

# THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

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**PART-10**  
HOW IPM  
NEGLECTED  
FOR LONG

## GREEN INITIATIVE left in **THE LURCH**

PORIMOL PALMA

When in 1981 the Food and Agriculture Organisation launched a green initiative in Savar and Chittagong's Rangunia to tackle pest attacks, farmers there had every reason to be relieved. It offered them help to fight off insects without using harmful pesticides.

Known as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), the initiative drew a huge response mainly for two reasons -- it was cheap yet effective and it reduced the negative impacts of chemical pesticides.

But the pilot project fizzled out in less than two years. Some 10 years later, the government in 1991 relaunched the programme in efforts to check rampant application of toxic chemicals on crops and vegetables.

More than two decades on, the government has been able to take the programme to the doorstep of some 20 percent farmers.

The pest control issue came to the fore amid growing concerns over food safety. Excessive use of toxic pesticides

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Pheromone traps being used in a pumpkin field in Moheshwarchanda of Kaliganj in Jhenidah to kill insects.

PHOTO:  
STAR

### OBSTACLES



**Financial and logistic constraints**



**Pesticide companies' lobby against IPM**



**No additional benefits for IPM users**

### RECOMMENDATIONS



**Sustained funding, adequate lab facilities**



**Speedy approval process for bio-pesticide import**



**Inclusion of IPM in agro curriculum**

## Let's start from the root level

*Shykh Seraj on judicious use of chemicals*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted agriculture development journalist Shykh Seraj has suggested taking integrated pest management (IPM) methods to every village in the country as an effective way of preventing food adulteration.

"If we want to ensure food safety, we have to focus on the root cause

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## End Rab's impunity

*EU Parliament urges govt, expresses concern over enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings; it'll monitor 7-murder case proceedings*

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Voicing concern about continuing human rights violations by the Rab and other security forces, the European Parliament yesterday adopted a resolution urging the Bangladesh authorities to put an end to Rab's impunity.

Human rights violations by the Rapid Action Battalion, an emergency force cre-

ated 10 years ago with both military and police officers, should stop, said the members of European Parliament.

In the resolution on human rights violation in Bangladesh, the EP called upon the Bangladesh government to bring back the state security forces, including police and the Rab, within the bounds of law.

It strongly suggested that there should be investigations

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## PM terms Sayedee verdict unexpected

*Defends impeachment bill*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing her disappointment over the Supreme Court verdict against Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said none had expected such a judgment.

"People might have been happy if Sayedee's death sentence was upheld. The judgment was not expected as this person had committed so many crimes," she said, adding that as the judiciary was independent, she had nothing more to say about the judgment.

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## "No head above King"

*The shackling of the judiciary?*

MAHFUZ ANAM



COMMENTARY

Do any of my readers remember a brilliant film of the '50s on King Chulalongkorn of Siam (today's Thailand) called "The King and I"? In it the King finding the English governess he hired for his children's education to be much taller than him says "No head above King" and forces her to be on her knees every time she speaks to him.

In Bangladesh we have known for a while that there can be no individual head above that of our prime minister. Not only in terms of power, God forbid, but also in terms of

personal fame (remember Prof Yunus). This we have known and have been living with. But from yesterday we have been clearly told that there cannot even be any "institutions" higher than our prime minister.

On Wednesday our parliament voted unanimously (it was such a brilliant piece of legislation that there was not a single MP who thought otherwise and this in itself speaks volumes of the 'democratic culture' within that august body) to empower itself to impeach judges.

Let's not fudge and play games with what "empowering the parliament" really means.

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## Sporadic violence marks hartal

STAR REPORT

Sporadic acts of violence marked the countrywide 24-hour hartal enforced by the Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday.

Law enforcers picked up around 50 Jamaat-Shibir activists in last 36 hours across the country.

The capital was largely peaceful during hartal hours, with almost all businesses and offices operating normally. Traffic was lighter than usual for a weekday, but a large number of vehicles plied the city thoroughfares.

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## AZHARUL'S WAR CRIMES CASE CONCLUDES

## Now wait for verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The long list of war crimes cases waiting for verdict delivery has become a little longer as a tribunal yesterday drew conclusion to the case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader ATM Azharul Islam.

Now, six verdicts are pending with the two international crimes tribunals.

The number might become seven soon as defence witnesses are now being examined in the war crimes case against Jamaat Nayebe-Ameer Abdus Subhan.

The Tribunal-1 Chairman Justice M Enayetur Rahim yesterday said, "Thank you [the prosecution and the defence]. The



tribunal has been keeping the cases on CAV [Curia advisari vult, a Latin legal term meaning the court would consider the matter], by tradition. We are keeping it on CAV."

Prosecutor Tureen Afroz claimed that they were able to prove all the charges and addressed the legal aspects including single witness, hearsay evidence, joint command responsibility upon which defence failed to cast any shadow of doubt.

"We pray before the tribunal to hand him the capital punishment ... ." she said, adding that the accused be made to compensate

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## Fakhrul gets bail in police assault case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir in a case filed for assaulting police and torching vehicles in the capital's Kadamtali during an opposition blockade in December 2012.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Alamgir Kabir Raj passed the order after Fakhrul had surrendered before the court and pleaded for bail.

On Sunday, the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Yunus Khan issued an arrest warrant for the BNP leader as Fakhrul, who was visiting Singapore, did not appear before it on that day.

The magistrate came up with the order after accepting the charge sheet against Fakhrul in the case.

On June 16, Kadamtali police pressed charges of vandalism, arson and assault on police against the BNP leader and 60 other activists of the then

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CONTACT US

**CORPORATE ADDRESS :**  
UNIT - 2/2, BUILDING - 3B, ROAD - 84  
GULSHAN - 2, DHAKA - 1212  
BANGLADESH  
TEL : +880-2-9883228  
Web : [www.londonschoolofeducation.com](http://www.londonschoolofeducation.com)  
Email : [info@londonschoolofeducation.com](mailto:info@londonschoolofeducation.com)

**UTTARA CAMPUS ADDRESS :**  
MOREOM GARDEN  
HOUSE - 1, ROAD - 14, SECTOR - 12, UTTARA  
DHAKA - 1230, BANGLADESH  
TEL : +880-2-7920368, +880-2-7920369  
FAX : +880-2-7920346  
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