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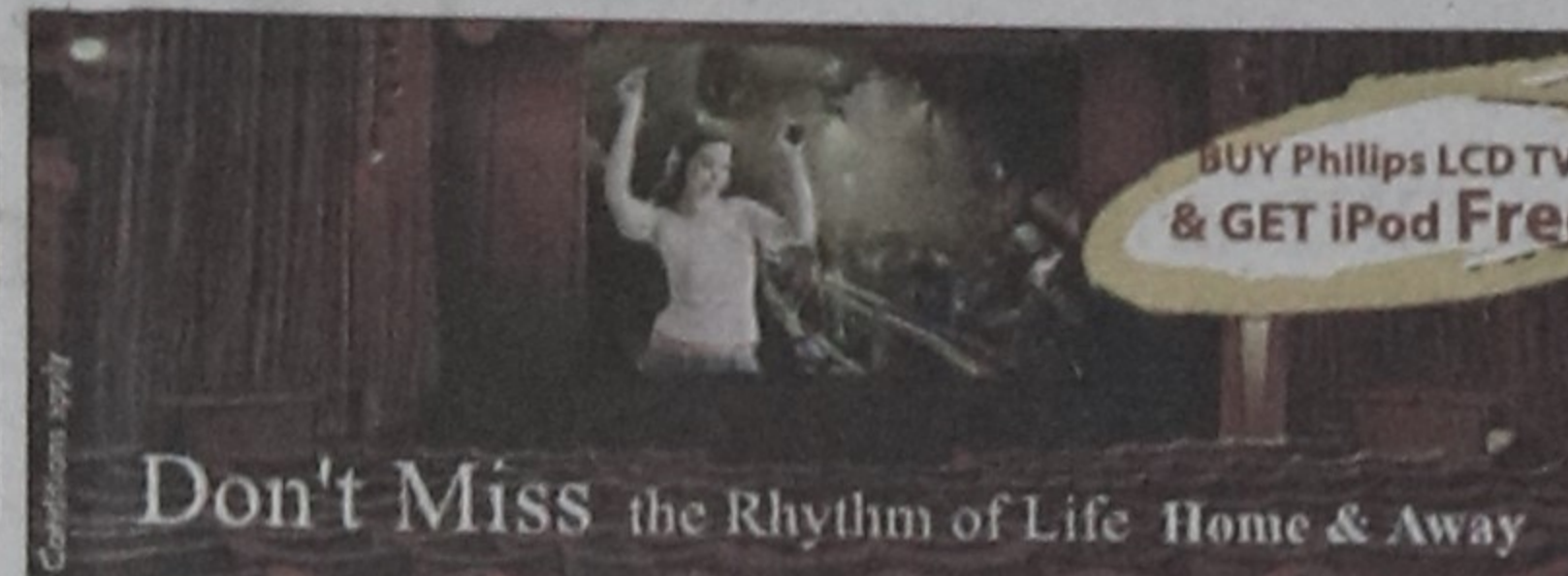
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## Voices of the achievers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sparkling eyes spoke of their dream of winning the world, as relentless applause for extraordinary achievements of around a thousand of 'O' and 'A' level students reverberated through the hall yesterday, followed by music and dance performances in Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in the capital.

Recognised by The Daily Star that honoured the students at its 9th annual award presentation ceremony, the teachers and parents, who work behind the scenes for the achievements of their students and children, expressed their happiness while renewing their vow to do more for the nation builders of tomorrow.

"I want to invent modern medicines... and make those available for cheap prices for all strata of the people," said Fahad Ibn Azam, who attained the world's highest A level mark in chemistry from Academia.

Determined Azam, who now studies at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) under Dhaka University, said he plans to join the pharmaceutical industry.

Business will create a lot of jobs helping the people of this country, he told The Daily Star at the stadium packed with outstanding young achievers.

Asked if he would like to go abroad for higher studies, Azam said, "Yes, I would, but will surely come back and use my expertise here."

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Awardees, their families, teachers, friends and invited guests at Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur during the ninth award presentation ceremony for outstanding students of "O" and "A" levels organised by The Daily Star yesterday.

