



GREEN PEACE: Prime Minister Khaleda Zia hands a prize for tree plantation in 2002 to Chittagong Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury at the launch of the Tree Plantation Movement and Tree Fair 2003 in Dhaka yesterday.

## Plant trees to avert environmental disaster: PM

**BSS, Dhaka**  
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has called upon all to join a three-month long tree plantation movement by planting at least 39 crore new trees in the next three months.  
"Let each and every member of the family plant one tree a month. I would like to see our nation of 13 crore people plant at least 39 crore new trees during the next three months," Khaleda Zia said while inaugurating the three-month long National Tree Plantation Movement and Tree Fair-2003 at the National Parade Square yesterday.  
She said in the backdrop of the country's heavily depleted forest resources due to massive felling of trees and destruction of forests, it is imperative to plant a lot of trees to save the country from the looming environmental disaster.  
The prime minister planted a sapling of "Arjuna" tree at the

## Two workers die in fall from building

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Two construction workers fell nine floors to death at south Begunbari in Tejgaon yesterday.  
Hossain Ahmed, 65, and Chan Mian, 25, slipped off the scaffolding of an under-construction building at about 4:30pm.  
Doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital declared the two dead on arrival. The bodies were sent to the morgue for autopsy.  
An unnatural death case was lodged with Tejgaon Police station.

National Parade Square to mark the nationwide tree plantation campaign. Afterwards, her granddaughter Zaima Rahman, ministers, MPs, diplomats, secretaries of the government and dignitaries also planted saplings.  
Khaleda Zia called upon all political parties and social organisations to join the tree plantation movement together for the sake of national interest. "Let us do at least this noble work of planting trees together," she added.  
"There is no politics in it... There should not be any dispute about this. Everyone irrespective of political affiliation and creed should take part in this work," she said.  
Organised by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, the inaugural function was also addressed by Forest and Environment Minister Shajahan Siraj, Minister for Agriculture MK Anwar, Minister for Post and Telecommunications Barrister Aminul Huq, State Minister for Environment and Forest Zafrul Islam Chowdhury, Environment and Forest Secretary Sabihuddin Ahmed and Deputy Chief Conservator of Forest Anwarul Islam.  
The prime minister released a commemorative stamp to mark the occasion.  
She gave away prizes of the Prime Minister's National Award in tree plantation for the year 2002 among the winners including Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu.  
She also distributed checks among the participants of social afforestation. Later, Khaleda Zia inaugurated the tree fair and visited different stalls there. More than 100

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## Sircar may miss budget session

**REAZ AHMAD**  
Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, now in London for treatment, may miss the budget session of parliament, beginning on June 10, said Jatiya Sangsad sources yesterday.  
The eighth session to be chaired by Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui in the absence of the speaker is likely to continue amid the main opposition's boycott.  
Lawmakers from the Awami League (AL) walked out of the House on the first day of the last session on May 8 over the Chair's refusal to allow Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina to speak and switching off her microphone.  
The AL lawmakers did not return

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# Leaders bury Iraq hatchet

## Chirac welcomes Bush to Economic Summit

**AP, Evian (France)**  
World leaders sought to put the deep divisions of the Iraq war behind them by demonstrating a more united front on efforts to combat poverty and AIDS in the developing world.  
President Bush had a smile and firm handshake for this year's Group of Eight nations summit host, French President Jacques Chirac. The French leader, with whom Bush's relations have been especially bitter since Chirac actively led the opposition to the Iraq war, greeted Bush on Sunday and ushered him toward the waiting group of other leaders standing on the hotel's patio.  
French officials said Chirac would use a one-on-one meeting with Bush on Monday to discuss the future of Iraq but not rehash past differences.  
"I can't imagine that they would meet again without discussing the question of Iraq," Chirac spokeswoman Catherine Colonna told reporters. "But if they discuss it, it won't be to go back over the past, that would not be useful, but to look toward the future."  
Meanwhile, thousands of protesters blocked highways and bridges, set fire to barricades and drew volleys of tear gas and rubber pellets Sunday from anti-riot police near the Group of Eight summit in the French town of Evian.  
The most violent protests early Sunday were in the Swiss city Lausanne, across Lake Geneva from the G-8 summit site. Demonstrators wearing masks hurled rocks at police and a posh hotel and looted a gas station and a supermarket.  
One protester was seriously hurt when he fell from a highway overpass. Lausanne police chief Eric Lehmann said the fall was an accident but demonstrators blamed authorities.  
Bush challenged other nations to follow America's lead and pledge dramatic increases in support for the battle against AIDS. Before leaving on his European trip, Bush signed into law a US program that will provide \$15 billion to fight the disease over the next five years and said he hoped the action would prod other wealthy nations into similar commitments.  
The first day of this year's summit was devoted to a discussion of the problems facing the developing

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## AL to urge govt to drop SQ Chy from OIC job race

