

Tk 42 crore JS budget okayed

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The Parliament Secretariat Commission approved over Tk 42.13 crore budget of the Jatiya Sangsad for the 2003-2004 fiscal at a meeting yesterday.  
Of the amount, Tk 5 crore will be spent to host a seven-day Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Dhaka from October 7 this year.  
The rest will be used to fund routine Parliament Secretariat activities.  
The meeting, chaired by Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, also formed a three-member sub-committee to review the promotion of the Jatiya Sangsad officials.  
Industries Minister M K Anwar was made chairman while Prime

Panchayat election violence in West Bengal kills 14

**PTI, Kolkata**  
Fourteen people, including seven CPI (M) activists, were killed in clashes between rival political groups as widespread violence and snatching of ballots yesterday marred panchayat polls in West Bengal even as an estimated 65 per cent of voters exercised franchise.  
Among those killed were two women activists of SUCI, besides two Congress activists and the father of a Trinamool Congress candidate, DIG of Police (HQ) NC Ghosh said.  
He said two SUCI women activists were killed at Joynagar and two CPI (M) worker at Canning in poll clashes in South 24 Parganas district.  
Father of Trinamool Congress candidate Lutfar Rahman for Khamarpara Panchayat Samity Haji Anwar Ali was shot dead at his home in Madanpur in Barasat in North 24 Parganas, he said.  
In Sibdaspur, also in North 24 Parganas, CPI (M) supporter Sheikh Salim was killed in a poll related clash. There was no polling in the area till noon following the incident, Ghosh said.  
Another CPI (M) activist was

killed in Jalpaiguri district and a Congress worker at Thalarpur in Nadia district, he said.  
At Murshidabad, two CPI (M) supporters were killed when they clashed with Congress activists while Congress supporter Manirul Sheikh was killed at Ranitala when bombs were hurled at people waiting to cast their ballots in front of two booths, he said.  
State Electoral Officer Ajay Sinha said an estimated 65 per cent of the electorate cast their votes and the figure would go up as people were in queue inside booths after the close of polling at 5.00 pm.

Chairmen of 3 CHT district councils meet prime minister

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at a meeting with chairmen of the three CHT district councils yesterday said Gram Sarkar would be established soon to ensure active participation of the people in development efforts at the grassroots level.  
"Local government institutions are being strengthened," she said referring to the successful holding of City Corporation and Union Parishad elections.  
The elected representatives can contribute significantly in realising hopes and aspirations of the people, she added.  
Chairpersons Dr Manik Lal Dewan of Rangamati District Council, Nakkhatra Lal Dev B a r m a n



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia talks to chairmen of the three district councils of the Chittagong Hill Tracts at a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

Mob-mauled driver finally dies

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
A mob severely beat up an auto-rickshaw driver on Friday mistaking him for a thief who later died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Saturday night.  
"Two relatives, Wahid and Ilyus and seven others took the driver, Abdur Razzak, 30, out of his residence to a nearby house at Kachukhet," said the victim's mother Rup Chand Bibi.  
As he came out of the residence, Wahid and Ilyus shouted calling Razzak a thief. Immediately people gathered there and chased him. The mob caught him and started beating. Police rescued him from

the mob and sent him to the DMCH.  
Th victim's wife, Akhi Noor Begum, told newsmen that some relatives of her husband took revenge on him.  
Abdur Razzak, son of one Kalu Hawlader, is a resident of 486 Kachukhet, Kafrul.  
Victim's father filed a case with the Kafrul Police Station. Police arrested Abul Hossain and Abul Hossain Bepari for their alleged involvement in the killing.  
Meanwhile, Motijheel police yesterday recovered a body of an unidentified man from the sunshade of a four-storied building at the Inland Container Depot (ICD).  
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Three girls commit 'suicide' in city

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Three teenaged girls allegedly committed suicide in separate incidents in the city on Saturday.  
Motives behind any of the three incidents could not be known immediately.  
Nipa Rani Das, 18, a student of Tejgaon College, reportedly hanged herself from the ceiling fan at her residence at Tejkunipara at around 11:00am.  
Family members have failed to ascertain the reason behind the suicide.  
Nipa returned home at 10:30am from college and closed the door, one of her cousins said. "As she did not open the door despite repeated calls, we broke the door only to find

her body hanging from the fan," she added.  
At sector 4 in Uttara, Monwara Begum, 17, a domestic help, allegedly committed suicide at her employer's residence in a similar way following altercation with a fellow housemaid on Saturday evening.  
Meanwhile, one Nipa, 18, a garment factory worker, allegedly hanged herself with her scarf from the ceiling at her rented house at Rampura Saturday afternoon.  
Police recovered all the three bodies and sent those to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy. Three separate unnatural death cases were filed with Tejgaon, Uttara and Khilgaon police stations.  
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Ex-VC Azad Chy attacked on campus

