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PHOTO: STAR

The Daily Star award winners of 2002 seen with Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud who attended the award-giving ceremony as chief guest and British HC David Carter as special guest and principals of different English medium schools. (More photos on page 10)

## 'Turn individual achievement into national success'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At a colourful ceremony and amid loud cheers of thousands of students and their parents, The Daily Star yesterday honoured 319 students of the country for their outstanding achievements in the O-level and A-level examinations of the June 2001-June 2002 sessions.

The highly spirited ceremony titled "Saluting the Nation Builders of Tomorrow" was attended by economist and former advisor to the caretaker government Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud as chief guest and British High Commissioner to Bangladesh David Carter as the special guest.

Held at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium at Mirpur in the city, the function was co-sponsored by Khulna Power Company Limited (Summit Group), DHL Worldwide Express and the Citi Bank N.A.

Chairman and Managing Director of the Summit Group M Aziz Khan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Citi Bank N.A. Mamun Rashid and Qazi Syed Farooqi of DHL Worldwide Express spoke on the occasion.

More than three thousand students, teachers and guardians of over 28 English medium schools in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet assembled at the award-giving ceremony.

In the gallery that accommodates around 4,000 people, the children

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## Amnesty call to probe deaths in custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International has urged the Bangladesh government to investigate the deaths of at least 12 people in army custody since October 17.

"The investigation needs to be prompt, fair and carried out by an independent body," the human-rights organisation said in a press release yesterday.

"All findings of the investigation must be made public and all those responsible for the deaths and ill-treatment of the detained should be brought to justice," it said.

Nearly two weeks after the launch of the anti-crime military "Operation Clean Heart" on October 17, the Bangladesh government acknowledged that 12 people died in army custody and promised to investigate the deaths, Amnesty said.

Soldiers carried out raids across

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## Alleged criminal Nasir shot, arrested in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police shot an alleged criminal at Kathal Bagan in the city yesterday morning.

Shot in the chest, Mohammad Nasir Uddin, 26, was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and shifted to the Chest Diseases Hospital later upon deterioration of his condition.

A team of Dhanmondi police challenged two young men on suspicion at Sonargaon Road at about 5:15am. When the youths attempted to open fire, the policemen shot at them, injuring Nasir.

Police arrested Nasir and seized six bullets and some parts of a cut rifle from him.

A case was filed with the Dhanmondi Police Station in this regard.

## Rejoinder and our reply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of the Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment has clarified some points in a report headlined "Ministry in land grab move" published in The Daily Star on October 30.

The ministry said the land was purchased in 2001 by the previous government for the welfare of expatriates who earn valuable foreign currency for the country. The clarification said the ministry purchased the land from individual landowners through legal procedures after obtaining clearance from the Deputy Commissioner's office.

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 2		5-19 pm
Nov 3	6-06 am	

Prayer Timings		
Nov 2		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-27	5-33
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Jubo Dal leader dies, Talukder Khaleque held in Khulna

### Imam arrested, arms recovered from mosque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jubo Dal activist, who was arrested by the army from his house at Chuadanga on Tuesday and fell sick during interrogation while on police remand, died at the Khulna Sadar Hospital yesterday.

On the 15th day of the country-wide crackdown on criminals, troops arrested yesterday former state minister Talukder Abdul Khaleque, MP, who is also general secretary of Khulna district Awami League (AL), from his residence in Khulna city.

The Jubo Dal activist, identified as Mizanur Rahman Busha, 40, was picked up from his Post Office Para residence at about 5:00 pm and handed over to police about two and a half hours later. Police produced him before court next day and he was placed on a three-day remand.

Our Chuadanga correspondent, quoting sources, reports that police, acting on information received from Mizanur during interrogation,

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PHOTO: STAR

Former state minister for relief Talukder Abdul Khaleque MP was arrested from his Khulna residence yesterday in the countrywide anti-crime army drive.

## Traders in city feel safe as criminals go hiding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sense of security has returned to the businessmen as extortion, mugging and other petty criminal activities have significantly dropped in the city since the army cracked down on criminals.

"There were no snatching and mugging in my area in the last two weeks," said Aftab Ahmed Khan, former general secretary of the Bangladesh Jewelry Association and owner of a jewelry shop in the Gulistan area.

"Lots of women now come to the market at night wearing gold ornaments. This was unthinkable even two months back," he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, more than two dozen traders, businessmen and shop owners in Gulistan, Baitul Mukarram, Stadium, Elephant Road and Nawabpur area

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on Thursday vouched that law and order has improved following the joint drive.

They observed that criminals who used to systematically swoop on prominent business areas and market places have disappeared after the crackdown.

The traders however feel that permanent steps have to be taken so that the criminals do not return after the joint drive.

Mugging and demand for illegal toll were common in city's Nawabpur area. But now the situation has improved a lot, businessmen said.

The traders of Nawabpur, a hub of hardware, machine tools and electrical equipment shops, said criminals used to hang out in some selected hotels and tea stalls. But now, these hangouts remain mostly closed.

