

Canon



**PowerShot A470**  
 • 7.1 megapixels  
 • 3.4x optical zoom  
 • 2.5" LCD  
 • Face detection technology  
 • Motion detection technology  
 • Available in Gray, Orange, Green, Red & Blue

**Special Offer**  
 Price: Tk. 9,900/-  
**1 YEAR WARRANTY**

Distributor for Bangladesh  
**J.A.N. ASSOCIATES LTD.**  
 13/1 Fatma Arcade (2nd Floor), Road 3, Dhakotoli, P.O. Dhaka 1205  
 Tel: 9664101, 8611444 Fax: 4803244/1017 E-mail: jan.associates@global-bd.net  
 Canon Display Centre: SGR-25, BCS Computer City, ICB Bhaban, Dhaka  
 Camera Service Centre: SR-130, BCS Computer City, ICB Bhaban, Dhaka, Tel: 8124941

**BUY 1 GET 1 LCD TV FREE + UPS Worth Tk. 10,000**

**PHILIPS** BUY & get **FREE**

Upto 37" LCD TV\*  
**TRANSFORMER**  
 UPS (Uninterrupted Joy Protected LCD)

Customer Care Center: 8825358-9, 01712 882482

**Graft charges against Saifur's son, Nadim Mostafa okayed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has approved submission of four charge sheets against four people including former finance minister M Saifur Rahman's younger son Shaifur Rahman Babu and ex-BNP lawmaker advocate Nadim Mostafa on separate corruption charges.

Besides, the watchdog decided to issue notices on five people including former Awami League

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

**Hospitals asked to cut 'short' long stays of VIP prisoners**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jail authorities have requested the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM) authorities to send back high profile prisoners to jail immediately.

The requests have been made as other ailing prisoners are being deprived of treatment facilities in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

**Pricey non-food items push inflation up**

REJAU KARIM BYRON

Continued price rise of non-food items contributed to the increase of overall inflation rate by 0.08 percentage point in September to reach 10.19 percent on a point-to-point basis.

Although the country witnessed a bumper Boro and Aus production, and commodity prices fell globally, they had no impact on bringing down the inflation.

The government and Bangladesh Bank (BB) had earlier predicted that the inflation rate might come down below 9 percent but the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in a recent report said the country's inflation rate would rise to 11 percent.

According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), non-food items witnessed increasing rate of inflation from July, which stood at 7.19 percent in September.

Inflation rate for non-food items was 6.55 percent in August, 5.93 percent in July and 3.54 percent in June.

A high official of the BBS said inflation rate for non-food items is increasing due mainly to price hike of petroleum products by 35 percent in July. The inflation rate was higher in rural areas than in urban areas for the same reason, he added.

In June, inflation rate for non-food items in both the rural and urban areas was around 3.6 percent, which rose to 7.76 percent in rural areas and 5.70 in urban areas in September.

The official noted that as the prices of petroleum products increased, transport cost jumped sharply in urban areas, and for this non-food products experienced a high inflation rate.

Meanwhile, according to the BBS monthly inflation report, inflation rate for food items fell slightly in September but still it was 12.07 percent. The rate was 12.36 percent in August.

According to a World Bank review report on global commodity market, crude oil price decreased by 13.7 percent in August, farm

product prices dropped by 8.5 percent. Soya bean oil price fell by 12.2 percent and Palm oil price by 21.6 percent.

The report also mentioned that rice price decreased significantly in Thailand market coming down to US\$ 686 to \$670 per tonne in September against \$757 to \$700 in June.

Although rice price dropped significantly in international market, and the country had a bumper Boro production, the price in local market is still high.

According to price monitoring report of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) yesterday, rice was selling between Tk 32 and Tk 45 per kg in local markets and non-brand Soya bean oil between Tk 98 and Tk 102.

A high official of the BB said prices were high in domestic market in September since it was also the month of Ramadan.

