

Inside Today

Article

Universities and
the Source of
SicknessColumn: Passing
Clouds
by Zillur Rahman
Siddiqui
Page 4

International

Arab FMs ignore US
calls to ease trade
boycott of IsraelDiana spends her pre-
Easter holiday at an
Austrian ski resort
Page 5

Business

Steps to improve Ctg.
Steel Mills suggestedRao urges North to
uphold rule of law in
int'l trade
Pages 6, 7

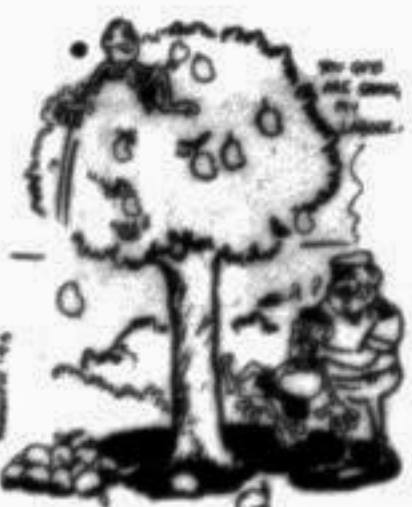
Feature

Health

Tuberculosis: No more
a disease of the past;
Medical Disaster warn-
ing as bacteria fight
back; Fighting against
fate; and Sexually
transmitted diseases
and AIDS
Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Boyhood in Dhaka
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

PM condole death
of Rani Chuni DorjiPrime Minister Begum
Khaleda Zia has condoled
the sudden passing away of grand-
mother of the King of Bhutan.
In a message of condolence
sent to King Jigme Singye
Wangchuck of Bhutan, the
Prime Minister said, "We are
deeply saddened to learn of
the sudden passing away of
myal grand-mother, her
majesty Rani Chuni Dorji," re-
ports BSS.Indian citizens
held with pistolsRAJSHAH, Mar 28: A squad
of 20 rifle battalion arrested
two Indian citizens along with
two pistols from Chalkmuk-
tarpur area yesterday.4 Sarbaharamen
killedCHUADANGA, Mar 28: Four
members of the outlawed
Purba Banglar Communist
Party were killed Sunday night
by unidentified gunmen. The
victims were identified as
Rahman, Surat Ali and two
brothers Madin and Mohan,
reports UNB.

The Daily Star

NIRMAN TILES

Broken Marble Tiles
In More Shades
Than The Rainbow

Tel: 605957, 861985

DUCSU elections
postponed

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka University au-
thorities, after a series of
meetings yesterday, decided to
postpone the DUCSU and hall
union elections scheduled to
be held on April 12.The committee formed to
conduct the DUCSU polls took
the decision last evening act-
ing on a suggestion made by
the Provosts' committee.The provosts, Proctor and
Assistant Proctors of the Dhaka
University met the student
bodies yesterday afternoon to
discuss the campus situation
ahead of the scheduled polls.
The Awami League-backed
Bangladesh Chhatra LeagueBCL (M-I) did not attend the
meeting.The provosts of all the 14
DU halls went into another
session later in the afternoon
and unanimously proposed the
postponement of the polls in
view of the tense situation on
the campus.The BCL (M-I) earlier had
decided to boycott the DUCSU
polls under the incumbent
Vice Chancellor questioning
his neutrality and demanding
rehabilitation of some ousted
BCL activists in their respec-
tive residential halls.

Earlier, the BCL (M-I) ob-

served a strike on Sunday and
has called another tomorrow
demanding the resignation of
the DU VC. They gheraoed the
office of Vice Chancellor Prof
Emajuddin for an hour.They also staged a protest
rally when the VC came out of
the IBA building after attend-
ing a seminar yesterday morn-
ing.In another meeting, the
Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya
(GCO) also decided to boycott
the DUCSU polls, terming the
campus situation 'volatile'. It
held the BCL (M-I) responsible
for the deterioration of the
campus situation.AL won't attend today's
EC hearing

