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Traders spoil organic effort

Buy both toxic, non-toxic vegetables from farmers but mix those and sell

SOHEL PARVEZ

Farmers in many parts of the country are producing vegetables without using chemical pesticides but their toxicity-free produce is getting mixed with toxic vegetables in the absence of proper marketing facilities.

Traders buy both toxicity-free and toxic vegetables, load those in trucks without differentiating between the two types and take those to markets, say field reports received from some major vegetable-growing districts.

A large number of farmers are growing toxicity-free vegetables and fruits by applying Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods like pheromone trap instead of chemical pesticides but they are facing an acute problem of marketing their produce separately.

Pheromone trap is a device that uses pheromones to lure insects to get trapped in it so that farmers can save their crop from pest attacks.

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

With the early morning mist still hovering, traders head for the markets with cauliflowers they bought from farmers. The photo was shot from Manda on the edge of the capital recently.

Post office launches e-pay

New service aims to earn more revenue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Post Office, in its bid to rejuvenate its business, has yesterday launched trial run of the long-awaited mobile banking service in three hubs in the capital.

The new service touted Post e-Pay would provide a range of financial services, including money transfer,

bill payments, cash deposits and withdrawals. The users would be able to check their transaction information and balance too.

Post and telecom Minister Sahara Khatun inaugurated the commercial test service yesterday at the GPO in the capital. Initially, the service has been made available in three post

offices in Dhaka -- GPO, Sadarghat and Banani.

The post office is implementing the service jointly with the technical support of fixed phone operator Bangla Phone and Commlink Infotech Ltd, a sister concern of BanglaPhone.

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EGYPT REFERENDUM

Islamists claim initial victory

AFP, Cairo

Islamists backing a new constitution for Egypt claimed victory yesterday in an initial phase of a referendum, but the opposition alleged polling violations and said it would await the final results in a week's time.

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Kerry to succeed Hillary

AFP, Washington

President Barack Obama has chosen Senator John Kerry to succeed Hillary Clinton as US secretary of state, news networks CNN and ABC reported Saturday.



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People living 'longer but sicker'

BBC NEWS

People around the world are living longer but with higher levels of sickness, according to the largest ever study of the global burden of disease.

The Lancet analysis shows high blood pressure, smoking and drinking alcohol

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| PRAYER TIMING | | December 17 |
|---------------|--------|-------------|
| Azan | Jamaat | |
| Fajr | 5:20 | 5:55 |
| Zohr | 12:45 | 1:15 |
| Asr | 3:45 | 4:00 |
| Maghrib | 5:22 | 5:25 |
| Esha | 7:00 | 7:30 |

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: AFP

Donna Soto, right, mother of Victoria Soto, the first-grade teacher who was shot and killed while protecting her students at Sandy Hook Elementary School, hugs her daughter Karly, second from right, while mourning their loss with Victoria's other two siblings at a candlelight vigil at Stratford High School in Stratford, Connecticut on Friday.

Mother, a gun enthusiast and the first victim

NEW YORK TIMES, Newtown

Nancy Lanza loved guns, and often took her sons to one of the shooting ranges here in the suburbs northeast of New York City, where there is an active community of gun enthusiasts, her friends said. At a local bar, she sometimes talked about her gun collection.

It was one of her guns that were apparently used to take her life on Friday. Her killer was her son Adam Lanza, 20, who then drove to Sandy Hook Elementary School, where he killed 26 more people, 20 of them small children, before shooting himself, the authorities said.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with LGTD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam that the opposition alliance is trying to push the country towards a civil war in a bid to save war criminals?

Yes (43%)

No (57%)

No Comments (0%)

TOTAL VOTES: 716

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with the main opposition BNP's allegation that the ruling Awami League has destroyed the spirit of victory by "confining" democracy?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

The Daily Star

14th 'O' & 'A' Level

Award Presentation Ceremony, 2011-2012

Announcement for 'O' & 'A' Level Private Candidates and Schools

Private Candidates

Private candidates who fulfil the criteria described below are requested to register their names at The Daily Star office for inclusion as awardees. The criteria to be fulfilled are as follows:

Criteria for 'O' Level

Minimum 6 (six) 'A' grades in two consecutive sittings within May/June 2011 to May/June 2012

Criteria for 'A' Level

Minimum 3 (three) 'A' grades within 1 academic year (May/June 2011 to May/June 2012)

Eligible candidates are requested to contact Mr. Khairul Islam at The Daily Star office, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka - 1215, with their original Results Certificates and a photocopy and 2 (two) passport-size photographs in person on 17, 18, 19 or 20 December, 2012, between 11:30 am and 3:30 pm.

Schools

Any school that has students meeting the above criteria but has not been contacted by The Daily Star (i.e. has not been informed of the first scheduled meeting through regular post, email or phone) is requested to contact Mr. Khairul Islam at The Daily Star office (64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215), on the aforementioned dates and times or email him at abeer@thedailystar.net by December 29, 2012, with:

- The name of the school, phone number of a responsible representative (who will attend the meetings) and a valid email address that is checked regularly.

The schools are also requested to promptly prepare a list of the candidates meeting the above criteria, the number of 'A' grades achieved by each candidate, and photocopies of results certificates for each candidate.

NOTE: If you know of any private candidate(s) or school(s) that may be unaware of this, please communicate the above information to them so that we may include them in this ceremony as well.

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০১৯৩৮-৮৮৬১০৮

E-mail : navaron@fsibld.com

শরীয়তুল্লিক আধুনিক ব্যাংকিং সেবা নিয়ে আপনার সাথে থাকতে ফাস্ট সিকিউরিটি ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিঃ এখন বিনাইদহে এবং যশোরের নাজরনে। আমানতকারীদের জন্য বিভিন্ন আকর্ষণীয় প্রকল্পের পাশাপাশি বিনিয়োগকারীদের জন্য রয়েছে আমাদের বিশেষ সুবিধা। বিনাইদহ এবং নাজরন শাখার গ্রাহক হয়ে সারা দেশব্যাপী আমাদের অনলাইন ব্যাংকিং সেবা গ্রহণ করুন।

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