

Canon DIGITAL IXUS 80 IS Special Offer

Price: Tk. 19,900/- with 2GB Memory Card

1 YEAR WARRANTY

8.0 megapixels
3x optical zoom
Optical Image Stabilizer
2.5" PureColor II LCD
Face detection technology
Motion detection technology
Available in Silver, Camel, Brown, Pink and Blue

Distributor for Bangladesh: J.A.N. ASSOCIATES LTD.

13/1 Fatema Arcade (2nd Fl), Road-5, Dhanmodi R/A, Dhaka 1205. Tel: 9664101, 8611444. Fax: 880-2-8610410. E-mail: jan-akt@global-bd.net

Canon Display Centre: SGR-29, BCS Computer City, ICB Bhaban, Dhaka. Camera Service Centre: SR-130, BCS Computer City, ICB Bhaban, Dhaka. Tel: 8124941

PHILIPS DVD Player Special Price Tk. 3,950

PHILIPS DVD Player

TRANSCOM DIGITAL

Customer Care Center: 8882888-8, 01712 888463, www.transcombd.com

BNP asks EC to ease polls campaign rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday urged the authorities to ease the campaigning rules to ensure smooth electioneering for the December 29 parliamentary polls.

"Since we have not enough time, some rules that tend to limit canvassing should be withdrawn," party spokesman Nazrul Islam Khan said last night.

He was talking to reporters at the chairperson's Gulshan office, where a meeting of the BNP standing committee was in progress.

About agenda of the meeting, Nazrul, also joint secretary general, said the standing committee members were discussing the election

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

McCain warns Pakistan of Indian strikes

Pranab denies call to Pak president

PTI, AFP, AP, Islamabad/ New Delhi

US Senator John McCain has said he believes that if Pakistan does not act against individuals and groups linked to the Mumbai terror attacks, it could be a "matter of days" before India carries out surgical strikes against such elements.

There is enough evidence of the involvement of former Inter-Services Intelligence officers in the planning and execution of the Mumbai attacks and terrorist training camps are still operational in Pakistan, McCain told a small group of senior Pakistani journalists at an informal lunch in Lahore yesterday.

Ejaz Haider, a senior editor with the Daily Times group, quoted McCain as

saying that he believed it could be a "matter of days" before India carried out surgical air strikes if Pakistan did not act on the evidence provided to it on elements linked to the attacks.

McCain also said that the terrorist training camps were being emptied "as we speak", Haider told Dawn News channel.

Referring to the terror training camps as "red dots on the map", McCain indicated that their number had increased since the time the US launched its campaign in Afghanistan in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.

McCain, who unsuccessfully contested the US presidential election, arrived in Pakistan with two other senior

Senators on Friday after a brief visit to India.

Referring to his meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, McCain said the Indian leader, who is not easily ruffled, had appeared visibly angry.

In a report in the Daily Times, Haider wrote McCain had said that if "Pakistan does not act, and act fast, to arrest the involved people, India will be left with no option but to conduct aerial operations against select targets in Pakistan".

McCain has also said the devastating attacks in Mumbai must not be allowed to hinder the peace process between India and Pakistan.

Speaking at the end of a day-long visit

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Bogra RO ignores Shokrana's past

Police duly inform him of MP aspirant's crime records

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The deputy commissioner (DC) and returning officer (RO) of Bogra has okayed the nomination paper of four-party alliance candidate Mohammad Shokrana although police informed him of criminal records the MP aspirant had concealed.

The DC defended his decision of rejecting an allegation against Shokrana saying the police did not give him any information about his past crimes. But documents show that on December 4 the police submitted the criminal records of Shokrana to the DC.

"The police gave information concerned and necessary papers as sought in a letter from the office of the returning officer to the police on December 3," said Superintendent of Police Md Akram Hossain.

As per the Representation of Public Order (RPO), concealing information will lead to disqualification for the parliamentary election.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Speaker, his deputy asked not to use govt vehicle for poll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Like every other candidate, speaker and deputy speaker of parliament must follow the code of conduct for the general election, said the Election Commission (EC) yesterday.

In a letter to parliament secretary, it asked Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, a BNP candidate for Panchagarh 1, not to use government transport and apparatus in his constituency.

The same applies to Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui who is contesting the December 29 polls in Naogaon-3 on BNP ticket.

The commission issued the letter in response to a letter it

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

BAIL RIGHTS Govt appeals for stay on HC order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed an appeal with the Supreme Court (SC) to stay the High Court (HC) judgment which declared illegal the provision of the Emergency Power Rules (EPR), 2007, that deny right to bail to people accused under the rules.

Attorney General Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday told The Daily Star that hearing of the appeal will be held before the chamber bench of the Appellate Division when

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Eid cattle sale yet to get momentum

Less buyers yet price high

HELEMUL ALAM

The sale of sacrificial animals in the capital is yet to gather momentum yesterday even though tomorrow is Eid-ul-Azha. Traders were demanding high prices saying there are fewer animals on sale this year.

Traders said the number of animals on sale in the capital is 15-20 percent lower than previous years. They, however, hoped to sell a large number of animals today, the last day before Eid.

Many browsing the markets yesterday said a good number of people, especially people affiliated with politics, are leaving to celebrate Eid at their homes outside Dhaka and to take part in election campaigns. This has reduced buyers at city markets.

At the Kamalapur makeshift cattle market, a trader said very few Indian cows came this year and farmers produced fewer cows fearing

losses like they incurred last year. This is contributing to high prices of cattle.

Abdul Jabbar who brought 16 cows from Shariatpur said they are charging high prices to recover the losses they incurred last year. He said he is worried since the number of buyers in the markets is small.