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury was attacked on the campus last night. However, he escaped unhurt.  
Campus sources said Prof. Chowdhury had a meeting with some senior teachers at the teachers' lounge of the Business Studies Faculty at about 7:30pm. As he and other teachers came out of the lounge, Aun unidentified young man suddenly swooped on him.  
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Sutrapur double murder verdict on May 14

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**  
A speedy trial tribunal yesterday fixed May 14 for judgement on the Sutrapur double murder case.  
Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 Dhaka Division scheduled the date after completion of arguments from the prosecution and defence.  
The tribunal earlier recorded statements of 25 out of 40 prosecution witnesses to the case that began at the tribunal on January 9.  
It pressed charges against Rahid Hasan Sumon, son of Nasibun Ahmed, president of the Dhaka City Mahila Awami League, and 33 others on November 13 last year.  
According to the allegation in the case filed with the Sutrapur Police Station, Mohsin, 18, and Saem, 19, of Sharat Kumar Das Lane were picked up from home by a gang allegedly led by Sumon on September 15, 2000.  
The gang took the two to the Gandaria Rifles Club and tortured

them for a ransom of Tk 50,000. The gang killed the youths and slashed the bodies into 12 pieces before dumping them into a manhole.  
Mohsin's father Mohammad Amin Miah filed a murder case against 14 people, including Sumon. Detectives submitted a chargesheet against 34 people on May 19 last year.  
Sumon's father Sultan Uddin Ahmed and Munna Kasai, among the accused, are now on bail, and

Businessman killed in Bandarban

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban**  
A former assistant general manager of the Bangladesh Krishi Bank and businessman of Bandarban was killed yesterday.  
Body of Gazi Shahidullah, 60, was found lying in the garden of his Gazi Rubber Estate, 10 kilometres from the town, at 5:00pm yesterday. His employees recovered the body and called police.  
The reason behind the murder or identity of the murderers could not be known immediately.  
Relatives said Shahidullah had  
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Gunrunners held with revolvers in Sitakunda

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**  
Three gunrunners, including a woman, were arrested with as many revolvers at Sitakunda in Chittagong district yesterday.  
Acting on a tip-off, a team of Sitakunda police waylaid a Chittagong-bound passenger bus near the upazila headquarter on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway.  
They frisked the passengers and found the revolvers strapped to the bellies of Mahmuda Begum, 30, Saiful Alam, 25, and Nazrul Islam, 28.  
The detainees confessed to police that they were going to hand over the arms to a man at Shubhapur bus stand in Chittagong.  
Police said the trio were the operatives of a gunrunners' syndicate that smuggles firearms into Bangladesh from India and sell those in different parts of Chittagong.



Members of the Bangladesh Film Producers and Distributors Association stage a demonstration against video piracy and vulgar movies yesterday.

Dhaliwood's no to 'vulgar' movies on satellite channels

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Film producers and distributors yesterday demanded an end to video piracy and screening of 'vulgar' movies on satellite television in a memorandum to the information minister.  
The Bangladesh Film Producers and Distributors Association brought out a procession in the city before submitting the memorandum that also called for enactment of a tougher law to curb the burgeoning problems.  
"A strict law is immediately needed to save the film industry," the association's President KMR Manjur told Information Minister Tariqul Islam.  
Screening of illegal videos and just-released local movies on video channels has crippled the film industry, according to the memorandum.  
Delegates of the association said at a meeting with the minister that many countries around the world

Relatives of Iraqi leaders fled to Syria: Assad

**AFP, Washington**  
Syria gave haven to families of Iraqi regime leaders, but not the leaders themselves, Syrian President Bashar Assad said in an interview in the May 19 edition of US magazine Newsweek.  
"Some of them came to the border. They weren't allowed to come in," he said of members of Saddam Hussein's regime, many of whom disappeared during the US-led invasion of Iraq.  
"We allowed families to come to Syria, women and children. But we were suspicious of some of the relatives -- that they had positions

Saudi diplomat expelled from US

**AFP, Los Angeles**  
An official of the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles has been expelled from the United States under suspicion of being linked to terrorist groups, the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday.  
Fahad al-Thumairy was detained at Los Angeles international airport Tuesday after arriving on a flight from Frankfurt and was expelled Thursday, the daily reported.  
Thumairy, 31, who had worked at the consulate since 1996 and also was a local Muslim prayer leader, apparently did not know his visa had been revoked in March, the daily said.  
"He was placed on an international flight, destined for Riyadh,"

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
May 12		6-32 pm
May 13	5-18 am	

  

Prayer Timings		
May 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-38	6-42
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation