

Height of brutality

Madrasa girl set afire for 'refusing' to lift sexual assault case against principal

STAR REPORT

A madrasa student in Feni was set on fire yesterday allegedly for refusing to withdraw a case filed against the principal for sexually harassing her late last month.

With 75 percent burns, the 18-year-old is now struggling for life at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Some four students of Sonagazi Islamia Senior Fazil Madrasa took her to the rooftop of its three-storey administrative building yesterday morning, saying a friend was being assaulted there.

The girl was an Alim (equivalent to HSC) examinee and a few minutes were left before the beginning

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High achievers in the O- and A-level exams, their parents, and teachers enjoy a dance performance by school students at the packed Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium yesterday. The Daily Star held its 20th edition of O- and A-Level Awards Presentation Ceremony there to honour tomorrow's nation builders for their success in the exams of 2017-18 academic session.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



PHOTO: COLLECTED

The 18-year-old female Alim examinee is being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday with 75 percent burns.

All the best, shining stars

2,257 outstanding achievers in O- & A-level exams rejoice as The Daily Star honours them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday's heavy rains could not dampen the indomitable spirit of some of the country's brightest minds who turned up in exuberance to celebrate their academic success and brilliance.

They showed every sign that they would be the change makers of tomorrow and pledged to build a prosperous nation at The Daily Star O- and A-level awards presentation ceremony at the

Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium in Mirpur.

"Let's pledge that we will put our talents and education to good use. We must make sure that none of us becomes educated monsters," said Hanzalah Choudhury, who got the highest number of A's among the country's A-level candidates.

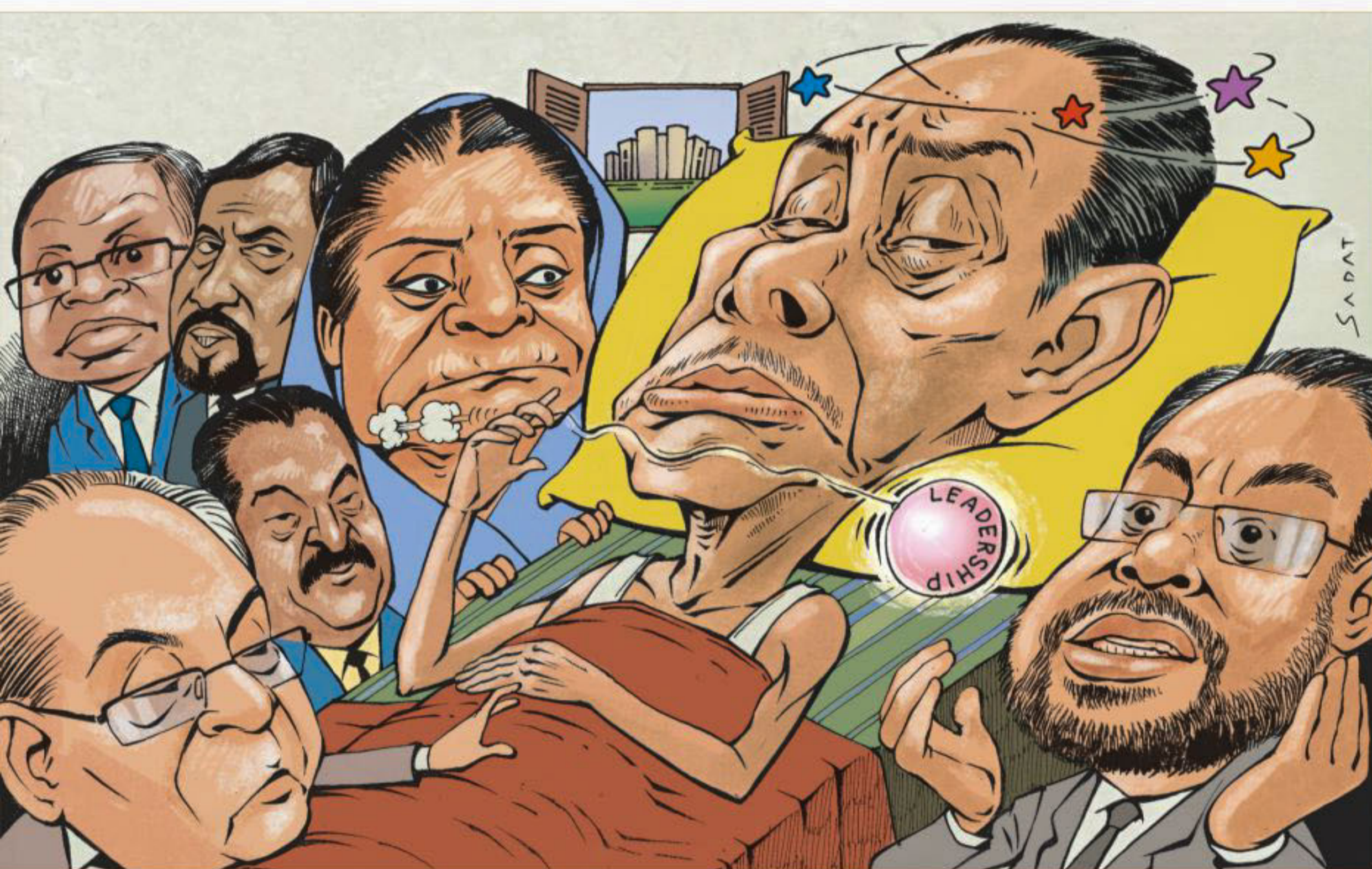
A total of 2,257 awardees -- 1,813 from O-level and 444 A-level - were recognised at the 20th edition of the newspaper's annual

