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Losing her sister, a woman and her daughter cries on the Golachipa river of Patuakhali yesterday. A launch, ML Shathil, sank there during a nor'wester Saturday afternoon with over 60 passengers, leaving at least 15 dead and many more missing.

LAUNCH CAPSIZED
Death toll now 15
7 more bodies recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Divers yesterday recovered seven more bodies from the launch that capsized in the Golachipa river in Patuakhali during a nor'wester on Saturday, bringing the death toll to 15.

The dead were identified as Tinni Akhtar, 6, Mizanur Rahman, 45, Narayan Chandra, 65, Rashida Begum, 50, Nasima Begum, 45, Wahida Begum, 30, of Patuakhali and Joynal Abedin, 35, of Narayanganj.

Coast Guard and Fire Service members found the bodies inside ML Shathil after the rescue operation resumed around 6:00am, said Sayemuzzaman, acting upazila nirbahi officer of Golachipa.

Of some 60 passengers aboard the launch, bodies of eight were recovered on Saturday night.

The sunken launch was salvaged around 9:00 pm last night. At least 25 passengers were still missing.

Police yesterday traced the identity of another passenger, Renu Akhtar, 25, whose body was found on Saturday.

Meanwhile, a five-member committee, headed by BIWTA Director Md Hossain, has been

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

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ONE YEAR OF HEFAJAT MAYHEM
No headway in probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police failed to make any headway in any of the 42 cases in which more than 50,000 leaders and activists of Hefajat-e-Islam and Jamaat-e-Islami were made accused for creating anarchy in the capital's Motijheel on May 5 last year.

Around 17,000 men of Hefajat and Jamaat-Shibir stand accused in several other cases filed in Bagerhat and Chittagong in connection with the incidents of violence that left seven people dead on that day. These cases are also facing the same fate.

None of the police administration could give any timeline for the completion of investigations and submission of charge sheets in these cases.

Of the 42 cases, 33 were filed with Paltan Police Station, six with Motijheel Police Station and three



with Shahbagh Police Station. Seven of them were lodged as murder cases.

Police, government officials, relatives of the victims, Islamist leaders, businessmen, shop owners, employees of different establishments and political parties filed the cases.

Hefajat men, aided by Jamaat and BNP supporters, carried out vandalism in the capital on May 5, setting fire to hundreds of shops, police outposts

and business establishments.

Although Hefajat claimed that 2000 of its leaders and activists were killed, the government's death figure stood at 13 only. Hefajat could not provide names and addresses in support of their claim.

Meanwhile, some of those, who had been arrested in connection with the cases, were later released on bail. They are now moving scot-free.

Hefajat's General Secretary Junaid Babunagari, the main accused in sub-inspector Shahjahan murder case, was arrested on May 6. He was released on bail on May 29 on health ground.

Shahjahan was killed during a clash between Hefajat men and law enforcers at Motijheel.

During an interrogation in police remand, Babunagari gave a confessional statement disclosing the

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Modi questions EC's neutrality

PTI, Asansol

Complaining of booth rigging in West Bengal, Bihar and western Uttar Pradesh, Narendra Modi yesterday alleged that the Election Commission was not acting impartially and dared it to take action against him.

"Why are you not acting? What is your intention? If you feel wrong about what I am saying now, then you are free to lodge another case against me," Modi told an election rally here.

"It is your responsibility to ensure impartial polls. I am making very serious allegations," he said accusing the Election Commission of having failed to take action.

He said poll violence and booth rigging took place in West Bengal,

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AWARD FRAUD
Deadline over, probe yet to be completed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The investigation into the making and purchase of substandard shields given to foreign friends and organisations for their contribution to the Liberation War is yet to be completed though the deadline for the report submission expires today.

The liberation war affair ministry formed the

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Cops to restrict operation in plainclothes

STAR REPORT

The police high-ups yesterday decided that there would be no more civil teams in any police station.

But in case of special drives, law enforcers can conduct plain-clothes operations after informing the SP, DC and OC concerned.

During any plain-clothes drive, the law enforcers have been instructed to keep their identity cards with them so that they can prove their identities when asked.

The instructions came at the tri-monthly crime review meeting held at the police headquarters in the capital. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Hassan Mahmood Khandker chaired the meeting.

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CORRECTION CENTRE
Jessore juveniles follow Tongi

Protest harassment of visitor by cutting their wrists, arms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In grim imitation of a protest by 20 juvenile inmates at a Tongi correction centre in February, boys of the Jessore juvenile centre yesterday gashed their wrists, arms and chests.

This time at least 12 children hurt themselves in protest at a teenage girl not being allowed to meet an inmate the day before. She was also allegedly harassed by the policemen guarding the centre, Kishore Unnayan Kendra.

Having seen no response by the authorities to a formal complaint, they also vandalised windows of the dormitories and prison vans and hurled stones at the policemen. The law enforcers then baton-charged the children and fired five blank shots to calm the situation.

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JMB MEN'S ESCAPE
8 arrestees remanded for 10 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Mymensingh court yesterday placed on a 10-day remand each of eight men arrested in connection with the snatching of three JMB militants from a prison van.

On February 23, an armed gang ambushed a prison van in the district's Trishal upazila and snatched three leaders of the banned outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh, including two death row convicts.

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Clarification

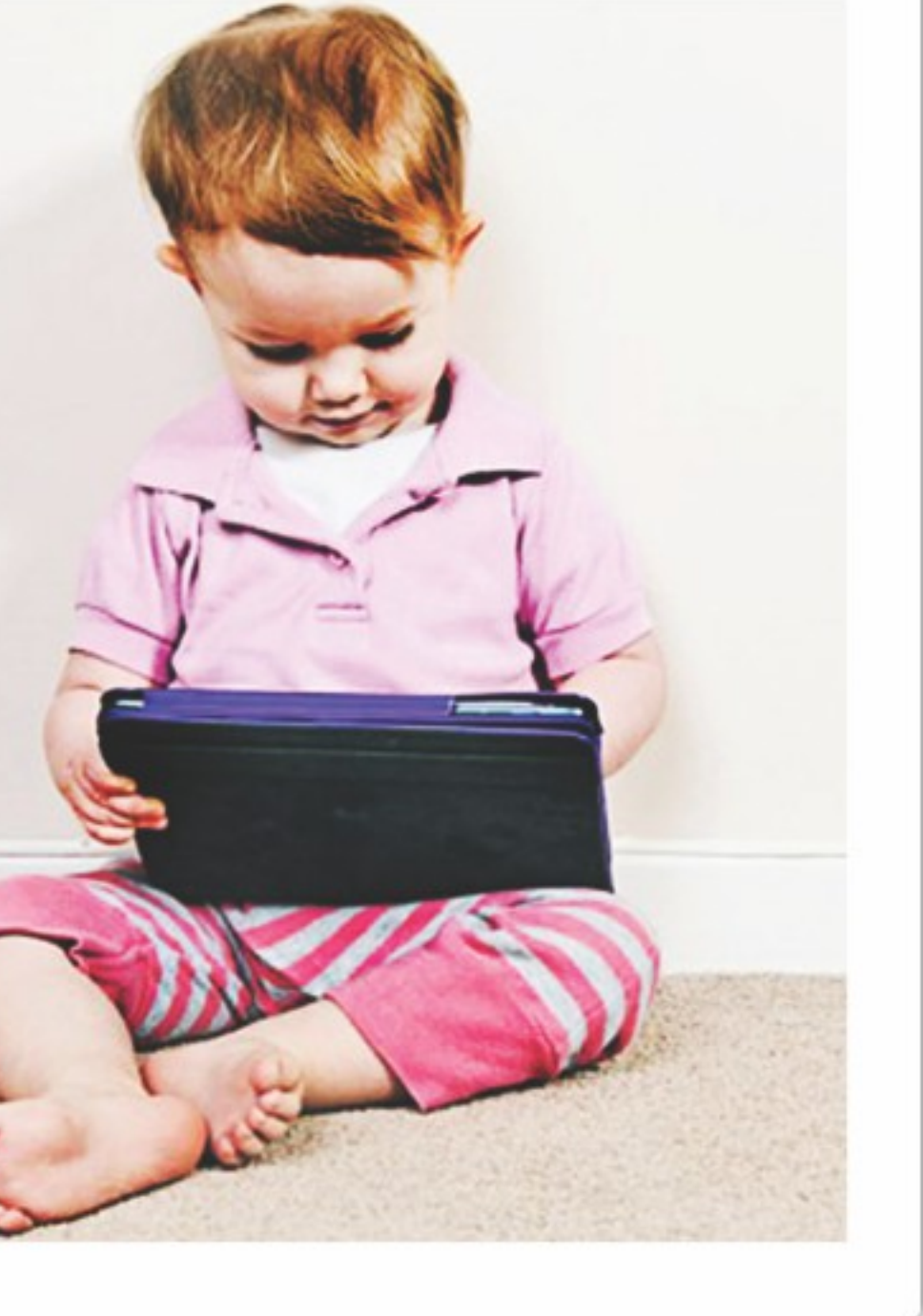
In our April 29, 2014, report headlined "200 Bangladeshis in Thai detention camp for months", it was inadvertently said "Sources at the Thai embassy in Dhaka told The Daily Star". It was actually sources at the Bangladesh embassy in Thailand. We admit the error and regret if any embarrassment has been caused to the Embassy of Thailand in Bangladesh.

Tablets, phones can harm kids learning to speak

THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

Parents should think twice before allowing toddlers to play Angry Birds or other games on iPads or phones, it was warned after researchers found they were linked with poorer speech.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think State Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal's allegation that the BNP might have links with the recent abductions and murders is justified?

Yes (09%)
No (91%)

TOTAL VOTES: 289

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think authorities concerned are doing enough to find out the culprits behind the recent abductions and killings?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING May 5

Azan	4-15	4-50
Fajr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-34	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



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Big Thanks

all patrons for the continuous recognitions and awards that encourage us to mount further towards the summit.

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