## Shift ailing Suja to BIRDEM, demands AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Leaders of Khulna district and city Awami League have again demanded shifting of party leader and former whip Mostafa Rashidi Suja to BIRDEM in Dhaka as his condition deteriorated at the jail hospital here.

Suja is suffering from acute diabetes and multiple injuries, the leaders said at a press conference here yesterday. They alleged that he suffered injuries during interrogation in army camp. Suja was arrested on October 17.

Better treatment is needed to

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## Non-payment of dues to growers Seed crisis surfaces, may deepen next yr

REAZ AHMAD

Farmers' refusal to supply seeds to the state-owned Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) has left the government in worries about the seed dearth that may turn severe next year.

The crisis started this year, with the supply of boro seeds to the BADC having dipped to 7,500MT (metric ton) from 10,000MT last year, wheat seeds to 12,000MT from 14,000MT and potato seeds to 6,600MT from 7,500MT.

The refusal by many of the 60,000 BADC contract-growers came after non-payment of Tk 8 crore in dues for last year's supply, said official sources.

Local farmers grow seeds on a

contract basis for the BADC, which sells them at a lower price to all farmers across the country. The BADC is the lone public sector supplier of pure seeds of cereals and cash crops.

Worried about the short supply of seeds this year and a possible severe crisis next year, the government has lately started tapping into sales proceeds to pay the farmers' dues.

The BADC asked its all seed sales-centres to immediately send rest of the proceeds to the headquarters in Dhaka so that the contract growers' dues could be paid soon.

"All 6,600MT of potato seeds have been sold out and almost half the 7,500MT of boro seeds have been sold too. The sales proceeds

will be around Tk 12-13 crore," said

an official on condition of anonymity. "Only if we can pay the one-year dues, some contract growers may grow seeds for the BADC next year. Otherwise, there is no hope."

The contract growers supplied wheat, boro, oil and pulse seeds worth Tk 24 crore to the BADC last year, but they were paid only Tk 5 crore in July this year.

In early September, The Daily Star reported on non-payment of growers' dues.

Of Tk 19 crore still in dues, only Tk 9 crore was paid off in late September and Tk 2 crore more in October with proceeds from last year's seed stocks, the BADC sources told The Daily Star yesterday.

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## Housewife murder Three Indians held in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Three Indian nationals were arrested for their alleged involvement in the killing of housewife Minuara at village Bijoyagar under Godagari upazila on Thursday.

The arrested are Sabiar Rahman, son of Joydul Islam, Shamsul Alam, son of Abdul Khaleq and Jahangir Alam, son of Mohsin Ali. All the three hail from Kalinagar village of Bhagabangola thana under Murshidabad district.

Unidentified miscreants slaughtered Minuara at her house at Bijoyagar village in Godagari upazila on Wednesday.

Victim's husband Abdus Subhan filed a murder case with Godagari thana on Thursday.

## Schoolteacher murder Hunt for Zillur, Biplab in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives have launched a man-hunt for Zillur and Biplab, the two absconding accused in schoolteacher Swapan Kumar Goswami murder case.

A team of Detective Branch (DB) police led by DB Inspector Abdul Malik have fanned out in the city and its suburbs to nab them.

DB sources said they have got enough information about the killers and the investigation is almost complete. "Our only task now is to arrest Zillur and Biplab," said a DB official. DB Inspector Abdul Malik is also the IO of the case.

Swapan, known to be a very sincere and good English teacher at Government Laboratory High

School in the city, was shot dead on October 20 at Bhutergoli soon after he left home for school at about 9:30 am. The killing is still a talk of the town.

Police have so far arrested six persons in connection with the killing. They are SM Shabbir Hossain Shatanu, his father Assistant Secretary Moshir Rahman, Tanvir Sharif Apon, Monirul Islam, Rifat and Yunus Ali.

Shatanu and Apon were students of class VII at Government Laboratory High School while Rifat was a student class X at New Model School.

Shatanu has been sent to Dhaka Central Jail after he gave confessional statement on Wednesday.

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PHOTO: STAR

Fishermen in a country boat set fishing nets in the Tanguar Haor (water body) in Sunamganj, which was zoned as Ramsar site, in violation of government rules.

## Ramsar project: Move on to loot six more haors?

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

While implementation of the Ramsar project in Tanguar Haor in Sunamganj district is yet to start even about three years after declaration of the vast water body as a Ramsar Site, a move is now on to bring six more haors around it under the project, causing a huge loss to the government.

Sources said the environment ministry and the district administration of Sunamganj are now planning to stop fresh lease of these haors, rich in fish resources. The ministry has already asked the district administration not to go on with the process of leasing out these water bodies on expiry of the existing lease.

The haors are Halima Kalma, Pana, Eraliakuna, Ponjakuri, Samsa Hunkhola and Fashua Harua haors, covering around 2500 acres.

The haors are under the control of the land ministry. Tanguar Haor was placed under to the environment ministry last year because it is a Ramsar Site.

Tanguar Haor was not leased out for the last two years and there is no sign of leasing it this year also.

Earlier, the government used to get at least Tk 60 lakh per year as revenue through leasing it in part. Indiscriminate catching of fish and even fries and felling of plants of different types in the haor is now going on in violation of government rules.

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