Baki Hafiz, a resident of KM Das Lane, bought a cow for Tk 26,000 at Kamalapur cattle market yesterday. He said a cow of similar size was priced at Tk 23,000 last year.

Mohshin, a resident of Sutrapur, said, "I came to Dhupkhola cattle market around 11:00am but I could not buy a cow as the prices are at least Tk 5,000 to Tk 10,000 higher than last year's."

Many are not interested in buying their animals early as the prices dropped dramatically on the day before last year's Eid. They are hoping the same will happen this year, he said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Pilgrims gather at Mount Arafat, southeast of the Saudi holy city of Makkah, yesterday. A human tide washed over Arafat in the morning for the key moment of the annual hajj pilgrimage. A pilgrim, left, is choked with emotion at Mount Arafat.

Jatiya Jukta Front ready to field 165 candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Jukta Front, a new electoral alliance initiated by AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Dr Kamal Hossain, yesterday finalised its 165 candidates to contest the upcoming national election from 160 constituencies.

"Over 200 candidates sought nominations from the alliance but we have selected

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Bangladesh given major role in UN climate change measures

PINAKI ROY from Poznan, Poland

Bangladesh has been nominated for the vice-chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) that implements all decisions of convention and protocol under United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC).

AKM Rezaul Kabir, secretary to the Ministry of Environment and Forest and the present leader of the Bangladesh delegations, will represent Bangladesh as vice-chair in SBI when Iran chairs it.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh included the "international migration issue" on the agenda of contact group discussion. If all parties agree, the climate change victims will get the chance of international migration once their locality becomes affected.

Items on the agenda are supposed to be discussed during next year's Copenhagen meet of the Conference of Parties (COP 14) now being held in Poznan, Poland.

Starting on Saturday afternoon and ending at midnight, the parties could not settle the agenda since Saudi Arabia vetoed the emission cut issue as their petroleum trade might get hampered.

In article 4.8 of the UN Framework Convention, 1992, it is said that impact of the implementations of response measures have to be taken into consideration... especially in countries where economies are highly dependant on income generated from the production, processing and export or consumption of fossil fuels.

Mentioning this article, Saudi Arabia at the contact group meeting said their petroleum business will be affected if emission-cut measures are taken. According to the convention, if a single country vetoes anything, it would not be taken into con

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Fuel price review likely this month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is mulling a review of petroleum prices this month before the three-month timeframe since the last review is over, as the prices continue to decline on the global market.

Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser Dr M Tamim disclosed the government intention yesterday while talking to journalists after inaugurating as the chief guest a symposium titled 'Bapex: beyond horizon' in the Petrobangla seminar room in the capital.

According to the government's fuel oil price adjustment policy, it reviews prices of petroleum products every three months.

The government adjusted the prices in October this year and a review is due in January next year.

"We are mulling a review of the prices of petroleum products within this month," M

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Judicial probe into Nurul's death sought

DU CORRESPONDENT

Ganotantri Party leaders yesterday demanded judicial investigation into the mysterious fire at the residence of late party president Nurul Islam.

They made the demand at an extended meeting of the party advisory committee at its central office in the capital, said a press release yesterday.

Nurul Islam, who sustained fatal burn injuries in the fire incident on Wednesday, died at Combined Military Hospital

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Ecneec okays projects worth Tk 2,954cr

UNB, Dhaka

Finance and Planning Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, Home Adviser M A Matin, Local Government Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal, Agriculture Adviser Dr CS Karim, Health and Family Welfare Adviser Dr AMM Shawkat Ali, Communications Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) Ghulam Quader, Women and Children Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury, Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, among others, attended the meeting.

The approved projects include four-lane

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Over 160 US, Nato supply trucks torched in Pakistan

AP, Peshawar

Militants blasted their way into two transport terminals in Pakistan yesterday and torched more than 160 vehicles destined for US-led troops in Afghanistan, in the biggest assault yet on a vital military supply line, officials said.

The US military said its losses in the raid near the northwestern city of Peshawar would have only a "minimal" impact on its operations against resurgent Taliban-led militants in Afghanistan.

However, the attack's boldness will fuel concern that Taliban militants are tightening their hold around

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Prayer Timing

December 8

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

ADULTERATION 2 more milk collection centres sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Pabna District Health Department yesterday filed three cases against two private milk collection centres and a milk supplier on charges of adulteration in milk.

Department sources said Bera upazila Sanitary Inspector MM Murad filed the cases with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Two days before Eid-ul-Azha every year people of Balirhat area in Bakalia of Chittagong enjoy bull-fight between sacrificial animals.

5 killed in truck crash

A CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Five brickfield workers were killed and 15 others injured in an accident as a truck carrying them fell into a ditch off the flood-damaged Raumarajibpur road in Raumarajibpur upazila of the district early yesterday.

Police said a portion of the road, hit badly by this year's flood, caved in at about 2:30am when the brick-laden truck was passing the road at Batargram, killing five on the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BGMEA বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন ২০০৯-২০১০

২৩/১ পাহাড় লিকে রোড, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা ১২১৫

নির্বাচন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা বিজিএমইএ'র সকল সদস্যদের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আসন্ন বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন ২০০৯-২০১০ এর তফসিল অনুযায়ী:-

১.৩ প্রাপ্য বকেয়া টাকা পরিশোধের সর্বশেষ তারিখঃ ২৬ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৮

১.৪ ভোটার নমিনেশন দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখঃ ০৪ জানুয়ারী ২০০৯

৩.১ মনোনয়ন পত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখঃ ২৫ জানুয়ারী ২০০৯

৪.১ ভোট গ্রহণের তারিখঃ ২৪ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০০৯

সচিব, নির্বাচন বোর্ড