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CAPSIZED LAUNCH SALVAGED

24 more bodies recovered

Death toll now 55; 7 still missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Asaduzzaman, a passenger of the fatal MV Miraj-4, phoned his elder brother as the vessel hit by a storm was struggling to keep itself afloat in the Meghna river on Thursday.

That was the last time Mujibur Rahman talked to him before the launch sank with an estimated 200 passengers on its way to Shariatpur from Dhaka.

"I did not wait a minute and set off for Munshiganj. The launch has been rescued today after three days but my brother has not been found," said Mujibur, as authorities declared an end to the rescue operation yesterday afternoon with 24 more bodies recovered taking the death toll to 55.

Of the victims, 31 are men, 13 women and 11 children. The launch was towed ashore by a salvage vessel of BIWTA around 3:00am yesterday.

About 50-60 people were still waiting on the bank of the river for their relatives, dead or alive, said Munshiganj Deputy Commissioner Saiful Hassan Badal. However, the authorities have a list of seven people reportedly missing.

"Local administration will continue searching for the

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Rescue vessel Prattay flips the wreck of MV Miraj-4 the right way up and pulls it close to the shore of the Meghna at Doulatpur of Gazaria in Munshiganj yesterday.

PHOTO: FARHANA MIRZA

He never helped us after Aug 15

Hasina tells about Dr Kamal on her homecoming day

UNB, Dhaka

Denouncing the inactive role of the then foreign minister Dr Kamal Hossain in protecting Bangabandhu's two daughters after his assassination in 1975, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said neither she nor her sister got any help from him during their difficult days in the erstwhile West Germany.

"When the Father of the Nation was assassinated, his foreign minister was also in West Germany, but he neither helped me nor my sister Sheikh Rehana after August 15, 1975," she recalled.

Also the president of the ruling Awami League, Hasina said this while speaking at a programme at the Gono Bhaban marking her 33rd homecoming day.

Dr Kamal, now the president of Gonoforum, was the foreign minister of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's government in 1975.

"Even he [Dr Kamal] didn't respond to Rehana's repeated

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Best school Rajuk, top board Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajuk Uttara Model School and College is the best school in Dhaka board achieving the highest score in this year's SSC examinations.

All its 515 examinees passed and 507 of them secured GPA-5.

The top school of last year, Ideal School and College, Motijheel, was second this year with 1,355 out of 1,405 examinees obtaining GPA-5.

Viqarunnisa Noon School grabbed the third place with 1,330 out of its 1,396 students passing with the highest grade.

To evaluate schools and make the top 20 list of schools in each board, the education ministry took into account their number of regular students, pass rate, the number of students with GPA-5, and the average GPA of students of a school.

In Rajshahi board, Bogra Cantonment Public School and College, Bogra Govt Girls

High School and Bogra Zilla School secured the top three positions respectively.

Comilla Zilla School, Feni Girls' Cadet College and Comilla Cadet College were the chart toppers in Comilla board.

In Jessore board, Jhenidah Cadet College and Military Collegiate School Khulna were joint first while Govt Coronation Secondary Girls School and Khulna Zilla School were second and third.

In Chittagong board, Collegiate School, Bangladesh Mohila Samiti Girls' High School and College, and Dr Khastagir Govt Girls High School were first, second and third.

Barisal Cadet College, Barisal Govt Girls High School and Barisal Zilla School were the top three schools in Barisal board.

In Sylhet board, Sylhet Cadet College, Blue Bird High School and Jalalabad Cantonment Public School and College were the top three.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

MADRASA EXAMS Pass rate goes up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The pass rates in Dakhil and SSC (vocational) examinations have increased this year compared to those of last year.

The pass rate of Dakhil exams has stood at 89.25 percent, a rise of 0.12 percentage point from last year. Some 2,11,203 students have passed the exams under Madrasa Education Board this year. As many as 2,36,630 examinees took their exams.

Of them, 14,013 students, including 9,263 boys and 4,750 girls, have obtained GPA-5 and helped the board win fourth place among GPA-5 achievers in 10 education boards.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Rice mill blast kills three

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Three workers were killed and two others injured in a boiler blast of a rice mill in the district's Haluaghat upazila yesterday.

The dead are Alam Miah, 42, son of Abdul Mazid, Sultan Ali, 40, son of Jamir Uddin, and Hazrat Ali, 40, son of Abdul Mazid. All hailed from Haluaghat.

Police said the boiler exploded when the workers were working at Shakil Auto Rice Mill in Dhara Bazar area around 6:00am, injuring five workers critically.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



The benches are full with little ones eager to learn at Koladighi Govt Primary School at Alamdighi upazila of Bogra. The children have been getting their lessons under a banyan tree since a nor'wester recently blew away their classroom. Classroom or not, they go to school every day.

PHOTO: STAR

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you think Bangladesh would be able to continue good relations with the new government of India?

Yes (38%)
No (62%)

TOTAL VOTES: 350

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think 2 ex-Rab officials' arrest will allay the fear of Narayanganj people to speak up against corrupt law enforcers and officials?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING May 18

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

Source: Islamic Foundation

ANOTHER ABDUCTION ALLEGATION

Ex-Rab 11 chief asked for Tk 2cr?

Family of kidnapped AL man organises human chain in Siddhirganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion-11 picked up an Awami League activist in Narayanganj over three months ago and demanded Tk 2 crore from his family members for releasing him, alleged the victim's family members.

Yesterday, the family members formed a human chain in front of the Siddhirganj Power Station in the port city demanding the law enforcers return him safe and sound.

The allegation comes hot on the heels of the claims that some Rab-11 members were involved in the recent abduction and murder of seven people in Narayanganj.

Introducing themselves as Rab members, some unidentified

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Mohammad Ismail

'Phablet finger' goes on sale

MAIL ONLINE

It may be one of the oddest phone accessories ever made.

But with the growing trend towards big screen phones, this fake finger could be a lifesaver for those with small hands.

The \$14.50 finger has just gone on sale in Japan, and can extend a users thumb by 15mm.

It measures 49mm long by 25mm wide, and the internal width is 20mm according to Ratoken, which is selling the gadget.

Inside is a stylus so the finger will work on any touchscreen.

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