

STOP!
What are you eating?
Do you know what
chemicals are added
to your food?
Do not panic, but work
together to change.

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Your Right to Know

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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

Star
Showbiz

KANGALINI'S PLIGHT

Noted folk singer is suffering
severe financial hardship

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His lawyers argue prosecutors are
in "gross breach of Swedish law"

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ILLEGAL, HARMFUL

PINAKI ROY with WALID BIN HABIB

Over a dozen harmful ripening agents have flooded the market amid lax government monitoring, and unscrupulous traders and growers are using them on fruits at will, posing a threat to public health.

Many well-known pesticide companies and chemical factories are importing ripening agents and marketing these under different names like Sundori, Tomtom, Harvest, Riser, Promote, Ripe, Ripen, Eden, Prolong, Ethrel, Remote, Garden, Action and Gold Plus.

None of these is legal. In fact, the government has never approved any ripening agent. It only has approved two plant growth regulators (PGRs), hormones that are applied to make fruits grow bigger and look more attractive, said officials in the Department of Agricultural Extension's (DAE) regulatory wing.

The importers of ripening agents dupe the government by saying they are only importing the PGRs. They get away with this, as the government has no mechanism in place to monitor what is being imported and marketed, said industry insiders.

"I have instructed field inspectors to destroy ripening agents if they find any in shops in their respective

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- All ripening chemicals unapproved
- Over a dozen items being imported
- Widely available, used

PART-5
FRUIT RIPENING
CHEMICALS



MORNING



Green tomatoes are seen in the photo, *inset*, taken in a March morning and a farmer is seen spraying chemicals on his harvest at Char Kishoreganj in Munshiganj. In the afternoon on the same day, *top*, the tomatoes had ripened and were being put in baskets for shipment.

PHOTO: FILE

HOW TO MINIMISE RISKS

➔ Wash tainted fruits, vegetables in running water several times

➔ Keep fruits, vegetables in the open for 1 or 2 days

➔ Cook food above 80° C to remove formalin

➔ Peel fruits like apple before eating

➔ Avoid mangoes sold before season (Mar to mid-Apr)

➔ Avoid fruits with black spots, powders on the surface

➔ Throw away outer leaves of leafy vegetables e.g., cabbage

➔ Buy live fish or fish that still contains its "fishy smell"

➔ Avoid fish that are stiff, have rubbery meat, hard scales, clear eyes

➔ Throw away fruits, vegetables infected with fungus

SOURCE:
BANGLADESH AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH COUNCIL; BMC
HOSPITAL BALI, INDONESIA;
LOCAL EXPERTS

NEWS ANALYSIS

RESTORING '72 CONSTITUTION PM's claim and the reality

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has portrayed the proposed constitutional amendment to restore parliament's powers to remove a Supreme Court judge on grounds of misbehaviour or incapacity as a step towards making the constitution the way it was in 1972.

Speaking at a meeting of the Awami League Parliament Party on Sunday, the AL chief also claimed her government's main aim was to restore the constitution of 1972 to its original position.

The reality appears to be the very opposite to her stated aim, as it was none but her AL-led government that shut the door for revival of the constitution adopted in 1972 through the constitutional 15th amendment in 2011.

The 15th amendment has imposed a ban on amending more than 50 articles of the constitution, including all the articles of the first three consecutive parts of the country's charter.

But some of the articles must be amended to restore them to their original 1972 position to return to the spirit of the original constitution.

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Female manpower export goes up

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB

There has been a boost in sending the country's female migrant workers abroad, which has more than doubled over the last five years.

In 2009 the government sent 22,224 female migrant workers to different countries while the number has stood at 48,463 in the first eight months of the current year.

A total of 2,43,528 female workers have gone abroad since 2008, according to the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET).

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), which has kept suspended hiring Bangladeshi male migrant workers for the last two years, has emerged as the largest recruiter of Bangladeshi female workers. It alone has hired around 15,000 female workers till August this year.

Jordan and Mauritius are the second and third largest recruiters on the list. Oman, Lebanon and Qatar are also hiring large numbers of Bangladeshi females this year.

