

Canon

DC-310 1.07 Megapixels 37X Optical Zoom 2.7" LCD Price: 28,000

DC-330 1.07 Megapixels 37X Optical Zoom 2.7" LCD Price: 34,000

FS-100 1.07-Megapixel 37X Optical Zoom 2.7" LCD Price: 39,000

1 YEAR WARRANTY

Distributor for Bangladesh: **J.A.N. ASSOCIATES LTD.**
 13/1 Fatema Arcade (2nd Floor), Road-5, Dhanmodi R/A, Dhaka 1205. Tel: 9664101, 8611444 Fax: 880-2-8610410. E-mail: jan-mkt@global-bd.net
 Canon Display Centre: SGR-29, BCS Computer City, IDB Bhaban, Dhaka. Camera Service Centre: SR-130, BCS Computer City, IDB Bhaban, Dhaka. Tel: 8124941

TRANSKOM DIGITAL

গাভা যাওয়ার বর্ষবরণ হচ্ছে পূর্ণ

Whirlpool Microwave Oven

Pressure Cooker/Fry Pan Free with Microwave Oven (30c/25c)!

Free

TRANSKOM DIGITAL

Customer Care Center: 8553266-9, 91712, 661467, www.transkomdigital.com

Going to get tough for name-only parties

Poor poll performance to cost their registration

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) has decided in principle to bring changes in the political party registration system to prevent parties in name only from enjoying the status of registered parties permanently if they perform poorly in national elections.

The decision came in the wake of very poor performance of at least 25 out of 39 registered political parties in the December 29 parliamentary polls, EC sources said.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda has already directed some officials to work on it, and the com-

mission discussed the issue at a meeting. "We are thinking about the matter. We will have to do something to this end," Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohel Hussain told The Daily Star yesterday.

As per the existing provision for registration of political parties, a party registered with the EC will enjoy the status regardless of its poll performance.

The EC now believes such a liberal provision encourages parties in name only also to get registered and enjoy the status permanently.

But the existing provision concerning an independent candidate in national polls is quite strict requiring one to collect

and submit signatures of one percent of voters of the constituency concerned along with the application seeking candidacy.

"It is a discriminatory provision. So, we should address it," Sohel said.

Explaining this, he said a new provision might be made stating that a political party will be de-registered if its performance in two consecutive parliamentary elections is very poor. In that case, a registered party must secure a certain percentage of votes cast in the constituencies where it will field candidates.

"If a party is de-registered, it will have to get registered afresh to qualify for

SEE PAGE 7 COL-4



PHOTO: STAR

The name of the then prime minister Khaleda Zia in the 1994 foundation stone, top, at the east end of Jamuna Bridge appears smudged. The name 'Bangabandhu Bridge' and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's name were repainted on the inauguration stones of the bridge at both ends recently as those were wiped off when BNP-led four-party came to power in 2001.

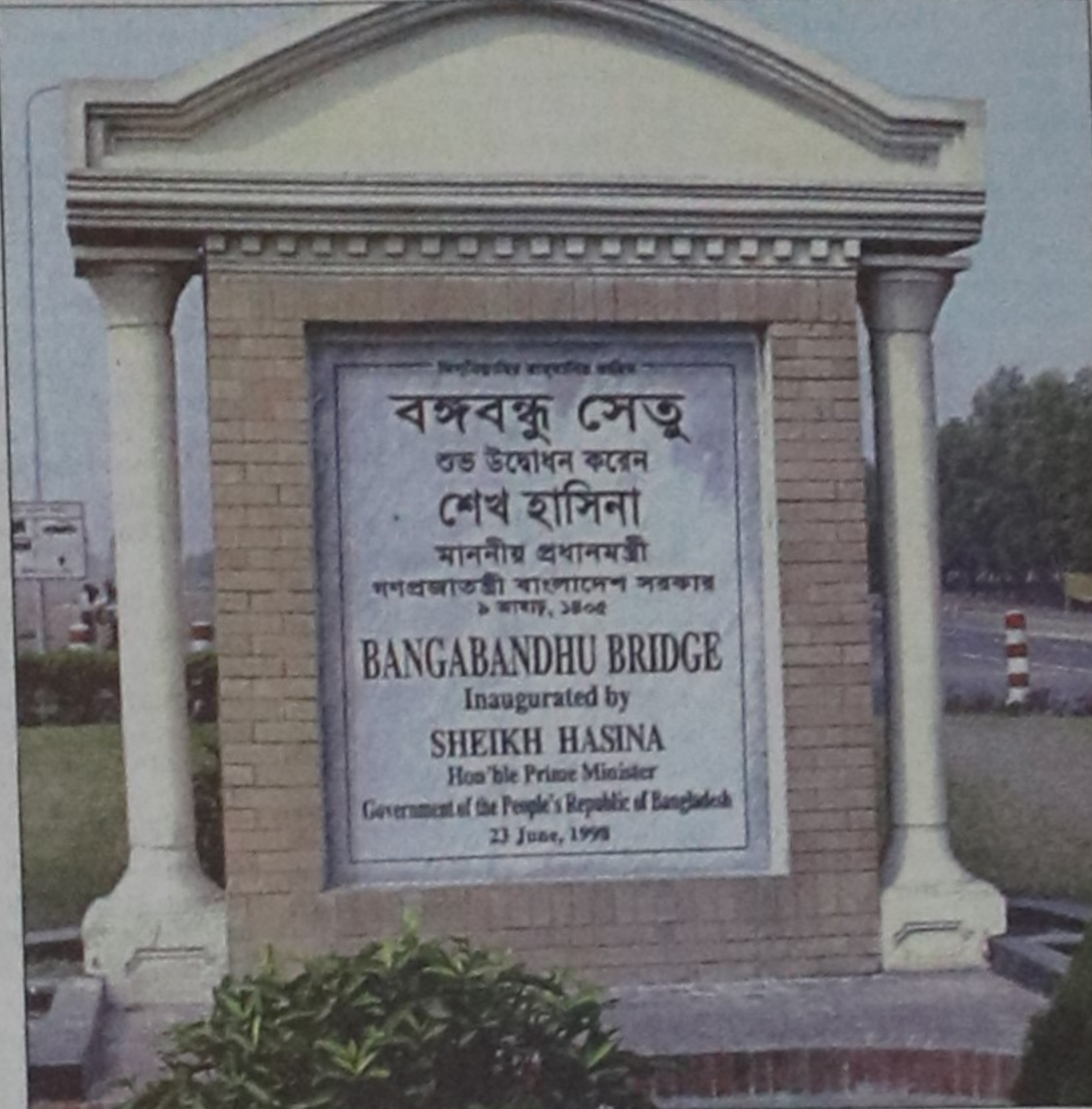


PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority dredges the Padma River between Paturia and Doulatdia ferry terminals to maintain navigability of the river for ferries.

Bangabandhu Bridge gets back its old name

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The names of Bangabandhu and Sheikh Hasina have been re-written on the inauguration plaques of the Bangabandhu Bridge.

The Bangabandhu Bridge was renamed as 'Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge' by the previous BNP-led four-party alliance though it is still recognised as 'Bangabandhu Bridge' in paper.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the bridge, the eleventh longest bridge in the world and the second longest in South Asia, on June 23, 1998.

The bridge was named after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the decision was passed in the then parliament during the tenure of AL government.

The bridge authorities took the initiative in re-writing the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Scale of destruction in Gaza emerges

Tel Aviv plans to complete withdrawal before Obama inauguration

AFP, AP, Gaza City

A tenuous ceasefire held yesterday in Gaza, where Israeli troops withdrew from some key areas and Palestinians dug out from the rubble of the Jewish state's deadliest assault on the Hamas stronghold.

No air strikes, rockets or major clashes were reported in the coastal enclave, giving Gazans their first night of complete peace since Israel's massive assault was launched on December 27.

Israel plans to pull all of its troops out of the Gaza Strip by the time President-elect Barack Obama is inaugurated today, but only if Hamas militants hold their fire, Israeli officials said.

Thousands of troops have left Gaza since Israel declared Saturday its intention to unilaterally halt fire after a devastating, three-week Israeli onslaught. Gaza's Hamas rulers ceased fire 12 hours later. Large contingents of Israeli soldiers have kept close to the border, prepared to re-enter the territory if violence reignites.

A swift troop withdrawal would reduce the likelihood of clashes between militants and Israeli forces that could rupture the truce.

By getting its soldiers out before the Obama inauguration, Israel hopes to pave the way for a smooth beginning with the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

BNP observes Zia's birthday, pledges to rebuild party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said the time is ripe for the party men to stand corrected and undergo self-realisation and reflection, if needed.

"We have to think about what we say, if they are right or wrong; we have to take a vow to rectify our mistakes, if any," Khandaker Delwar said at a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club.

Jatiyatobadi Samajik Sanskritik Sangstha (Jasas) organised the meeting to mark the 73rd birth anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman.

Delwar dismissed any involvement of Ziaur Rahman with the brutal killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975.

Speaking as the chief guest the BNP leader said Ziaur

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Tigers back to pathetic self Zimbabwe take lead in series

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh bowlers once again showed their character after yet another pathetic batting display but the home team still suffered a two-wicket defeat at the hands of Zimbabwe in the low-scoring first one-day international of the three-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Chasing a paltry target of 125, Zimbabwe endured batting collapse of their own too and were pushed to the last over requiring six runs, but match hero Ray Price hit the first two deliveries from Nazmul Hossain for on-side boundaries as the tourists took a 1-0 lead in the series.

