


STOP!

What are you eating? Do you know what chemicals are added to your food? Do you know the long-term effects?



Mango
ETHION / FORMALIN
Respiratory problems, Cancer risk

Banana ALDRIN Convulsions, loss of consciousness	Apple ALPHA CHLORDANE Blood cancers like leukemia and lymphoma	Tomato ETHION Respiratory problems	Pineapple ETHION Respiratory problems	Milk ALDRIN/ FORMALIN Convulsions, Cancer risk	Bread SUB-STANDARD YEAST Diarrhea, vomiting, allergy	Rice ARSENIC, CHROMIUM Skin, lung, bladder & kidney cancers, respiratory problems	Egg CIPROFLOXACIN Diarrhea, vomiting	Chicken CIPROFLOXACIN, SULFONAMIDE Diarrhea, skin rash, vomiting	Fish FORMALIN Bronchitis, cancer risk	Carrot DDT Cancers, birth defects
Bean BETA BHC Respiratory damage	Peas	Lettuce GAMMA BHC Cancer, respiratory failure	Spinach	Dried fish DDT Cancers, birth defects	Turmeric powder LEAD AND CHROMIUM Respiratory problems, neurological damage	Capsicum GAMMA CHLORDANE Liver, digestive and nervous system damage				

● PESTICIDE/INSECTICIDE ★ ANTIBIOTIC
SOURCE: NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY LABORATORY, BANGLADESH AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, BANGLADESH FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE, US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY, UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
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Green initiative

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save crops, vegetables and fruits is blamed for much of the food contamination.
The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), which implements the programme, says it just does not have the money and manpower to take it to mass level.
But agro activists and other officials involved with the project say the government is not sincere enough to expand the IPM despite a growing demand for it.

Preventing pest attacks in ecological ways is part of IPM. Such an approach to pest control is vital for Bangladesh to check food contamination.
Of late, contamination and adulteration of food have become so widespread that lab tests by the Institute of Public Health last year found tainted about 60 percent of 10,000 food samples collected from the capital markets.
Also last year, a research by Bangladesh Agricultural Research

Council revealed that nearly a third of the pesticides applied on fruits and vegetables is of substandard.
It is another reason why farmers apply excessive pesticides in their farms. While this practice pushes up production cost and leads to serious health problems, the IPM ensures chemical-free food, increases yields by 12-15 percent, cuts pesticide cost by nearly 70 percent and conserve biodiversity, said DAE official Mobarak Ali.
He is also director of the project

called "Safe Crop Production Project Through IPM Approach". There are some 26,000 IPM clubs of farmers to spread the pest control method under the project. Currently, 36 lakh of the country's 1.8 crore farmer households use the IPM.

WHAT IS IPM?
IPM is a number of measures taken simultaneously to prevent pest attacks. The measures include:

PERCHING:
Small rods or sticks are planted for birds to perch on and eat insects.

HAND PICKING:
Farmers use hand nets to trap insects or set nets over the crops and vegetables to prevent insect attack.

LIGHT TRAP:
In and around the field, electric bulbs or lanterns are hung on a pole with water underneath. Attracted by the light, insects gather around it and drown.

PHEROMONE TRAP:
This trap has a capsule containing female sex hormone of insects. It is kept in a plastic bottle half-filled with water. It attracts male insects to flock to the bottle only to drown. Thus, mating and spread of pests are checked.

This particular project began in 2013 with government funding and will end in 2017. Under the Tk 54 crore project, agro officials and farmers are being trained for using and spreading the IPM in 275 upazilas of the country's 64 districts.
"But the money and manpower we have are not adequate for a substantial expansion of the project," Mobarak said.
Katalyst, an NGO, in a study on IPM in 2009 also found products and services required for its full expansion were insufficient.
"We want to use IPM, but often do not find pheromone in the market. Also, many local agriculture officials are not aware of it," said Ayub Khan, a farmer of Bagharpara in Jessore who uses the method.
Ashraf Uddin Ahmed, manager (business development) of Ispahani Agro Limited, said the Pesticide Act did not allow import of bio-pesticides like pheromone until its amendment in 2010.
Now only two to three companies, including his, can import and market it.
"Three or four more companies have applied for approval of eight other bio-pesticides, but those have been pending for about two years. The approval process of the DAE is very complicated," he added.
"If more companies could import bio-pesticides and the DAE would not create any hassle, the IPM project could have expanded massively.

