

## Wrong policy

FROM PAGE 1  
which according the committee "led to manipulation" in sugar market.

The watchdog body urged the ministry to cancel the policy of exporting sugar immediately and acquire the stock-kept for export--from Deshbandhu and take steps to reduce the price of sugar below Tk 50 per kilogram.

The committee has also decided to investigate the matter including why the caretaker government took such decision of exporting.

"It is astonishing that the caretaker government gave permission to export sugar although the country was undergoing shortfall of sugar. It is quite clear that the policy is one of the reasons behind the unstable sugar market," Tofail Ahmed, chairman of the standing committee told reporters after the meeting at the parliament complex.

"The committee asked the ministry to cancel the provision immediately," said Tofail, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker.

Elaborating the issue, Tofail Ahmed said, the caretaker government only allowed Deshbandhu Sugar Mill to import as well as to export sugar and without floating any tender.

Comparing sugar demand and production in the country, Tofail said, "We just cannot understand how the caretaker government allowed exporting of sugar."

The country's annual consumption of sugar is 14 lakh tons while it produces only 79,000 tons," he said.

Kamal Ahmed Mojumder, a member of the committee said the Deshbandhu Mill led syndication in sugar market

## 40pc swine flu victims young: WHO

AFP, Vienna

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Later, Deshbandhu demanded more 12 thousand tons of sugar from Sugar Corporation at lower price and the state owned corporation allocated them six thousand tons.

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The committee asked authorities concerned to take steps to seize rest of the amount of sugar from Deshbandhu and sell it in open market," Tofail Ahmed told reporters.

The committee also observed that the present government's decision to allow tax-free import of sugar would not affect the market during the Ramadan as the move was made too late.

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Wholesalers, however, opposed refiners' claim alleging that there was a shortfall in the market due to belated deliveries by the millers, which in turn resulted in a hike in sugar transportation cost.

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However, refiners blamed wholesalers for spreading rumours regarding further price hike after Eid. In a letter to the Ministry of Commerce, refiners brushed aside the allegation of inadequate supply by millers. The refiners also said more than 2 lakh metric tonnes of sugar would arrive by the first week of October.

Visits at different markets revealed that many traders, especially wholesalers, stocked sugar and rationed supplies to retail sellers.

Allegations of unfair means by a section of millers were also found which includes the market going under control of a few refiners amid weak market intervention by government--TCB.

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## BDR men

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members of the TFI cell and New Market police admitted them at around 5:00pm.

They bore severe injury marks on their knees which indicate they suffered torture, sources added.

While lying on the DMCH bed, one of the BDR jawans said, "We were tortured brutally during the interrogation since we had been taken to the TFI cell on Thursday."

New Market Police Station officer-in-charge told The Daily Star, "We were told from Pilkhana over phone about the sickness of two BDR jawans and then our men took the jawans to hospital."

Asked about the sickness of the two jawans, Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police Abdul Kader Akand of CID said, "I heard about the sickness but yet to know the cause as they were being interrogated under TFI cell."

"We have taken 16 more jawans on Thursday for interrogation under TFI cell," Akand, also the main investigating officer of the mutiny case, added.

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