

# Govt to import 17 lakh tonnes of urea

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government will import 16.81 lakh tonnes of urea for this fiscal year to maintain a smooth supply of the fertiliser during the upcoming boro season, said Industries Minister Dilip Barua yesterday.

Speaking at a press meet at his office, Barua said demand for fertiliser this fiscal year stands at around 37.31 lakh tonnes according to the agriculture ministry.

The urea will be sourced from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company and through international bidding.

Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) will produce 11.50 tonnes of urea, one lakh tonne of TSP and 1.50 tonnes of DAP, he added.

The government will also import 4.60 lakh tonnes of TSP and 1.90 lakh tonnes of DAP through Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation and private importers.

The minister said three factories under BCIC produced 1.66 lakh tonnes of urea for the current fiscal year, as of Monday.

"Jamuna and Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd cannot start production due to a lack of gas pressure."

The industries minister said Ghorasal Urea Fertiliser Factory is also closed now because of a glitch in its operating system.

"These three factories will resume operations soon."

Demand for fertiliser, during the peak season from January to March, is

around 12 lakh tonnes in Bangladesh, six lakh tonnes lower than its availability from production and imports.

From July 10 to October 25, Bangladesh produced 1.66 lakh tonnes of fertiliser and imported 4.23 lakh tonnes.

"Today [yesterday] nearly 68,000 tonnes of fertiliser has been unloaded from Chittagong and Mongla ports and sent to different buffer warehouses countrywide," Barua said.

The government took an initiative to build two transit warehouses at the Chittagong and Mongla port with a capacity of 20,000 tonnes each.

BCIC also plans to build buffer warehouses, each with a capacity of 10,000 tonnes, in 13 districts.

People need not worry, as the country has a sufficient stock of the fertiliser, the minister said.



Jim McCabe, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bangladesh, recently opens the bank's relocated Uttara booth at Update Tower in Uttara Model Town, Dhaka.



Great Wall Motors (GWM) signed a memorandum of understanding with United Commercial Bank at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently. The bank will offer a special loan package with easy payment plan for buying vehicle from Ace Autos, the local distributor of GWM. Mizanur Rahman, head of retail of the bank, and Azharul Islam, chief executive officer of Ace Autos, inked the deal.

## Norway urged to invest more

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the Norwegian government to invest more in Bangladesh, pointing to the congenial atmosphere now prevails in the country.

The President made the call when newly appointed Norwegian Ambassador to Bangladesh Range Birte Bund presented her credentials to him at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, President Zillur said Norway can import Bangladeshi products including jute, jute goods, leather and leather goods and ceramics at competitive prices.

He hoped that the existing excellent bilateral relation between Bangladesh and Norway would be strengthened further in the days ahead.

"Norway is one of the development partners of Bangladesh," the President said, and laid emphasis on exchanging high level visits to further expand trade and commerce

between the two countries.

President Zillur assured his all-out support to the new ambassador in discharging her professional duties in Bangladesh.

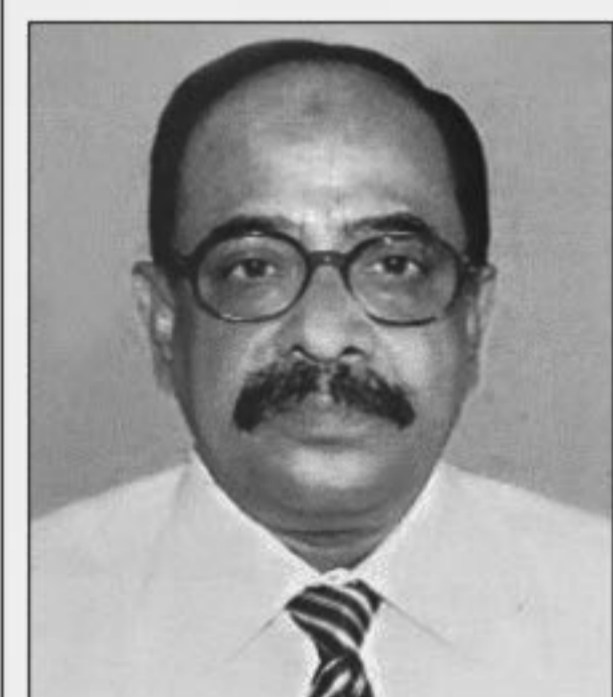
Describing the relations between Bangladesh and Norway as excellent, the Norwegian envoy lauded the Bangladesh government for achieving economic growth despite the global economic recession.

