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# star BUSINESS

DHAKA TUESDAY APRIL 11, 2017, CHAITRA 28, 1423 BS

## Rice prices rise on flash floods

**SOHEL PARVEZ**

Rice prices edged up as large millers are cashing in on crop losses, caused by the recent flash floods in the greater Sylhet region, amid depleting stocks from previous harvests and low imports, said traders.

In Dhaka, retail prices of coarse rice such as the swarna variety rose to a new level of Tk 40-42 a kilogram now, up 6.49 percent from Tk 37-40 a week ago.

Prices of the medium and fine categories of the staple also went up between 1.96 percent and 4.65 percent in the last one week, according to Trading Corporation of

Bangladesh.

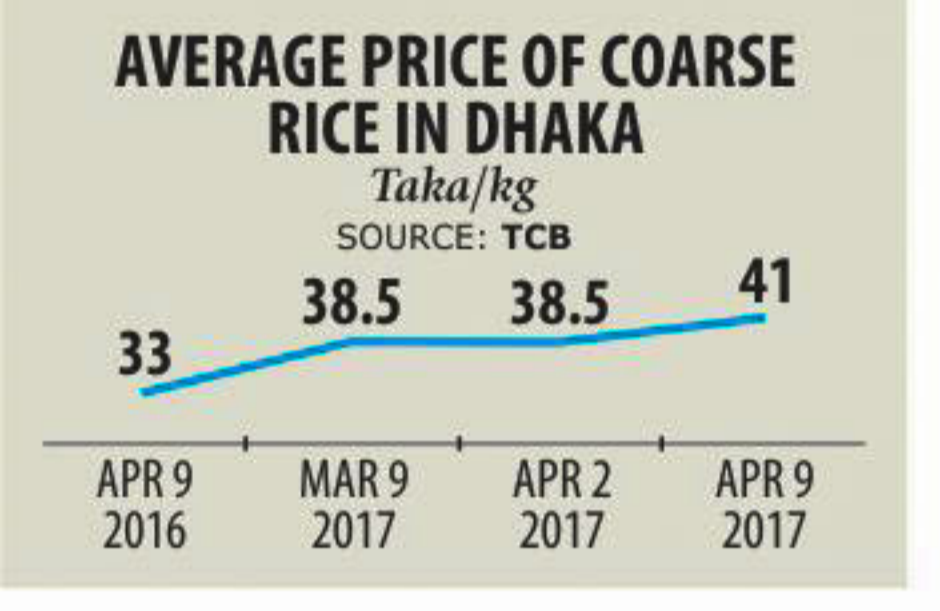
The prices rose in other parts of the country as well.

Millers and traders said rice prices typically go up near the end of a season for dwindling stocks.

"There is a shortage of paddy in the market. The small mills do not have paddy, and neither do the large mills. Those who had paddy might have milled the grain to empty their storages and make space for freshly harvested grains," said Chitta Majumder, managing director of Majumder Group of Industries that operates an auto rice mill.

Every year, paddy markets usually get an initial supply from harvests from the haor or seasonal water bodies in the northeastern region. Farmers in the region usually begin to harvest their crops in the third week of April.

However, floods in the haor regions have not only affected standing crops and caused losses to growers but also dampened prospects of an early arrival of fresh paddy, said Nirod Boron Saha, a wholesaler in Naogaon, one of the main rice trading hubs in the northwest.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina poses for photographs at India-Bangladesh Business Forum at Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi yesterday.

### Operators start compensating for call drops

**MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM**

The mobile operators have refunded 9.98 crore minutes for 50.33 crore call drops from January to March this year.

The refunds have been given as the telecom division made it mandatory to compensate the subscribers in minutes from January.

Market leader Grameenphone reported 23.34 crore call drops, which is 46.38 percent of total call drops of all the operators from January to March, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission said in a report shared with the telecom division recently.

Mobile users are supposed to get a free minute for every second or third call drop.

For Grameenphone, 6.42 crore calls were second or third drops on the same day, and it returned 2.63 crore minutes as compensation in three months, according to the report.

## Hasina woos Indian investors

**PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, from New Delhi**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday invited Indian investors to park their funds in Bangladesh's seven sectors -- including infrastructure, power, manufacturing and food processing -- and assured them of all benefits.

Seeking to hard-sell Bangladesh as an attractive investment destination,

Hasina told the India-Bangladesh Business Forum that the Indian investors would also be able to enjoy duty-free benefits extended to her country by China, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and Chile.

Bangladesh enjoys General System of Preferences facility from 38 countries, including the European Union, Japan, Australia and Canada, and not

least, a large domestic market of 160 million people, she said at the gathering held at the Taj Palace Hotel.

The country's infrastructure sector needs \$20 billion of investment by 2030. At present, there are big infrastructural development projects like the Padma multipurpose bridge and Rooppur nuclear power plant on going.

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<b>২০%</b>	<b>২০%</b>	<b>২০%</b>	<b>২০%</b>	<b>১৫%</b>
০২৮২৩৩৬২২৫	০২৬৮২০০০৩০০	০২৬২২২২৬৯৩৫	০২৭৩৯৯৩৬০৮৮	০২৭৩২০৯৩৭৮
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