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Poison-apple

Indiscriminate use of chemicals on pineapples poses health risk

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Indiscriminate use of chemicals to treat pineapples is posing serious health hazards to people at Madhupur upazila that produces about 1 lakh tonnes of pineapple a year.

Trading of different chemicals and growth hormones has thrived in the area, attracting more people to pineapple cultivation with promises of guaranteed benefits.

Around 273 government-approved chemical shops have their presence in Madhupur.

According to Madhupur Upazila Agriculture Office, "giant q" variety of pineapples was cultivated on 6,035 hectares of land in the upazila including Alokdia, Aushnara, Digor Baid, Aurunkhola, Laofula, Raniaid, Moter Bazar, Jalchhatra, Garo Bazar and Rasulpur areas this year. Last year, the same variety was cultivated on only 3,000 hectares of land.

Local pineapple growers said they use "planofix" and "superfix" hormones in the fruit during the budding stage and on several more occasions before harvesting to make the fruit bigger and get the yields early.

Further, "ethrel" is used after harvest to ripen the fruits

Chemicals are sprayed on pineapples in a field in Madhupur upazila of Tangail and wholesalers buy those from a market in Jalchhatra of the upazila and ship them across the country.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL



Highway robbery goes unabated

Complain truck, covered van owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of truck and covered van owners are involved in looting of vehicles carrying goods on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway, vehicle owners said yesterday.

That was why highway robberies could not yet be stopped, they said. Law enforcement agencies had identified many of the gangs involved in the crime but all of them could not be captured.

Some truck owners support those gangs as they consider robbery as an easy means of getting quick bucks, speakers said at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital. Inter-district goods transportation and vehicles owners' association (Sangram Parisad), Chittagong, made the claim.

M Yusuf Bin Majumder Manik, joint convener of the organisation, said robberies continued because the vehicle owners themselves were involved. So, it was difficult for police to nab the culprits.

For these unscrupulous owners, general truck and covered van owners have to compensate the owners of the goods stolen and so they suffer the financial loss, he said.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Two killed in train accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were killed yesterday in two accidents in which trains were involved.

A woman in the capital's Joar Sahara area was killed when she was knocked down by an inter-city train yesterday.

Identity of the deceased, aged around 50, could not be known immediately.

The Silk City Express heading for Dhaka struck her while she was walking along the rail lines towards Cantonment Railway Station from Kuril Biswa Road around 8:10am, said Nazrul Islam, sub-inspector of Government Railway

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Syria clashes intensify

Cash-strapped regime seeks Russia's help; China questions West's intention

AGENCIES

Clashes have intensified overnight and after daybreak yesterday in Syria's both key cities, the capital Damascus and northern Aleppo province, in what appeared to be decisive battles between armed insurgent groups and government forces.

Rebel-held quarters of Syria's Aleppo came under heavy bombardment by regime forces, as a senior security official warned that the real battle for control of the strategic northern city was yet to come.

A hold-out rebel district of Damascus was also pounded, a day after the United Nations deplored the failure of diplomacy to end a conflict that has reportedly claimed more than 21,000 lives in nearly 17 months.

Abdel Jabar Oqaida, commander of the Free Syrian Army in Aleppo, said the district of Salaheddin had "come under the heaviest bombardment since the battle

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

INDIA IN THE DARK

40pc electricity loss costs it \$10b a year

AP, Mumbai

A decade ago, Chandrakant's fishing village in India's financial capital Mumbai lived mostly by candlelight. What people did not have - electricity - they stole.

Today, his settlement has moved up the feeding chain of Mumbai neighbourhoods and most residents have city electricity meters. But the loose habits of the past persist.

