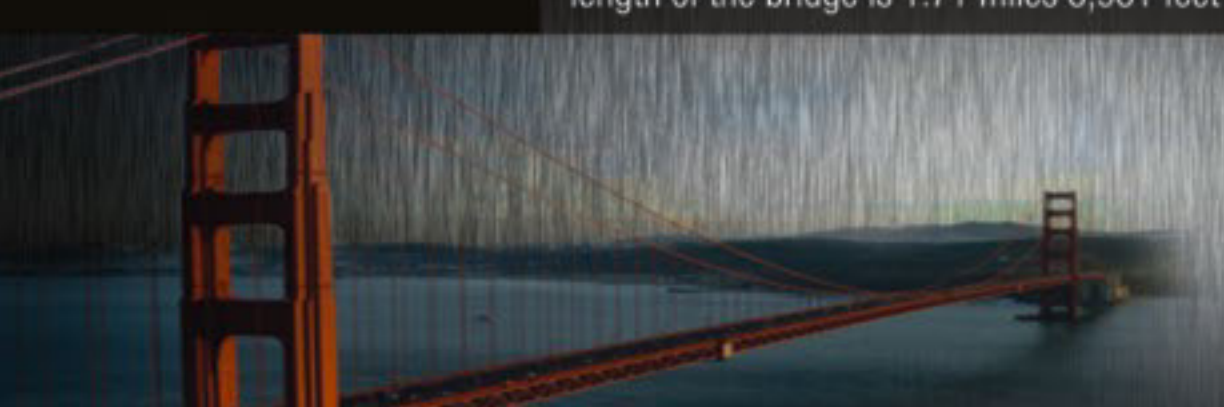


**Did you know?** The Golden Gate Bridge is a suspension bridge spanning the Golden Gate, the opening of the San Francisco Bay into the Pacific Ocean. It was the longest suspension bridge span in the world when it was completed during the year 1937. The total length of the bridge is 1.71 miles 8,981 feet (2,737 m) with a width of 90 feet (27 m) and a height 746 feet (227 m).



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## 52 students get world highest marks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-one Bangladeshi students secured the highest marks worldwide in 14 subjects in GCE O-level examinations and another 21 in six subjects in A-level exams in 2008-2009 academic session.

Two students obtained A grade in 11 subjects in the 2009 O-level exams and three others in six subjects in the 2009 A-level exams.

They were among the 1,118 O-level and A-level students awarded by The Daily Star at a ceremony in the capital's Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium yesterday for good results under Edexcel International and Cambridge International Examinations.

Nandita Hore from SFX Greenherald International School obtained 11 A's in a single sitting in O-level exams in May-June, 2009 and Shafkat Fahmid from Cider International School 11 A's in two sittings -- two A's in

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Outstanding achievers of O and A levels examinations pose for a group photo at the 11th annual award giving ceremony organised by The Daily Star at Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## 2ND TEST FROM TODAY Jahirul set for debut

SPORTS REPORTER

Jahirul Islam will make his international debut today when Bangladesh take on England in the second and final Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The 24-year-old batsman from Rajshahi, who was drafted into the side after Rokibul Hasan announced his 'retirement' a day before the first Test, will replace middle-order batsman Aftab Ahmed, who was struggling at number four.

The team think-tank made another change from the last playing eleven as pacer Shafiqul Islam returned to replace Shahadat Hossain to share the new ball with Rubel Hossain, who was also ordinary in the first Test in Chittagong.

The Tigers will look for an improvement in their performance, especially with better batting from the top order batsmen.

The Tigers lost the first Test at Chittagong by 181 runs but their fighting spirit courtesy of Junaed Siddiqui's maiden hundred, Mushfiqur Rahim's

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## WORLD HIGHEST MARKS ACHIEVERS

### O LEVEL

#### Accounting:

Khondaker Sadman Rahman (Maple Leaf)

Raiya Kishwar Ashraf (Private)

**Additional Mathematics:** Anik Islam Badhan (Oxford Intl School)

Animesh Saha Shovan (Chittagong Grammar School)

Pritam Das Tamal (Chittagong Grammar School)

AKM Sidratul Montaha (Oxford Intl School)

#### Bengali:

Naziza Akhter Alam (Cider Intl School)

Aanika Tabassum (Dhanmondi Tutorial)

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# Accolades for outstanding students

## The Daily Star awards 1,118 for brilliant results in O, A levels exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star yesterday honoured 1,118 O and A levels graduates for outstanding achievements, including 52 who ranked among the world's top scorers in the exams of 2008 and 2009.

The outstanding students were awarded with medals and certificates of excellence in a ceremony styled 'Saluting the Nation Builders of Tomorrow', attended by the awardees' teachers, friends, families, and special guests in the capital's Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium.

The 11th annual award ceremony was marked with jubilation as the audience burst into cheery applause while the names of the awardees were being announced in the four-hour event sponsored by Brac Bank Ltd, BAC, and Edexcel International.

Awardees from 63 English medium schools gathered at the venue. Musical and dance performances by students of several schools made the ceremony lively. The Daily Star initiated the unique annual event in 1999. This year 736 O level and 382 A level graduates received the awards.

Among the 52 world's top scoring students in different subjects 31 are of O level and 21 are of A level, with many of them scoring the world's highest scores in multiple subjects.

