



their parents, and teachers enjoy a dance performance by school students at the packed Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium. The 20th edition of O- and A-Level Awards Presentation Ceremony there to honour tomorrow's nation builders for their success.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Best, shining stars

O- & A-level exams rejoice as The Daily Star honours them

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 money-lovers," said Hanzalah Choudhury, who got the highest number of votes 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."

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### 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 Fakhru Imam are leading one group while Ershad's

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### RIISING MEDICAL EXPENSES

## The poor slide deeper into poverty

Flawed healthcare system to blame, say experts

PORIMOL PALMA and MOJIBUL 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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## ৫৬ টি লাইফস্টাইল ব্র্যান্ড-এ

## ৫০% পর্যন্ত ছাড়

## ৪৮ টি রেস্টুরেন্ট-এ

## ৩০% পর্যন্ত ছাড়

## ১৮ টি রেস্টুরেন্ট-এ ১ টি কিনলে ১ টি ফ্রি

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