Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also

over the country.

5:51pm and rises tomorrow at 5:49am. Country's highest temperature 34.2

The sun sets in the capital today at

likely at places over the country, said Met Office.

Day and night temperature may rise slightly

Rangamati. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday Ra

degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in

Chuadanga and lowest 23.5 degrees in

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		10	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		Max:	Min:	Morning	Evenin
)haka	32.0	24.6	78	71	Khulna	33.0	24.0	93	77
hittagong	30.2	24.8	88	85	Barisal	33.0	26.3	76	90
Rajshahi	33.4	24.6	93	83	Sylhet	29.0	24.0	95	91
langpur	30.8	24.6	91	84	Cox's Bazar	31.5	24.3	80	87

FIRST PLAIN LAND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CONFCE

## Law to protect rights demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The first-ever national conference on indigenous people of the plain land, held in Rajshahi yesterday, put forward five demands to ensure peaceful co-existence of different communities.

The parliamentary caucus on indigenous peoples organised the conference at Rajshahi Medical College.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Hoque said indigenous people of the hill tracts with 10 lakh population got a Tk 480 crore allocation in the budget whereas those in the plain land with double population got only Tk 16 crore.

Participants demanded at least Tk 100

crore for them in the next budget, formation of a separate ministry for the plain land indigenous people, a separate land commission for them, enact a law to ensure their rights, punishment for the attackers of indigenous leader Bichitra Tirki and proper trial in the killings of all indigenous leaders.

Until the establishment of a separate ministry, the participants demanded a division under the Chittagong Hill Tracts ministry affairs. Bichitra Tirki of Chapainawabganj said, "My local lawmaker visited me before the election for votes but he never showed up after I was tortured. But the caucus always helped me." Adivasi leaders Sanjeeb Drong, Rabindranath Soren and convenor of the caucus Fazle Hossain Badsha also spoke.

## Bangladesh, US start joint naval exercise in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The fourth Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) between Bangladesh and the US navies began yesterday with an opening ceremony at School of Maritime Warfare and Tactics in the Issa Khan Base of Chittagong.

The CARAT Bangladesh 2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the exercise series conducted by the US Navy with nine partner nations of South and Southeast Asia. Rear Admiral Charles

Williams, commander of Task Force 73 of the US

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

## Mirpur to get water from Savar

It is part of Wasa's plan to reduce dependency on groundwater in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to reducing the dependency on groundwater in Mirpur, which has suffered the largest fall in the water table compared to other areas in the capital, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has taken an initiative to bring 15 crore litres of water per day for the neighbourhood from nearby Savar.

Wasa now supplies to Mirpur around 30 crore litres daily, the demand of the area, and most of it comes from groundwater, said an official of Wasa.

He said the water which would be extracted from the aquifer of Tetuljhora-Bhakurta in Savar, outside the capital, would also meet the growing demands of Mirpur.

Every year, the groundwater level in the capital drops by one to three metres due to excessive extraction, he said.

Currently, Wasa supplies 22 percent of the water in Dhaka and Narayanganj cities from surface sources, mainly from the Shitalakkhya river. The rest is extracted from groundwater through 675 pumps, of which 87 are located in Mirpur.

According to the Bangladesh Water Development Board, the groundwater level in Mirpur fell 53.75 metres between 1991 and 2008, while the decline was 18.59 metres in Mohammadpur, 37.4 metres in Sabujbagh, 8.22 metres in Sutrapur, and 14.14 metres in Dhaka Cantonment areas during the same period.

Under the "Well field construction project at Tetuljhora-Bhakurta in Savar Upazila (Phase-1)", 46 production wells and 48km water transmission lines will be set up to extract groundwater and supply it to Mirpur.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

## TIB worried at prospective revision in ACC act

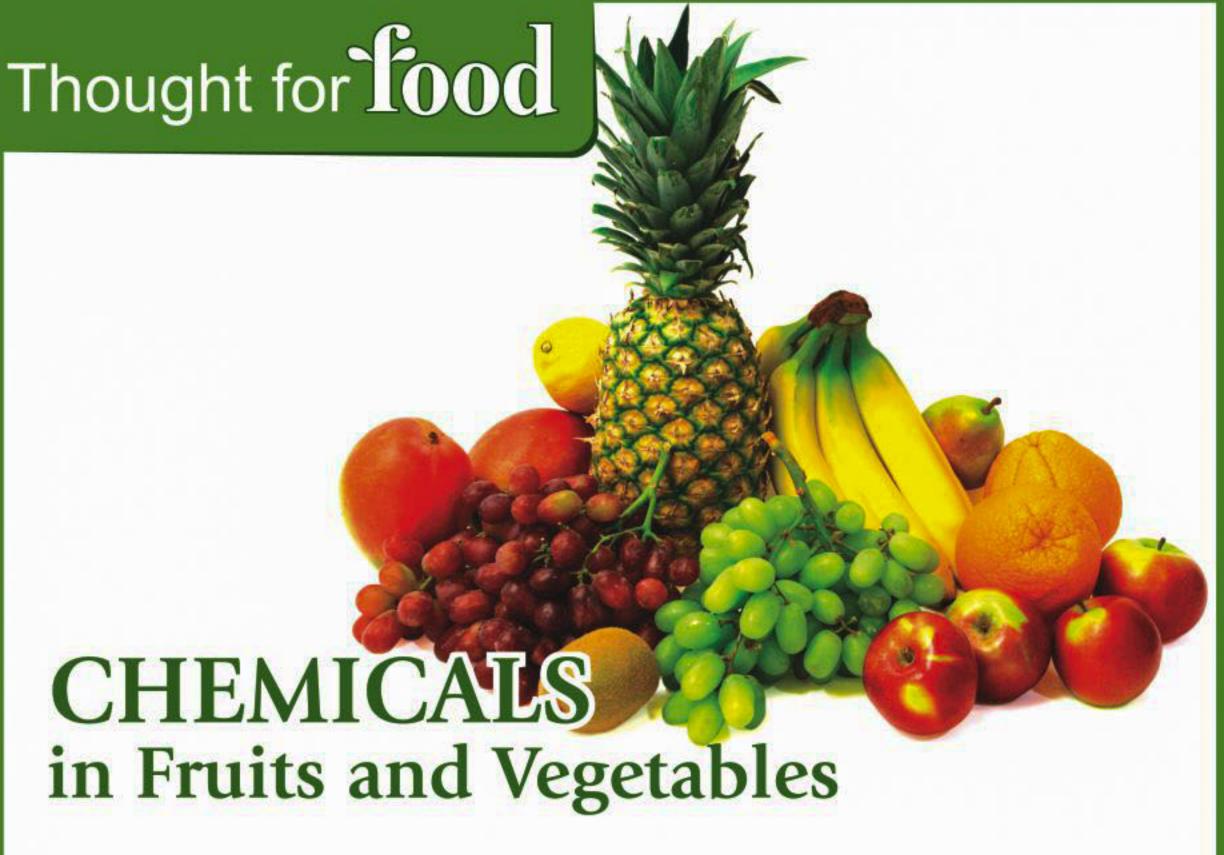
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fearing disempowerment of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has urged the government to consult experts and all other stakeholders before making any amendment to the ACC act.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, the TIB executive director, made the call in a statement yesterday, following news reports that the government has decided to allow police to investigate corruption cases by revising the act.

An amendment in the law last year has put an extra, unnecessary burden of investigation of crimes like forgery, extortion, trade A contract was signed between Wasa and of illegal arms, and money

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



A good portion of our diet is filled with different types of fruits and vegetables. Plants and trees produce myriad of fruits in Bangladesh. Hundreds of fruits of different shapes and colours grow all over the country. Mango, jackfruit, blackberry, litchi, papaya, pineapple, banana, watermelon etc are very popular fruits in our country.

But most of these fruits are not found in farm fresh condition anymore. They are marketed with harmful amount of additives and preservatives, many of which may prove to be extremely hazardous for human health. They contain poisonous coloring agents like auramine, rhodomine, yellow, sudan red to make them look bright and fresh. Regular consumption may damage our liver and kidney, and many of them are known to be carcinogenic. Calcium carbide is used to ripen fruits early which may cause cancer in skin, kidney and prostate. Formalin applied on various fruits may lead to cancer, skin disease, childhood disease etc.

Harmful methods of harvesting and use of poisonous chemicals on plants have long-term harmful impact on human body. Natural methods such as crop rotation, companion planting and the use of compost can be employed to ensure bountiful and safe harvest. Farmers of the olden days relied on the use of organic farming techniques and methods in cultivating their crops including fruits and vegetables. As commercial farming slowly gained popularity over organic farming, the natural methods were replaced with the ones using chemicals for fertilizers, pesticides and weed killers. According to studies and researches, high proportion of pesticides has grave effects on children and these can be measured in several ways.

Children's internal organs are still developing and maturing, so the effects can be seen and measured at every step of their growth.

The immediate effect is the blockage of important food nutrients for normal and healthy growth among children. When the excretory system of the child is not fully developed and yet he or she consumes fruits or vegetables heavily laced with pesticides, his or her body may not be able to totally get rid of the poison.

It is an opportune time to know the vegetables that are heavily-laden with pesticides. The list includes lettuce, spinach, sweet bell peppers, celery, potatoes, carrots, hot peppers, cucumbers, green beans, cauliflower, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, eggplant, broccoli and mushrooms. Among these, celery and lettuce contain the most pesticides while broccoli and eggplants contain the least amounts.