He hoped the overall inflation would come down in the coming months as a result of the fall in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**Cops foil march against removal of sculptures**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday intercepted a procession of teachers and students of Dhaka University (DU) and cultural activists near Shahbagh while it was marching towards Zia International Airport demanding erection of a statue of Lalou at the airport roundabout from where five Baul sculptures were removed.

The demonstrators under the banner of Bhashkarja Rakkha Andolon (BRA) brought out the procession from Aparajeyo Bangla on the university campus after holding a rally there at around 11:00am.

Police intercepted the procession in front of the DU Fine Arts Faculty near Shahbagh at about 11:40am.

Later, hundreds of teachers, students and cultural activists held another rally in front of the Fine Arts building and placed a five-point demand.

The demands include reinstatement of better-quality statues at

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Students and teachers of Dhaka University, under the banner of Bhashkarja Rakkha Andolon, march towards the ZIA intersection from the campus to protest removal of Baul statues. They were stopped at Shahbagh intersection.

**Dhaka to vie for UNSC membership**

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will vie for UN Security Council non-permanent membership in 2015 for which Dhaka moves in advance to garner support, Foreign Adviser Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury said yesterday.

After a meeting with new Canadian High Commissioner Robert McDougall, the adviser said they discussed how to cooperate mutually as Canada will vie for UNSC membership in 2010 and Bangladesh in 2015.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

**BARAPUKURIA CASE HC hearing begins on 2 petitions**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday started hearing on the petitions filed by former BNP minister M Saifur Rahman and Jamaat minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed for quashing proceedings against them in the Barapukuria coalmine corruption case.

They also sought bail in the case.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

**Hajj flights start today**

UNB, Dhaka

The first hajj flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, carrying the first batch of this year's Bangladesh pilgrims, will leave Dhaka for Saudi Arabia today.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed is expected to inaugurate the flight at 3:30pm at ZIA International Airport, officials said. A total of 48,561 pilgrims,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

**Obama holds or widens lead in key states**

Early voting appears to favour Democrats

AFP, Washington

New polls out yesterday show Democrat Barack Obama holding or increasing his lead over Republican John McCain in key battleground states as undecided voters make up their minds just days before the presidential election.

The CNN-Time magazine poll of states both candidates see as must-wins showed Obama expanding his lead among likely voters in Pennsylvania to 12 percent (55-43 percent) from nine percent in mid-September, and holding his four-point lead in Ohio (51-47 percent), where McCain will



campaign Thursday.

In North Carolina, which the Republicans only a few months ago believed was solidly on their side, Obama's lead expanded to six points (52-46 percent) from four points nine days ago and a 49-49 percent tie at the beginning of October.

And in Nevada, another state formerly reliably Republican, the CNN/Time poll found likely voters backing Obama in the November 4 vote by a 52-45 percent spread, compared to 51-46 percent nine

days ago and 51-47 percent one month ago.

The only relatively good news for McCain was that in his home state of Arizona, he kept up his seven-point lead (53-46 percent).

The poll covered between 1,011 and 1,062 people in each state interviewed between October 23 and October 28.

Meanwhile, millions of Americans have lined up to vote early in the November 4 election -- some waiting more than two hours -- with many appearing to favour Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**Poor nations most vulnerable from financial crisis**

UN chief warns

AFP, New Delhi

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon warned Thursday that poor nations could be hurt most by the global financial crisis and called for swift action to tackle the roots of the turmoil.

Ban issued the warning in a speech after arriving in New Delhi on his first official trip to South Asia during which he will also travel to Nepal and Bangladesh.

"The least developed countries, the poorest of the world's poor -- children, older persons and others

-- stand to suffer most," he said in a lecture at the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Foundation set up to honour the slain former Indian prime minister.

"I am very worried development assistance will suffer and that investors might pull back from emerging markets," Ban said. "People who have striven so hard to rise out of poverty could fall back into destitution."

"We cannot know what twists and turns the crisis will take next. But we do know that it requires an

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

**Mamun remanded in Tk 8.4 crore swindling case**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed detained businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun on a three-day remand in a case filed for swindling Tk 8.4 crore out of a businessman.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rashed Kabir yesterday allowed the petition for Mamun to be taken into police custody for interrogation after Sub-Inspector Mohammad Moinul Islam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted it to the court.

