



Import of sugar gets govt nod

Singapore-based firm to supply 50,000 MT; Chinese company given Ashulia expressway job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Singapore-based Agrocrop International PTE Ltd has got the nod to supply 50,000 tonnes of refined sugar to the Bangladesh government.

The cabinet committee on purchase gave the go-ahead to Agrocrop at a meeting at the Cabinet Division yesterday, with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair.

The company will import sugar at \$465.27 per tonne as the lowest bidder among two.

Industries ministry officials said the government has decided to import 1 lakh tonne sugar to boost its stock and keep the price stable.

An official at the state-run Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) said they took the initiative to import sugar so that the private importers cannot hike the price of the sweetener by creating an artificial crisis.

The BSFIC, which produces sugar at 15 mills by crushing locally-grown sugarcane, imports sugar on behalf of the government.

Sources at the industries ministry said it had a stock of only 36,566 tonnes of sugar on November 2. The stock would come down to 16,364 tonnes after distribution of the sweetener among the law enforcement agencies.

Besides, production at the state-run sugar mills might stand at 80,000 tonnes instead of the targeted 1 lakh tonnes in the next upcoming crushing season due to damages to four mills in recent flooding in the country's northern districts.

The BSFIC under the industries ministry is capable of producing 2.1 lakh tonnes of sugar a year, but it can't utilise the full capacity due to shortage of sugarcane.

To buy 50,000 tonnes of sugar, the corporation in September had invited bids from international suppliers and local refiners.

It received offers from two bidders. Of them, the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



From left, Latifur Rahman, chairman and CEO of Transcom Group; Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star; Rokia Afzal Rahman, chairperson of Mediaworld Ltd, the owning company of The Daily Star; and Matiur Rahman, editor and publisher of Prothom Alo, pose after being awarded by the NBR at a ceremony in Dhaka yesterday. Latifur Rahman's family won the "Tax Icon Family" award from Dhaka, Mahfuz Anam and Matiur Rahman became the top taxpaying journalists while Rokia Afzal Rahman received an award on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd for being one of the top taxpayers in the print and electronic media category.

PHOTO: STAR

THANK YOU READERS FOR BEING WITH US

#JoinTheJourney



2.6 Million+

The Daily Star

Journalism Without Fear or Favour

Follow us:  /dailystarnews  www.thedailystar.net

Five-star prison!



HINDUSTAN TIMES ONLINE

Two weeks ago, the glitzy Ritz Carlton hotel in Riyadh was the site of an international conference promoting Saudi Arabia as an investment destination, with over 3,000 officials and business leaders in attendance.

Now the hotel is temporarily serving as a luxury prison where some of the kingdom's political and business elite are being held as part of a crackdown on corruption that may change the way the economy works.

Government ministers, businessmen and many royals were being held inside Ballroom B of the luxury hotel, the New York

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Be fair, open in handling trials

US urges Saudis as Riyadh rejects reports of prince's death in graft purge

AGENCIES

The US State Department said on Tuesday it was urging Saudi Arabia to be "fair and transparent" in its handling of any prosecutions stemming from a sweeping corruption probe that has resulted in the arrests of dozens of top Saudi officials.

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the United States had no advance knowledge of the corruption crackdown that unfolded over the weekend and resulted in the detention of members of the royal family, ministers and investors, including prominent billionaire businessman Alwaleed bin Talal.

"We continue to encourage Saudi authorities to pursue the prosecution of people they believe to have been corrupt officials; we expect them to do it in a fair and transparent manner," Nauert told a briefing. "We call on the government of Saudi Arabia to do that."

Nauert said the United States had received assurances from the Saudi government that it would do so, but another US official later told reporters that she had misspoken and that they had no such assurances that they could discuss in public.

Asked about Saudi Arabia's increasingly tough talk toward Iran and Lebanon, Nauert pointed to what she said was Iran's destabilizing activity and the Lebanese Hezbollah group's past record of attacks against US military personnel.

Saudi Arabia accused Lebanon on Monday of declaring war against it because of aggression by Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia group backed by Iran. Saad al-Hariri, the Saudi-allied Lebanese prime minister, resigned on Saturday, blaming Iran and Hezbollah in his resignation speech, reported Reuters.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

CONVICTION IN BRIBERY CASE HC commutes jail term of Huda

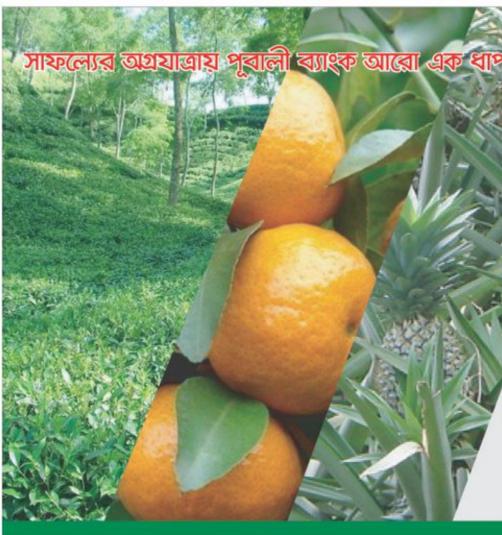
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday commuted the jail term of former BNP communication minister Nazmul Huda to four years from seven years in a bribery case filed during the regime of the military backed caretaker government.

The court also directed Nazmul Huda to surrender before the trial court within 45 days after receiving the copy of the [HC] verdict, Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

The HC bench of Justice Bhabani Prasad Singha and Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam modified the lower court judgment and sentenced Nazmul Huda to four years imprisonment after hearing an appeal filed by Nazmul Huda and his wife Sigma Huda challenging the lower court judgment.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



Tremor jolts

Book The Daily Star state-of-the-art CONFERENCE HALLS with modern amenities

Avail the unique facilities at The Daily Star Centre to host your:

- Board Meetings
- Seminars
- Discussions
- Roundtables
- Press Conferences
- Launching Ceremonies
- Training Programmes

AZIMUR RAHMAN CONFERENCE HALL:
TK 25,000/- for half day; Plus TK 5,000/- service charge
[Approximate seating capacity: 70]

A S MAHMUD SEMINAR HALL:
TK 25,000/- for half day; Plus TK 5,000/- service charge
[Approximate seating capacity: 120]

TAWFIQ AZIZ KHAN SEMINAR HALL:
TK 18,000/- for half day; Plus TK 3,000/- service charge
[Approximate seating capacity: 60]

PLUS: 15% VAT & other charges, where applicable, will be added

Facilities include:

- 4 high speed elevators.
- Automatic backup generators.
- Centrally air conditioned.
- PA System (including recording).
- Multimedia projector.
- 3 basement car parking facilities accommodating approximately 60 cars.
- Lunch and snacks catering service from our own cafeteria.
- Separate washrooms for gents, ladies and physically challenged.

For details please contact:

Our Hotline No: 01707372233

The Daily Star
64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.
Phone: 9144330 (Hunting), between 11am-5pm (except Friday)

