

## SALUTING THE NATION BUILDERS OF TOMORROW



PHOTO: STAR

Participants in The Daily Star award-giving ceremony for O-level and A-level outstanding achievers, co-sponsored by Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited, Citibank N.A. and Mobil Jamuna Lubricant, at Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

# Gala award ceremony for O and A level achievers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At a colourful ceremony and amid loud cheers of about 4,000 students and their parents, The Daily Star yesterday honoured 456 outstanding achievers in the O-level and A-level examinations of June 2002-June 2003 sessions.

The grand ceremony – "Saluting the Nation Builders of Tomorrow" – was attended by former chief adviser of the caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman as the chief guest and British High Commissioner Dr David Carter as the special guest.

Held at Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur, the function was co-sponsored by Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited (PBT), the service provider of CityCell digital, Citibank N.A. and Mobil Jamuna Lubricant.

In the gallery that accommodates around 5,000 people, the

children burst into cheery applause with announcement of the name of each awardee. Colourful banners blazoning the names of 35 English medium schools from Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet and logos surrounded the gallery. A choir formed by students sang at intervals to animate the award-giving ceremony.

The Daily Star awarded "Certificate of Excellence" with medals to all students who secured more than six As in two consecutive sittings in the O-level and a minimum of three As in the A-level examinations in an academic year.

The chief guest handed the certificates and medals to the achievers who sat for the O- and A-level examinations under Cambridge University and the University of London.

Yesterday's event was the fifth by The Daily Star that has been awarding achievers of the outstanding

results in O- and A-level exams in Bangladesh since 1999. The function was presided over by The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam.

Justice Habibur Rahman called upon the achievers to enlighten themselves with education and not to pursue education only as a means of passing examinations.

He advised them to uphold the standards of education, values and norms of the nation and not to alienate themselves from tradition and roots.

"I am very happy to find that you are closer to the mainstream despite having education in different schooling," Rahman told the students referring to their performance of dance and Bangla songs reflecting the culture of the nation.

He underscored acquisition of knowledge and said students have to learn many things as education helps change – for the better –

personal and social values and the nation as a whole.

The former chief justice called upon the young talents to work for the nation as it expects much from them.

The British high commissioner, David Carter, appreciated Bangladeshi students for their results in the O- and A-level exams and said about 80 percent examinees from Bangladesh passed the O-level examinations and 60 percent passed the A-level.

The British envoy said, "I hope that you – brilliant students – will use your knowledge profoundly for building a better world as education is the key to tackling poverty for the developing world."

Praising the role of The Daily Star in maintaining objectivity, he said, "I have genuine respect for free press and The Daily Star is an example of it."

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz

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## Youth beaten to death at Shewrapara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was beaten to death by workers of a garments factory at East Shewrapara yesterday.

The victim was identified as Alamgir, 18.

According to witnesses, Alamgir went to the third floor of the five-storied building of the factory – Orien Style Limited – and attacked a female worker at about 2:00pm. As the girl screamed for help, the owner of the factory came forward and slapped him.

Alamgir left the factory only to return along with a young man named Babu and the duo went to the factory owner. But on hearing the incident from the owner, Babu also slapped his companion.

An angry Alamgir then came out of the factory and ransacked a microbus parked in front of it. He also misbehaved with and manhandled some workers of the factory.

At this, other workers came there and dragged Alamgir on to the third floor of the building and beat him severely. He died there at about 5:00pm.

Later, Kafrul police recovered his body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The duty officer at Kafrul Police Station said they were aware of the incident and that a police team was collecting details.

# 4 US soldiers killed in Iraq clashes

AP, Karbala

A joint US-Iraqi patrol enforcing a curfew clashed with gunmen guarding the headquarters of a Shiite cleric, setting off a firefight that killed three Americans and 10 Iraqis, including two security officers, the US Central Command and witnesses said.

In Baghdad, another soldier from the 220th Military Police Brigade was killed and two were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded Friday morning. No further details were released.

The Americans involved in the firefight at the cleric's headquarters

in this southern city were members of the 101st Airborne Division, said Maj. Mike Escudie of Central Command in Tampa, Fla. Central Command said seven Americans were wounded in the clash.