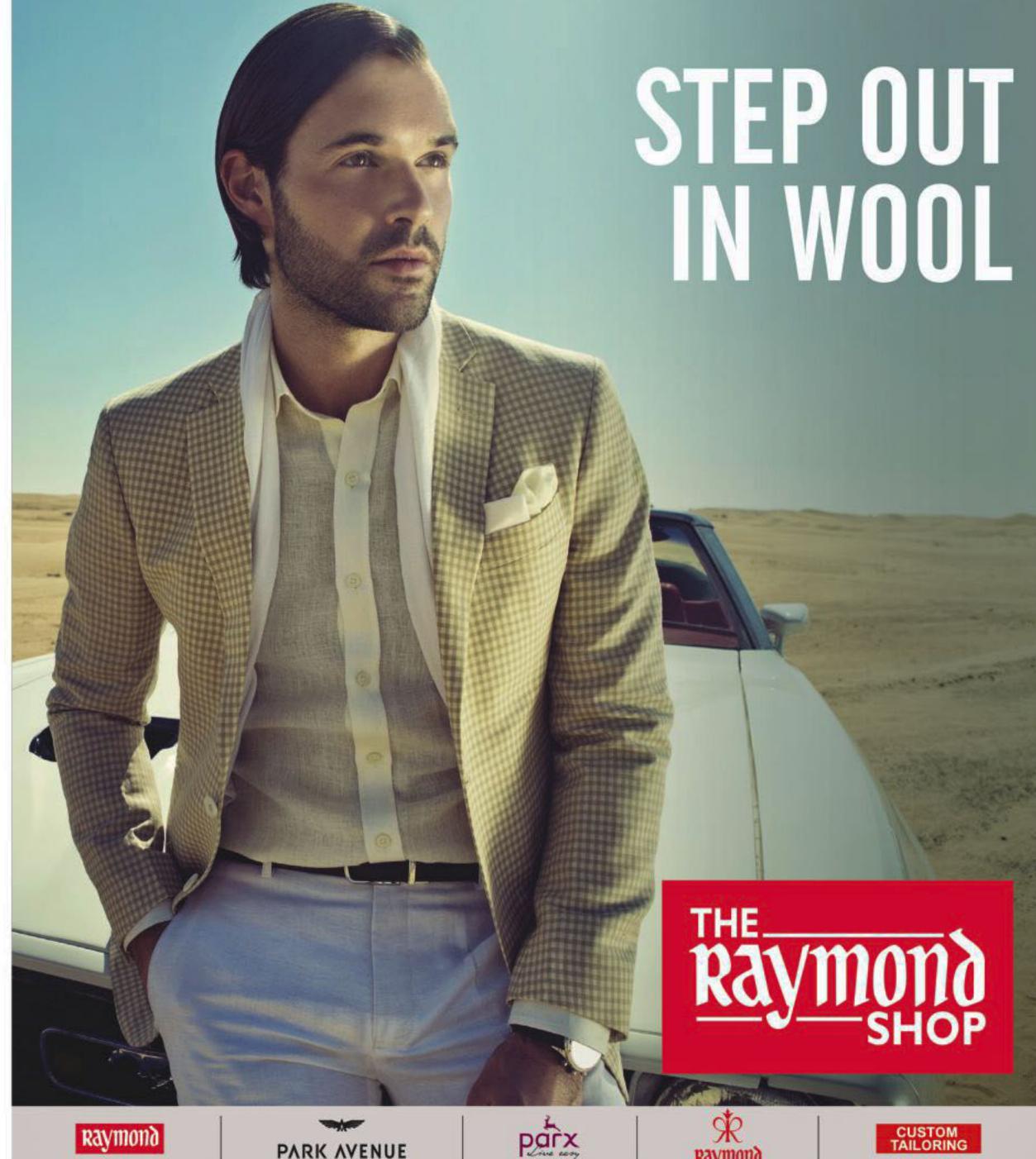
But you need not worry because you can still eat these vegetables but you have to opt for the organic kind or learn of some methods to reduce the effects of chemicals in these, such as washing them in running water, peeling the skin of some fruits like apple and peach, keeping vegetables, carrots, tomatoes etc., submerged in fresh water for 30 minutes or more. If we follow these procedures, we shall be able to get rid of harmful chemicals in fruits and vegetables and stay safe.

> Dr. Shahed Imran HMO, Dhaka Medical College Hospital

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THE RAYMOND SHOP: Dhaka: Karnaphuli Garden City, Kakarail, Ph: +880-2-9348610 \* 258/B, New Elephant Road, Ph: +880-2-9665710 \* Mascot Plaza, Plot # 107/A, Sector - 7, Uttara C/A,Ph: +880-2 8922339 \* Bashundhara City Mall, Level - 2, Block - B, Panthapath, Ph: +880-2-9129984 \* Plot # 08, Block # B, Mirpur - 1, Main Road, Ph: +880-2-9027315. \* Zahir AC Market, 52, New Elephant Road, Ph: +880-2-8628822 \* 360, East Rampura, Ph: +880-2-9357039 \* Z/20, Tajmahal Road, Mohammadpur, Ph: +880-2-9132819 \* Jamuna Future Park, Shop # 006 & 007, Floor - 1, Block # B, Ph: 01678569104. Chittagong: Highway Plaza, Lalkhan Bazar, Ph: +880-31-613077. Sylhet: Al-Hammad Shops & Trade Centre, Zinda Bazar, Ph: +880-821-720209. Barisal: Katpatty Road, Ph: +880-431-63447. Khulna: 216 - 217, K.D.A New Market, Ph: +880-41-725529.

Bashundhara City Mall Store Now at Shop No. 1 - 4, Level - 2, B-Block



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