## Pakistan drops cases against Zardari in Britain, Switzerland

Zardari's sister may be interim PM

THE DAWN, Lahore

The National Accountability Bureau of Pakistan has decided to withdraw cases against PPP Co-chairman Asif Zardari in Switzerland and Britain, Dawn News reported on Friday.

Meanwhile, a BBC Radio report on Friday said Zardari may nominate his sister Dr Azra Fazal as the interim premier.

According to the Dawn News  
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## WOMEN POLICY 2008

## Govt soft on extremists, says Workers Party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers Party of Bangladesh yesterday expressed concern over the government's handling of the religious fundamentalists on the issue of national women development policy 2008.

At a meeting chaired by its president Rashed Khan Menon, the party's central committee observed that the religious bigots managed to stage demonstrations against the national woman

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# Future nation-builders honoured

The Daily Star awards 911 'O' and 'A' level students for outstanding performances

WORLD-BEATERS	
<b>A LEVEL</b>	<b>ACCOUNTING</b>
Atzal Alam	Fuad Alam
Asif Khondaker	Rupack Ranjan Halder
Mirza Mohammed Forqan Shirazi	Syed Sabir Salman-Al-Musawi
Saad Ikram Saffat	<b>BANGLADESH STUDIES</b>
Talukder Shudrshan Mashrukh	<b>COMMERCE</b>
Kazi Sakif Zaman Reza	Nafees Imtiaz
Shafkat Hassan	<b>BIOLOGY</b>
Onik Arman Hussain	Ali Masud
Fairuz Faatin	Rusafa Binte Hassan
Ashiqur Rahman	<b>HUMAN BIOLOGY</b>
Sharfaraz Khan Raj	Shamsun Nahar Mahmood
Nafis Muntasir	Navid Anjum Rashid
Saibal Saha	<b>CHEMISTRY</b>
Kazi Shihab Ashraf	Mohammed Tahsin Chowdhury
Mobasherul Alam Chaklader	

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star honoured in an award ceremony yesterday, the nation's 911 highest achieving 'O' and 'A' level students, including 55 who ranked among the world's top scorers in their subjects.

Attended by teachers, friends, families and specially invited guests in National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur of the capital, the ceremony awarded the outstanding students with medals and certificates of excellence amid fanfare and dance performances by several schools.

The 9th Annual O level Daily Star Awards went to 640 O level students who achieved six or more As in two

consecutive sittings in exams, and to 243 A level students who attained a minimum of three As in the exams held under Cambridge University and the University of London.

Among 55 students, who had ranked among the top scorers of the world in their subjects, 13 of the 'O' level graduates and 15 of the 'A' level, however were not awarded yesterday because they had not succeeded in getting the required number of As in respective categories.

Twenty four students, who sat for their 'A' levels, ranked among the top scorers of the world in their subjects, with 20 of them clinching the honour in accounting alone, in

the exams of January 2007 and May/June 2007.

Thirty one students, who took their 'O' level exams, ranked among the top scorers of the world in their subjects, with Bangladeshi students dominating a diverse set of disciplines from economics to English language.

Speaking as the chief guest, eminent physicist Jamal Nazrul Islam, director of the Research Centre for Mathematical and Physical Sciences at the University of Chittagong, called on the high achievers to address poverty and to serve not only their country but also their world.

"Your main concern should be

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## Govt to reform fertiliser distribution system for ensuring smooth supply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government is planning to reform the fertiliser distribution system to ensure its smooth supply.

Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman yesterday said this while speaking at the special edition of BBC Bangladesh Sanglap titled "Rural Economy" held at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital.

"Fertiliser marketing will be made open so that farmers can purchase their required fertiliser directly from the market," said the adviser.

Zillur, also the education adviser, said the government would take initiatives to ensure that the subsidies given in fertiliser directly reach the target producers, especially small and poor cultivators.

President of Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad, Bangladesh Agro-processors' Association President Maj Gen (ret'd) Amzad Khan Chowdhury and Executive Director of Ubinig Farida Akhtar also took part in the talks as panellists.

The BBC's guest presenter

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## BNP unification move on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leaders close to Brig Gen (ret'd) Hannan Shah yesterday backed down from holding an organisational meeting of the party scheduled for today following request from the rivals.

The decision was taken yesterday after a discussion between the pro-Hannan leaders and an emissary of Khandaker Delwar Hossain -- the Khaleda-appointed secretary general of the party who is currently in the US for treatment, said leaders of BNP.

Delwar had sent his representative to Hannan Shah, urging him not to hold any organisational meeting in his absence.

"They (pro-Hannan leaders) invited me to attend a meeting scheduled for tomorrow (Sunday), but they informed me today that

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## DAKAR DECLARATION

# OIC pledges to work for world peace, security

UNB, Dakar

The 11th summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) on Friday adopted Dakar Declaration pledging to preserve world peace and security, face the challenges of the Muslim Ummah and ensure development of the member states.

"The leaders of the Muslim countries hereby renew their pledge to preserve world peace and security... and thus to fully adhere to the United Nations' key mission

in this regard as well as international legality as a rule for all without any political double standards," said the declaration adopted on the concluding day of the two-day summit.

The summit leaders reaffirmed the need for complying with all the Security Council resolutions on Al Quds, an issue for which the OIC was established, to ensure just and lasting peace in the Middle East and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to establish an independent state within interna-

tionally guaranteed borders.

The declaration condemned Israel's refusal to fully comply with the UN resolutions to allow establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Al Quds Al Sharif as its capital without any territorial discontinuity, pull out of the Golan Heights of Syria and respect Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The declaration strongly condemned all forms of "extremism and dogmatism," which are

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## LAWACHHARA

# Chevron gets govt nod for 3D survey

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The government has authorised US company Chevron to conduct 3D seismic survey in the Lawachhara Reserve Forest.

Forest department in Sylhet received a letter in this regard from Ministry of Forest and Environment on March 12, said sources at the forest department.

The letter also mentioned that Chevron would pay compensation in case of any damage to the forest during the survey, added the sources.

Environmentalists fear that the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## Blasts kill many in Albania ammo depot

AFP, Tirana

At least four people were killed and more than 170 hurt yesterday when powerful blasts rocked an army munitions depot near the Albanian capital Tirana, with the prime minister predicting a "considerable" toll.

The serial explosions at the site, about 12 kilometres (eight miles) north of the city, began at around midday and continued at intervals for several hours.

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Prayer Timing		
March 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-18
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed meets Prime Minister of Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah on the sidelines of the 11th OIC Summit in Dakar, Senegal yesterday.

## 30 dead in Tibet unrest, says govt in exile

AFP, Dharamshala

Tibet's exiled government said yesterday that about 30 people had been killed during unrest in Lhasa, as Chinese troops locked down the city amid fierce international scrutiny ahead of the Olympics.

Witnesses said tanks and soldiers were out in force in Lhasa following Friday's protests, the biggest against China's controver-

sial rule of Tibet since 1989, as authorities set a Monday deadline for perpetrators to surrender.

"We are confirming approximately 30 deaths, and we are even hearing numbers of over 100 dead, but this number we are unable to confirm," Tenzin Taklha, a senior official of the Tibetan government-in-exile in Dharamshala in northern India, told AFP.

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## Mashrafe & co in hot water

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is likely to punish national cricketers Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Abdur Razzak and Syed Rasel for playing in a cricket tournament in Narail yesterday.

Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, ad-hoc executive committee member of BCB, said action would be taken against the three in accordance with the players' code of conduct.

"I didn't know of them informing the board or team management of their participation in the match, but I'm sure they would be disciplined as the code of conduct would be followed," said the former national captain.

Mashrafe, Tigers vice-captain, Rasel and Razzak were seen along with Mahmudullah Riyad and Dollar Mahmud playing in the Panna Smriti Cricket tournament.

Mashrafe said, "We went to Narail for holidays and we only played the match on the local boys' insistence." Match was held a day after Bangladesh's third one-day international against South Africa.

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