeding covered van, killing the helper of the former on the spot and injuring two others including its driver.

The identity of the helper, aged about 35, could not be known immediately.

The injured were rushed to Comilla Medical College Hospital.

3rd anniversary of Benin tragedy today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the third anniversary of the Benin tragedy.

On this day in 2003, 15 Bangladesh Army officers, on UN peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone and Liberia, were killed in an air crash in Benin.

To mark the day different socio-cultural organisations have taken various programmes.

Rhythm Cultural Society will mark the day as 'World Peace Keepers' Day' and organise a discussion at the National Press Club.

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka will attend the programme as the chief guest.

Prof Anisuzzaman and Maj Gen (Retd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury will attend the function as guests.

Coalition of Local NGOs Bangladesh organised a discussion at its office yesterday marking the day.