

The Daily Star

TOSHIBA FRIDGE
With Compressor **MADE IN JAPAN**
-TOSHIBA FRIDGE guarantees best Performance-
RANGS GROUP

PRAN for health

VOL. X NO. 77 REGD. NO. DA 781 www.dailystarnews.com DHAKA TUESDAY APRIL 4, 2000 3rd Millennium CHAITRA 21, 1406 BS ZILHAJ 28, 1420 HIJRI 16 PAGES PRICE: TAKA 6.00

SSC exam results likely by end of next month

Star Report
The results of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations under the five education boards in the country are likely to be published in the last week of next month.
Sources in Dhaka Board said the authorities have decided to publish the results within 75 to 80 days after the examinations.
"If everything goes well, we are confident that the results would be published within the stipulated period," one source said.
The SSC examinations under Dhaka, Jessore, Comilla, Chittagong and Rajshahi boards began on March 2. Written examinations ended on March 15 and practical examinations on March 31.
Despatch of answer scripts to the examiners is now going on and will be completed shortly, the source said.
More than 9,00,000 thousands appeared at the examinations.

Charge sheet in Badhan assault case next week

By Staff Correspondent
The Detective Branch of Police may submit the charge sheet for the Badhan assault case in the middle of next week.
Some unruly students sexually assaulted Badhan during New Year's celebrations on December 31 at the TSC of Dhaka University.
Five people are likely to be charged in the case, sources said. They are Chandan, Russell, Tutul, Mamun and Mokhter, sources said.
Chandan is still at large, but Mamun and Mokhter, book traders of Nilkhet who claimed to have rescued the victim, were detained and then released on.

4 rooms still locked New BMA GS refutes charges of rigging

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 3: The situation at Chittagong Medical College Hospital still remained tense as the four office rooms of doctors locked allegedly by rivals were not opened even today, hospital sources said.
Editorial on page 4
The rooms were locked on Saturday night while three doctors were assaulted allegedly by their rivals centring the election of BMA, Chittagong Unit, held on Thursday.
Meanwhile, the panel led by

Our new numbers
19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215
Phones: 812 4944, 812 4955 & 812 4966
Fax: 812 5155

Inside Today

Article
Sonia has a long way to go
Page 4

Focus
The Revolutionary Promise of Digital IT
By Manzoor Ahmed
Page 5

Business
Policy to lease out BTMC units fails, hits pvt sector
Clinton continues push for normal trade with China
DSE, CSE price quotations
Pages 6, 7 & 8

April	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
4		6:16pm
5	5:46 am	

Prayer Timings

April 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:00	5:30
Zohr	1:00	1:30
Asr	4:45	5:00
Maghrib	6:20	6:25
Esha	8:00	8:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

World Bank report on Bangladesh says

Elimination of corruption could add upto 2.9pc to GDP growth

By Inam Ahmed
The World Bank (WB) has said that if Bangladesh could reduce corruption level to those prevailing in countries with the highest reputation for honest dealing, it could add between 2.1 and 2.9 per cent to annual per capita GDP growth.
This could lower the country's poverty by 25 percentage points.
The draft report titled "Corruption in Bangladesh, Costs and Cures" is the donors' official paper to be discussed at the April 13-14 Paris meeting with the government. Corruption will be one of the burning topics to be discussed at the development forum meeting this year.
The judgement that per capita income in a corruption-free Bangladesh could have nearly doubled to US\$ 700 instead of \$ 350 reflects the harmful impact of bribery, kickbacks and similar under-the-table payments on investment levels and misallocated resources," the Bank said.
"The broad calculation also suggests the distorting effect of bribery and favouritism on government procurement, the illegal costs of transport due to illegal tolls collected on the highways, and the out-and-out losses of customs fees or earnings from privatisation when bribes change hands and government revenues drop accordingly."
The report also came down heavily on the political parties and their leaderships, judiciary, police and bureaucracy for their actions which breed corruption.
The WB termed the corruption in Bangladesh "unaffordable, unacceptable and treatable" and said, "once the national will is expressed in a consensus that corruption must be curbed, it can also be cured."
As steps to do this, the Bank suggested change in incentives that foster corruption, transparency and accountability in official transactions and establishment of independent oversight over institutions and their operations.
The essential first step is to mobilise political will. "Leaders who understand that