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"Challenge yourself; have the courage to change and disrupt and do something new."

SONIA BASHIR KABIR,

MD OF MICROSOFT BANGLADESH, MYANMAR, NEPAL, BHUTAN AND LAOS



FEUD IN JP Ailing Ershad struggles to keep reins

RASHIDUL HASAN

The dispute between two groups in the Jatiya Party has reached a critical juncture thanks to the absence of HM Ershad in party activities and his flip-flops over who would be the acting chairman.

With Ershad's wife Raushan Ershad in the forefront, JP senior leaders Anisul Islam Mahmud, Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, Ruhul Amin Hawlader, Kazi Feroz Rashid, and Fakhrul Imam are leading one group while Ershad's

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RISING MEDICAL EXPENSES The poor slide deeper into poverty

Flawed healthcare system to blame, say experts

PORIMOL PALMA and MOUIDUD AHMED SUJAN

Seventeen-year-old Mehedi Hasan was diagnosed with skin cancer at a Natore hospital in December 2017 and was referred to the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital.

After his mother brought him to the institute in the capital's Mohakhali, doctors performed several tests and asked them to go home and wait until they hear from the hospital.

A few weeks later, his mother took Mehedi to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he stayed for seven months and oper-

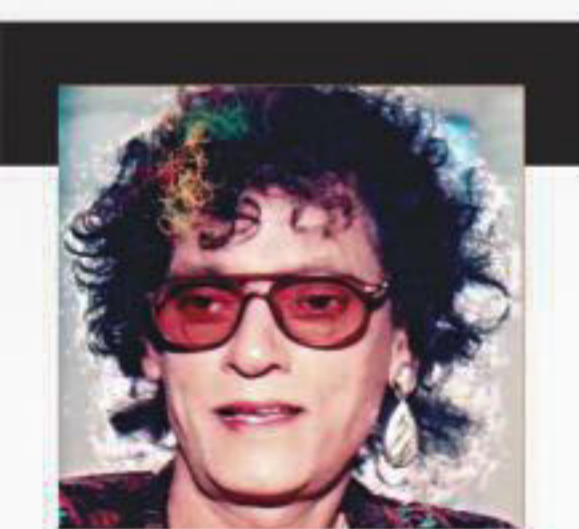
ated upon five times.

Meanwhile, paying for medication, travels and food, his parents' savings depleted. They also incurred debts, his mother Monju Ara said as she attended to her son at the DMCH last week.

He was released from the hospital last year, but had to be brought back regularly for chemotherapy. He now has to stay half of each month at the hospital.

"We have to spend at least Tk 25,000 every time we come to Dhaka for his chemotherapy," the grieving mother told The Daily Star, adding that the family has spent over

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Tele Samad no more

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Renowned comedian and film actor Abdus Samad, popularly known as Tele Samad, passed away yesterday at the age of 74.

He breathed his last around 2:30pm at Square Hospitals in Dhaka, said his son Diganto Samad. He had been battling different old-age complications, including kidney and heart diseases, over the past few years.

The popular actor had a bypass surgery in the USA in 2017. He returned to Bangladesh in September that year after recovery. However, he was admitted to hospital twice in October and November. His namaz-e-janaza will

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FR TOWER VIOLATIONS

Rajuk knew about it but did nothing

Says public works minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rajuk knew that the FR Tower in Banani was built in 2007 with illegal floors and in deviation of the approved plan, but it turned a blind eye to the matter, Public Works Minister SM Rezaul Karim said yesterday.

He expressed frustration that although the matter was detected, the Rajuk high-ups didn't bother about correcting it in the subsequent years.

"The unbridled greed of the building owners, the developer and some Rajuk officials led to the fire tragedy at FR Tower that killed 26 innocent people," the minister said at a

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The deadly fire at FR tower killed 26 people.

PHOTO: FILE

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