The remand order was granted on December 3 last year, but police could not take the accused into their custody following a stay order from the High Court. The Supreme Court (SC) on October 19 this year vacated the stay order on the proceedings of the case.

The joint forces arrested

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Traders from outside the capital bring in fresh milk to meet the supply shortfall caused by several powdered milk brands going off the shelves. The photo was taken at Rayer Bazar in the capital.

**WB okays \$130m to tackle food crisis**

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank (WB) will provide \$130 million in credit to help Bangladesh respond to food crisis and support the poor families affected by high prices of food and other essential commodities.

A WB announcement said in Dhaka yesterday that the credit is designed to ease the pressure on the country's current budget, which is staggering from expansion of food-related spending including social-protection programmes.

The Food Crisis Development Support Credit Project, approved on Tuesday by the World Bank, is part of the multilateral donor agency's fast-track Global Food Response Programme (GFRP).

"The spike in food prices, compounded by rising prices of other commodities, has pushed over four million Bangladeshis back into poverty," said Xian Zhu, World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh. He said, "This credit will help

reduce the pressure on the budget and ensure continuation of the government's social protection programmes, designed to help the poorest people deal with rising food costs."

According to a World Bank projection, the food-price shock has increased Bangladesh's poverty rate by around 3 percentage points, setting back the progress in the poverty-alleviation drive targeted at achieving one of the UN-designed MDGs.

It also found that nearly 8 percent of the surveyed households pulled their children out of schools to get jobs to assist their families cope with the crisis. In addition, many poor households have cut their food intake.

Bangladesh government has allocated US\$800 million in its FY09 budget to deal with this crisis. These measures include making food-grain, particularly rice, available to poor people at subsidised prices, scaling up existing safety-net programmes, setting up a new

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE**

**Toll may cross 300, victims wait for aid**

AFP, Kan Bangla

The death toll from a powerful earthquake in southwest Pakistan could climb above 300, officials said Thursday, as rescuers struggled to deliver aid to desperate survivors.

Multiple aftershocks continued to rock the impoverished Baluchistan region, creating fresh fears among survivors who prepared to spend a second night in the open in sub-zero temperatures.

Some travelled long distances on severely damaged roads to the provincial capital Quetta to plead for tents and emergency supplies as some villages still had not received any help 36 hours after the quake.

"The death toll may be 300 or even more," the provincial government revenue minister Zamarak Khan told AFP. The district health officer of the historic hill town of Ziarat, Ayub Kakar, said 300 had

already been reached. Earlier, Khan said he had been told that at least 215 people died when the 6.4-magnitude quake struck before dawn on Wednesday north of Quetta.

Most of the victims were killed or injured in outlying villages in the mountainous region bordering Afghanistan when their mud-brick houses were flattened.

More died when a 6.2-magnitude aftershock hit the region on Wednesday afternoon, he said.

But determining the exact number of victims remained difficult as many families buried their dead immediately in line with Muslim tradition, without going to hospital and leaving no official record, he added.

Tens of thousands of people are estimated to have been made homeless by the quake, and villagers from Gogi, 25 kilometres

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Racing between bus stops to get more passengers often leads drivers to drive recklessly. These two buses scraped each other hard on Tophkana Road in the capital yesterday and luckily a few windows were all that were damaged.

**ROAD ACCIDENT**

**Angry protests after death of RMG worker**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Agricultural Training Institute damaged at least 12 vehicles and barricaded Mirpur Road for over an hour last night, protesting at the death of a female garment worker in a road accident.

Witnesses said Marzina Khatun, 30, of Adabor died on the spot as she was crushed under the wheels of a pickup van while crossing the road in front of Suhrawardy Hospital.

Following the accident, over 100 students accompanied by locals blocked the road for over an

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Prayer Timing		
October 31		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-50	5-25
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-32	5-35
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation