

Canon Special Offer for Chobi Mela 1 Year Warranty

EOS 1000D 18.1 Megapixels 25" LCD 3 fps Shooting Speed Integrated Cleaning System Live View Shooting OLD: Tk. 47,000 NEW: Tk. 44,000	EOS 450D 12.2 Megapixels 3.0" LCD 3 fps Shooting Speed Integrated Cleaning System Live View Shooting OLD: Tk. 31,000 NEW: Tk. 29,000	EOS 50D 15.1 Megapixels 3.0" LCD, 8-Frame Cont. Adv. Func. 3 fps Shooting Speed Integrated Cleaning System Live View with Auto Focus OLD: Tk. 29,000 NEW: Tk. 27,000
--	--	--

Call: 8124941, 8611444, 9660601, E-mail: jan-mkt@global-bd.net
Distributor for Bangladesh: J.A.H. ASSOCIATES LTD.

TRANSKOM DIGITAL 5% discount on every Changhong TV!

গাভা যাওয়ায় বর্ষবরণ হচ্ছে পূর্ন

CHANGHONG TV

TRANSKOM DIGITAL
Customer Care Center: 883366-8, 81712 665463, www.transkomdigital.com

Cabinet okays three laws
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2009 with a provision to award citizenship to children of any Bangladeshi woman married to a foreigner. As per the clause 5 of the 1951 citizenship act, only children of a Bangladeshi man married to a foreign woman was eligible to get citizenship of Bangladesh. Under the amended law now, children of a Bangladeshi woman married to a foreigner will be entitled to obtain Bangladeshi citizenship. The cabinet with Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina in the chair also approved two other acts -- Barisal Metropolitan Police Act 2009 and Sylhet Metropolitan Police Act 2009--in line with other divisional police acts. Besides, the cabinet approved a proposal for

Ctg fertiliser factory counts huge loss

Production cost rises for price hike of raw materials

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

Procurement of raw materials at a higher price has set the Di-ammonium Phosphate Fertiliser Company Limited (DAPFCL) in Chittagong to count huge loss and deprive the officials and workers of different benefits. Sources say the two DAP units, namely DAP-1 & DAP-2, of the company were making a profit of Tk 6 per kilogram with production cost and selling price standing at Tk 30 and Tk 36 till early last year. The factories located beside Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) complex in Anowara by the Karnaphuli river started incurring loss since May-June last year. The loss came when the price of Phosphoric acid, the

raw materials of the composite fertiliser (DAP), shot up to as high as \$1,300 from \$280 per tonne in the international market, they add. The price hike raised the production cost of DAP to Tk 100 per kg, leading the two DAP units to count a loss of Tk 13 per kg at that time, they inform. The raw materials of DAP-1 are phosphoric acid, ammonia and sulphuric acid, while DAP-2 takes phosphoric acid, ammonia and silica. Ammonia, sulphuric acid and silica are available locally, while phosphoric acid has to be imported, they continue. The sources say currently the import price of Phosphoric acid has come down to \$600 per tonne, bringing the production cost of DAP fertiliser down to Tk 50

perkg. But at least 10,000 out of 30,000 tonnes Phosphoric acid imported at higher price in three lots is still lying in stock, forcing the DAP units to produce fertiliser at Tk 100 per kg till date. The stock is likely to be consumed in no less than two months, meaning the ongoing loss would not stop before March. Moreover, the factories also have some 25,000 tonnes of unsold DAP since some small private producers offered the fertiliser at Tk 85 per kg to the intended buyers from private sector (before January 15, 2009), the sources say. Following the price cut on fertiliser and DAP price fixed at Tk 43, the factories

Erratic gas supply hits city life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Crisis in gas supply due to deficit production during the dry season has made the life of city residents miserable. The shortage in supply is estimated at around 75 to 100 million cubic feet a day. The average demand is about 1,400 cubic feet. Residents of different areas including parts of Mirpur, Pallabi, Mohammadpur and Rayerbagh have been struggling in acute shortage of gas supply over the last one month. Many residents of these areas either cook early in the morning or buy food from restaurants, said residents of the areas. A number of residents, on the other hand, bought stoves to solve the routine problem they face every year. Moniruzzaman Khan, a resident in block C of Mirpur section-12, said the gas supply ceases every day from 9:00am to 4:00pm. "My wife starts cooking from 7:00am and has to complete before 9:00am for the prevailing crisis," he said. "We cook for the next day at night as the gas supply restrains from 10:00am to 3:00 pm," said Nazneen Sultana, a resident of block-C of Mirpur section-12. Arif, a resident of block-D said they had bought a stove last month, which not only increased their expenditure but also requires more time and energy. Elina Akhter, a resident of Mohammadpur Madrasa road said the pressure of gas runs low from 11:00am till 2:00pm. So they

2 criminals killed in firefight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Two criminals were killed in a firefight between army men and criminals in a remote hilly area in Ruma upazila yesterday evening. Local sources said on Tuesday night members of armed forces splitting into several groups cordoned Painsud Khal area and started combing operation to hunt the criminals following abduction of an indigenous youth. While yesterday's operation was going on, the criminals opened fire on one of the army groups who retaliated it that ensued a gunfight in the hilly area, about 2.5-km off Munnam village, in the evening, sources at the security forces said.

