

Canon Special Offer & 1 Year Warranty

<p>EOS 1000D 10.1 Megapixels 23" LCD 3 fps Shooting Speed Integrated Cleaning System Live View Shooting OLD Tk. 45,000 NEW Tk. 37,000</p>	<p>EOS 450D 12.3 Megapixels 17" LCD 3 fps Shooting Speed Integrated Cleaning System Live View Shooting OLD Tk. 45,000 NEW Tk. 31,000</p>	<p>EOS 50D 15.1 Megapixels 20" LCD, 3.0" Crop-Axis Form 3 fps Shooting Speed Integrated Cleaning System Live View with Auto Focus OLD Tk. 45,000 NEW Tk. 31,000</p>
--	---	--

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

TRANSCOM Digital
think electronics... think DIGITAL
Your Trusted Electronics Retailer

ক্যাশফিট পুরস্কে
ক্যাশে সময় আঁকিয়ে

TRANSTEC Freezer
Tk. 500 Discount

Upto Tk. 2000 Discount

Compressor sought to up gas supply

Proposal to add cost to cost-recovered Bibiyana field; Chevron proposes gas compressor outside its jurisdiction

SHARIER KHAN

Although there is no legal provision, Petrobangla is considering a "cost recoverable" proposal of American oil giant Chevron to install a gas compressor station in the national pipeline grid at Muchai, owned by Gas Transmission Company Ltd (GTCL), to boost gas supply pressure and quantity.

Sources said a high official of Petrobangla is promoting the idea when the GTCL is already scrutinising a bid from Korean company Hyundai to install three such gas compressors to ensure proper gas supplies to existing and future

power and fertiliser plants. Unfortunately, the GTCL's bid, three years behind schedule, drew lowest price offer three times the initial estimate. The Petrobangla official is now putting forward the idea as an alternative to installing one of these three gas compressors.

"But as the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with Chevron does not allow such installation, we will have to find a new modality on the basis of negotiation," said a well-placed Petrobangla source.

Such an installation costing around \$ 52 million would make Chevron's investment cost recoverable under the PSC for

Block-12 that includes Bibiyana gas field. The price is in sharp contrast with Hyundai's offer of \$40 million for the same in Muchai under the GTCL bid.

As per the PSC, Chevron's recoverable investment will get priority, and it will hold majority share of gas produced from Bibiyana while Petrobangla will get a smaller quantity of free gas as minority shareholder.

But Chevron's investment of around \$ 240 million in Bibiyana field will be completely recovered within this month, and Petrobangla will then get around 70 percent of the 550 million cubic feet gas per

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



The namaz-e-janaza of four army officials, two killed in the chopper crash in Tangail and two who lost their lives in the BDR mutiny, was held at the army stadium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

4 mutineers said to be ex-JMB men

ANWAR ALI, back from Bagmara, Rajshahi

At least four of the mutineers of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) are believed to have been active members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) before they joined the paramilitary force.

They all hail from Bagmara of Rajshahi, the stronghold of the Islamist militant outfit JMB, where extremists led by JMB's former operation commander Bangla Bhai, later executed, launched their atrocities.

Anwar, one of the four was well-known cadre of Bangla Bhai. He was allegedly involved in the murder of Awami League (AL) leader Yasin in 2004 in Bagmara.

A team of the 'operation rebel hunt' has recently raided houses of Anwar, Ismail, Kawsar and Aftab but in vain.

The four were present at Pilkhana during the mutiny before they fled and they are still on the lam, said officers engaged in the 'operation rebel hunt'.

"There might be many more like them and we are looking into it," said one of the officers.

The officers said some 10 to 12 rebel soldiers took shelter at Ismail's house at Sakoa village after they fled from Pilkhana on February 26.

The team also picked up a BDR soldier Abdul Barik from

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

15 killed, minister hurt in SL mosque attack

Injured postal minister recovering

AFP, Akuressa

Fifteen people were killed and another 60, including a government minister, wounded on Tuesday in a suicide bombing at a Muslim celebration in Sri Lanka, officials said.

Military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the attack. "It is an LTTE suicide bombing," he said.

The Lankan Postal Services Minister Mahinda Wijesekera, 66, critically wounded in the deadly suicide bombing was in an improved condition in hospital Wednesday, officials said.

Wijesekera suffered head injuries in the attack in the southern town of Akuressa and was airlifted to the capital where he underwent four hours of surgery.

"The life support system has now been taken off and there is an improvement in his

condition," a spokesman for the Colombo National Hospital said. "He remains in the intensive care unit of the neurosurgical section."

Postal Services Minister Mahinda Wijesekera underwent a four-hour surgery after he was airlifted to the main medical facility in Colombo after suffering a head injury, hospital director Hector Weerasinghe said.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

The bombing targeted politicians attending a ceremony at a mosque in the town of Akuressa and came as the Tigers steadily lost ground in the face of a fierce government offensive on their shrinking northeastern stronghold.

Four local politicians were among those killed in the blast carried out by a male suicide bomber, the military spokesman said.

Culture Minister Mahinda Yapa

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

20 families allowed to meet BDR jawans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of 20 Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans were allowed to meet the soldiers at the BDR Pilkhana headquarters yesterday.