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Main opposition Awami League (AL) would send a letter to the government urging it to replace controversial Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury with an acceptable nominee to run for the top job of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).  
A meeting of the AL presidium took the decision yesterday with acting party chief Zillur Rahman in the chair.  
The opposition party demanded that a person with acceptable credentials be named so that Bangladesh could have a chance to glorify its image by clinching the prestigious post.  
Nomination of Chowdhury is not only unacceptable but also unfortunate for the nation as he 'directly

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## Women's groups take a swipe at SQ Chy for obscene remarks

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Severe criticism followed the comments of Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, prime minister's parliamentary affairs advisor, about Bangladeshi women and culture.  
In their press releases, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Ekattorer Ghatak Dala nirmul Committee and National Poetry Council protested against Salahuddin's comments and termed them 'obscene'.  
Salahuddin has destroyed the government's goodwill by making 'rubbish' discriminatory comments about women and their participation in the celebration of the International Mother Language Day, said the press releases.

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French President Jacques Chirac (C) shows the way to (L to R) Italian European Commission President Romano Prodi, Chinese President Hu Jintao, World Bank President James Wolfensohn, US President George W. Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at the Hotel Royal in the French resort Evian, where the G-8 leaders met for their annual summit yesterday. Youths smash the window of a petrol station in Thonex, near Geneva, as anti-globalisation activists staged protests on the opening day of the annual G-8 summit.

PHOTO: AFP

# Crackdown on opposition by Myanmar junta

## Seven top leaders under house arrest, all major party offices closed

**AFP, Yangon**  
Myanmar's ruling junta launched a crackdown on the democratic opposition yesterday, closing all major branch offices and putting its leadership under house arrest after detaining party figurehead Aung San Suu Kyi.  
The Nobel peace laureate was placed under "protective custody" in northern Myanmar along with 18 members of her entourage after clashes between her supporters and a pro-junta mob Friday left four dead and 50 injured, the government said.  
A junta source said the seven members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) governing committee remaining in Yangon had been put under house arrest. The eighth, party vice-chairman Tin Oo, was in custody with Aung San Suu Kyi.  
"All the leadership of the NLD have been placed under house arrest since yesterday," the source told AFP. "All the NLD headquarters in major towns have been sealed," he said, adding that included seven or eight offices.  
Aung San Suu Kyi's whereabouts remained unknown and her party was barred from contacting her, but observers in Yangon said she may be on her way back to the capital.  
NLD sources said the doors of party offices were slammed shut and the NLD's distinctive red flags emblazoned with fighting peacocks

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# 726 examinees expelled for cheating

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Over 726 examinees were expelled for cheating and five teacher for abetting their students in the acts in Bangla first paper test on the third day of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC), Alim and Fazil examinations yesterday.  
Two examinees were turned over to police for adopting unfair means at Nangarchara High School under Rangpur district.  
Officials said 64 examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means under Dhaka education board.  
According to HSC examination control room 142 examinees were expelled under Rajshahi board, 26 under Jessore board, 41 under Chittagong board, 22 under Comilla board, 28 under Barisal and nine under Sylhet board.  
In Dhaka city, three examinees were expelled. Two were expelled in Narayanganj, two in Narsingdi, five in Gazipur, nine in Mymensingh, one in Kishoreganj, 12 in Netrakona, 18 in Jamalpur, two in Sherpur, three in Faridpur, three in Madaripur and four in Gopalganj.  
Under Rajshahi education board, a teacher was expelled from Kurigram centre for abetting students in copying.  
Of the expelled examinees, 19 were in Gaibandha, 19 in Rangpur,

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### National Policy Review Forum 2003

Seventeen working sessions in three places simultaneously on June 4 and 5.

**VENUES**

- CIRDAP Auditorium, 17 Topkhana Road, Dhaka
- Planning and Development Academy Auditorium, Sonargaon Road, Nilkhet, Dhaka
- Jatiya Press Club Auditorium, Topkhana Road, Dhaka

Inaugural Programme : June 3, Tuesday at 3:00 pm, Hotel Sheraton  
Closing Programme : June 5, Thursday at 4:00 pm, Hotel Sheraton.

## Jubo Dal leader brutally killed in Patuakhali

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**  
A Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal leader was killed over factional rivalry in Patuakhali on Saturday night.  
Police said the assailants killed Mosharraf Howlader of Bauphal Upazila in the district at about 8:00pm and severed his hands after killing.  
The murder was the result of a rivalry over the lease of a ferry ghat between two local Jubo Dal groups -

one led by Salahuddin Litu and the other by Mosharraf, who was also accused of crimes, said police.  
Unknown people took the body to the local health complex by autorickshaw and left the place soon after. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for an autopsy.  
Police arrested two Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal workers Zakir and Rezaul. No case was filed.

## World's 'oldest' woman dies in Sujanagar

**BSS, Pabna**  
Begum Poirunessa, presumed to be the oldest woman in the world, died Saturday night at her Chargobindapur residence under Sujanagar Upazila here at the age of 151.  
Family sources said Poirunessa was born in 1852. She married Ketu Sheikh of Chardulal village of the same upazila at the age of 10. But she lost her first

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