The deaths bring to 101 the number of US soldiers killed in combat since President Bush declared an end to major combat operations May 1.

Five Iraqi security personnel also were wounded in the attack near Imam Abbas Mosque in Karbala, 50 miles south of Baghdad.

Gunfire erupted again Friday morning in the same area of Karbala, where Thursday's late-

night encounter may have signalled a new determination by the Americans to disarm religious-based militias and enforce curfews.

An armoured personnel carrier of the US-led coalition opened fire Friday morning as screaming men, women and children fled for cover. Shiite gunmen defiantly shouted, "Allahu Akbar!" "God is great!" The gunfire soon ended, but young Shiites still manned rooftop and street positions with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades.

Thursday night's fighting began when coalition military police and Iraqi authorities investigated

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## 'India should consult river-link plan with co-riparian nations'

REAZ AHMAD from Kathmandu, Nepal

India should consult co-riparian countries including Bangladesh about its river inter-link project, otherwise it would be a violation of international laws, B G Verghese, member of the Indian taskforce on the mega plan, told Bangladesh journalists in Kathmandu yesterday.

It was first such Indian comment on consultation and sharing of information on common rivers that came on the heels of serious concerns about the \$200 billion project expressed by Bangladesh and Nepal who share some major common rivers with India.

"The project is not going to affect Bangladesh and Dhaka should not jump to any conclusion (at this stage)," he said.

"If the inter-basin transfer of river waters affects Bangladesh in terms of lower-availability in the downstream and India goes ahead with the plan without consultation with Dhaka, it will definitely be a violation of international laws."

Verghese, also the executive director of Delhi-based South Asia Foundation and a senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), a Delhi-based think-tank, said the river-link project was aimed

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## Construction stopped at JU over JCD threat

JU CORRESPONDENT

Construction work of seven buildings at Jahangirnagar University (JU) has come to an abrupt halt since Thursday evening under threats from activists of the ruling BNP's student wing Jatayatadai Chhatra Dal (JCD).

Members of JCD units at five JU halls, following intra-organisation feuds over sharing of toll extracted from the construction firms, threatened the latter to stop work, sources said.

Many activists alleged that President of JU unit of the JCD Parvez Mallick and Secretary Harun-ur-Rashid realised about Tk 10 to 12 lakh in toll from the six firms.

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## Body to probe Biman flight delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-member committee was formed yesterday to probe the delay of a Biman flight at Zia International Airport (ZIA) Thursday night allegedly to accommodate the wife of a high government official.

Flight BG-047 from Dubai was scheduled to leave for Chittagong at 8:30pm but was delayed for almost an hour reportedly waiting for the female passenger, sources said.

Irritated passengers pleaded with Biman officials to let the plane fly but to no effect. But exasperation turned into downright anger when passengers saw a lady boarding the aircraft nearly an hour after the scheduled departure, and threatened to disembark if the lady was allowed to board.

The lady was finally forced down from the plane, which left at 9:30pm.

The probe committee, formed at the directive of the civil aviation minister, will submit its report tomorrow.

Mohammad Nasiruddin, deputy secretary of civil aviation and tourism ministry, is heading the committee. The other member of the committee is Mahbub Hasan, deputy general manager (Cargo) of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.



PHOTO: SK MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM

Containers lie off the railroad after a train derailed near Akhaura, killing two people and snapping rail links on Dhaka-Chittagong, Dhaka-Sylhet and Sylhet-Mymensingh routes yesterday.

|        | Sun Rises | Sun Sets |
|--------|-----------|----------|
| Oct 18 |           | 5-30 pm  |
| Oct 19 | 5-58 am   |          |

| Prayer Timings |       |        |
|----------------|-------|--------|
| October 18     |       |        |
|                | Azan  | Jamaat |
| Fajr           | 5-00  | 5-25   |
| Zohr           | 12-45 | 1-15   |
| Asr            | 4-15  | 4-30   |
| Maghrib        | 5-37  | 5-42   |
| Esha           | 7-30  | 8-00   |

Source: Islamic Foundation