For the first time, Tk 15,000 was awarded to the top scorers in computer studies by Nabeel Trust, a memorial trust to honour the memories of a brilliant student Mufrat Nabeel Rahman who passed away in 2007. He was a student of Bangladesh Medical College at the time of his death after passing A level from Scholastica. From now on, the

award will be given every year.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid presented the certificates and medals to the future nation builders.

Speaking as the chief guest, the minister called upon the students to dedicate their knowledge and competence for the welfare of the country and its people.

Congratulating the students, he said, "You have got comparatively better opportunities of studying in good schools of international standards and achieved

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### HIGHEST A ACHIEVERS

#### O LEVEL

**1. Nandita Hore** (SFX Greenherald International School) **11 A's in one sitting.**

**2. Shafkat Fahmid** (Cider International School) **11 A's in two consecutive sittings.**

#### A LEVEL

**1. Ishmam Ahmad** (Sunshine Grammar School and College) **6 A's in one sitting.**

**2. Nafis Anwari** (European Standard School) **6 A's in one academic year.**

**3. Samiul Karim** (Scholastica) **6 A's in one academic year.**

## 1,130 trees cut down in Srimangal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least 1,130 trees were chopped down at Nahar Tea Garden in Srimangal as of yesterday.

With 200 loggers felling trees non-stop for a week, the tea garden authorities has set another seven days to complete the job.

M/s Salim Timber and Traders bought 4,000 trees from Nahar Tea Garden in 2008. The company embarked on wiping out trees after a High Court bench allowed felling of 3,550 out of 4,000

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Dhaka Wassa is laying storm drains behind the Election Commission Secretariat at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar so the roads between Gono Bhaban and the Prime Minister's Office do not get waterlogged during the rains. Inset, a sign asking motorists to drive slow.

PHOTO: STAR

## GRAFT IN RECRUITMENT Ministry sitting on DMCH probe report

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

The health ministry has been sitting idle for more than a month since a probe report published by Dhaka Medical College Hospital revealed massive corruption in its recruitment processes.

It is alleged that the previous director, Brig Gen Bazle Quader, worked in association with some of the leaders of Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad and took bribes of up to Tk 4 lakh for a single health care post.

After the allegations emerged, the health ministry suspended all recruitment and formed a committee to investigate the issue. The report, submitted to the health secretary on 11 February, revealed that the recruitment process was blighted by widespread nepotism and political influence.

Omar Faroque, joint secretary for hospital and nursing in the health ministry headed the three-member probe committee. A committee member who spoke on condition of anonymity said, "Massive irregularities occurred during the recruitment process."

"Even the quota system wasn't followed. I cannot say anything more because we are still waiting for the government to take the next steps."

Since January 15, the health ministry has neither cancelled

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## Top Jamaat leaders to be tried first

State minister says about war crime trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam yesterday said the trial of identified war criminals including Jamaat leaders Matiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Mojaheed and Delwar Hossain Sayeedi will be held in the first phase.

"Top Jamaat leaders including Nizami, Mojaheed and Sayeedi who led the massacre during the Liberation War will be tried in the first phase," Quamrul said at a meeting of National Awami Party at its office in Dhanmondi.

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# Headley pleads guilty in Mumbai attack plot

## India seeks to question US terror convict

AFP, AP, Chicago

A Chicago man pleaded guilty Thursday to using his Western appearance as a cover while scouting out sites for the deadly 2008 Mumbai siege and plotting to kill a Danish cartoonist.

The Washington-born son of a former Pakistani diplomat and American woman, David Coleman Headley reportedly befriended Bollywood stars and even

dated an actress during his lengthy surveillance trips to India. Headley, 49, began cooperating with investigators immediately after his October arrest.

Indian authorities will ask the United States to let them question Headley who pleaded guilty to scouting targets for the 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai, the government said Friday.

Indian Home Minister Palaniappan

Chidambaram said India had yet to receive permission from US authorities to speak with Headley or his wife.

"We will continue to press our request for access to interrogate him," Chidambaram told reporters.

Headley formally admitted to 12 terrorism charges after prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty or to allow Headley to be extradited to either India,

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## Criminal killed in clash with rivals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A criminal was killed and five others were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Fatullah of Narayanganj yesterday.

The dead was identified as Sohel, a self-claimed activist of Juba Dal and a listed criminal of the area. Officer-in-charge of Fatullah Model Police Station Jibon Kanti Sarker said at least 10 cases have been lodged against

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## Putin, Hillary clash over Iran nuke plant launch

AFP, Moscow

The United States and Russia Thursday clashed over Iran's first nuclear plant which Russia is helping build after strongman Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said the station would come online this summer.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in Moscow hoping to secure Russia's support for a tougher line on Iran, said such a move would send Tehran the wrong message.

"The launch of the first unit of Iran's nuclear power station should be implemented already this summer," Putin said at a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

### OnlinePoll

Do you support water transport workers' strike for higher wages and other demands?

Yes (62.2%)  
No (34.7%)  
No Comments (3.1%)

Total votes: 749

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government will be able to form all necessary bodies to try the war crime before 26th March?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

### Prayer Timing

March 20

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-55	5-30
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-16	6-20
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation