

## High achievers in 'A' and 'O' levels

*Remove impediments to higher education at home*

We hail the 1,915 'O' and 'A' level students from 85 schools across the country for their excellent performance. Competing internationally, eight of them have scored the highest mark in subjects as diverse as law, biology, chemistry, physics, accounting, mathematics and art and design. *The Daily Star*, in awarding these meritorious young men and women, acknowledges their merit and celebrates their immense potential and by extension, the nation's. They have done us proud.

Among those, like Deena Afroza Aziz who scored the highest mark in law in 'A' level, many want to become barristers to combat domestic violence against women. However, none of them would be able to get admission in our public universities and would have to seek admission elsewhere because of the curriculum followed by the English medium schools and colleges.

It is ironical that while they cannot get admission in our public universities, many of them would get admission in some of the best universities in the US and the UK with scholarship. Isn't it time we recognised their merit and did everything to remove the barriers to their entry in public universities?

We suggest that the anomalous situation created by three different streams of education, particularly insofar as admission to public universities is concerned, should be rectified. While much has been done to address the problem of admission of Madrasa students in public universities, no such arrangement has been made for students of the English medium institutions.

The English medium schools have been functioning largely without much support from the government so far. These schools and their students deserve better.