Price held his nerve during his unbeaten 52-ball 23 after capping a career best 4 for 22 to make sure Bangladesh lose another close fight after the home team's identical loss in

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Fake doctor nabbed Certificate bought from India, practice in Mirpur

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Golam Kibria who has been practising as a medical consultant at PC Lab Diagnostic and Consultation Complex in Mirpur-10 holds no medical degrees other than the fake certificates he has bought in India.

In reality he has only completed his Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC).

A Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-4 raid led by Executive Magistrate Anwar Pasha brought the situation to light after a drive at the diagnostic centre on Sunday.

After interrogation, Kibria confessed holding no medical qualifications. He said he began his career as an employee at a pharmacy in Kushtia in 1991. Since he wanted 'to become a doctor', in 2003 he went to India and bought MBBS and MD (Doctor of Medicine) certificates at a cost of Tk 12,000 from a network of people there who specialise in sale of 'fake' certificates of different colleges and universities.

"Since then I have been practising medicine as a consultant physician at different medicine shops, clinics and diagnostic centres in the city," Golam Kibria said at the Rab-4 office yesterday.

Kibria used to charge Tk 300 as consultation fee from each patient and he would see 25-30 patients each day, Rab sources said.

Magistrate Anwar Pasha fined Kibria Tk 5 lakh for cheating patients. He also fined the owner of the clinic Dr Shamim Tk 1 lakh for hiring a physician without any qualifications and two lab technicians without relevant qualifications.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Consultant appointed for Padma Bridge Design by next year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government in the first meeting of the cabinet committee on purchase yesterday appointed a consultant for construction of the Padma Bridge in line with the ruling Awami League's one of the major election pledges.

New Zealand-based Maunsell AECOM Ltd has been appointed as consultant for preparing design of the bridge. The company will get Tk 114 crore as consultation fee.

According to the contract, the preparation of design has to be completed by the year 2010.

After the meeting, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain told the newsmen that the construction work of the bridge will be completed within a short time so that they can open it during their tenure.

Asked what action to be

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



PHOTO: AFP

US President-elect Barack Obama, and his daughter Sasha attend the "We are One" Inaugural Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial with Vice-President-elect Joe Biden and his wife Jill in Washington, DC yesterday.

Prayer Timing		
January 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-40	5-44
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Obama takes office today

Pays tribute to Martin Luther King

AFP, AP, Washington

Barack Obama's team vowed to lose no time remarking the nation and the world as a blazing constellation of stars kicked off a three-day inauguration party for America's first black president Sunday.

Once he takes office today, top aides said, Obama will immediately set in train economic revival, an end to the war in Iraq and a new dawn for US diplomacy.

Obama, in a tribute to civil rights hero Martin Luther King, said Monday his inauguration as America's first black president would extend the work of "renewing the promise of this nation."

"Tomorrow, we will come together as one people on the same mall where Dr King's dream echoes still. As we do, we recognize that here in America, our destinies are inextricably linked," he said in a statement.

"We resolve that as we walk, we must walk together. And as we go forward in the work of renewing the promise of this nation, let's remember King's lesson -- that our separate dreams are really one."

On the eve of his historic inauguration, Obama was Monday marking Martin Luther King Jr Day with a series of community events here under the banner of "Renew America Together: A Call to Service."

U2, Bruce Springsteen and Stevie Wonder -- whose songs were totemic anthems of Obama's barnstorming rise to power -- were headlining a concert for a sea of people standing in arctic cold in front of Washington's Lincoln Memorial.

The tens of thousands attending were the advance guard of an inaugural crowd expected to number millions, as an unprecedented security operation began with police and army reserv

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

State lawyers asked to resign by today

Senior lawyers term attorney general's directive 'contemptuous'

STAR REPORT

Attorney General (AG) Mahbubey Alam yesterday asked all attorneys recruited by the immediate past caretaker government to submit their resignation letters to him by Tuesday, sources at the AG office told The Daily Star.

The top law officer of the state told the attorneys at a meeting at his office in the evening that the existing law officers would be replaced as part of the government's administrative reshuffle.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

CU classes resume

CU CORRESPONDENT

Academic and administrative activities of Chittagong University (CU) resumed yesterday after two days' stalemate as the authorities broke open the locks of main gate and all faculty buildings.

Sources said teachers and students attended classes and shuttle trains plied as usual carrying a small number of students and there was no

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

10 secretaries transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly elected government yesterday transferred 10 secretaries and five joint secretaries in a major reshuffle in the administration.

Fisheries and Livestock Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman has been transferred to the Ministry of Education, according to an official announcement.

Privatisation Commission member ABM Abdul Huq Chowdhury has been made secretary of textile and jute ministry while Planning Commission member Mohammad Shah Alam made secretary of fisheries and livestock ministry, director

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

23 Celebrating 23 years of Achievements

EASTLAND INSURANCE CO. LTD.
 The name you have learnt to Trust

PABX: 9564600 Email: eastland@bdcom.com