Plan to explore new manpower markets

High-level overseas visits target market retention, protecting rights of workers

PORIMOL PALMA

The government is planning a series of high-level overseas visits in a bid to retain traditional manpower markets, explore new ones and better protect the rights of expatriate Bangladeshis. The move comes when overseas employment is witnessing a sharp decline, which may continue in the coming months, and many workers are losing jobs abroad due to the global economic meltdown. The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment sent a letter to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) recently, describing the present state of overseas jobs and explaining the rationale of visits by high-level delegations led by the minister concerned. The countries targeted for the possible visits during February and April include Malaysia,

United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Libya. "We need to strengthen our relations with countries which hire workers from Bangladesh and also which are potential markets for our manpower," said a high official of the expatriates' welfare ministry. Besides boosting overseas jobs, there are issues of workers' welfare that need to be addressed. Bangladesh has signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with several countries on protection of workers' rights, and those need to be implemented, he said. Bangladesh sent record numbers of workers abroad with around 8.32 lakh in 2007 and 8.75 lakh in 2008, mainly because Malaysia opened up its manpower market in 2006 and the UAE hired workers in huge numbers during this period.



City commuters continue to experience severe traffic congestion. The photo was taken from Shahbagh crossing yesterday.

5TH AMENDMENT Hearing on govt appeal adjourned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday again adjourned for three weeks the hearing on the government appeal against the High Court (HC) judgment that had declared illegal the 5th amendment of the Constitution endorsing late president Ziaur Rahman's takeover and previous acts from August 15, 1975. Upon a time prayer, moved by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, the five-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin passed the adjournment order. The attorney general told the court that he needs time for taking preparations to submit the leave to appeal against the HC verdict.

4-PARTY RULE Corruption in education to be probed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday told the House the government would take actions against those embroiled in corruption and irregularities in education sector during the past BNP-led alliance regime. "We will try to dig out major grafts in education sector and I am urging people to assist the government in providing specific information and documents, if they have any," the education minister said replying to lawmakers' queries. He said the corruption

Hospital shelling kills 16 in Lanka

Military denies allegation

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's military yesterday denied it had shelled a makeshift hospital, killing 16 patients, as concern grew for civilians trapped in fighting between government soldiers and Tamil rebels. "We did not fire at this location on Monday and it is quite possible that the LTTE attacked them," said military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, referring to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or Tamil Tigers. The guerrillas, cornered in the north of the country and seemingly close to defeat, were also stopping civilians fleeing rebel-held areas, the spokesman said. His comments came after the International

Committee of the Red Cross said the hospital was shelled with the loss of 16 lives. The organisation did not say who was responsible, but urged government forces and the rebels to spare non-combatants. "We are shocked that patients are not afforded the protection they are entitled to," said Paul Castella, head of the ICRC delegation in Colombo. "Once more, we call on both parties to meet their obligation under international humanitarian law to spare at all times the wounded and sick people, medical personnel and medical facilities." News of the shelling on the makeshift hospital in Putumattalan came as civilians poured

Newly-wed strangled by husband

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man allegedly strangled his wife to death three days into their married life at Mohammadpur in the city. The victim was identified as Shima Akhter, 22, wife of Mohammad Polash and a garment worker. She hails from Muladi of Barisal. Police recovered the body at 11 am on Tuesday from a house at Katasur of the area. The victim was found with legs and hands fastened with ropes and the throat with a scarf. The victim was identified as Shima Akhter, 22, wife of

3 Afghan govt offices bombed: 27 killed

BBC ONLINE, Kabul

An assault on three government buildings in the Afghan capital of Kabul yesterday has left at least 27 people, including eight attackers, dead. In one attack, two suicide bombers detonated explosives at an office responsible for prisons in the north of the capital. Five gunmen attacked the justice ministry and another suicide bomber targeted the education ministry. The Taliban have said they carried out the attacks. A spokesman said they were in response to the treatment of Taliban prisoners in Afghan jails. The attacks come in the week the new US envoy for Pakistan and Afghanistan, Richard Holbrooke, is expected to visit Kabul.

The international forces in Afghanistan condemned the attacks as "callous and indiscriminate". Five gunmen attacked the justice ministry at 1005 (0535 GMT), Interior Minister Hanif Atmar said. He said the attackers killed 10 staff members, two intelligence workers and a policeman. The five gunmen were all killed in a three-hour operation he said. Atmar said that almost simultaneously two suicide attackers targeted the Prisoner Affairs Department in the north of the city. Six policemen were killed there and 29 people wounded, the minister said. He added: "At 1003 our ministry of education was attacked by a terrorist suicide attacker

15 injured in stampede as factory catches fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 garment workers, mostly women, were injured in a stampede following a fire incident at a factory in city's Mirpur yesterday. The incident took place in Load Star Fashion Ltd when a several hundred



An enthusiastic child is seen trying to find out books of his liking at Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday.

Fair opens avenues for others

RAKIB AHAMMED and AMENA KHATUN

The Ekushey Boi Mela, being a gathering of people from all strata of lives, is seen an appropriate venue for the dissemination of information about different social causes. Young people, from different organisations, were seen at the fair yesterday talking to visitors and distributing pictorial booklets on different social issues. Some young people were distributing booklets calling for a stop to violence against women in families.

BGMEA POSSESSION FOR SALE

BGMEA has started construction of (10+B)-storied BGMEA Bhaban at Chittagong. Some floor space are available at different floors of the proposed BGMEA Bhaban for sale of possession preferably to BGMEA Members and Financial Institution.

Prospectus are available in BGMEA office both at Dhaka and Chittagong. Interested buyers are requested to contact BGMEA office and collect prospectus at a cost of Tk. 500/- (Five Hundred) only.

Secretary General