Several hundred family members of BDR jawans thronged the BDR headquarters yesterday with food, water and other essentials hearing that family members would be allowed to visit BDR men inside the headquarters.

The government yesterday declared that families of all BDR jawans staying in Pilkhana would be allowed to meet them.

Sources said the army

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Russia keen to help set up nuke, hydro plants

UNB, Dhaka

Russia yesterday expressed its willingness to help Bangladesh in setting up nuclear and hydropower plants, as the country is facing acute power shortages.

Ambassador of the Russian Federation Gennady Trotsenko stated his government's desire when he called on Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Jamuna. Russian envoy said if Bangladesh wants, it would help the country to modernise Ashuganj and Ghorashal power plants to increase their production capacity. Press Secretary to the PM Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the meeting.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

16 killed in school shooting spree

AFP, Winnenden

A teenager in black combat gear went on a bloody rampage at his former school in Germany yesterday, slaying at least 15 people before dying in a shootout with police, officials said.

Nine pupils, three teachers and three passers-by were among those killed in the shooting spree at the secondary school in Winnenden, said Heribert Rech, the interior minister of the southern state of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

After armed commandos with helicopters and dogs then launched a massive hunt for the 17-year-old gunman, police sources told AFP that he was then killed in a fire-fight with police.

German media reports said that he had shot himself dead in the car park of a nearby shopping centre after kidnapping a man and his Volkswagen Sharan car and driven through a police

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Benapole AL leader killed

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Criminals early yesterday killed Rafiqul Islam Babu, former upazila parishad chairman and an influential Awami League leader of Bagachra union under Sharsha upazila.

Sources said, after a meeting on his house roof, a group of criminals came up to the roof and charged on him. They stabbed him several times and pushed him off the roof. Witnesses also told about mark on his neck indicating an attempt of hanging.

Locals rushed him to the hospital but he breathed his last on the way.

The deceased family sources said, for long his rivals had been threatening him. Earlier Babu survived an armed attack at a meeting in Bagachra but the locals caught

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres ransack several rooms of Shaheed Pinku Hostel at Rajshahi Medical College yesterday.

50 hurt in Sunamganj

UNB, Sylhet

At least 50 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Lakma village in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj district over establishing supremacy on a coal ghat.

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted at about 11am between the supporters of Siraj Mahaldar and Titu Mia over capturing the coal ghat in Takerhat frontier area.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Prayer Timing		
March 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-05	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-12	6-15
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Shibir men chase BCL out of RU halls

RU CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men, including Rajshahi University (RU) unit president and general secretary, were injured in a clash between BCL and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on the university campus yesterday.

Campus sources said Shibir activists also took control of all the male dormitories and forced BCL men out of their halls by beating up them following the clash.

Shibir cadres also went to different buildings, including commerce and arts building, for hunting BCL activists and damaged doors and windows of mass communication and journalism department and finance and banking department.

Meanwhile, around 25 students were injured in another clash between the activists of BCL and ICS on Rajshahi Medical College (RMC) campus Tuesday night.

RU sources said the clash erupted at about noon when BCL RU unit brought out a procession and tried to cross from near a condolence meeting of Shibir in front of central library.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Faulty designed vessel overloaded

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal

The ML Fahmida Happy Express launch disaster that killed at least 41 people on February 19 was caused by passenger overload, the vessel's faulty design and unskilled crews, concluded the probe committee report released Monday.

Eight passengers from the capsized launch are still missing. The probe committee report revealed the vessel easily lost its balance when rammed by the cargo boat MV Sanim due to an inadequate blast system and an overload of passengers.

The launch was carrying 100 passengers and a massive amount of goods despite a 2008 inspection report by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) capped its passenger-carrying capacity to 50, according to the probe report.

While ML Fahmida's engine and steel-made body were too old, both vessels had unskilled crews who were running vessels with faulty designs.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

আমরা শোকাহত

গত ২৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি ০৯ পিলখানায় সংঘটিত দেশরক্ষার অতন্দ্র প্রহরী, গৌরবদীপ্ত মেধাবী, দেশপ্রেমিক সেনা কর্মকর্তা ও তাদের পরিবারের সদস্য এবং সাধারণ মানুষের নৃশংস, নির্মম, বর্বরোচিত হত্যাকাণ্ডে আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত। আমরা এই হত্যাকাণ্ডের তীব্র নিন্দা জ্ঞাপন করছি।

জাতির এই বীর সন্তানদের আত্মার শান্তি কামনা করে পরম করুনাময়ের কাছে প্রার্থনা করছি এবং শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারের সদস্যদের জানাচ্ছি আন্তরিক সমবেদনা।

সৃষ্টির সকালে **সানন্দ** জুয়েলার্স

সানন্দ জুয়েলার্স লিঃ

৫১, বায়তুল মোকাররম নীচতলা, ঢাকা | ২৩৪-২৩৫, ঢাকা নিউমার্কেট, ঢাকা
ফোন: ৯৫৫৫৮৪৭, ৯৫৫৪২৭৪ | ফোন: ৯৬৬৪৪০৯, ৮৬২৮০৯৪, ৮৬২৮০৫