Security stepped up

Opposition holds joint rally in Ctg today

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 3: Security has been tightened in and around the port city ahead of tomorrow's joint public meeting of the four-party Opposition Alliance.
BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia, Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Golam Azam and Islami Oikya Jote chief Moulana Azizul Haq will address the meeting at the Outer Stadium.
Six check-posts have been set up at the entry points of the city to search vehicles and to avert any untoward incident centering tomorrow's rally, police sources said.
Besides, a large number of police and BDR will be deployed around the meeting venue, which is near BNP city office, sources said.
Meanwhile, the port city today witnessed a massive campaigning by opposition activists in support of tomorrow's rally. A series of processions were

PM asks partymen

Resolve conflicts to effectively face Opposition

By Staff Correspondent
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked her colleagues on the Awami League Presidium to resolve all internecine conflicts to effectively face the opposition parties in the next general elections.
She however did not say anything about the timing of the polls.
The PM who heads the ruling party gave the directive at a meeting of its 15-member Presidium held at the Ganabhaban yesterday evening.
Hasina is scheduled to leave for the US this morning on a two-week visit.
The AL chief told the Presidium members that the party might have to face a combined opposition in the next parliamentary polls. So there was no scope for the party leaders to sit on the internecine conflicts that surfaced in different party units across the country, a Pre-

News analysis

PM please rethink PSA, there is still time

By Mahfuz Anam
Leaders, among many other qualities, must have two types of courage. One kind deals with the capacity to do things that are not only difficult but also controversial and even unpopular. The other kind deals with the capacity to realise that his or her decision was a mistake and to be able to change it before too much damage is done. One comes from wisdom, knowledge, farsightedness, commitment and self-confidence. The other comes from all the above qualities, plus a deep and genuine sense of humility and the realisation that to err is human.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has exhibited courage of the former type. We think that the Ganges Water Treaty and her Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord were acts of vision and courage that challenged the conventional wisdom and made the intractable possible. She knew she would be open to criticism and that a deep contro-

Obuchi in coma, Aoki acting Japanese PM

TOKYO, Apr 3: After keeping the crisis from the public for nearly a full day, a senior Cabinet minister said today that Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi was in a coma following a stroke and he had taken over as Japan's acting premier, reports AP.
Obuchi, 62, required an artificial respirator today after being admitted at Tokyo's Juntendo University Hospital the day before, said acting prime minister Mikio Aoki.
Aoki, who assumed the position of acting prime minister this morning, said Obuchi's condition deteriorated shortly after they met in the hospital Sunday evening. Obuchi had gone to the hospital after complaining of fatigue.
Before falling into the coma, Obuchi, whose wife is by his side, was able to personally request Aoki assume leadership. Aoki said he would decide whether to dissolve the Cabinet — so that a new leader could be installed — once Obuchi's prognosis was clear.



Keizo Obuchi



Mikio Aoki

Shafiullah's note & our reply

Maj Gen (Rtd) K M Shafiullah, MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence, has sent a note regarding a report published in The Daily Star on April 2.
His note says, "I strongly differ with the report especially the way it has presented me. It has not only misquoted me, but also failed to reflect the spirit of my position there. Contrarily, a tinge of insolence was portrayed."
"As Chief of Army Staff, I was directly under Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who was Defence Minister as well as the President of the country. Above all, he is the Father of the Nation. How can one even think of disrespecting such personality?"
"By virtue of my position as Chief of Army Staff, I had access to Bangabandhu to discuss various aspects of our defence. I put many suggestions to improve our defence force and ran the army under his able guidance."
"I feel sorry to mention that my sentiments towards the Father of the Nation has not been reflected."
Our Correspondent replies: Maj Gen (Rtd) Shafiullah was one of the participants at a Roundtable on "Defence Forces and Defence Policy" held in the city on April 1. We have reproduced his utterances and those of others as faithfully as possible. There was no deliberate distortion.
The former Army chief has not pointed out any specific error in the report or where he was misquoted. His vague remarks and failure to point out anything specific proves that our report was accurate.