Bund said the Norwegian government is very keen to work for the development of environment and on climate change issue in this region.

She also said there are huge young and educated manpower in Bangladesh who could be properly used for bringing about rapid economic development in the country.

Secretary to the President's Office Safiul Alam, Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes and Military Secretary to the President Major General Abul Kalam M Humayun Kabir were present.

## New GM for Sonali Bank



STAR BUSINESS DESK

Omar Faruk Bhuiyan joined Sonali Bank as general manager on Monday, the bank said in a statement.

Prior to the new appointment, he was a part of the bank's personal management division in the head office.

An MA in economics from Dhaka University, Bhuiyan joined Sonali Bank in 1973.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Directorate of Government Transport  
Ministry of Establishment  
Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000

### Invitation for Tender (Microbus)

1	Ministry/Division	Cabinet Division.
2	Agency	Nil.
3	Procuring entity name	Directorate of Government Transport.
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5	Invitation for	Tender for Procurement of Govt. Vehicles (Microbus).
6	Invitation Ref. No.	05.253.026.04.11.798.2010-2725
7	Date	26/10/2010.
8	Procurement method	Open tendering method.
9	Budget and source of funds	Revenue budget of 2010-2011; GOB.
10	Tender package No.	1 (one).
11	Tender package name	Purchase of Government Vehicles (Microbus).
12	Tender schedule last selling date	11/11/2010.
13	Tender closing date and time	14/11/2010 at 1.00pm.
14	Tender opening date and time	14/11/2010 at 1.30pm.
15	Name & address of the office(s)	
	-Selling tender document (principal)	1. Director (Road), Government Transport Directorate.
	-Receiving tender document	2. Accounts Office, Government Transport Directorate.
	-Opening tender document	Director (Road), Directorate of Government Transport.
		Tender Evaluation Committee of Government Transport Directorate.
16	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	
17	Eligibility of tenderer	Well reputed and financially solvent tenderers (authorised agents/distributors) having office establishment, repairing workshop, manpower, logistic support, stock position, good performance, qualification and past experience of supplying new and good quality vehicles in government sectors within assigned time.
18	Brief description of goods or works	Microbus are to be latest, modern, international stander, good quality, brand new, fitted with modern amenities including CNG cylinder, high efficiency engine (EFI/MPI/ECI), CBU by the country of origin with detail specifications (supported by original catalogue/brochure).
19	Lot No.	Identification of lot
	1.	2 Nos. Microbus 12 seats
		Dhaka
		1000.00 (one thousand)
		1,30,000 (one lac thirty thousand)
		From ready stock or within 120 days from the date of work order
19(i)	Special instructions (if any)	Nil.
20	Name of official inviting tender	Abu Sadeque Md. Athar.
21	Designation of official inviting tender	Director (Road).
22	Address of official inviting tender	Directorate of Government Transport Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000.
23	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No: 9562125 Fax No: 9566623
*	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all or any tender.	
<b>Abu Sadeque Md. Athar</b> Director (Road) Directorate of Government Transport Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000		

## Minister reiterates benefit from transit

UNB, Chittagong

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan said yesterday that transit facilities to the neighboring countries would have to be given to ensure proper utilisation of Chittagong seaport and accelerated growth of country's economy.

"The government is working on the infrastructure development of roads, railway and river-ways. Transit facilities will have to be given to the neighboring countries for proper utilisation of Chittagong port and country's economic growth," he said at a seminar in the port city.

