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# The Daily Star

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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE  
**Showbiz**

**FLOUTING LAWS**  
Doctors on nameplates, visiting cards flaunt degrees they haven't obtained  
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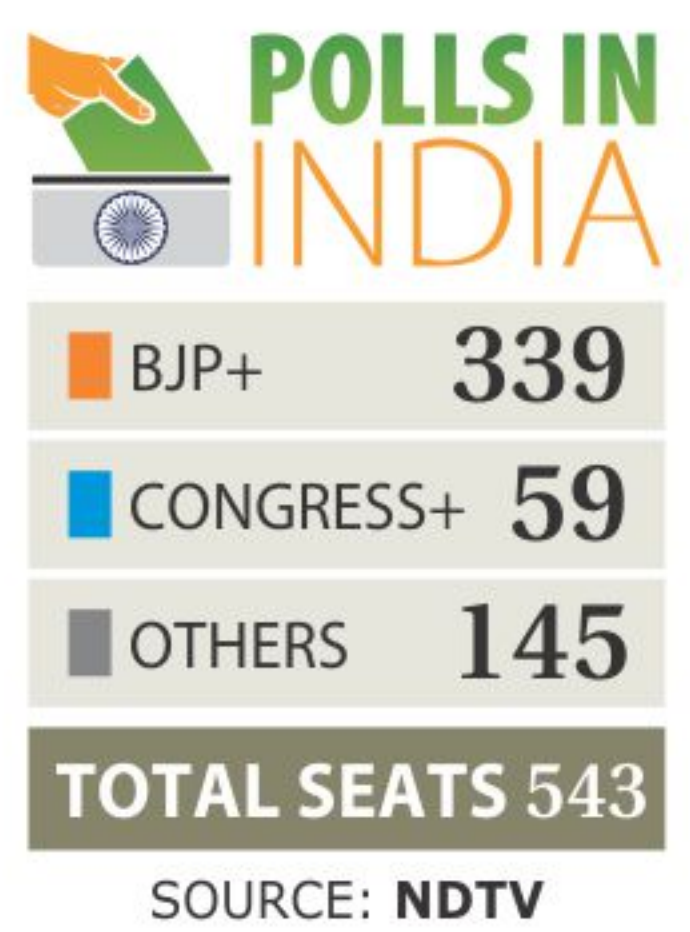
**IN LOVING MEMORY**  
Partha Pratim Majumder looks back at the life and career of filmmaker Alain Resnais  
PAGE 9

## Modi wave triumphs

- BJP secures single majority as Congress faces debacle
- Manmohan quits today; Modi may take oath on May 21
- Good days are coming, says the Hindu nationalist leader
- Sonia, Rahul take responsibility for defeat

**PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi**  
Narendra Modi is the next prime minister of India.  
The Hindu nationalist leader thundered to victory in the general election, lifting the Bharatiya Janata Party to its highest-ever tally and leaving the ruling Congress and the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty in tatters.  
Modi and his party-led National Democratic Alliance won and led in 339 of the total of 543 Lok Sabha seats, much more than the majority needed to form a stable government without forming a coalition with smaller regional parties.

It is the most commanding victory Indian voters have given to a non-Congress party since independence in 1947.  
In fact, even on its own, BJP can form the government as it is ahead in 285 seats, polls results showed yesterday. A majority of 272 seats in Lok Sabha is needed to form a government.  
This is for the first time in three decades a party has got such a decisive electoral mandate since 1984 when Congress under the leadership of Rajiv Gandhi had got unprecedented three-fourths majority  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 1  
MORE ON PAGE 8, 16; SEE EDITORIAL



Narendra Modi bows down before his mother Heeraben to take her blessings at her residence in Gandhinagar, about 23km from Ahmedabad, yesterday.  
PHOTO: AFP

## From tea vendor to prime minister

**STAR REPORT**  
From selling tea at a stall his father set up at a small village railway station and at a bus terminal at a tender age to the prime ministerial throne at 63, Narendra Modi's rise is the stuff that fairytales are made of.  
Inspired by the lives and teachings of Gautama Buddha and Swami Vivekananda (whose real name was Narendra Dutta), Modi had left his Vadnagar home at the beginning of his youth, joined the RSS as a pracharak (preacher) and was loaned to its political front Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as a full-time worker, reports our New Delhi correspondent.  
Born in a socially backward family in Vadnagar town of Gujarat's Mehsana district, Modi rose to the throne of India's PM in such a way that would leave many in wonder.  
Back in 1990s, he was a familiar figure at the BJP headquarters on Ashoka Road in New Delhi as a low-profile general secretary of the party, always polite, calm and

## NEWS ANALYSIS Nehru's India now Modi's Bharat

**SYED BADRUL AHSAN**  
A sea change has just happened in India. Secular India has passed into the hands of the Hindu rightwing. Narendra Modi, with his Bharatiya Janata Party and its partners in the NDA, is now poised to take charge as India's new leader. The Congress, having ruled for much of the post-independence period, has been decimated, with many of its leading lights falling by the wayside as the country's political right has advanced. The Aam Aadmi Party, initially showing promise of being somewhat an influence in shaping public opinion on the issues, has been disappointing in its electoral performance.  
No election in India has been as exciting, as pregnant with meaning, as the one just concluded. And the reasons have all been out there. The corruption of the (till now)