Beat the heat
Traders are doing a brisk business in hand fans made from palm trees thanks to the city's temperamental power supply. These two rickshawpullers would probably fancy a break from the sweltering summer heat as they carry the lot.
—Star photo by Sk. Enamul Haq

Haji Selim says Autopsy of female bodies by male docs unislamic

By Staff Correspondent
A ruling party MP pleaded in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that only female doctors and morgue attendants carry out autopsies on women.
Haji Mohammad Selim raised the issue in parliament for the second time as nothing has been done to this end despite assurance by the former health minister.
Selim opposed male doctors and attendants doing autopsy on female bodies as the practice goes against Islam.
According to Islam, said the young Haji, even the husband cannot touch his wife's body after her death. But under the existing system, the male doctors, attendants and others dissect bodies of women who die an unnatural death.
Provisions for showing respect to corpse are there in all religions, but Islam made it mandatory to do the last rites of a dead with special respect.
Besides Islam, other religions also provide for carrying out autopsy on a female body by

2.5 bighas of land 'excluded' from recovery drive

By Staff Correspondent
The Public Works Department and Dhaka City Corporation's demolition team has "excluded" 2.5 bighas of land beside Dhanmondi Lake from its public land recovery drive.
They claim the land, which is situated behind the WASA pump house's concrete reservoir at the north-eastern corner of the Abahani playground, was designated as a residence for department employees.
WASA and department employees have occupied the land for over 26 years and control over 40 structures that resemble a slum.
Sources said some of the men have rented rooms to outsiders and raised cattle in this "obscure" section of the posh residential area.
An official inquiry report prepared in October 1999 stated that department employees, with the help of others, illegally built 43 structures on the 2.5 bighas of public land. The official report suggested the immediate removal of the squatters in order to complete the Dhanmondi Lake development project.
When contacted, a department sub-assistant engineer involved in the demolition drive said the land recovery drive around Dhanmondi Lake was targeting land for a walkway.
"The employees have given up a space for the walkway, so there should not be any problem," said the engineer. He said the plot in question used to be a department work shed, but employees were living there now.
When asked why the same group of employees have lived on the public plot for so long, the engineer replied, "it is not their fault if they do not get transferred elsewhere."
According to VITTI Shapathi Brindo Ltd, the designer of the Dhanmondi Lake development project, the plot in question was designated for a sitting plaza in the project's original design.
M.D. Iqbal Habib, an architect, said the plaza was an integral part of the project. "We have designed the sitting plaza on this part of land to enhance the visual aspect of the landscape from the Road-32 bridge."

US, Pakistan deeply divided on key issues: Musharraf

BANGKOK, Apr 3: Pakistan's military leader General Pervez Musharraf today warned that Washington and Islamabad were edging further apart on dangerous issues, reports AFP.
In Thailand on the last leg of a tour of Southeast Asia, Musharraf said the United States and Pakistan remained deeply divided on key issues of concern — and tension — including Kashmir, terrorism, nuclear weapons and Islamabad's relations with Afghanistan.
"I'm bothered about what Pakistan's relationship with the United States is, the substance of that," said Musharraf, a week after President Bill Clinton ended a tour of South Asia.
On his tour, Clinton spent five days in Pakistan, a traditional US ally and former ma-

'89 accord not renewed Future of IJO looks bleak

By Mustak Hossain
The future of International Jute Organisation (IJO) looks bleak as its member countries at their Geneva meeting last week failed to renew the 1989 International Agreement on Jute and Jute Products that would have given it another lease of life, sources said.
The talks failed as its European Union (EU) members stayed away from the meeting, saying that IJO failed to promote trade on jute and jute products.
The IJO will automatically get liquidated if the 1989 agreement is not renewed by April 11.
The sources however said the IJO meeting has been recon-

Two brothers strangled in city

By Staff Correspondent
Unidentified assailants strangled two brothers at West Monipur in Mirpur yesterday evening.
The incident took place when the mother of the boys — Ariful Islam Noyon, 14, and Nazmul Islam Raju, 11 — went to bathroom. The assailants locked the door of the bathroom from outside and killed the boys at their residence at West Monipur at about 7 p.m.
Sources said the mother, Ayesha, works with an NGO but the reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.
Mirpur police said they knew that two young boys were killed and a lady was found unconscious in Monipur area.
Senior police officials went there but no further detail was available.

Rejoinder

Editor of the Ajker Kagoj Kazi Shahid has sent a rejoinder to a report.
It said: The Daily Star reported dated 31.3.2000 has attracted my attention. The report is not accurate because I, Kazi Shahid Ahmed, have no plot, building, flat, rather have nothing on Road No. 2/A of Dhanmondi. I have never erected any structures or commercial structures on Road 2/A. I and Ajker Kagoj did plant trees along the lake for beautification. I have never run a nursery business on Road 2/A at all. As I have no holding on Road 2/A, PWD never notified me about anything whatsoever. However, I do live in House 50, Road 2/A.
The PWD & the DCC team did come and did pull their blade of the dozers on two minor trees and on low height grill to fence of the trees from harm's way. However magistrate stopped it.