By Nurul Kabir

The Awami League will not
appear at the Election Com-
mission hearing today of its
complaints regarding alleged
rigging in the by-election to
the Magura-2 Jatiya Sangsad
constituency.Barrister K S Nabi, member
of the AL's advisory council,
had filed the petition before
the EC Sunday. The Chief
Election Commissioner (CEC)
agreed to hear the petition at
11 this morning.Barrister Nabi, while talking
to this correspondent last
night, observed that the hear-
ing was now irrelevant after
the gazette notification of the
results Sunday.Replying to a question,
Barrister Nabi said, "I may at
best send a junior advocate to
the EC informing it of our de-
cision not to appear at the
hearing."The AL, in its official peti-
tion Sunday, had requested
the EC not to publish the of-
ficial results of the election,
the fairness of which was dis-
puted by the opposition parties,
and urged the commission to de-
clare the polls void and an-
nounce a fresh date for re-
polling.But CEC Justice Abdur Rouf
deemed the AL petition was
too late since the order of
gazette notification had already
been issued. The CEC, how-
ever, agreed to hear the peti-
tion.According to the official re-
sults, BNP nominee Kazi
Salimul Huq defeated AL nom-
inee Shafiquzzaman in the
March 20 polls by a margin of
more than thirty thousand
votes.Barrister Nabi observed that
See Page 12 Col 8Hand over power
to caretaker
govt: HasinaMOULVIBAZAR, Mar 28:
Sheikh Hasina today asked the
ruling BNP to hand over power
to a neutral caretaker govern-
ment for holding parliamen-
tary elections, reports UNB."Democracy and people's
voting rights are not safe un-
der the BNP," she said. The
present government has be-
come "a champion of vote de-
ceit surpassing even the past
records of deposed president
Ershad," she added.Awami League president
and Leader of the Opposition
in Parliament Hasina made the
remarks while addressing a big
rally at the Nabiganj GK High
School ground in the after-
noon.She said, "unprecedented
rigging" in Magura-2 by-elec-
tion proved that polls under
the present government would
never be free and impartial.
See Page 12 Col 8

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia being presented a bouquet by a small boy upon her arrival at the Narita Airport in Tokyo yesterday on a four-day state visit. With the Prime Minister are Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman (L) and Finance Minister Saifur Rahman (2nd L). —AFP photo

Formal talks
todayTOKYO, Mar 28: The visit-
ing Bangladesh Prime Minister
Begum Khaleda Zia and her
Japanese counterpart Prime
Minister Morihiro Hosokawa
will hold formal talks here to-
morrow, reports BSS.The two leaders will review
traditional and historic rela-
tions between the two coun-
tries besides discussing re-
gional and international issues
of common interest.Earlier, Begum Zia arrived
here this afternoon on a four-
day official visit at the invita-
tion of her Japanese counter-
part Morihiro Hosokawa, was
addressing a reception ac-
corded her by the Bangladesh
Society in Japan.President of the society
Sharif Chowdhury also spoke
in the largely attended recep-
tion.The Prime Minister, who is
attaching high priority to eco-
nomic diplomacy and inviting
foreign investors to Bangladesh
for its speedy uplift, listed
various measures undertaken
See Page 12 Col 7PM urges Bangladeshis in
Japan to invest back homeTOKYO, Mar 28: Prime
Minister Begum Khaleda Zia
today called upon Bangladeshis
residing here to invest in
Bangladesh and encourage
Japanese investors to do the
same to accelerate the pace of
national development, reports
BSS.Begum Zia, who arrived
here this afternoon on a four-
day official visit at the invita-
tion of her Japanese counter-
part Morihiro Hosokawa, was
addressing a reception ac-
corded her by the Bangladesh
Society in Japan.President of the society
Sharif Chowdhury also spoke
in the largely attended recep-
tion.The Prime Minister, who is
attaching high priority to eco-
nomic diplomacy and inviting
foreign investors to Bangladesh
for its speedy uplift, listed
various measures undertaken
See Page 12 Col 7by her government for creating
a congenial investment climate
in the country.She gave a brief resume of
the ongoing economic re-
forms, development pro-
grammes and her govern-
ment's priorities and said
Bangladesh had been success-
ful in attaining some degree of
self-reliance by way of reduc-
ing her dependence on foreign
assistance.Begum Zia said the trend of
self-reliance set by her gov-
ernment would gradually gain
momentum if Bangladeshis
residing abroad help attract
overseas investment.The Prime Minister said
that her delegation was carry-
ing warm greetings from the
people and government of
Japan from the people and
government of Bangladesh.She assured the
See Page 12 Col 7Tornado hits
Savar : 150
injuredSAVAR, Mar 28: More than
150 people were injured and
several hundred houses dam-
aged as a tornado hit seven vil-
lages here this afternoon, re-
ports UNB.Villagers said the tornado,
which continued for about 20
minutes, damaged several
hundred houses and uprooted
trees and electric poles.Of the injured, five were
admitted to Savar Thana Health
Complex, 10 to Dhamrai
Health Complex and 14 to
Kaliakoir Health Complex.
Seven others were sent to
Dhaka Medical College Hos-
pital. Besides, a large number
of people were given first aid.The affected villages are:
Pachail, Dhamsona, Nayatek,
Nalam under Dhamsona union,
Kabirpur, Baidgaon and
Chonteki in Shimulia union.Two bazars — Kabirpur and
Ziranibazar — were also bat-
tered by the tornado.Kazi Kamal
takes oathKazi Saleemul Huq, who was
elected MP from Magura-2
constituency in the by-elec-
tions a BNP nominee, took
oath at a simple ceremony at
the Sangsad Bhaban here yes-
terday, reports BSS.Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali
administered the oath.The seat fell vacant follow-
ing the death of Asaduzzaman
MP of the Awami League.The function was attended,
among others, by Local Govt,
Rural Development and Coop-
eratives Minister Abdus Salam
Talukder, Labour and Man-
power Minister Abdul Mannan
Bhuiyan, Home Minister Abdul
Matin Chowdhury, Food Min-
ister Mir Shaukat Ali, Works
Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia,
State Minister for Planning Dr
Abdul Moyeen Khan, State
Minister for Education Prin-
cipal Md Yunus Khan, State
Minister for Textile Major
(ret'd) Abdul Mannan, acting
Chief Whip Mahbubul Alam
Tara, whip Abdul Karim, whip
Ashraf Hossain, Abdul Gani MP,
Amanullah Aman MP and
Barkatullah Bhulu MP.The Prime Minister said
that her delegation was carry-
ing warm greetings from the
people and government of
Japan from the people and
government of Bangladesh.She assured the
See Page 12 Col 7Awami League
lacks confidence
in JS: RafiqWorks Minister Rafiqul
Islam Miah yesterday said
those who have asked their
MPs to refrain from attending
meetings of the JS standing
committees and other House
committees have clearly ex-
pressed their lack of confi-
dence in the institutions of
Parliament, reports UNB."It's an irony of fate that the
Awami League which day in at
day out sheds crocodile tears
for parliamentary democracy is
urging its members of Par-
liament to boycott meetings
of the parliamentary commit-
tees," Miah said reacting to the
Awami League high command's
recent directive to party MPs.Referring to the plant AL
programme to lay siege to the
Secretariat on April 7, Rafiq,
Joint Secretary General of the
ruling BNP, observed that it
See Page 12 Col 6Rival transport workers
clash in city : 2 killed