## Big win for Trinamool in West Bengal

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi**  
Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress yesterday prevented the BJP surge in most other parts of India from spreading to West Bengal state by bagging 34 of the 42 parliament seats.  
CPI(M)-led Left Front was decimated in West Bengal winning just two seats, compared to 15 seats it had won five years ago. Congress won four seats and BJP two.  
Congress leader and federal minister Deepa Dasmunshi lost from her  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## Ties to reach a greater height

**Hasina writes to Modi; Khaleda, Ershad, Jamaat also greet BJP**  
**STAR REPORT**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday felicitated Narendra Modi on the resounding victory of BJP in India's Lok Sabha elections.  
Hasina praised his "dynamic, inspiring and visionary leadership qualities" and invited him to visit Bangladesh as the first foreign destination at the earliest convenient time, reports our New Delhi correspondent.  
Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami have congratulated Modi on his party's victory in the elections.  
In a warm letter, a copy of which is with The Daily Star, Hasina said with the kind of  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## LAUNCH CAPSIZE

## Death toll reaches 31

**Scores still missing in Meghna; slow rescue angers relatives**  
**SHAHEEN MOLLAH and FARHANA MIRZA**  
Hours over a day after MV Miraj-4 sank in the Meghna with around 200 people on board, the authorities concerned still cannot confirm how many people died and the rescuers are yet to get the vessel to shore.  
Thirty-one bodies have been recovered so far and 28 of them have been identified.  
The victims' relatives, enraged by the slow pace of the rescue operations by members of the Navy, Fire Service and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, held demonstrations on shore of the Meghna yesterday.  
The BIWTA, which is leading the rescue, issued confusing statements on the work progress.  
"Divers could not get the launch under control due to underwater trenches created by dredging," said BIWTA Joint Director Zahirul Alam.  
He passed the blame on divers' inefficiency.  
"Divers have failed to find a way to pull the vessel close to the shore. They could not even tie up the vessel properly, making it more difficult to turn the vessel when it gets stuck in the underwater trenches."  
BIWTA Director Mohammad Hossain told reporters in the morning that the launch was stuck in an underwater trench and he hoped to have the vessel hauled ashore by late afternoon.  
It took five hours to pull free the upside-down launch stuck in the trench.  
Relatives of the victims who had been waiting for news of their loved ones, could see the vessel from the shore of Daulatpur in Gazaria of Munshiganj.  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Disaster rips families apart

**SHAHEEN MOLLAH, back from Munshiganj**  
Mohammad Selim was not new to waiting for bodies of people close to him on the bank of a river where a launch had gone down.  
Yesterday, he was at Doulatpur of Gazaria in Munshiganj on the Meghna waiting for what he feared would be the body of his employer. His employer Anwar Dhali, 46, owner of six large launches, was travelling on MV Miraj-4 that sank there Thursday afternoon.  
Selim had waited for the bodies of four members of his family on the bank of the same river in the same upazila not too far from Doulatpur just a year ago.  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

## Cops in cantonment to arrest 2 ex-Rab officials

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Police early today launched a raid in Dhaka Cantonment area to arrest two of the three Rab officials fired over alleged involvement in Narayanganj seven-murder.  
Narayanganj police yesterday said they had stepped up their move to arrest Lt Col Tareque Sayeed Mohammad and Maj Arif Hossain after receiving the defence ministry letter that said there was no legal bar to arresting them.  
Originally from the army, the two were on deputation in Rab-11 in Narayanganj.  
Khandaker Mahid Uddin, Narayanganj police superintendent, said they did not receive any letter regarding Lt Commander SM Masud Rana, who had been deputed from the navy.  
Cops' operation was going on as of 4:00am today.  
Lt Col Tareque, Maj Arif and Lt Commander Masud were forced to retire on May 6 over their reported link to last month's abduction and killing of seven people, including Narayanganj panel mayor Nazrul Islam and senior lawyer Chandan Sarker.  
The trio are not accused in the case filed by Nazrul's widow, but the High Court on May 11 ordered the inspector general of police to "immediately" nab them as suspects.  
The court order came after Nazrul's family alleged that Rab men committed the crime in exchange for Tk 6 crore from Nur Hossain, the prime accused, and other suspects.  
Meanwhile, victims' family members and common people in Narayanganj became frustrated as police were yet to comply with the court order.  
Sakhawat Hossain, president of Narayanganj District Lawyers Association, alleged the police were showing reluctance to arrest the Rab men and other accused in the case.  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## N'GANJ 7-MURDER



A rescue vessel trying to pull the capsized launch MV Miraj-4 towards the shore of the Meghna in Munshiganj yesterday.  
PHOTO: STA