Bangladeshi females are basically working as domestic helps abroad while Indian, Sri Lankan and Nepalese women are working both as maids and nurses, according to Bangladesh Oivabashi Mahila Samik

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FEMALE MIGRATION

2008	20,842
2009	22,224
2010	27,706
2011	30,579
2012	37,304
2013	56,400
2014*	48,463

* UP TO AUGUST

SOURCE: BUREAU OF MANPOWER
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

KARWAN BAZAR RAIL TRACK Shops removed, office of extortion syndicate spared

RAFIUL ISLAM

The railway authorities yesterday removed some 70 makeshift shops along Karwan Bazar rail track, but left untouched the office of a syndicate that ran the illegal market and made quick bucks out of it.

The drive came a day after four people were killed and five others injured in an accident there.

The office belongs to a syndicate of politicians, traders and railway staff who are behind running several hundred shops on and along the track, making huge money every day from the traders.

In the five-hour drive that began around 9:00am, almost all the illegal shops by the rail track from the Film Development Corporation (FDC) gate to Tejgaon Railway Station were knocked down.

However, the team left without demolishing the syndicate's office, raising many questions.

The syndicate even formed an organisation using the name of Bangladesh Railway and deployed some people to collect money from the makeshift shops.

Sources said some members of the railway police and

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SARADHA FUNDS FOR JAMAAT Home ministry 'unaware'

*Intelligence agency looks into
allegations; Indian home
minister says probe on*

STAR REPORT

As the Indian media claim Dhaka communicated with New Delhi over the allegation that Saradha scam money was funnelled to Jamaat, the Bangladesh home ministry says it is "unaware" of any such development.

Indian Bangla daily Anandabazar Patrika yesterday said crores of money from Saradha chit fund scam was invested to spark violence in Bangladesh.

Citing "intelligence reports of Bangladesh", the newspaper said the money made its way to Jamaat-e-Islami in 2012-13 through Ahmed Hassan Imran, a Rajya Sabha member from West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress.

Bangladesh government even registered an "official complaint" with India, it claimed.

But State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan, when contacted by

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Twins Sharmin and Shahana weaving traditional towels at Aruashakua of Kaliganj in Jhenidah. They support their family and pay for their education doing this.

PHOTO:
STAR

Weaving dreams

*Twin sisters achieve GPA-5 in HSC exams, now
aspire to higher education despite hardship*

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Cotton towels, or gamchha as it is known in Bangla, are found aplenty in Aruashakua bazar of Kaliganj upazila, some 22 kilometres east of Jhenidah district town. These coarse traditional towels do not just help one dry off after a bath, they also tell stories of sheer hard work and commitment put up by poor weavers.

Two such weavers are a pair of 17-year-old twins who are tag-teaming their way in an effort to fulfil their dream of higher education. Sharmin Khatun and Shahana Khatun have been bearing their own educational expenses for over two years now in addition to contributing substantially to running a family of four.

Their perseverance paid off this year when they achieved GPA-5 in the Higher Secondary School Certificate exams from the Chaprail Abu Bakkar Biswas and Moksed Ali College. This rare feat was

attained without any extra coaching except for English which they were taught for free by Ashaur Rahman, a teacher of the college.

"We want to become lawyers in the future to prove that women too can reach the pinnacle of success," said Sharmin.

Financial hardship, however, has dented their enthusiasm for the coming admission tests at Jagannath University and Dhaka University. Although they can make both ends meet now by weaving, they have no means of paying the charges for their studies and accommodation in Dhaka.

Their father Intajul Islam lives in Dhaka and can do little to support them with a meagre monthly income of Tk 5,000. Their mother Lovely Begum had undergone uterus and appendix surgeries and requires about Tk 1,500 a month for medicine.

Weaving a towel that brings in a profit

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Barapukuria staff sued over 300MT coal scam

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd authorities on Thursday night sued one of its employees and a coal buyer in connection with selling and buying at least 300 metric tonnes of coal with forged bank documents.

The accused are Md Shakil Ahmed, a computer operator of BCMCL, and Md Arafat Hossain, proprietor of Nusat Traders of Ziranibazar in Savar upazila of Dhaka.

Md Masudur Rahman, deputy general manager [Administration] of BCMCL filed the case with Parbatipur police station.

"The case will be handed over to the Anti-Corruption

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