By Staff Correspondent

Clashes between two groups
of transport workers left two
persons killed and many
wounded at the Sayedabad bus
terminal yesterday.Two transport workers —
Sayed Hossain Bablu, 25, and
Zakir Hossain, 28, who sus-
tained bullet wounds in a
cross-fire — died shortly after
admission to the Dhaka
Medical College Hospital
(DMCH) and the Holy Family
Red Crescent Hospital respec-
tively last night.Police say, the clashes were
a sequel to enmity between the
two groups over control of the
bus terminal.The bloody clashes began at
about noon yesterday following
the skirmishes on Saturday
and Sunday.Armed with sawed-off rifles,
revolvers, pistols and other
deadly weapons, the rival
transport workers fought each
other, forcing hundreds of
passengers to run for safety.Several gunshots and blasts
rocked the terminal building.
Police said they tried sev-
eral times to disperse the
workers but the situation could
be brought under control only
after the deaths of two work-
ers.Police also picked up over a
dozen troublemongers from
the spot but declined to give
their names.Of the injured, three —
Shaheed, Selim and Zakir, all
identified as transport workers
— were admitted to the Dhaka
Medical College Hospital.Following Saturday's inci-
dents, police had arrested
eight people from the terminal
area and sent them to the
Dhaka Central Jail.deadly weapons, the rival
transport workers fought each
other, forcing hundreds of
passengers to run for safety.Several gunshots and blasts
rocked the terminal building.
Police said they tried sev-
eral times to disperse the
workers but the situation could
be brought under control only
after the deaths of two work-
ers.Police also picked up over a
dozen troublemongers from
the spot but declined to give
their names.Of the injured, three —
Shaheed, Selim and Zakir, all
identified as transport workers
— were admitted to the Dhaka
Medical College Hospital.Following Saturday's inci-
dents, police had arrested
eight people from the terminal
area and sent them to the
Dhaka Central Jail.Amirul-Mesbah
panel sweeps
JU senate pollsThe entire panel led by Prof
Amirul Islam Chowdhury and
Prof Mesbahuddin Ahmed got
elected for a three-year term
in the Jahangirnagar Univer-
sity Senate election of the
registered graduates yesterday,
reports BSS.Other major contestants in
the election were led by Prof
Khandaker Mujtahidur Rahman
and Prof Enamul Huq Khan.
The winning panel is to
form a 25-member Senate
body. Out of 585 voters 517
cast their votes. Polling took
place at two centres on the
university campus and the
National Press Club.The first senate election of
the university was held in
1981. Subsequent elections
could not take place due to
various reasons. The last elec-
tion was held in 1988 but the
election results were declared
null and void by the then Vice-
Chancellor Prof Kazi Saleh
Ahmed as there was accusation
of vote rigging and other ir-
regularities.