Suchinta Foundation, a social organisation, arranged the seminar 'Regional Cooperation: Transit Deal and Its Impact on Bangladesh's Economy' at the Chittagong Press Club auditorium with Suchinta Executive Director MA Arafat in the chair.

The minister said if the neighboring countries are given the facility of using Chittagong port through transit, Bangladesh and its people will be equally benefited.

He alleged that opposition BNP had provided all-possible facilities to India when they were in power but could bring nothing for the country.

"Now, BNP is creating confusion among countrymen against India capitalising on the transit issue. Transit doesn't mean the country is being sold out," he said, urging the BNP and like-minded parties to "shun the nasty politics".

Khan said trade relations with China, Myanmar and the northeastern states of India would be accelerated through transit.

Shamshul Haque Chowdhury MP, Metropolitan Chamber President Abdus Salam and Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian also took part in the discussion.

## Effectiveness of Saarc Food Bank stressed

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Saarc Food Bank started its fourth meeting yesterday in Dhaka to make the bank operational in an effort to address any food crisis in South Asia.

The food and disaster management ministry, foreign affairs ministry and the Saarc Secretariat jointly organised the two-day meeting. The meeting ends today.

Saarc Food Bank was established in 2007 to meet the emergency food crisis due to destruction of crops by natural calamities or other reasons.

Any Saarc country suffering a food crisis can demand food from other countries that earmark food for the cause.

However, it could not be made effective because certain issues, such as uniform standard of food grains, mode of transport and price, were not settled.

Addressing as chief guest, Food Minister Abdur Razzaque said: "The Saarc member countries need to focus on several issues -- food-grain pricing, operational guidelines and delivery systems -- to make the Food Bank operational."

Food Secretary Barun Dev Mitra, Saarc Secretariat Director Reaz Hamidullah and members of the Saarc Food Bank governing were also present at the inaugural session.

## Bangladeshi teacher appointed to Chicago Fed as adviser

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Abdur Rahim Chowdhury, a Bangladeshi professor of economics at Marquette University, has been appointed to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Academic Advisory Council, the university said.

Chowdhury, who is the chairman of Milwaukee based Marquette's College of Business Administration, will join more than a dozen other professors in the Chicago Fed's district to provide advice on monetary policy to the central bank.

The Fed's Academic Advisory Council meets twice annually in March and September. Charles Evans, Chicago Fed president, presides over the daylong meetings, which typically include Fed presentations on the economy and a roundtable discussion.

"I am honoured and excited about this unique opportunity," said Chowdhury, who completed honours in economics from the University of Dhaka in 1976 and his master's the following year.

"That the Fed recognises the value we -- economics professors -- can bring to shaping economic policy is laudable," he told the Marquette University website.

Chowdhury, a former research officer of Planning Commission and World Bank Resident Mission in Dhaka, specialises in open economy macroeconomics and monetary policy. As the chief economist for Capital Market Consultants in Milwaukee, he prepares quarterly and monthly commentaries on US and global economic issues and challenges.

He also provides regular advice on economic policy issues to a number of investment firms and financial institutions. He



Abdur Rahim Chowdhury

worked as a consultant to the World Economic Association of Helsinki, Finland.

Earlier, Prof Chowdhury also worked with Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), an independent think-tank.

From 2003 to 2008, he worked as the chief economist and director of the Economic Analysis Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva, Switzerland.

"Dr Chowdhury's appointment to the Fed's Academic Advisory Council is a shining example of our college's commitment to research with relevance," said Linda Salchenberger, Keyes Dean of Business Administration.

"Not only do our students benefit from his research, but now the Federal Reserve will have the opportunity to capitalize on Dr Chowdhury's keen economic analyses in very practical ways," she said.



AAM Zakaria, managing director of First Security Islami Bank, inaugurates the bank's BSIBL branch on Tuesday.