

Individual achievement

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cheered with announcement of the name of each awardee. Colourful banners blazoning the names of schools and logos surrounded the gallery. A choir formed by students sang songs at intervals.

The Daily Star awarded "Certificate of Excellence" with medals to all students who secured more than six As in two consecutive sittings in the O-level and a minimum of three As in the A-level examinations in an academic year.

The chief guest handed the certificates and medals to the achievers who sat for the O-level and A-level examinations under the Cambridge University and the University of London.

Yesterday's event was the fourth of its kind. The function was presided over by The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam.

Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud called upon the achievers to enlighten themselves with education and not to pursue education only as a means of passing examinations.

He advised them to uphold the standard of education, values and norms of the nation and not to alienate themselves from tradition and roots.

He underscored acquisition of knowledge and said students have to learn many things as education help change personal and social values and the nation as a whole.

The noted economist called upon the young talents to work for the nation as it expects much from them.

British High Commissioner David Carter appreciated Bangladeshi students for their results in the O-level and A-level examinations.

Carter said that about 80 per cent examinees from Bangladesh passed the O-level and 60 per cent passed the A-level examinations.

The British envoy said his government, through different organisations, spends Tk 700 crore a year in Bangladesh on promotion of education and other activi-

ties.

He said, "I hope that you -- brilliant students -- will use your knowledge profoundly for building a better world."

Praising The Daily Star for maintaining objectivity, he said that every body should extend support for establishing free press in a democratic country.

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said the purpose of the event was to "salute" the talented students of today and encourage those who are to follow to work hard to become as talented in future.

Mahfuz Anam called upon the achievers to translate their individual success into a collective effort for nation building.

"Personal success brings us happiness. But only a collective national success will bring us dignity and economic prosperity that we need as a nation," he said.

"Today we salute you for what you are -- *super-achievers*. But we also salute you in the hope for what you can be -- *super nation builders*."

Summit Group Chairman M Aziz Khan in his brief speech stressed the need to work hard to uphold the standard of education.

Mamun Rashid, CEO of Citi Bank N.A., called upon the students to prepare for tough competition in the global market.

DHL Country Manager Desmond Quiah, who could not attend the ceremony, sent a message congratulating the students on their achievement and saying the pursuit of knowledge is a never-ending race.

Fariah Mehjabeen of the Maple Leaf International School, who secured 10 As in one sitting in O-level examinations and Eahya Saad Hossain of Mastermind, who got four As in one sitting in A-level spoke on the occasion as representatives of the O-level and A-level students.

Raffat Binte Rashid and Lavina Ambreen Ahmed of The Daily Star conducted the nearly three-hour award-giving ceremony.