It is the need of the day," Ashraf said.
Asked, Mobarak Ali of DAE said research and field tests of bio-pesticides took some time. Moreover, the DAE does not have all the lab facilities and has to depend on Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute.
"So, we cannot approve a product in less than two years," he said.
About the fund shortage, an NGO official said the DAE depended on donors' money for most of its projects. So when the donors stop funding, the projects suffer. In addition, chemical pesticide companies have a strong lobby that discourages the expansion of IPM.
But there are also factors that deter farmers from using the method.
Rezaul Karim Siddique, adviser of the Centre for Agribusiness and Competitive Strategies, said those applying the IPM were not getting any motivational price as their products were not differentiated from the food items produced with chemical pesticides.
"A certification system must be there for products produced under the IPM," he noted.
Also, mainstreaming the IPM can keep crops, vegetables and fruits from chemical contamination. As a major step to this end, the IPM should be included in the curriculum of the agriculture universities, said Shaminaz Polen, senior business consultant of Katalyst.

Natural fertilisers bring smile to Jhenidah farmer

HEAL UDDIN, 60, was a poor farmer of Mahashwerchanda village in Kaliganj. Back in 2000, he struggled to survive by growing crops on 40 decimals of his own land and 50 or 60 more decimals of leased land.
Things, however, began to change since when Dr MA Gul Hossain, an agricultural scientist, invited him and some other farmers of his village. Hossain trained them to make vermicompost, a natural fertiliser made of cow dung and banana trees with the assistance of earthworms.
"People were not interested to buy



Farmer Helal next to his pumpkin field where pheromone traps are used to kill insects.

Let's start from the root level Ruet closed

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of the problem. Contamination of food starts at the production level. So we need to go for chemical-free production methods," he told The Daily Star.
The government needs to allocate more money to promote IPM products and services among farmers as soon as possible, he said.
Shykh Seraj, best known for his popular series Mati O Manush on BTV and Hridoye Mati o Manush on Channel i, has travelled extensively across the country, talking to farmers about their difficulties in growing different crops and voicing their needs over the last three decades.
He said IPM has proved to be a very effective tool for checking contamination of crops in many districts, including Jessore, Narsingdi and Mymensingh. It, however, has not been adopted in other districts.
Farmers practising IPM become aware of the scientific cultivation method. They learn to select the best seeds available in the market, which significantly reduce risks of plant diseases. But those not following this method depend solely on chemical pesticides and do not pay any heed to maintaining the best farm practices, he said.
"There are two types of insects -- beneficial and harmful. The beneficial insects cling to the upper side of crops while the harmful ones to the lower side. Pesticides sprayed on crops basically kill the beneficial

insects," Seraj said.
Due to heavy use of pesticides over the decades, population of harmful insects has gone up and that of beneficial ones down. Worse still, the practice has helped develop pesticide resistance in harmful insects that are now showing immunity even to stronger pesticides.
Besides, the use of chemical pesticide is pushing up production cost, causing losses to farmers, he said.
"So there is no alternative to IPM," Seraj said while lamenting that IPM items such as pheromone are not as available as the chemical pesticides.
"It is because chemical pesticide companies are very powerful and united. They don't encourage IPM. The administration also has not taken any vigorous action about it," he said.
He called upon the government to pay special attention to the issue.
Seraj also suggested promotion of bee rearing with crops such as mustard, mango, litchi and coriander that produce more flowers than others.
"In that case, farmers will get extra money from honey and will not incline towards applying chemical pesticides," he said.
Bees also help pollination that results in better yield in most cases, he noted.
Director of news at Channel i, Seraj is recipient of the Ashoka Fellowship, the Ekushey Padak and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's AH Boerma Award for his contribution to journalism on agriculture.

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The BCL men also assaulted a photo-journalist, Azhar Uddin of the Bangla daily Shokaler Khabor, while he was taking photos of the stabbing, and snatched his camera, but returned it later.
The arrested Shibir men include Ahmed Yasir, general secretary, and Mamunur Rashid Mamun, organising secretary, of Ruet unit of Shibir. The rest are activists.
Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station, said the two leaders were arrested when they led 10-15 Shibir men to stop a pre-scheduled seminar of the civil engineering department on the campus around 11:00am to enforce hartal.
In protest of the arrests, over 50 Shibir men gathered in front of Selim hall, which is reportedly dominated by the Jamaat-backed student body, carrying iron rods, sticks, and knives, cleavers and machetes.
Motihar police then rushed there along with BCL Ruet unit president Raisul Islam Rose and general secretary Touhidur Rahman Himel and 20-25 activists. In a one and a half hours' raid, police rounded up nine Shibir activists. In the meantime, some BCL men stabbed the Shibir activist, Rakib, before police stopped them.
Following the arrests, over 300 armed Shibir activists marched towards Selim hall to attack BCL men and exploded 10-12 crude bombs there. This led to a clash between the Shibir men and police, which fired at least 150 rounds of rubber bullets and tear gas, leaving 12 Shibir activists injured, said police.

It's impossible to make both

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death sentence to imprisonment until death. The ICT-1 in February last year awarded Sayedee capital punishment for crimes against humanity committed during the 1971 Liberation War.
Immediately after its pronouncement, the SC verdict drew criticisms from different quarters.
"It seems [from what the people said] we must find an accused guilty of all charges pressed by the prosecution," said Justice Enayetur during the proceedings of the war crimes case

against ATM Azharul Islam yesterday.
"We can make mistakes in assessing any charge but there is always the option to go to the Supreme Court."
Enayetur, a High Court judge who was deputed to head the tribunal in February this year, also explained the roles of the judiciary.
"Judiciary is the last resort for people to seek justice. We are oath-bound to keep judiciary's dignity intact," he said, adding when both the contending parties question the judges, the very existence of judiciary comes into question.

The ICT-1 chief earlier criticised the prosecution for not submitting necessary documents for trial. "You [prosecution] leave matters upon the judges as if they were supposed to correct everything."
Another tribunal member Justice Jahangir Hossain asked the prosecution why they brought "unnecessary documents" to the tribunal in Azhar's case.
In response, prosecutor Tureen Afroz admitted their mistakes and said, "Of course, we made some mistakes. But ... we are trying to correct those."

Produce 2 war crimes

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Chapainawabganj jail, had allegedly been members of Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistan army, in 1971.
The International Crimes Tribunal-2 led by Justice Obaidul Hassan passed the order after the prosecution had appealed to the court to show them arrested in a war crimes case.
In a petition, prosecutors also requested the court to keep the accused in jail for the sake of proper investigation.
Being members of Muslim League that opposed the independence of the then East Pakistan during the war, Mahidul and Afsar had also links with Razakar Bahini in Chapainawabganj at the time, and allegedly committed crimes like murder and mass killing, Prosecutor Sahidur Rahman said.
"Preliminary evidence of their

involvement" was found in an investigation that began on February 11 into the allegations against them, he said, adding that that was why they had filed the petition.
Meanwhile, the tribunal asked the prosecution to submit on November 3 an investigation report on the allegations against war crimes suspect Forkan Mallik of Patuakhali.
The directive came after Prosecutor Mukhlesur Rahman Badal placed a progress report of the probe into the accusation against the alleged wartime commander of Mirzaganj upazila Razakar Bahini in the district and sought more time to complete the investigation.
The investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal began looking into the alleged war crimes by Forkan on June 25, the day he was arrested in Barisal city.
Forkan was produced before the court yesterday.

Robber killed

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and killing.
Police detained him on Wednesday evening from his village.
As per his confessional statement, police along with Sekendar went to Bijoynagar village to recover firearms early Thursday. They got a pipe gun, a shutter gun and seven bullets there, the police official said.
When the law enforcers along with Sekendar were returning to the police station around 3:00am, Sekendar's aides opened fire on police to free Sekendar. Police also returned fire, triggering a "gunfight" between them and the criminals.
Sekendar was hit by bullets while trying to flee. His accomplices managed to escape. Sekendar was taken to Kalia Upazila Health Complex where on-duty doctors declared him dead, the OC added.
Despite repeated attempts over the phone, this correspondent could not contact the family of the deceased for comments.



WE ARE THE SOLUTION

let's become the solution for cleaning the world's longest sea beach Cox's Bazar in this International Coastal Cleanup Day

Venue: Cox's Bazar Sea Beach (From Laboni Point to Kolatoli Point)
Date: 20th September, 2014

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