Residents still steal power on special occasions, weddings or funerals that need to be lit brighter than their home meters can bear.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Iconic voice falls silent, forever

SPORTS REPORTER

Abdul Hamid is no more. The pioneer of Bengali sports commentary in our

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

| PRAYER TIMING August 5 | | |
|------------------------|-------|--------|
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 4-08 | 4-13 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 5-00 | 5-15 |
| Maghrib | 6-42 | 6-52 |
| Esha | 8-15 | 8-45 |

Source: Islamic Foundation



| SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS | | | |
|----------------------|-------|---------|---------|
| RAMADAN | DATE | SEHRI | IFTAR |
| 16 | 5 Aug | | 6.42 pm |
| 17 | 6 Aug | 4.04 am | 6.42 pm |



Shoppers crowd a store in Bashundhara City complex in the capital yesterday to buy Panjabis as the Eid shopping frenzy gets into its stride.

PHOTO: STAR

Panjabi catches imagination

SOHEL PARVEZ

Menswear showrooms have stocked up on a wide range of colour, design and fabric choices for panjabis in the last couple of months. The mannequins display the latest in style for Eid this year.

Country Boy is a store that

opened in March in Rankin Street of Wari. The store now receives an increased turnout of shoppers, mainly the youth.

"Nowadays, the youth loves to wear panjabi to celebrate occasions. As we have a wide range of collections and designs, we have kept

panjabis on the display to attract young shoppers ahead of Eid," said Omar Faruq, manager of Country Boy showroom in Wari.

The Country Boy showroom is not alone. Other menswear brands such as Cats Eye, Artisti, Richman and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Politics is the bar Mankin on indigenous debate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is reluctant to recognise the Jumma people as "indigenous" probably due to political

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
ডিপার্টমেন্ট অব কারেন্সী ম্যানেজমেন্ট
এন্ড পেমেণ্ট সিস্টেমস্
প্রধান কার্যালয়, মতিবিল, ঢাকা

আপনার লেনদেন নিরাপদ, দ্রুত ও মূল্যবোধশীল করতে ইলেক্ট্রনিক ফান্ড ট্রান্সফার নেটওয়ার্ক (EFTN) ব্যবহার করুন

আপনি জানেন কি?

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক পরিচালিত বাংলাদেশ ইলেক্ট্রনিক ফান্ড ট্রান্সফার নেটওয়ার্ক- BEFTN বাংলাদেশের সবচেয়ে নিরাপদ ও মূল্যবোধশীল ইলেক্ট্রনিক নিকাশ ব্যবস্থা।

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের বিভিন্ন মন্ত্রণালয় EFTN ব্যবহার করে কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের বেতন-ভাতা প্রদান করছে।

বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক, আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানসহ বিভিন্ন ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠান EFTN ব্যবহার করে বেতন-ভাতা এবং লভ্যাংশ/আইপিও রিফান্ড স্বল্পতম সময়ে প্রদান করছে।

আপনার প্রতিষ্ঠানের কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের বেতন-ভাতা/লভ্যাংশ/আইপিও রিফান্ড প্রদান, বৈদেশিক ও অভ্যন্তরীণ রেমিট্যান্স প্রেরণ, বিভিন্ন ধরনের কর পরিশোধসহ যেকোন লেনদেন সম্পন্ন করতে EFT Credit পদ্ধতি ব্যবহার করুন।

EFT Debit সুবিধার মাধ্যমে আপনি বিদ্যুৎ, গ্যাস ও পানির বিল, ঋণের কিস্তি, বীমার প্রিমিয়াম, কর পরিশোধ, লাইসেন্স ফি প্রদান ইত্যাদি লেনদেন সম্পন্ন করতে পারবেন।

EFTN এর মাধ্যমে অর্থ লেনদেনের বিষয়ে বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ডিপার্টমেন্ট অব কারেন্সী ম্যানেজমেন্ট এন্ড পেমেণ্ট সিস্টেমস্ (টেলিফোনঃ ৯৫১২৩৪২, ৯৫৩০১৭৪) অথবা আপনার ব্যাংকের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করুন।

জিডি-২৯৯৭