

FAILURE TO SUPPLY RICE TO GOVT DEPOT 784 Pabna rice mills black-listed

No further contact for two years, says
district food controller

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Purna

The government has black-listed 784 rice mills, out of 876 mills in Pabna, as they did not supply rice to the government depot, resulting in the failure of government's rice procurement drive in the district this year.

The authorities concerned have decided

not to make any agree-

ment with them in next

two years said sources

of the district food

controller's office.

The government had set a target to buy 25 thousand tonnes of rice during the Rongi season from May 2 to

August 31. During the four months procure-

ment drive rice millers

supplied only 2,500

tonnes of rice, said Md. Abdul Kader, district controller of food.

"We repeatedly

requested all the rice

mill owners in the

district to make agree-

ment for supplying rice to the government

depot. But owners of only 92 rice mills out

of 876 have made the agreement and sup-

plied 2.5 tonnes of rice," he said.

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The district food office has included 784 rice mills in the black list for declining to make agreement with the government for rice supply in the procurement season. And the authorities have decided not to make any agree-

ment with them in next two years," the official said.

Idris Ali, Bishwas, president of District Rice Mill Owners Association, said, "Most of the millers did not make any agree-

ment this year as the government has fixed Tk 34 for a kg of rice under the procurement drive while it is selling for at least Tk 48 in the market.

"Production cost of the rice has increased as paddy prices increased due to its poor supply amid massive loss of the crop in floods this year," he added.

At the crisis began, auto rice mill owners purchased most of the paddy from the market and the marginal millers could not buy sufficient paddy from the market, local sources said.

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Global community steps up relief efforts

FROM PAGE 2

Christian Aid has also launched an appeal to help all communities displaced by violence in Myanmar and the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh, Christian Aid is initially sending \$40,000 to local partners to provide food, water, hygiene and sanitation, and healthcare provisions to 23,000 people.

A number of other countries, UN and international organisations are also extending their support.

Britain has already given £30 million to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the vulnerable Rohingyas in Bangladesh and Myanmar. The majority of the funding would be spent in Bangladesh.

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UNHCR spokesperson Dunya

Aslam Khan yesterday told reporters in Geneva that Bangladesh has allo-

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ares] of land for the refugees.

UNHCR said the land would be

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refugees who have arrived since

August 25.

"A main focus of our work over

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Kutupalong camp near Cox's Bazar

announced \$1.5 million, Switzerland would give Tk 10.2 crore and Denmark would provide Tk 25.55 crore, while the UAE has already given Tk 1.83 crore in assistance.

Cargo planes carrying relief mate-

rials have so far arrived at Chittagong

airport from India, Indonesia,

Azerbaijan, Turkey, Morocco,

Malaysia, Iran and the UAE.

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the weekend and yesterday was at a

new extension site next to the

Kutupalong camp near Cox's Bazar

where we began moving people who have recently arrived into family tents and temporary camps," she said.

Abdul Kader, Bishwas, adviser at the Royal Court and general supervisor of the King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Work, yesterday said a special team would assess the condition of the Rohingyas refugees.

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An estimated 421,000 Rohingyas

a largely stateless Muslim minority

in Myanmar have arrived in

Bangladesh since the latest bout of

violence.

The UNHCR noted "remarkable

generosity" by many individ-

ual Bangladeshi, with people

trucking food and clothes for the

refugees in the camps and others

camping along the single main road.

However, the government needs

more support, and UNHCR would

issue an appeal this week for emer-

gency humanitarian response in

Bangladesh till the end of the year,

according to a report of UN News

Centre yesterday.

The World Health Organization

(WHO) is also providing critical

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Vulnerable populations require

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Access for women to reproductive

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Rapist gets life

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Chittagong

A court here yesterday sentenced

a youth to death for rape of a minor girl last year.

The court also fined Tk 1 lakh, in default, to suffer

three years more in jail.

The convict is Golam

Ali, 21, son of Senanil

Mistri of Baragachhi

Uttarpura village in

Blaholat upazila.

Judge Ziaur Rahman of

Women and Children

Repression Prevention

Tribunal also additional

district and sessions judge

handed down the verdict in

presence of the convict.

According to the prosecution,

Kibria, called neighbour

eight-year-old, mentally

challenged girl in his house on

May 28 in 2016, when other

members of his family were not

at home and raped her.

Investigation Officer

Kabir Hossain pressed

charge against him on

October 31.

After examining 12 prosecu-

tion witnesses and other

relevant documents, the

judge found Kibria guilty

and pronounced the verdict.

Flood-damaged Lawacherra road turns risky

MINTU DESHWARI, Moulvibazar

FROM PAGE 2

Summit scheduled for Nov 6-7, 2017 in Paris and invited him to address the event. Macron agreed to speak at the inauguration, added the press release.

The Nobel laureate earlier spoke at Forbes Philanthropy Forum on "how to remove hurdles from women in participating in economic activities".

The event brought together 100 living greatest business leaders of the world at a gala. Prof Yunus was one of the 100.

He has come with his five-member family to visit Lawacherra from Bogra. But we could hardly enjoy as the road is risky," said Md. Loyyal Mia.

Several other tourists told about their

ordeal due to the awful road.

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