Khulna BIT closed

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Mar 28: The au-
thorities of the Bangladesh
Institute of Technology (BIT)
today declared the institution
closed sine die following an
uneasy situation prevailing on
the campus for the last few
days.Students of the BIT started
boycotting classes from
Sunday. Several BIT students
alleged harassment by the stu-
dents of the Khulna University
in an incident occurring near
the Dak Bungalow on March 24,
involving the institute's trans-
port

The Bangladesh Awami League brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting alleged rigging and publication of the official results of the Magura-2 by-election. — Star photo

Plans underway to re-organise
state-run hospitals

By S Y Bakht

In a bid to improve the
health service delivery mecha-
nism, the government is plan-
ning to re-organise the man-
agement and administrative
system of the state-run hospi-
tals, according to an authorita-
tive source at the Health
Ministry.The plan includes placing a
full team of hospital manage-
ment experts in all secondary
and tertiary level hospitals,
providing a more transparent
job description for the em-
ployees along with adequate
career planning provisions and
improving the service delivery
system.

"Doctors who currently run

the state hospitals do not have
any idea about hospital man-
agement resulting in the mis-
use of scarce resources," said
the ministry source. However,
he said, the government has
no plans, as reported in a sec-
tion of the press, to allow pri-
vate sector participation in
managing the state-run hospi-
tals.The planned overhaul of the
state-run hospitals is based on
a report entitled "Study on
Hospital Organisation and
Administration" completed re-
cently with assistance from the
World Health Organisation
(WHO).

Conducted by a team of lo-

cal experts, led by Major
General (Ret'd) M Nurul Haq
and Dr Md Lutful Rahman,
over a nine-month period, the
findings and recommendations
of the report were placed be-
fore the Health Ministry ear-
lier this month.In a special presentation
meeting at the Ministry of
Health and Family Welfare ear-
lier this month, it was decided
that the study team would
prepare a priority-wise time
frame as part of a rationalised
action plan based on the rec-
ommendations of the study.
Health Minister Chowdhury
Kamal Ibne Yusuf was present
See Page 12 Col 1Rail link with
Sylhet
restoredRailway communication
with Sylhet was restored at 12
noon yesterday after the repair
of a small bridge near Shaye-
saganj which had been dam-
aged by the current spate of
flash flood from across the
border, reports UNB.A Railway official said work-
ers and engineers working for
12 hours completed the repair
work and restored train ser-
vices from 12 noon.The lines on the age-old
railway bridge near
Shayestaganj on the Dhaka-
Sylhet were washed away on
Sunday night by the flood wa-
ter, disrupting railway com-
munication between Sylhet
and rest of the country.42 killed, 250 injured as
tornadoes hit 5 US statesATLANTA, Mar 28: A series
of tornadoes killed at least 42
people and injured scores
more in rural Alabama, officials
said today, reports Reuter.More than 250 people were
injured in the series of severe
storms that cut a path of de-
struction across five states
Sunday, authorities said.The worst death toll was in
the northeastern Alabama town
of Piedmont, where a tornado
slammed into the Goshen
United Methodist Church dur-
ing a palm Sunday service,
devastating the brick structure
with about 140 worshippers
inside.

Authorities said 19 people

died from injuries received
when the Church's roof col-
lapsed, including the three
whose deaths were reported
Monday morning.Another man died along a
highway near the church when
the tornado ripped a tele-
phone pole from the ground
and drove it through his van.Police reported two other
deaths in Alabama, including a
woman who died along the
Coosa river near the town to
Ragland, where a tornado de-
stroyed several houses.Fourteen people died in
Georgia and more than 100
were injured.

Participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz Competition starting April 1, 1994 and WIN
BUMPER PRIZE — ticket to the World Cup final & all-paid trip to Los Angeles!
Also, a dozen TV sets, six stereos and other prizes.
See Page 11 for details.